

The Seton Sentinel

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



“Blessed are you among women and Blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2015
Swoyersville, PA

THE SETON SENTINEL

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

116 Hughes Street

Swoyersville, PA 18704

Phone 570-287-6624

Fax 570-287-4704

Email: setonpa@aol.com

setonpa.com

Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday:
8:30am to 3:00pm

Weekends and Evenings
by appointment only

Parish Office is closed for all Holy Days of Obligation and Federal Holidays.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

New to the area? Just visiting? You will find a warm welcome here! To become a registered member, please call the parish office during regular business hours.



2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal

Parish Goal: \$47,000.00

Pledged so far: \$46,205.00

Balance: \$ 795.00

Thank you for your continued support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. To make a pledge, take one of the envelopes at the entrance of the church or go to annualappeal.org to donate on-line.

Christmas Straw

Many of you are familiar with the tradition of taking a piece of blessed straw or hay from the nativity at church. We wish to continue that tradition here at Seton while keeping our church neat and clean during the Christmas Season. The blest straw will be placed in a basket near the holy water font at the entrance of the church. Please take some as you exit mass. Last year we had quite a mess in front of the church with straw all over the altar and spread throughout the church. This method will allow us to continue the tradition and hopefully spare the mess. Thank you for your cooperation.

Christmas Decorating

We will begin to decorate for Christmas today after the 11:30 am Mass. We need lots of help putting up the trees and fluffing them, hanging the wreaths and setting up the nativity figures. If you can help us please come back to church about 12:45 pm today. Lots of hands make for light loads. Strong men are particularly needed to climb ladders and do the heavy lifting.

This year, you'll be happy to know, Fr. Joe did not plan our decorations because of the extra duties at Holy Family. All the credit is due to the Art and Environment Committee and our parish florist.

The Conclusion of the 2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal

We are making one final call for Diocesan Annual Appeal contributions. Our parish's finish line is in sight. If you have not yet sent in your donation, please consider doing it this week. Thank you for considering this request.

Oplatki

This is the final weekend our Confraternity of Christian Mothers will be offering the Christmas Wafers after masses in our church vestibule. Offering is \$5.00 for a pack of 6 wafers. They will also be available in the rectory during office hours until December 22nd. Please do not call after the 22nd for Oplatki.

Holiday Office Hours

This week the office will close for Christmas at 12:00 Noon sharp on Wednesday, December 23rd. No business whatsoever will be conducted after this time. Emergency priest calls will be taken anytime of the day or night. In case you reach the answering machine, please speak clearly, and leave your name and number so Father can return your call as soon as possible. Hold all other parish business until Monday, December 28th at 8:30 am. Thank you for your cooperation.

Confessions

Note that the confessions scheduled for our parish on Monday, December 21st will begin at **5:00pm and conclude at 6:30 pm** so Father can attend the Children's Christmas Play at 6:30pm. This is a change from what was mailed home to you in the original schedule.

Penance Services will be held tonight (Sunday) at 7:00pm at St. Ignatius in Kingston and Monday at 7:00 pm at St. John's in Larksville.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Ed. Classes will not be held on Saturday, December 26th and Monday, December 28th, and also, Saturday, January 2nd and Monday, January 4th. Classes will resume on Saturday, January 9th and Monday, January 11th.

Parish Staff

Cora Artim
Children's Choir
Phil Bosha
Maintenance
Chris Calore
Maintenance
Scott Coates
Contemporary Mass Musician
Sister Jane Ellis, IHM
Parish Social Minister
Margaret Loveless
Director of Religious Education
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

Direct Contacts

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

Faith Formation Office:
570-287-4587

Father Joe's email: fatherjoey@aol.com
Parish direct email: setonpa@aol.com

Bulletin deadline: Friday, one week prior to
the publication week.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH LIGHTHOUSE BOOKS/ CD'S

Don't forget to check out
our "rolling library" of
religious books & CD's
located in our vestibule.
For a small donation,
you can find some good
materials that can edify
your spiritual life.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

This season is all about the young and the young at heart! Join us Monday Evening, December 21st at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall to enjoy our Youth Choir's Christmas Play! All are welcome and we hope you carve a little time out of your busy schedule to see our children perform and get us all in the Christmas Spirit. See you there!



Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday December 24

4:00pm Children's Liturgy Vigil Masses 6:00pm and 9:00pm

Friday, December 25

12:00 Midnight Choral Mass 8:30am, 10:00am, and 11:30 am

- As usual, we expect a very large crowd at the Children's Mass at 4:00pm. Please, if at all possible, avoid that mass and choose another time for Mass.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Our Holy Name Society wants to thank everyone who supported their 50/50 Holiday Raffle. The raffle was a tremendous success! Our lucky winner was Martha Kanellis from Edwardsville, and the prize amount was \$932.50. Congratulations, Martha!!!

Holy Name Society Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Our HNS will sponsor a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, January 24th. More information to follow....

THANK YOU!

Our Knights of Columbus want to thank everyone who came to support our Annual All-U-Can Eat Breakfast Buffet last Sunday. The event was a huge success! See you again next year!!!

Many Thanks!

A special word of thanks to all who helped make the Pirohy this season! As usual, the work was hard, but the company was fun! It takes a special group of people to come together to accomplish such a daunting task of making over 500 dozen each week. A big thank you to all who were involved. We apologize if you did not get a chance to order pirohy. However, our dedicated volunteers can only produce so much in one day of work a week. We would, of course, like to serve our parishioners first.

GIFT BEARERS

We would like to remind everyone that if you have a weekend mass intention for your loved one, and are bringing up the gifts for Mass, please sign the book at the church entrance. This will eliminate confusion for the ushers. Thank you.

From the Pastor:

My Dear People,

I want to take this opportunity on the Fourth Sunday of Advent to extend to each of you my very best wishes and blessings for a very Merry Christmas! I will do so in person to those who attend the Liturgies that I shall preside. However, my mind cannot help go to those in our parish who will not be able to be with us for Mass.

First, to those who are sick at home, in nursing homes, or spending this holiday in the hospital, I wish we could be together for Christmas. Know that I carry you with me in a very special way this season, and you are in my prayers and especially in my intentions for mass. May Christ touch you all in a special way this Christmas and bring you healing, health, and peace.

For those who are with us only once or twice a year. I hope you feel welcomed this Christmas and whenever you are with us, as you are part of this family. I know life can be busy and complicated. Know that you are in our prayers each week as we gather for Eucharist. Maybe this year will be the year you find a little extra time in your schedule to join us more often...but no pressure. We'll take you as you are.

For those who do not even on occasion worship with us. I would love to change your mind about Church and show you how much you are needed here but that is for another time. I hope that you are finding peace in our God and His love for you. Know that if there is a need that arises, we are here for you, too. I will keep your place with us this Christmas.

Finally, to all the faithful. Those of you who are with us as often as you can be, often week after week and sometimes day by day. I have often told you that it is you who makes our parish so special and I wholeheartedly want to express that again. You are the reason we are in business at all and are able to reach out to the rest of our community. You make everything we do worth the effort. Your presence and prayers sustain us not only at Christmas but all throughout the year. You are the backbone of our parish, and what a strong backbone we have! Time and time again through your generosity and graciousness we meet challenge after challenge. I look at the tremendous response we have to all of our efforts: the festival, food fundraisers, donations to the Food Pantry, the overwhelming response to our Giving Tree, the Diocesan Annual Appeal, your participation at mass, your ministries, your caring and sharing the Gospel Message. It's all overwhelming! Thank you for making this parish the one that others talk about! Be assured of my special prayers and blessings not only today, but every day of the year.

May the Christ Child and His Most Blessed Mother bless you all this Holy Season and bring you all health of mind, body, and soul.

Yours in Christ,
Father Joe Pisaneschi

A horizontal banner with a gold background and blue decorative borders on the left and right sides. The text "Church Finances" is centered in a dark blue, serif font.

Church Finances

December 5/6, 2015

Collection Report

SUNDAY: \$7634.00 DUES: \$4281.79; HOLY DAY: \$30.00

LOOSE: \$514.56; E-GIVING: \$423.02; **TOTAL: \$12,883.37**

VOICES FOR VOCATIONS

Don't forget to pray for vocations each day at either 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. A simple lifting of your heart to the Father and asking for more young people to answer His call is all it takes. Or, by all means, if you know a special prayer for vocations or a decade or more of the rosary at the same time each day (doesn't necessarily have to be 1:00 or 7:00 pm) or whenever you can.

