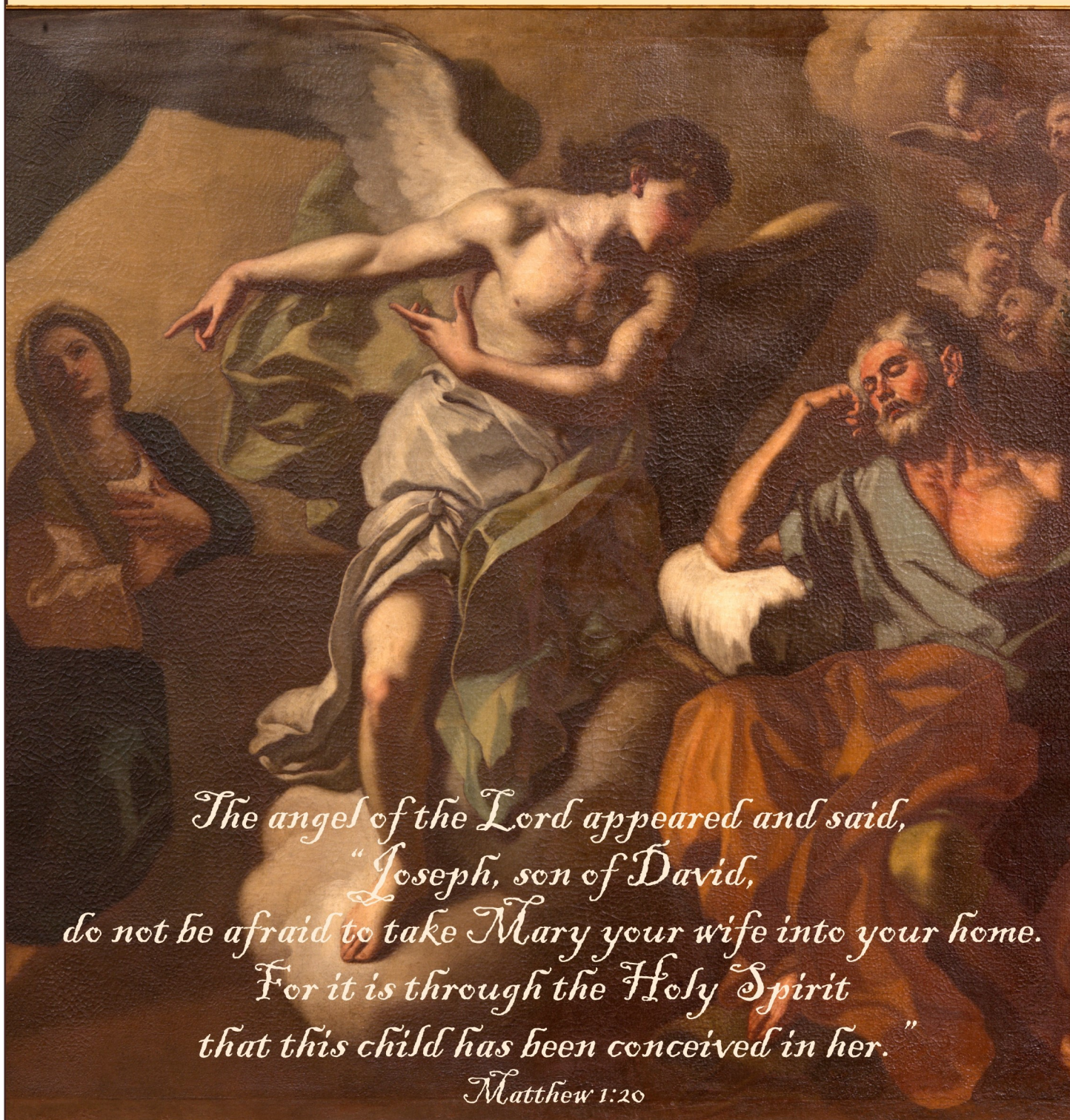


The Seton Sentinel

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish



*The angel of the Lord appeared and said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.”*

Matthew 1:20

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
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Weekends and Evenings
by appointment only

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

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:15pm to 3:45pm
or by appointment

Mission Statement:

"We are Called....

