

THE SETON SENTINEL

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



“Jesus, remember me when you enter into your kingdom.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



HOLY NAME SOCIETY MASS

Next Sunday, December 1st at the 8:30 a.m. Mass the **Holy Name Society** will participate. All members are asked to be in attendance and sit as a body near the front of the church. Our Holy Name Society is planning a number of upcoming events in the months ahead. Among the projects the HNS undertakes is our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Please come to the next meeting and find out all the news! New members are most welcome to join. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Holy Name Society welcomes both men and women in the organization. Come be part of one the longest running societies in the American Catholic Church!



There is no better way to Thank God for all his gifts than to celebrate Holy Eucharist. The very word, *eucharist* means "to give thanks." Join us this **Thursday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m.** for our annual Parish Thanksgiving Day Eucharist. There will be no 8:00 a.m. mass on Thanksgiving Day.

We will once again celebrate Thanksgiving with acceptance of your donation of canned goods for the Holy Family Food Bank in Luzerne. Bring your canned goods to church with you on Thanksgiving Day, and you may bring them up to the altar at the Offertory procession.

Also, remember to take a piece of fruit at the end of mass, and share it with your loved ones at Thanksgiving



ADVENT WREATH PROJECT

We are having a **Family Advent Wreath Project** today (Sunday) at 2:00PM, in the church hall. Please join us in this family-oriented gathering, as we begin to prepare for Advent and learn different ways to celebrate Advent at home.



Monday Advent Adoration

The sign-up sheet is located on the table at the Church Entrance. Exposition will begin at 5:30 p.m. and continue until Benediction at 6:45. We will need someone to be signed for each 15 minute increments.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Monday from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Please use these times as your opportunity for your Christmas confession since our parish will not have a formal Penance Service. Confessions are also heard on Saturday afternoons from 3:15-3:45 or call Father Joe for an appointment.

ADVENT PIROHY SALE

We are having our Advent Pirohy Sales on the following dates (all on Fridays): **December 6, 13, and 20.** Sign-up sheets are on the tables at the church entrance. We need a lot of volunteers to help make them on the days of the sales. If you can help ball potatoes, come at 7:00AM, all others come at 8:30AM. Experienced or not, come out and join in the fun and help out.

DIOCESAN EVENING OF REFLECTION

On Wednesday, December 11th, the Diocese will hold an "Evening of Reflection", here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. It is designed especially for persons serving in any type of liturgical ministry. We will have more information soon.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS



Celiac disease affects many people. People with this disease are allergic to wheat and prevents them from receiving Holy Communion. Our parish offers low gluten hosts to those who need them. To make arrangements, call the rectory and make sure the priest knows what mass you will be attending. We ask those who are to receive the gluten-free hosts to come to Communion first, so that the hands of the minister do not contaminate the special host.

DECEMBER 1st, 10:00AM Mass-SANTA VISITS

On Sunday, December 1st, at the 10:00AM Mass, we will have a special visitor for all the children. The children are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy that will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul's Kitchen. The children will bring the donated toys to the altar at the offertory.

FREE GIFT-WRAPPING

We are offering free gift wrapping on Friday, December 20th, from 3pm-7pm in our church hall. We are accepting donations of wrapping paper, bows, and tape, if anyone would like to donate to help defray cost. A box for these donated items is located near the Food Pantry box.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS-OPLATKY



Christmas Wafers are available after weekend Masses until Christmas in the church vestibule. Donation is \$5.00 for a pack of six wafers. These wafers are sealed in a plastic bag to preserve freshness. Purchases can also be made at the rectory office during office hours.

Note from our Maintenance Department

Please see Chris before hanging signs on the school or gym doors. Only the blue painter's tape is allowed on the doors, so that no damage is done to the paint on the doors. You can always leave your signs in the office for Chris to post. Also, a reminder: Do not hang anything in the upper church. Submit it to the office, and we will place it on the bulletin board at the church entrance. Thank you for your cooperation.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Many of our ministry servers will be away for Christmas, and most of the responses on the Ministry Availability Forms were for the 4:00PM Christmas Mass. Obviously, we cannot use everyone for the 4:00PM Mass. We will leave it up to the computer to randomly select ministers for that Mass, and the rest of the Masses for Christmas Eve & Day, and New Year's Eve & Day. When you get your schedule in the mail, please check it out immediately, and call if there are any problems. Again, we cannot give everyone the Mass of their choice. We must cover all Masses with ministers. Thank you for your cooperation.