SETON PRAYER CHAIN

We have formed a Prayer Chain in our parish. We all need each other's prayers. We need volunteers who can pray for our requests.

A prayer chain is a network of individuals who will receive prayer requests and thanksgivings, forward them to the next available person in the network, and will pray immediately for each request. We need volunteers who can be "prayer warriors" or "prayer partners". Once we receive a request from our parishioners and friends, we would call you with the requested intention, and then, in turn, you would call a designated fellow prayer partner with the intention, and they, in turn, would call the designated prayer partner with the intention, and so on and so forth. Gail Kimmerle has volunteered to lead our Prayer Chain. If you are able to be one of our prayer partners, please call Gail at 570-690-7520. She will then make a list of prayer partners, and will let you know who you would have to call. We ask anyone who is need of prayer, to please call Gail at the above number with your request, or call Lori at the parish office. All calls are confidential.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



GET THE SETON MOBILE APP

Download the New Seton App from setonpa.com and stay in touch with your parish on the go! Mass Schedules, Facebook, The Seton Sentinel and more! Download it` today on your phone or ipad!

SETON PRAYER CHAIN

The next meeting for our Seton Prayer Chain is on Saturday, January 9, 2016, at 8am in our church hall. Call Gail Kimmerle at 690-7520 for more information. Please join us and bring a friend!

Know a Marriage That Needs Help: Throw them a lifeline and tell them about **Retrouvaille**, an international program that helps couples who are experiencing marital difficulties. This program is for all couples, at any stage of marriage that needs help to communicate with each other in a more attentive and loving manner. The next program in the Scranton Diocese begins Feb. 26-Feb. 28, 2016, at The Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, PA. Please call 800-470-2230 for more information or to register or visit the website at www.helpourmarriage.org.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF WYOMING VALLEY

Meals on Wheels provides nutritionally balanced meals to those who are homebound or cannot cook. There are no income requirements & anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to receive these services. Each weekday morning, we deliver two meals per day (1 hot & 1 cold) to clients throughout 12 areas of Luzerne County, including Swoyersville, Forty Fort, Luzerne, Kingston, Trucksville. Although our service is not free, we charge \$30/week which breaks down to only \$6/day. If interested, please call LeeAnn Telencho at 570-288-1023.

2015 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2015 contributions must be received by December 31, 2015. We cannot accept any offerings for 2015 after December 31st. Thank you.

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2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST

Please, No Phone Requests

Please make your requests by filling out the form below or **emailing the Parish Office at seton.swoy@aol.com by January 26**. Thank you.

Envelope #: _____

Please Print

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

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SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 21

8:00 am (P) Adam Mihalek Sister-in-law, Gerri Kubacki

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 am (P) Michael J. Dolan Wife & Children

Wednesday, December 23

8:00am (P) Harry Jacobs Charles & Rosalie Romanowski

Thursday, December 24 **Vigil: The Solemnity of the Birth of Christ**

4:00 pm (P) Christmas Mass Intentions

6:00 pm (U) *Pro Populo*

9:00 pm (U) Intention of the Presider

Friday, December 25 **Solemnity of the Birth of Christ**

12:00 am (P) Christmas Mass Intentions

8:30 am (P) Christmas Mass Intentions

10:00 am (U) *Pro Populo*

11:30 am (P) Christmas Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 26 *Vigil: Holy Family Sunday*

4:00 pm (P) Joseph & Lois Koval Children

5:30 pm (U) Ronald Gibbons Sister, Pat Quinn & Family

Sunday, December 27 **Holy Family Sunday**

8:30 am (P) Rosarii Rosentel Sons & Families

10:00 am (U) Stanley Kudey Wife & Children

11:30 am (P) Mary Lou Tobias Family

5:30 pm (P) Christmas Mass Intentions

Priest as scheduled above (P)=Fr. Joe Pisaneschi, (U)= Fr. Anthony Urban

Christmas Flowers names will be published in a future edition of the Seton Sentinel.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: GIVE THEM ETERNAL REST, FATHER. MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

~In Memory of Frank & Anna Duzen offered by Paula Matthews & Donna Gustave
~In Memory of Leo Venetz offered by Wife, Anna Mae

THE GREATEST GIFT...
Jesus