

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

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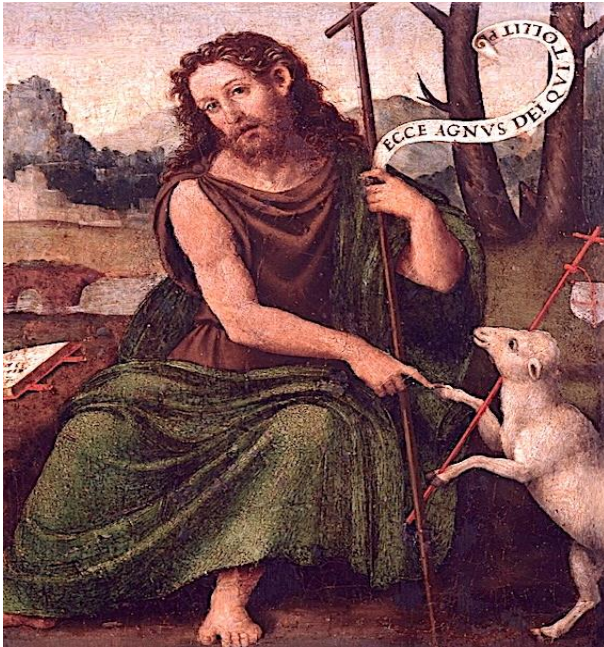
Website: www.Stelizabethrp.com

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

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

Sunday December 8, 2024, Second Sunday of Advent



“John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

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, New times: Saturdays: 3:15-3:45 pm.,
Sundays 9:45-10:15am., during Exposition on Thursdays
12:50-1:15pm. and by app.

Marriage: One year notice to the pastor.

Infant Baptism: One-month notice. **Next class, Jan. 5th at 3pm. in the hall.**

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. John’s Gospel,

Mass Schedule and Intentions

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

Sun. Dec. 8, 8:30am. Ints. of Gary & Estella Sterner
10:30am. Ints. of the Parish

December the 9th is not a Holy Day of Obligation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this year

Mon. Dec. 9, 12:15pm. Ints. of Marcella Dorado & Family

5pm. Ints. of Fr. Christopher Agoha

Tue. Dec. 10, 12:15pm. +Jordan Ginn

Wed. Dec 11, 8:15am. Ints. of all priests

Thu. Dec.12, 12:15pm. +Angeles Family
6:15pm. Misa Bilingue

Fri. Dec. 13, 8:15am. Thanksgiving for Blessings Received

Sat. Dec. 14, 4pm. Ints. of Rosa Gomez

Sun. Dec. 15, 8:30am. +Mary Tresh
10:30am. Ints. of the Parish

Events for the Week

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

10:30am. Liturgy of the Word for Children

11:30am Hispanic Planning Session/CI

12 noon Welcoming Church

Mon. Dec 9, 6:15 pm. Men’s Club Xmas Dinner

Tue. Dec. 10, 1pm. Bible Study/Hall

6pm. Women’s Guild Xmas Party

Thu. Dec 12, 7:30pm. La Senora de Guadalupe Reception after Mass/Hall

Sat, Dec 14, 5 pm. Filipino American Xmas Party

Stewardship Plate and donations: Dec 1, \$5,108. For Thanksgiving \$1,102. The 2nd collection this weekend is for Building Maintenance and next week for Retirement of Woman Religious. Who knows, maybe your donation will help a retired sister that taught you

Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading I: **Baruch 5:1-9**

Reading II: **Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

Gospel: **Luke 3:1-6**

Scriptural Reflection

Prepare the Way Now begins the second week of the Church’s worldwide retreat in preparation for Christmas.

It is Advent, the quiet time, the great contrast with our culture’s wild consumer bonanza. It lets you and me examine just how open we are to the birth of Christ in our souls.

Will you let him be born in you this year, a little more than in the past? We are afraid, no mistake about it. The present era of world time discourages many of us.

Terrorism desires to destroy our way of life, for one thing. But add its effect in Ukraine, Iraq, Palestine, Chechnya, Afghanistan, Georgia, Africa, the Balkans, and so many more. And consider the gigantic unemployment and loss of jobs in the United States, the disenfranchisement of the poor, the biggest annual deficit in history, huge corruption in the most trusted and giant companies, the biggest annual

budget spending increases in history, and the world-wide climate disaster—who would not be depressed?

