

# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

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Office hours: Tuesday-Friday. 9-12:30pm.

Church Doors are open from 7:30am.-6pm. Sun - Fri.

## Sunday December 1, 2024, First Sunday of Advent



*On earth nations will be in dismay,  
perplexed by the roaring of the sea and  
the waves. People will die of fright.*

### Pastoral Staff and Extensions

Rev. Thomas Diaz, Pastor, #4, Day off-Mondays  
Chris Giacometti, Office Manager, #1  
Mass times: Extension, #2  
Jennifer Bedoka, Faith Formation, #3

### Sacraments and Devotions

**Reconciliation:** Sundays 9:45-10:15am. and by app.

**Marriage:** One year notice to the pastor.

**Infant Baptism:** Two-month notice. Next class TBA

**Adult Baptism:** "The Welcoming Church" Sundays at noon in the hall mtg. room.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call Fr. Tom.

**Exposition and Benediction:** Thurs. After Mass for ½ hr.

**The Rosary:** ½ hr. before weekday Masses.

**The Divine Chaplet:** Tues. after noon Mass

**Bible Study:** Tues. 1-2pm.

### Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat. Nov. 30, 4pm. +Margaret Sterner-McCleaf

Sun. Dec. 1, 8:30am. People of the Parish  
10:30am. +Msgr. Gerard Brady

Tue. Dec. 3, 1 2:15pm. + Sebastian Siliato

Wed. Dec 4, 8:15am. Manuel & Melencita Bacani

Thu. Dec 5, 12:15 pm. Thanksgiving

Fri. Dec 6, 8:15am. + Benvenuto Uy

Sat. Dec 7, 4:00pm. + Carl Sagon & Michelle Edmondson

Sun. Dec. 8, 8:30am. Ints. of Gary & Estella Sterner

10:30am. People of the Parish

### Events for the Week

Sun. Dec. 1 10:30am Liturgy of the word for children

11:30am Advent Celebration/ Hall

Tue. Dec. 3 1:00pm Bible Study/Hall

Wed. Dec. 4 4:30pm. Filipino Mtg./Hall

Fri. Dec. 6 4:30pm. Social Justice Mtg/CI

Sun. Dec. 8 9:30-12:30 Men's Club Pancake Breakfast

### Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

Reading I: **Jeremiah 33:14-16,**

Reading II: **1Thessalonians 3:12-4: 2**

Gospel: **Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

### Scriptural Reflection

**Getting Ready and Being Blameless** The First Reading and the Gospel both talk about a time when the Lord comes—for justice, as the First Reading says; and for judgment, as the Gospel implies.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns people not to be overcome with the pleasures and anxieties of the world but to be ready for his coming. Those who are not ready will practically die of fright when they see him.

Well, then, what do we need to do to get ready? Christians need to increase in love and abound in it.

The Second Reading in effect answers that question. At Christ's coming again, we are to be blameless in holiness. And what is *that*?

If you are blameless *under law*, then no one can blame you for any violation of the law of the land. You weren't speeding, for example, or cheating on your income tax, or violating any other law of the city or country in which you are.

If you are *morally* blameless, then no one can blame you for any violation of the moral law. You weren't lying, for example, or cheating on your spouse, or violating any other command of the universal moral law that applies to all people no matter where they are.

But what is it to be blameless *in holiness*? The answer is in the Second Reading: in order to be ready for Christ at his coming, Christians need to

increase in love and abound in it. So here's the thing to see.

You can keep all the laws of your land and still be a real jerk. And the same truth holds for the moral law. You can be a priggishly righteous jerk too. Something more than having a great record for keeping the laws is necessary to be ready for the Lord. That more is love.

If you want what is bad for your neighbor, if you curse him in public or even in your heart, if you wish he would just go away, if you tell him in your thoughts or to his face to go to hell—you do *not* love him. And you are blameworthy with regard to holiness if you don't. It doesn't matter how moral or legal your conduct is otherwise.

To be blameless in holiness, then, takes being loving. And being loving is what makes us ready for the return of the Lord. Eleonore Stump

**Discussion Question:** 1. We welcome a new year of grace and the Lord's surprises. "The days are coming, says the Lord." What do the coming days of Advent awaken in you?



The poster features a central illustration of a nativity scene with a star above the manger. Below it, the text reads "Advent Celebration" in a decorative font, followed by "Sunday December 1st 10am-1pm". There are several colorful Christmas ornaments in the center. Below the ornaments, it says "Join us in celebrating the HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE of the Advent Season!". At the bottom, there are illustrations of candy canes and a row of colorful Christmas hats.

