

JANUARY 8, 2023
Epiphany of the Lord

The SETON SENTINEL

A publication of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

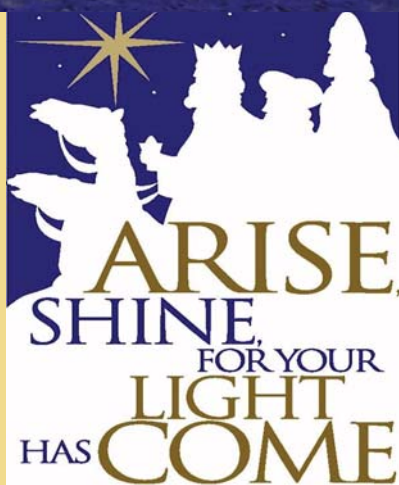
Epiphany of the Lord

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Matthew 2:2

You Are Welcome Here!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, No matter what your current family or marital situation, No matter what your current personal history, age, income, background, gender, gender identity or orientation, race, ethnicity or spirituality, No matter what your own self-image or holiness or virtue - You belong to Christ and belong to us! You are invited, accepted and respected here at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. We welcome you. We want to share our Roman Catholic way of life with you!



Rev. Joseph J Pisaneschi x105
Pastor

Rev. Anthony Urban
Assisting Celebrant

Deacon John Bankus
Deacon John (Jack) Zeigler
Permanent Deacons

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Pastoral Associate/Director of
Religious Education

Sister Mary Beth Makuch,SS.C.M.
Pastoral Outreach Ministry

Music Ministry
Marge Semanek
Director of Liturgical Music

Joseph Sabol
Accompanist

Scott Coates
Accompanist/5:30 p.m. Sunday

Pat Quinn
Office Assistant

Sacristans and Maintenance
Chris Calore
Director of Maintenance

John Sartin
Trudy Brown
Pat Quinn
Betsy Evanoski
Phil Bosha

This Week's Masses and Intentions

Monday, January 9

8:00 am Dorothy Shendock Diane Martin & Frank

Tuesday, January 10

8:00 am Jim Keating Wife & Children

Wednesday, January 11

8:00 am Anna & Joseph Barnoski Chimock Family

Thursday, January 12

8:00 am Kim Ward Aunt Chris

Friday, January 13

8:00 am. Colleen Madden Ripa Family

Saturday, January 14

4:00 pm. Edward Evelock Evelock Family

Sunday, January 15

8:30 am George & Mary Krakosky Daughter, Carol & Family

11:00 am Fr. Joseph Fanti Mike Romanowski

5:30 p.m. Stella Miscavage Elaine Hritzak

Resting in the Peace of Christ, the Recently Departed

~~Josephine Wozniak~~Rosemarie Butchko~~

Baptism Today

Join us in welcoming **Tanner Douglas Mucha** to the Christian family, through the Sacrament of Baptism, which will be celebrated today after the 8:30am mass.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

~In Memory of **Raymond Podskoch & Elizabeth Podskoch** offered by Theresa

~In Memory of **Frances Milewski** offered by Helen & Donna David

TODAY--Christmas Decoration take down:

Sunday, January 8th after the 11:00 am Mass.

Please lend us a hand if you can. This is a good opportunity for 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation students to get service hours.

2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST
PLEASE, NO PHONE CALLS

Please make your request by filling out this form. Then drop in collection basket, US mail, drop in rectory mail slot, or email to: Lori at setonpa@aol.com

Envelope # _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Offerings

Weekend of December 24/25, 2022
 Regular: \$ 8,208.00
 Christmas: \$20,207.00

Through the Diocese of Scranton's listening efforts during the Synod on Synodality in 2022, one of the main themes that emerged from online surveys and in-person listening sessions was a broad demand for greater transparency from church leadership in all matters of importance. One of the areas frequently mentioned is parish financial matters.

Thank you for your generosity!

"Give to God as you have received"

Financial matters can be difficult for clergy to talk about, and in some cases, difficult for parishioners to understand. However, as the People of God, parishioners who donate money and service to their parish have the right and responsibility to

understand how their money is used.

The bottom line is that in order to be good stewards, parishioners should have a basic understanding of parish financial operations.

On August 31, 2022, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera signed a decree instituting "Norms for Annual Parish Financial Reporting" which are to be considered law in the Diocese of Scranton. Each year beginning in 2023, on the second weekend in January, every parish in the Diocese will be required to publish a five-year financial trend analysis in its bulletin, which will include a narrative to help people understand the document.

While a pastor/parish life coordinator is primarily responsible for the day-to-day supervision of a parish's financial and physical resources, they receive assistance from a Parish Finance Council. The Parish Finance Council is a consultative body of laypersons that advise a pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the parish. It is widely accepted that an active, well-informed Parish Finance Council strengthens accountability and assists the pastor with his responsibilities.

Parishes are much more expensive to maintain now than they were in the past. As the Diocese of Scranton continues in its Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process, striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade, it is critical for parishioners to have an understanding of the financial position of their parish.