Parents in the United States worry themselves either too little or too much about conditions for their growing children. Not just the unstoppable sale and use of drugs in high-schools and grade schools, not just sexual promiscuity as a way of life that is being aggressively marketed to the youth segment of the population, but also the increasing collapse of values that we call the “new morality,” but which is really dissolution.

In the face of all this, who can just sit back and have Advent?

But listen to what the First Reading proposes for our Advent retreat.

Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the crown, that displays the glory of the eternal name.

God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever as the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Has someone quietly lost his or her mind? Or is Church just irreparably cut off from the “real world,” hiding in pews and doting on a comforting and “nice” view of life?

Neither.

We are being asked to let our approach to life and to tragedy undergo revision, stretching.

The one who is gestating right now in our hearts, the one who is to be born there very soon, that one comes not to make the world pleasant and polite, but to connect it at its very roots with the mysterious depths of God, that one is on the way.

What do we do with widespread terrorist factions planning to throw down our life and all that surrounds it? The only answer we have comes from one who knows our life intimately well and who wants to be born in us. He has been in failure and disillusion and has dealt with them.

So, the question is, will we let him be born in us again this year, a little more than in the past? Are we willing to let our womb stretch wider than ever before and so make room?

“Yes, but ... ” Is that your response?

__Well, be at rest. You do not have to be capable of such a Christ-like feat all by yourself. As Paul says in the Second Reading, “the one who began the good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” The tender care of God and of his carefully tending mother are with you just as they promised, if you will allow them to help.

Against this background, the Gospel begins the Advent storytelling that is such native soil to human

beings. Once upon a time the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah (John the Baptist) in the desert, and he began announcing the coming of Jesus.



Listen. Let us do all we can to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

John Foley, SJ

Discussion Question: What are some of the ways God comes to you every day?

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: Cindy Rupprecht. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Faith Formation Ministry

Quote of the Week

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” (St Catherine of Siena)

Sunday, December 8th

9:30 am 1st Year Confirmation/cl

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-6:30 pm 2nd Confirmation Class

Tuesday, December 10th

4-5:30 pm Atrium L1 and L2

Wednesday, December 11th

2-3:00 pm 1st Year Sacramental Prep

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

Sunday, December 15th

9:30 am 1st Year Confirmation/cl

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-7 pm Youth Group

Faith Formation hopes families are enjoying their Advent Family bags that were distributed at our Advent Celebration this past weekend.

Join us at Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10:30 am Mass as we created an advent activity for each week of advent. If you are interested in serving in this important ministry for families and your child, please email at sesreled@gmail.com.

We are starting to organize our Nativity Play. Participants will help remind us that “Jesus is the Reason for the season” during the Christmas Eve Children's Mass on December 24th at 5pm. Email sesreled@gmail.com or sign-up in the vestibule if interested in joining, we are needing children, youth, and young adults ages 6-18.



Men's Club Breakfast Please come and join us and fellow parishioners for a hearty breakfast this **Sunday, December 8th** after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses.



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 is for a deceased couple or an individual: We have: 2-10" poinsettias at \$29.50 ea., 12-8" poinsettias at \$27, ea., 18-6" poinsettia at \$12.50 ea. Please bring your donation and sign up after the Masses

The St. Elizabeth Hispanic Ministry would like to invite you to our **Guadalupe Mass**

on Thursday, December 12th at 6:30pm in the church. You are invited to bring your own flowers to Our Lady.

Afterwards, come to our Parish hall for hispanic baked goods and drinks.



SAVE the DATE for our Las Posadas on December 21st. Join us this Sunday and next after the 10:30 am in the class room, as we prepare for these two festive events. Find out how you can serve your parish

Habr  otra reuni n de planificaci n despu s de la Misa de las 10:30 hoy y el pr ximo domingo en un sal n de clases para dar los toques finales a la celebraci n de Nuestra Se ora de Guadalupe el Jueves a las 6:30 con una Misa biling e y una recepci n despu s. Tambi n, para Las Posadas el s bado 21 de diciembre despu s de la misa a las 4, Todo est  invitado a estas celebraciones.

SIMBANG GABI

Is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of the Christmas Season.