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

The Christian Mothers' Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 8th, after the 11:30AM Mass in the church hall. Christian Mothers will meet in the church hall at 11:15AM to attend Mass in a body. Reservations will be taken by Fran at 288-1708 until December 1st. Cost is \$10, which can be dropped in the Sunday collection basket marked "Christian Mothers". Members are asked to bring a wrapped \$5.00 bingo gift and/or an unwrapped baby gift or donation for PA for Human Life.

SOCIAL CONCERNS MEETING

Tuesday, November 26th, at 7PM in the church hall.



"There is nothing more powerful than prayer and fasting in the battle for true justice in our country. It is the hope of the bishops that these efforts will encourage real solidarity among all people who are standing for the precious gifts of life, marriage, and religious liberty."

~Bishop Michael J. Sheridan, Bishop of Colorado Springs, "The Bishop's Voice: A Battle for True Justice", The Colorado Catholic Herald, January 18, 2013

NOTES

from the Pastor

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! In reflecting the many Blessings God has bestowed upon me you should know that each one of you are included in those very special blessings. We have a pretty terrific parish! And it is in some shape or form a credit to you that it is so wonderful. I do not say "Thank You," enough to our wonderful staff, committee members, council members, our volunteer ministries and all those who help with the Festival, Socials, Fundraisers, and Special Events. Please know that your gifts are truly appreciated by not only myself, but by everyone. I cannot tell you how many compliments I hear about our Parish each week. Mostly, I want to say thank you to everyone for their generosity, participation, and patience with me.

While we, and every parish in the Diocese of Scranton are undergoing changes, I pray that my vision for our Parish is in agreement with that of our Bishop. That vision is very simplistic, yet, I think, a real challenge for all of us: **To restore Christ as the Spiritual Cornerstone of our lives, and to let our Parish be the Center of our wholehearted response to Christ.** In other words it is *to restore the Parish as the focal point of our time, talent and energy so that God is Glorified and needs of all are met.*

This vision is being fulfilled each and everyday by the wonderful people of our parish, yet there is much more to accomplish. I know my methods are sometimes unorthodox, and perhaps a bit strange to some. I am not afraid of experimentation or risk taking to achieve these goals. At the end of the day, my experience has taught me that the risk is well worth it when all your chips are placed on Jesus and His People.

Once again, from the depths of my being, THANK YOU, for all that you do to make Christ the true King of your lives and the center of our Parish experience!

God Bless You All,

Sincerely Yours, In Christ,

Father Joe

What Does it mean?

Almost all crucifixes have the letters "INRI" near the top of the cross. We are told in the Gospel of John that the inscription was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. In this case the INRI letters are the first letters of the Latin sentence that Jesus was charged with....Claiming to be a King, and more specifically, the King of the Jews.

Here is the inscription in Hebrew, Latin and Greek:

יֵשׁוּעַ מֶן נַבְדֻס מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵל

IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM

ἸΗΣΟΥΣ Ὁ ΝΑΖΩΡΑΙΟΣ Ὁ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ἸΟΥΔΑΙΩΝ

I=Jesus, N=of Nazareth, R=King I=Jews

So the INRI is a Latin shorthand way of writing:

"Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews."

December's Schedule

Let's try to straighten out the schedules for the Holy Days in December.

December 8th is the **2nd Sunday of Advent** this year. The ***Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*** which is usually celebrated on the 8th is moved this year to Monday, December 9th. Because it falls on a Monday, **it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.** Therefore, mass will be celebrated as usual on Monday, December 9th at 8:00 a.m.

To give you proper notice for the Christmas Mass Schedule, we announce the following:
Tuesday, **December 24th**, Masses will be at 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, **December 25th**, Masses will be at 12:00 Midnight, 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, **December 31st**, Mass will be at 4:00 p.m. for the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. And Wednesday, **January 1st** at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

These dates will be sent home in a Christmas mailing in the weeks ahead.

We are announcing these masses early enough so that you may make your plans with family and friends accordingly.



PASTORAL COUNCIL

In the coming months, all parishioners will be asked to respond to this question: *"Looking to the coming years, if you could imagine or transform our parish in any way you wished, what 3 things would you do to enhance its life and vitality?"*

Next PPC Meeting is Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



Here is how our parish stands:
33.09%(359 out of 1,085) gave/pledged
DAA 2013 Goal: \$45,000.00
Total Raised: \$39,860.00
Under: \$5,140.00

Our Parish is very close to reaching this year's goal for the Annual Appeal. We call on all those who have not yet responded to step forward this week and do whatever you are able to help us reach our goal. Please prayerfully consider this request. If you need pledge forms or envelopes, they are available by contacting the parish office or pick one up at the entrance of the church. You may also give online at annualappeal.org Help our Diocese as it helps so many others, "Serve with Love."

