

**January 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Elizabeth Seton was the first person born in the United States to be declared a saint, but she was not born to a Catholic family. Her stepmother taught her to pray and read Scripture, and her father taught her to love and serve the poor. These lessons stayed with her as her life brought her much upheaval and change. Wealthy and happily married at age nineteen, Elizabeth was widowed and penniless, with five children, within a few years. She turned to God, and found she was being called to join the Catholic Church. She dedicated her life to serving God. In addition to raising her own children, she opened the first American Catholic school, started an orphanage, and founded a religious order of women, the Daughters of Charity.

**Discussion Starter:** What were some of the things that Elizabeth Ann Seton did?