**Please pray for our infirmed:** Aubrey Adams, Tony & Lisa Crisafulli, Andrea Davis, Patrick Dempsey, Marlene Dentoni, John Diaz, Marcella Dorado, Rosita Faltado, Bill Gardon, Jeanette Guidry, Regina Hill, Frank Manhoso, Marcelina Morales, Pat O'Brien, Cavan O'Connell, Sione Palu, Nicholas Patrick, The Rivas Family, Lora Sansom, Robert Scarpone, Suad Shami, Cecilia

Tarrant, Dominique Tarrant, Jim Turegano, Orinia Vanderlind, Malik Whitehorse, and Marilyn Wills.

**Pray for the soul of:** Benvinedo Uy. Please keep his family in your prayers.

**Parish Stewardship for November 2024**  
11/3 \$4,014, 11/10 \$5,378, 11/17 \$3,516  
11/24 \$4,422, Liability Insurance \$2,132, All Saints \$1,320, Church Maintenance \$1,874. On-Line Giving \$1,443.80

### Faith Formation Ministry

#### Quote of the Week

**"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." (St. Ambrose)**

#### Sunday, December 1st

9:30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation/cl  
10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word  
After 10:30am Mass join us in the hall for our Advent Celebration!

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-7 pm Youth Group

#### Tuesday, December 3rd

4-5:30 pm Atrium L1 and L2

#### Wednesday, December 4th

2-3:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Year Sacramental Prep

3:30 pm-4:30 pm 2nd Year Sacramental Prep

#### Saturday, December 7th

5 pm "Jubilee of Hope" hall

#### Sunday, December 8th

9:30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation/cl

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

After 10:30am Mass join us in the hall for our Advent Celebration!

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-6:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Confirmation Class

**Advent is a special time for all of us to reflect and prepare our hearts for Jesus 'birth.**

**1. You are encouraged to create an Advent Wreath and create moments of prayer during the holiday business.**

**2. Read Family Advent Devotions during the Advent season.**

**3. Read daily scripture and serve others.**

**4. Make a special Advent Ornament that reflects the Christmas story.**

**5. Worship through song and focus on the Advent season!**

### The St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Gift Program Is Taking Place

This year, in addition to food for Christmas we want to supplement the families with \$10 gift cards for each child with a \$10 per child limit. The card would

help the parents toward the purchase of gifts of their choice for their child.

We are requesting only **\$10 Target or Walmart cards from SCRIP**. If we get more than enough for the children on our list we can double up on their cards and/or offer a gift card to our seniors.

If you would like to donate to this please purchase \$10 SCRIP after Mass at the SCRIP table and leave them with the SCRIP seller or buy the gift cards at the office and leave them there. The office will get them to SVDP.

**The last day to donate is Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Let us show them the love of Jesus this Christmas!  
**The St. Vincent de Paul Society of our parish**

### Coming Events



ease come and join us and fellow parishioners for a hearty breakfast next **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. Breakfast will include scrambled eggs,

pancakes, sausages, coffee, water, and orange drink. As always, there is no charge but donations are accepted and appreciated. Come and enjoy a good meal and friendly conversation.

The Men's Club would like to thank those parishioners who have participated in our previous breakfasts and dinners. It is through your generosity in donations that has allowed us to continue to offer these events free of charge.

### Coming Events

1. **Sun. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 10-1pm.** Advent Celebration/Hall
2. **Mon. Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 12:15pm & 5pm Masses.**  
The Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
3. **Thu. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm.** Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass in Spanish & English. Misa de la Señora de Guadalupe Bilingue Ch/Hall
4. **Tue. Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm.** Simbang Gabi Ch/Hall
5. **Sat. Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 5:15pm.** Posada Ch/Hall
6. **Tue. Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve 5 & 8pm Masses
7. **Wed. Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Masses 8:30 & 10:30
8. **Sat. Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 5 pm.** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Feast Day Dinner.

**In the Coming Events** many do not know what they are: **Simbang Gabi** is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas. Please look to the bulletin board for the other masses in our area.

**Las Posadas** outside a house there is singing of Joseph asking for shelter and the family inside

responds, singing the part of the innkeeper saying that there is no room. The song switches back and forth a few times until finally, the innkeeper agrees to let them in. The hosts open the door, and everyone goes inside to celebrate.