To act with Justice,

To love Tenderly,

To Serve One Another,

To Walk Humbly with God"

Paraphrased from Micah 6:8 by David Haas



CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PLAY

We are proud to present a new Christmas Tradition on
Monday, December 19th, 6:30pm, in our church hall.
This year the play is Based on *It's a Wonderful Life*.
Admission is FREE. Everyone is welcome!

Help is Needed:

Today, **December 18th**, we will begin to decorate our church for Christmas. As you know this is no small undertaking and we will need lots of help. There will be trees to set up and string lights on, wreaths, and garland to hang, nativity statues to set up, and more. There will be lots of ladder climbing required and some lifting to be done. We welcome everyone's help but could really use strong backs and agile folks to climb and lift. Plan on coming and lending a hand. The more people who show, the easier it will be.

OPLATKI

Our Confraternity of Christian Mothers will be offering the Christmas Wafers after all masses this weekend in our church vestibule. Offering is \$5.00 for a pack of 6 wafers. They will also be available in the rectory during regular office hours until **December 21st**.



Today is the final day to bring your gifts for the giving tree. If you forgot your present, please bring it back sometime today as the gifts will be distributed tomorrow, Monday, December 19th. Thank You.

Holiday Office Hours:

The rectory will be closed for Christmas vacation on Thursday, December 22nd at 12:00 Noon. Office business will be suspended until Tuesday, December 27th at 8:30 am. Please, no unnecessary phone calls to the rectory. Mass schedules are listed in the bulletin and have been sent home in a mailing. All other information is online at setonpa.com Emergency calls for Anointing of the Sick, the arrangement of Funerals, and other urgent matters will be accepted anytime of the day or night. Ring Father Joe when prompted from the main menu of the answering system. If no one answers immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible if you leave a detailed message for Father.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 11. The event includes a 2:30 PM mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation should be made before March 13 by calling Lori Raymond here in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office, 570-287-6624, with your request.

From Father Joe:

Allow me to extend my best wishes to everyone for a joyous and prayerful Christmas next weekend. From the bottom of my heart, I pray for each and everyone of you to the Christ-child for blessings of peace, health, and prosperity.

Just a few notes for next weekend at church:

- There will be lots of people who have not been here in 8 months or a year, possibly longer. Let's give them a reason to return the next week by our gracious hospitality and good will. If someone is in 'your' seat, please find another one. Smile and greet everyone, even strangers. Help visitors find the elevator and rest rooms. Little things go a long way in welcoming people this time of year.
- There are seven masses for Christmas Eve/Day. The 4:00pm on Christmas Eve is the most crowded. The Church usually fills to capacity by 3:15-3:25 pm. Instead of standing or being uncomfortable at mass, choose another mass to attend. There are other options available.
- Next Saturday, because of the hustle and bustle, and confusion that occurs, there will not be confessions before the 4:00 pm Mass. This Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 is the last opportunity to be confessed before Christmas. If you cannot make it, please call the rectory to set up an appointment with Father.
- Finally, the Midnight Mass is the Solemn Mass of Christmas. If at all possible, we encourage you to attend this Choral Mass. We think you will be delighted by the sights and sounds of Midnight Mass. (although it's a good idea to take a nap before hand) There is usually plenty of room at the Inn for this Liturgy.

CHANGE IN TIME FOR WEEKDAY MASSES

Beginning January 2, 2017, our Daily Mass will be moved from 8:00 am to 12:10 Mondays through Fridays for the remainder of the winter season. After consultation with Chris Calore, this decision has been made for the safety of all. Winter mornings are dark and cold, and we simply cannot have paths shoveled, parking lots plowed and have everything salted before 8:00 am. It is too dangerous to have people coming to church before 8:00 on mornings when the weather is so bad. Even with the mass at 12:10 pm, you are encouraged to be vigilant and use good judgment before heading out to come here on the weekdays. If it is still slippery or dangerous, please stay home and be safe. The vast majority of our daily mass attendees are retirees, and we do apologize to those who work for the inconvenience of the new time.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Social Concerns "Chemo Cap Project" has wrapped up. We are truly touched by the outpouring of love this project has generated for our brothers and sisters who are battling cancer. The final number of caps that have been created through this project is 252! We also received 11 scarves. This project took on a life of its own, with arms that have reached across 3 states. These caps were created by people from Swoyersville, Shavertown, Dallas, Mountain Top, Plains, Hanover Township, West Pittston, Milford, Old Bridge, NJ, and Naples, FL. We would like to thank everyone who used their talents to make this project an extraordinary success! Also, thanks to those who donated yarn and material! May God bless you all!