It is the hope that by having more financial transparency between a parish and its parishioners, there can be greater trust and cooperation to further the mission of the Church. Pastors and parish staff must be open, consultative and collegial in the conducting of affairs and parishioners must accept responsibility for their parish and contribute generously – both money and ser-

On the following pages you will see the 5 year financial trend for our parish. Together with the finance office at the Diocese of Scranton we have worked on this 5 year report to keep you informed of our parish financial snap shot. Keep in mind that the financial years begin on July 1 and end on June 30. The Parish Festival held in the fall of 2022 is not reflected on that year's income.

At times, when parishes are confronted with the reality of loss of income and unpaid bills that have mounted for years and years, parishioners are surprised at the condition of the parish finances. We present these numbers as a way to keep you informed of how we are doing fiscally. These numbers also assist the diocese in continual Pastoral Planning decisions. I will be happy to answer any questions about this report that you may have. It's straightforward, and the bottom line is that we are in the black with all our bills paid to date.

**Parish Financial Report
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Swoyersville
TREND ANALYSIS**

	Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30				
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Revenue					
Collections	607,754	567,869	577,751	548,392	550,510
Faith Formation Fees	4,149	1,035	3,340	3,956	4,100
Fundraising/Development	8,781	96,102	148,867	165,759	214,746
Other Income	43,097	44,778	58,567	71,324	52,166
Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan	-	13,939	56,530	-	-
Transfers Savings Account/Other	-	89,664	187,588	-	54,089
Diocesan Special Collections	69,964	16,195	16,013	20,306	31,864
Total Revenue	733,745	829,582	1,048,656	809,737	907,475
Expenses					
Administration	306,525	301,842	308,225	288,212	308,360
Rectory	39,173	34,165	31,598	40,496	41,585
Liturgy	77,412	75,728	75,710	102,144	83,183
Faith Formation	12,248	33,932	28,744	30,261	32,045
Social Justice	22,095	29,558	28,477	27,468	28,082
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	150,106	155,132	143,050	150,980	128,688
Fixed Expense	45,194	43,607	42,081	39,694	47,169
Debt Service	-	-	-	6,911	-
Capital Outlays	-	-	45,700	-	32,733
Designated Expenses /Transfers Out	2,138	-	-	-	-
Catholic School Assessment	113,640	113,776	109,100	102,419	111,844
Diocesan Special Collections Remittance	21,767	16,195	15,629	20,306	32,731
Total Expense	790,298	803,937	828,314	808,891	846,420
Parish Surplus/(Deficit) - CASH Basis	(56,553)	25,645	220,342	846	61,055
(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations ** (SEE NOTE)**	(1,950)	1,954	17,190	(26,505)	18,252
Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(58,503)	27,599	237,532	(25,659)	79,307
NOTE					
Outstanding Diocesan Obligations could include: Diocesan assessments, School assessments, health insurance, self-insurance, pension and other expenses.					
End of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	-	(1,950)	4	17,194	(9,311)
Beginning of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	(1,950)	4	17,194	(9,311)	8,941
(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations	(1,950)	1,954	17,190	(26,505)	18,252
Diocesan Loan/Debt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Understanding Your Parish Financial Report

Revenue

- **Collections** include all offertory envelopes, online giving and loose collections, including for holidays, Holy Days and any special collection (flowers) envelopes.
- **Faith Formation Fees** include all registration and program fees for both faith formation and adults programs.
- **Fundraising/Development** includes any gifts or donations that are not regular parish offertory, bequests and memorials, parish activities (dinners, picnics, bingo, lottery, etc.), donations from parish societies and any parish rebate from the Diocesan Annual Appeal (75% over goal is refunded to the parish).
- **Other Income** includes rental of facilities, insurance refunds, interest income, sale of assets, funeral/wedding perquisites or any other income.
- **Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan** includes donations or grants specifically earmarked for a designated purpose, reimbursements from linked parishes to help cover expenses and any Paycheck Protection Plan grant income.
- **Transfers Savings Account/Other** includes transfers from bank accounts that are excluded from operating income or have already been reported as operating income.
- **Diocesan Special Collections** are special collections (Care & Education of Priests or Emergency collections following a natural disaster) which get remitted back to the Diocese.