ADULT EDUCATION (ENRICHMENT) SERIES

The series will conclude Thursday, December 5th. **No session this Thursday due to the holiday.** We are studying *Catholicism*, a video series by Fr. Robert Barron. It's not too late to join in the conversation and fellowship! Join us next Thursday. Light refreshments to follow.



Station is run and operated by Seton Parishioners!

FILL IN THE GAPS

The sentences below are missing key words. Can you find the correct ones? (They are all in today's readings.)

1. Thus _____ the Lord God: I _____ will look after and _____ my sheep.
2. The _____ is my _____; there is nothing I _____.
3. Christ has been _____ from the _____, the first fruits of those who have _____ asleep.
4. He will place the _____ on his _____ and the goats on his _____.
5. I was _____ and you gave me no food, I was _____ and you gave me no _____.

ANSWERS

1. says, myself, tend 2. Lord, shepherd, lack
3. raised, dead, fallen 4. sheep, right, left
5. hungry, thirsty, drink

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SOCIAL CONCERNS

Holiday Help

Please contact Father Joe or our Pastoral Associate, Lori Raymond, if you are in need or know a family in our community who needs help this Christmas. Screened families and individuals may receive help with the food for Holiday Meals and Children's Christmas Presents. We need to be notified now to be able to help for Christmas. Also, we are **accepting Supermarket Gift Cards for the needy for Thanksgiving**. You can drop them off at the rectory or place them in the Sunday basket, if you are able to help. Any amount will be appreciated.



The Giving Tree

The Social Concerns Committee will once again this year sponsor **the Giving Tree** for presents for needy families and shut-ins. The tree will be at the entrance of the church near the Reconciliation Room. You are invited to take a ornament from the tree and purchase the gift for the person who is described on it. Names are not used to ensure confidentiality. Please return the gift, wrapped, with the gift tag attached as soon as possible, but **no later than Sunday, December 15th** so we can distribute them during that week.

HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED-



Canned meats (ham, Spam, meatballs), canned spaghetti sauce, canned tuna, canned vegetables, canned ravioli, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, any pasta, cereal. The **donation box** is located in the church vestibule on the left side (as you enter the church) near the steps.

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

We are in need of more EM's to bring the Holy Eucharist to our homebound parishioners on the First Friday of each month. If you think you are able to help out, please contact Fr. Joe or Lori, for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Please notify the **Parish Social Ministry Office at (570) 763-5160** if you would like a parish representative to visit a family member who is **hospitalized, homebound, or in a nursing home**. In compliance with **HIPAA regulations** (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), health care facilities are required to protect the confidentiality and security of health data. Therefore, the only way that the parish can be informed of someone needing assistance is through notification by a family member or friend.

AMERICAN RED CROSS DISASTER HELP LINE

The American Red Cross is offering family tracing and disaster inquiries related to the typhoon in the Phillipines. The number to call is 1-610-865-4400.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TEA

The Soup for Souls Committee of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church will be sponsoring a Victorian Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 1st. Cost is \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. A variety of teas will be served, along with homemade scones and tea sandwiches. Reservations are required by November 24. Please call Barry at 831-5593, or Sylvia at 825-6370.

BIBLE DETECTIVE

See what you can discover for yourself about the background to the readings.

THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

The reading describes how David became king of Israel after Saul.

Do we know the dates when King Saul and King David ruled? If so, what were they?

How did Saul become king? Was he a good and successful king? What happened to him at the end of his reign?

What about David? Did Saul and David know each other? Did Saul want David to be king after him?

King David has been famous throughout history. See if you can find the reasons why.

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Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2013 SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE How to get into the kingdom

The man we call the “good thief” turned his life around in the final hour when he encountered Jesus on the cross at Golgotha. One good act of repentance was all it took for him to enter Kingdom Come. The passport to the kingdom of God is still the same: We need that one stamp of divine approval to get where our hearts long to go. Repentance involves a change of heart followed by a change in direction. What needs to change in your habits, relationships, attitudes? Take that step and claim your citizenship in a kingdom not of this world.

TODAY’S READINGS: 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43 (162)

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Meditation on poverty

Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read or sign their names. Eighty percent of the human race lives in poverty, and 21,000 children a day die of it. That’s one child every four seconds. One-half of humanity has no access to clean water. Twelve million children don’t have access to schools, more than half of them girls. Less than 1 percent of the world’s budget for weapons could put every one of these children in the classroom. While these statistics can be numbing, they are also a call to respond with generosity and justice. Invest in the common good and a future of peace.