THANK YOU, HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS!

Thank you to all who came to help make our Christmas Advent Pirohy! We couldn't have done it without you! And thank you to all who came to help stuff the Christmas straw baggies. We appreciate everyone sharing their time & talent!

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

Rev. Joseph J. Pisaneschi
Pastor

Lori Raymond
Pastoral Associate

Joseph Sabol
Assistant Organist

Monica Salis
Business Manager

Marge Semanek
Director of Music

Sister Marion Tarone, IHM
Director of Religious Education

Rev. Anthony Urban
Weekend Celebrant

Deacon Jack Ziegler
Permanent Deacon

Direct Contacts

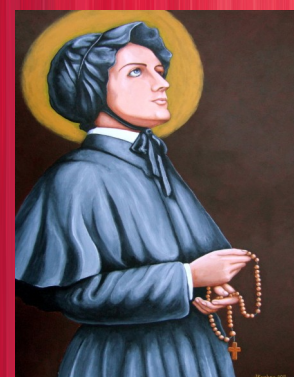
Office of Social Ministry (Sr. Jane):
570-763-5160 sisterjane@setonpa.com

Faith Formation Office (Sr. Marion):
570-287-4587 sistermarion@setonpa.com

Father Joe's email:
fatherjoey@aol.com

Parish direct email: setonpa@aol.com

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



Prayer Chain

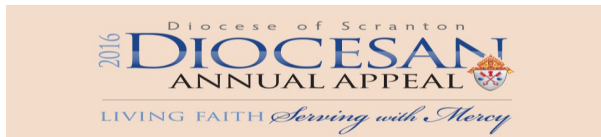
Volunteers are needed to join in the Seton Prayer Chain. To become one of our prayer partners contact Gail at 570-690-7520. If anyone is in need of prayer, contact Gail at that number or call Lori in the parish office. All calls are confidential.



A Parish of the
Diocese of Scranton



Log on to setonpa.com and sign-up for electronic giving. It's a fast easy way to remember your offerings. You can chose to give weekly, monthly, pay dues, etc. Look for and click:



Congratulations! You did it again! Through your generosity, our parish surpassed its goal for the Diocesan Annual Appeal! So far, **\$49,620.00** has been raised. That puts us over our goal by \$2620.00. Whatever we achieve over the goal -- 75% of that number comes back to the parish! There is still time to help the appeal. There is a link on our website, setonpa.com and envelopes are located at the Church entrance. May God Bless Your Generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Please note: 7th Grade Confirmation Additional Class: Today Sunday, Dec. 18 after 5:30pm mass

Monday—December 19: Students are to report to their classrooms. We will then go to the church hall to watch the Children's Choir Christmas Play. There are no classes on Dec. 24/26 and Dec. 31/Jan. 2.

January Religious Ed News:

Saturday: Classes will be held on Jan. 7, 21, 28. No class on Jan. 14th

Monday: Classes will be held on Jan. 9, 23, 30. No class on Jan. 16th.

Note: January 22nd: 7th grade extra Confirmation class after the 5:30pm Mass

Reminder for 8th grade Confirmation class: Paperwork due in February (service hours, saint report, sponsor card, registration form, letter to pastor, confirmation name)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume Sunday, January 8, 2017, at the 10:00am Mass.



"Give to the Most High God, as God has given to you, generously, according to your means, for the Lord is one who always repays, and God will give back to you sevenfold." Sirach 35: 9-10

December 3/4, 2016

SUNDAY: \$7907.07
LOOSE: \$484.15
Holy Day : \$1.00
TOTAL: \$12,552.88

DUES: \$3856.00
E-GIVING: \$305.66

May God Bless You for your Generosity!