Expenses

- **Administration** includes clergy salary and benefits, office staff salary and benefits, administrative expenses, telephone, computer services, postage, printing, envelopes and the Cathedralicum (9.5% parish assessment to the Diocese) and Clergy Care and Wellness Assessment.
- **Rectory** expenses include the costs to run and maintain the rectory, as well as household expenses for the pastor(s).
- **Liturgy** includes salaries and benefits for musicians and liturgical staff including directors, musicians and sacristans. This also includes all liturgical equipment and supplies (printed materials, candles, flowers, decorations, etc.)
- **Faith Formation** includes salaries and benefits of faith formation director and staff, including family and/or youth director. This also includes the cost of all textbooks and supplies, retreats, etc.
- **Social Justice** includes all social justice salaries and benefits, as well as the cost of all social justice expenses.
- **Operation & Maintenance of Plant** includes salaries and benefits of all maintenance staff. This also includes the occupancy costs of the parish buildings, including electricity, heat, water, cleaning, janitorial, repairs and maintenance, and any plant and maintenance supplies.
- **Fixed Expense** includes insurance premiums from the Diocesan self-insured program for property, liability and workers compensation, real estate taxes (if any) and rental of facilities.
- **Debt Service** includes the interest and principal payments paid on outstanding parish debt.
- **Capital Outlays** includes any major repairs on the parish building or site or any new construction costs.
- **Designated Expenses/Transfers Out** includes all expenses designated for a specific purpose (i.e., food pantry) or transfers out to savings/building fund.
- **Catholic School Assessments** paid are included here. These represent the parish's portion allocated for the support of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System which are 14.5% for a parish with a Catholic School in its county and 8% if there is no school in its county.
- **Diocesan Special Collections Remittance** are the remittals of the Diocesan collections above.

Parish Surplus/(Deficit) - CASH Basis

- This line represents the **increase or decrease** in parish cash balances from the beginning of the year to the end of the year on a **CASH BASIS** based on actual expenses paid.

(Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations

- This amount represents the change in the parish's **unpaid obligations** over the year. If there is an **increase** in unpaid obligations, this number will be **negative**. If the parish **reduced** its unpaid obligations, this will be a **positive** number.

Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit)

- This value is the sum of the Parish Surplus/(Deficit) and the (Increase)/decrease of Unpaid Diocesan Obligations. The cash balance represents the net effect of operating activity on a cash basis. If a parish is current on all of its obligation, there would be no difference between the Cash and ACTUAL Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit). However, if a parish is unable to stay current on its obligations, the increase of unpaid obligations will reduce their CASH Basis Net Surplus/(Deficit) by the amount of the increase in unpaid Diocesan obligations.

This Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit) reflects a parish's true ability to pay its current obligations.

Outstanding Diocesan Obligations

- This section highlights the change in a parish's unpaid Diocesan obligations over each fiscal year. If a parish has an increase in unpaid obligations for the year, this will result in a lower Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit) as these are an annual obligation of the parish that was not paid in the current year.

Diocesan Loan/Debt

- This is the amount of outstanding loans of the parish.

Final Thoughts:

As we close the scrapbook on another Christmas Season after the masses this weekend, allow me to extend my special thanks to all who made our holiday a bit brighter at our parish. First, to all those who participated in the Christmas Giving Tree and brought in food cards for the needy— you’ll never know what a difference you made in the lives of those in need in our community! We are working on the number of children and family and elderly we served this year and will have it soon. Next I wish to thank the Staff of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. We are blessed with the finest individuals who take such care of our parishioners, buildings and operations of the church! For all who decorated the Church this year, to our musicians, cantors, choirs, adult, young adult and children who led us in holy songs this season and throughout the year — a tremendous job of lifting our spirits! Thanks to all ministers of holy communion, visitors to the shut-ins, catechists, counting teams, ushers, lectors, altar servers, and all volunteers who help is in any way possible. You know who you are, and there are too many names to list. And to each and everyone of you who help bring the presence of God to our community by your presence: daily, weekly, occasionally, one or twice a year or whenever you come — Thank You.

Sincerely,
Your Humbled Pastor
Father Joe

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS DECORATION OFFERINGS:

Mrs. Dolores Brominski Nora Devine Eleanor Hudak Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stanchak

CONGRATULATIONS!!! Winners of Social Concerns Daily Lottery

DRAW DATE	DAY	NUMBER	PRIZE	NAME
Dec. 19, 2022	Mon	476	\$25	Jennie Valick
Dec. 20, 2022	Tues	337	\$25	Anna Mae Venetz
Dec. 21, 2022	Wed	136	\$25	Marie Stefanides
Dec. 22, 2022	Thurs	965	\$25	Kathy Dorzd
Dec. 23, 2022	Fri	723	\$50	Robert Panowicz
Dec. 24, 2022	Sat	074	\$50	Bernie Podskoch
Dec. 25, 2022	Sun	776	\$150	Tom Weidlich

LIFELINE SCREENING

FRIDAY, January 27, 2023, here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish church hall
All 4 screenings for \$149: Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Artery Disease, Abdominal Aneurysm, Atrial Fibrillation
Call toll free: 1-800-679-5191---Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HC---or text the word *circle* to 216-279-1607

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Our HNS will meet today, January 8th, after the 8:30am mass in our church hall. New members are welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our Kof C will meet this Tuesday, January 10th, at 7pm in our church hall. New members are welcome!

From Father Joe:

Thank you to all who offered Christmas/Birthday wishes and greetings to me this year. For the many cards, candy, cookies, and gifts sent and brought to the rectory, I am truly humbled by your kindness and generosity towards myself and Sebastian. He has been enjoying the treats and toys as well. Please know that your intentions were remembered in Christmas Masses offered, and I will hold a special place for all parishioners and friends of our parish throughout the coming year. May New Year’s Blessings be Yours! — **Father Joe**



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