*Our diocese has planned a wonderful nine-day event throughout the diocese. Please look at the vestibule board for details of parishes and times throughout the month of December. **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish is sponsoring a day on Tues, December 17th at 7pm.** Please join us for the festivities and Filipino/American goodies after the Mass.*

Saints for the Week

St. Lucy, Friday, Dec 13th. Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lost her life during the persecution of



Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has

passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life.

After several prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, Lucy saw the saint in a dream. St. Agatha told Lucy her mother's illness would be cured through faith, which Lucy used to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and allow her to commit her life to God.

The rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to authorities. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen.

The guards heaped bundles of wood around her but they wouldn't burn so they finally resorted to their swords, and Lucy met her death.

St. John of the Cross, Saturday, Dec. 14th. Saint John of the Cross was born in Avila, Spain in 1542.



In 1563, John was able to join the Carmelite Order. He became an expert in the Bible.

John became a priest in 1567 and was attracted by the simple and quiet life. However, he encountered Theresa of Avila, a charismatic Carmelite nun who asked John to follow her. John was attracted by the strict routine followed by Theresa, a routine she hoped to reintroduce to her order, as well as her devotion to prayer and simplicity. Her followers went barefoot, and were therefore known as the discalced Carmelites. In 1572, John traveled to Avila at the invitation of Theresa to become her confessor and spiritual guide.

While there, he had a vision of Christ and made a drawing that remains to this day called, "Christ from Above," Which later influenced the artist Salvador Dali with his painting



Around 1575, a rift within the Carmelite order began to grow and create controversy between various monastic houses. There was disagreement between the Discalced Carmelites and the ordinary Carmelites, over reform

Theresa, and John sought to restore the original rule.

A group of Carmelites broke into John's residence and kidnapped him. He was taken by force to the order's main house in Toledo. He was brought before a court and placed on trial for disobedience. He was punished by imprisonment.

A cell was made for him in the monastery that was so small he could barely lie on the floor. He was fed only bread and water, and occasional scraps of salt fish and taken into public and lashed, then returned to his cell. His only luxuries were a prayer book and an oil lamp to read it by. To pass the time he wrote poems on paper. After nine months, John managed to pry his cell door from its hinges and escape.

John became known as a remarkable and influential poet, especially following his death. He has been an influence to many poets, and mystics

Pope Gregory formally authorized the split between the Discalced Carmelites and the rest of the order. This ended the rift within the order. At that time, there were about 500 members in the order living in 22 houses.

During the last few years of his life, John traveled and established new houses across Spain.

Ministry Schedule Dec. 7th & 8th

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

December 9th The Immaculate Conception

Monday 12:15 pm.

Readers: Linda Biondini, Linda Anderson

EMS: Linda Mish, Luisa Bustillos, Betty Bishop

Greeters: Giovanna DeSimone, Nativity Mata

5:00pm.

Readers: Nora John, Scott Morriral

EMS: Dianne Foppoli, Maureen Sheridan Scott, Mary Thayer

Greeters: Mary Thayer, Camen Crisafulli

Ministry Schedule Dec. 14th & 15th

4pm. Mass

Readers: Tony Madia

EMS: Janice Dyer, Gloria Bacani, Dianne Foppoli

Ushers: Tony & Beth Turegano

Greeters: Roxanne Bialkoski, Carmen Crisafulli

Sunday 8:30 am

Readers: Marie Ebbing, Maria Van Anne

EMS: John Buhagiar, Milambo Gaudence, Mary Thayer

Ushers: Maureen Sheridan Scott, Diane Cook

Greeters: Pam Burgess, Mary Thayer

10:30am Mass

Readers: Scott & Mila Morriral

EMS: Bill Yates, Linda Shane, Nativity Mata

Ushers: Sally Shami, Bill Yates

Greeters: Fred & Janet Adam

AT OUR ADVENT CELEBRATION last week, on the social justice table, a wooden nativity scene was removed. This was not an item for the raffle or a free giveaway. This was a precious possession of a member of our ministry. Please would you return it to the office? Our colleague is very sad as this is a special part of her family.

The Bethlehem Advent Candle On the second Sunday of Advent.



The second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the

"Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger:

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and

lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

Blessing of a Christmas Tree The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member.

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever. R/. Amen.

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light. Amen

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever. R/. Amen.