### Ministry Schedule Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

#### 4pm. Mass

**Readers:** Evelyn Estrella

**EMS:** Betty Bishop, Luisa Bustillos

**Ushers:** Beth Turregano, Dianne Foppoli

**Greeters:** Roxanne Bialkoski, Beatriz Vega

#### Sunday 8:30am Mass

**Readers:** Phillip Alvarado, Maureen Sheridan Scott

**EMS:** Armanbdo Argueto, John Buhagiar, Patty Ramos

**Ushers:** Gus and Liz Chang

**Greeters:** Larry and Jo Ruminson

#### 10:30am Mass

**Readers:** Scott and Mila Morical,

**EMS:** Evelyn Estrella, Nora John, Nativity Mata

**Ushers:** Augustin Gonzalez, Sally Shami

**Greeters:** Fred and Janet Adam

### Ministry Schedule Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

#### 4pm. Mass

**Readers:** Heigi Pillor, Evelyn Estrella

**EMS:** Gloria Bacani, Tony Madia, Dianne Foppoli

**Ushers:** Olivia Salazar, Tony Turegano

**Greeters:** Carmen Crisafulli, Debra Ciarasso

#### Sunday 8:30 am

**Readers:** Maureen Sheridan Scott, Maria Van Anne

**EMS:** Remie Alinas, Larry Biondini, Milambo Gaudence

**Ushers:** Remie Alinas, Diane Cook

**Greeters:** Pam Burgess, Diane Van Anne

#### 10:30am Mass

**Readers:** Mary Denson, Marie Horwitz

**EMS:** Giovanna Desimone, Nativity Mata

**Ushers:** Bill Yates, Augustin Gonzalez

**Greeters:** Pat Yates, Sally Shami

### Women's Guild Raffle

Congratulations to the winners of the Women's Guild Raffle!

**The \$500 winner** - Karla Pengil, \$250 - Linda Shane, **\$150** - John Lisciandro, **\$100**- Dianne Foppoli and **the quilt** -Marie Ebbing.

Winners of the Cash raffle will be notified when the checks are available in the office.

Thank you to all the parishioners for helping support our fundraiser. It's greatly appreciated.

### Poinsettias for Christmas



As we do every Christmas you are asked to make a donation for a loved one who has passed away and the names

will be mentioned at a Christmas Mass.  
The donation for a couple or an individual: We have  
2-10" poinsettias at \$29.50 ea.  
12-8" poinsettias at \$27 ea.  
18-6" poinsettia  
Please bring your donation and sign up for them after the Masses next weekend.

### SPECIAL SAINT THIS WEEK

**St. Nicholas, whose feast day is celebrated on Fri. Dec. 6,** is well known as possibly the real-life inspiration for the beloved Christmas character of Santa Claus.

Nicholas, who was bishop of a Greek city in modern-day Turkey, during the fourth century. But there are many stories and legends that explain his reputation as a just and upright man, charitable gift-giver, and miracle worker.

**The legend behind why St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children:** Many people know that St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children,



but they may not know why he has that title. There is a grisly legend that says that during a famine in Myra, three young boys were lured into a butcher's shop, where they were killed and then brined in a wooden barrel with the intention of

being sold as "ham." The good bishop worked a miracle, bringing the pickled children back to life and saving them from a gruesome fate.

Some people believe depictions of Bishop Nicholas with the three boys led to his reputation as a protector of children.

**One of the foremost saints in the Russian Orthodox Church:** St. Nicholas is a unifying figure among Catholics and Orthodox Christians since both groups venerate him.

But he is incredibly important in the Russian Orthodox Church, where he is known as St. Nicholas the Wonderworker for the many miracles attributed to him both during and after his life.

Also, in their weekly liturgical cycle, which dedicates different days of the week to Jesus Christ and other saints, only three are specifically named: Mary, the Mother of God; John the Forerunner (known to Catholics as John the Baptist); and St. Nicholas.

**Patron saint of unmarried people:** One of the most popular legends about Nicholas is that

the saint, who is said to have come from a wealthy family, secretly helped a poor man with three daughters.

The father could not provide proper dowries for the girls to marry, and without husbands to support them, they might have been forced to turn to prostitution.

After learning about the situation, Nicholas secretly slipped a bag of gold coins through the family's window while they were sleeping. He later left a second bag of coins, and likewise, another bag for the third daughter, at which point, the legend says, the father, who had waited up all night, "caught" Nicholas red-handed in his gift-giving. But Nicholas made him promise to keep the secret.

The story is likely the explanation for why the modern Christmas character of Santa Claus brings his gifts for children under the cover of night.

### El Rincón



### Hispano

Quiero agradecer a todos los que asistieron a la reunión del Club Hispano el domingo pasado.

También quiero agradecer a quienes se están haciendo cargo de la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a las 6:30 pm y de la Posada a las 5:30 pm. en el día 21.

**Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**  
ruega por nosotros.

### History and Time of the Advent Wreath

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany among Lutherans and Catholics. The original purpose of the wreath was to bring focus on Advent rather than on Christmas as a distinct season.

In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24.

### The symbolism of Advent Wreath Candles

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath, the light of Christ into the world.

Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four



weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

### **The**

**Prophecy Candle** is the first purple candle lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" representing hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah, in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14).

More next week!