December Parish Group Collection: Altar Guild

MARRIAGE HELP. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, then the Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi, with a long i) Program can help you, Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and to rediscover a more loving relationship. The next local program will be February 24-26, 2017, at the Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, PA. Registration required. All calls confidential. Cost is by donation. For more information or to register, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org

AMAZON SHOPPING

The Christmas shopping season has officially begun. When purchasing items from Amazon.com, please consider logging into your account via the Amazon Smile Program. A portion of your sale will be donated to The Little Sisters of the Poor, Holy Family Residence, at no additional cost to you. To help, log into your account at: smile.amazon.com/ch/24-0832764

HOLY REDEEMER HIGH SCHOOL

"Sounds of the Season" Choral Concert & Elementary Band, today, Sunday, December 18th, at 3pm. 159 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre. All are welcome!

Chili, Chowder, & Soup Contest

Sunday, January 22nd, at Hanover Area Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria. Sponsored by Student Council & JSC. Noon-2pm. Adults: \$5.00, Kids 6-12: \$3.00, Kids 5 and under: free. Admission price includes samples of all entries. Deadline to enter a soup: January 17th. Applications available at www.hanoverarea.org or call 831-2300 ext 229. All proceeds benefit Ashley Food Bank.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA May 17th to May 26th, 2017

Join us in a Pilgrimage to Lisbon, Fatima, Avila, Segovia, Madrid, & more. Under the direction of the Oblates of St. Joseph, Pittston. \$2999 per person/ double occupancy. Includes: roundtrip airfare from Newark, hotel transfers, meals (B & D), sightseeing by professional tour escort in air-conditioned bus, Superior Tourist Class Accommodations. Baggage handling at hotels (1 piece), tipping for bus driver & tour guides. Bus transportation from Pittston to Newark & back available at additional cost. For more info., call The Catholic Tour at 1-888-465-9868, email: altvar70@gmail.com, or Carl Angelella at 570-654-6459.

Hospital Visitation

A reminder to all parishioners: If you or a family or friend is admitted to the Hospital, Physical Rehab, or a Nursing Home, please contact Sister Jane at 570-763-5160 to inform the parish. We try to visit everyone we know is hospitalized or in a facility for any length of time but we need your help. Hospitals do not release patient information to the parish any longer due to privacy regulations. For emergency Anointing of the Sick, call anytime, day or night the main rectory number for assistance. Note that priests are assigned to hospital emergency calls on a rotating basis so ask the nurses station to call the priest on duty in the event of an emergency.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH LIGHHOUSE BOOKS/CDs



Did you check out our "rolling library" of religious books & CDs located in our vestibule? For a small donation, you can find some good materials that can edify your spiritual life.

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

Masses for the Week

Monday, December 19

8:00 am Joseph Gibbons Sister, Pat Quinn & Family

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am William & Mary Sheehan Family

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 am Adam Mihalek *St. Peter Canisius* M/M John Matukonis

Thursday, December 22

8:00 am Joseph & Lois Koval Children

Friday, December 23

8:00 am Harry Jacobs *St. John of Kanty* Roy & Joanne Baker

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm **vigil: The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**
 6:00 pm Christmas Intentions
 9:00 pm Intention of the Presider
 Christmas Intentions

Sunday, December 25

12:00 Midnight Christmas Day
 8:30 am Christmas Intentions
 10:00 am **Pro Populo**
 11:30 am Christmas Intentions

The Recently Departed

- ~~Kimberley Jenkins~~Margaret Kadish~~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 Lou Michaels offered by Wife & Family
- In Memory of Bob & Michael Krostag offered by Family



Remember Those
in the Military



Priest's Schedule

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm Fr. Pisaneschi

6:00 pm Fr. Urban

9:00 pm Fr. Pisaneschi

Sunday, December 25

12:00 am Fr. Pisaneschi

8:30 am Fr. Pisaneschi

10:00 am Fr. Urban

11:30 am Fr. Pisaneschi

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE
NO 5:30 pm MASS Sunday,
Christmas Day.**



CHRISTMAS 2016 AT ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Monday, December 19, 6:30 pm Children's Choir Christmas Play

Tuesday, December 20, Confessions 4:30 pm– 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 pm—Children's Mass, 6:00 pm, and 9:00 pm—The Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

12:00 midnight—The Solemn Choral Mass of Christmas Day,

8:30 am, 10:00 am, and 11:30 am

There Will Be No 5:30 pm Mass on Christmas Day.