TODAY’S READINGS: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503)

“This poor widow . . . from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The party at the end of the world, part 1

In the scripture readings for Mass at the close of every church year, history itself comes crashing down in the visions interpreted by Daniel or the revelations of John as well as in the warnings Jesus offers to the crowds in his last days. Does the end of the year, however, have to be such a liturgical downer? Apocalypse is only bad news to those who refuse to change in light of the message they hear. Christ will rule over a world that is not unjust like ours but one where peace is a reality and the tears of the poor are wiped away. If you live on the right side of history, the end of this world is reason to rejoice!

TODAY’S READINGS: Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504)

“The God of heaven will set up a kingdom . . . and it shall stand forever.”

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

The party at the end of the world, part 2

Numbered, weighed, and divided: That’s how God intends to deal with the assets of the unjust in the day of judgment, according to the Book of Daniel. But you can ward off a similar fate by numbering, weighing, and dividing your own resources in the direction of the common good. Almsgiving isn’t only for Lent but can be a useful way to keep your heart open to the disadvantaged

every week of the year. Number your resources. Weigh what you can afford. Share that amount with those in need.

TODAY’S READINGS: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505)

“The God in whose hand is your life breath and the whole course of your life, you did not glorify.”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 THANKSGIVING DAY

Every day is thanksgiving day

“As we express our gratitude,” said President John F. Kennedy, “we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” As you gather around the table with loved ones today, you will likely hear, and perhaps utter, a lot of words expressing gratitude. It is good to share such words today, but gratitude works best when you express it in your actions every day. After the meal has settled and the dishes are done, how will you live out the gratitude you express today?

TODAY’S READINGS: Daniel 6:12-28; Luke 21:20-28 (506)

“Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Monsters take many forms

If you lived in a primitive society, what would be one of the things you feared most? Big, ferocious animals, faster and stronger than you, with teeth, horns, good eyesight, and an appetite. So those would be the kinds of creatures in your monster stories, and that helps to explain the bizarre creatures that appear in biblical books like Daniel and Revelation. The real “monsters” the ancient Israelites and early Christians were frightened of were oppressive foreign empires, like the Babylonians and the Romans. Confronting these powers in symbolic stories of fantastic beings made them easier—with God’s help—to deal with in real life. What forms do your fears take, and how can you face them in a constructive, faith-filled way?

TODAY’S READINGS: Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507)

“In the visions of the night I saw the fourth beast . . . terrifying, horrible, and of extraordinary strength.”

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

Where are you going?

The Salvatorians, a men’s Catholic religious order, refer to themselves as “apostles for our times.” These words highlight how God calls all Christians to continue the work of the original 12 apostles. An *apostle*, like Saint Andrew, brother of Saint Peter, comes from the Greek word meaning one who is “sent”—to spread the gospel, the Good News, of Jesus. Thinking of yourself as an apostle, ask yourself to whom you are sent for that same reason, and what’s the saving message you bring?

TODAY’S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684)

“How can people preach unless they are sent?”

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Scripture quotes come from the New American Bible Revised Edition.

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THE SETON SENTINEL

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CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS

Weekend Eucharist

Saturday 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

Weekday Eucharist

8:00 a.m.

Parish Staff

- Cora Artim Children's and Contemporary Groups
- Phil Bosha Maintenance
- Chris Calore Maintenance
- Sister Jane Ellis, IHM Parish Social Minister
- Terry Jankoviak Director of Faith Formation
- Rev. Mr. George Mochin Jr. Deacon
- Rev. Joseph J. Pisaneschi Pastor
- Lori Raymond Pastoral Associate
- Joseph Sabol Assistant Organist
- Monica Salis Business Manager
- Marge Semanek Director of Music
- Rev. Anthony Urban Weekend Celebrant

Baptism

Expecting parents are asked to contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to register for a short session in preparation for their child's Baptism. The celebration of the Sacrament is held after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays.

Confirmation

The Sacrament will be celebrated in the spring of 2014 by Bishop Bambera. Children must be consecutively registered in our Religious Education Program to be eligible to receive.

Matrimony

Couples planning to get married are asked to contact the parish office as soon as possible to reserve a date and begin the necessary paper work.

Holy Orders

Any man who feels called to Ordained Ministry of the Church, either Priesthood or Diaconate is asked to contact the Pastor or the Deacon.

Penance

Saturdays 3:15-3:45, other times by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

To receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please contact the Parish

Direct Contacts

Parish Hall: 570-287-2684

Office of Social Ministry (Sr. Jane) 570-763-5160

Faith Formation Office: 570-287-4587

Father Joe's email: fatherjoey@aol.com

Bulletin Deadline: Monday 1:00 p.m.