

## **St. Elizabeth Seton Church Holiday Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24th  
4:00pm, 6:00pm, 10:00pm  
(Adult Choir Carols begin at 9:30pm)

Christmas Day  
Tuesday, December 25th  
7:15am, 8:30am, 10:00am  
and 11:30am

New Year's Eve  
Monday, December 31st  
9:00am and 5:00pm

New Year's Day  
Tuesday, January 1st  
10:00am



# Sharings

From Father Rich Homa



**THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO** is in the middle of a pastoral program aimed at the renewal of peoples' understanding of and commitment to their Catholic faith through a focus on a few important aspects of our Church. Last year the focus was on the youth of our Church, and this year has been named the "Year of the Eucharist", where in various ways the parishes are trying to

help people better understand and appreciate the great gift of the Eucharist, which is the heart of our faith life.

As part of our focus on the Eucharist, I will be using this column to re-run a series I presented last year before the official incorporation of the new Roman Missal.

*This column is the conclusion of the series, looking at the Mass from the Council of Trent to the present.*

## **The Council of Trent**

Church historians have sometimes labeled the Church's general council of bishops held at Trent in Italy in the 1500's the Church's "war council," because it was called to defend the Catholic Church against theological and liturgical challenges from the Protestant Reformation. As a defense against new beliefs and liturgical practices fostered by the various new Protestant congregations, the pronouncements of Trent tend to be very strong and decisive, and thus, when Trent reaffirmed the Latin Mass which was commonly practiced throughout much of Europe at the time, the tone was that "This is the way the Mass always was", which was not true, and "This is the way it shall always be practiced", which turned out not to be true, either.

## **From Trent to Vatican II**

One of my seminary professors once said that Trent took the Latin Mass of the 1500's and "set it in concrete." Thus it was normal for us who grew up before Vatican II to assume that the traditional Latin Mass really had been around, basically unchanged, since the earliest days of the Church, and to question how Vatican II would dare to tamper with it.

However, between Trent and Vatican II, there were a number of changes made to the Mass and to other liturgies. The Mass itself was altered in 1604, 1634, 1884, 1920, and in 1962, when something called the "Dialogue Mass" was introduced, although the Mass remained in Latin. Also, major changes were made to the great liturgies of Holy Week in 1951.

## Vatican II and the Following Years

The liturgical renewal called for by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's rested upon two foundational principles:

- 1) The congregation should be participants in the liturgy rather than observers of it.
- 2) The history of the Mass should be studied from the table fellowship of Jesus and the Last Supper up to the present, to determine the parts of the Mass which are essential, and those which were historical additions, which could be eliminated or changed without altering the nature of the Eucharist.

Based on these two principles, there were a number of changes with which we've become very familiar:

- A. The "Mass" began to be called the "Eucharist," a Greek word which means "to give thanks," which is the theme of the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- B. The role of the priest was to preside at the Eucharist with the people, rather than to celebrate the Mass for the people. Thus, his title was "presider" instead of "celebrant."
- C. As presider of the Eucharist with the people, the priest would face the people to interact with them, rather than face the wall while the congregation observed his actions.
- D. The Eucharist was to be celebrated in the vernacular rather than in Latin.
- E. The Eucharist is a "prayer-meal," and the people come together to "gather around the Table of the Lord," Thus:
  - 1) Church buildings began to be constructed with circular or fan-shaped seating around the altar and pulpit.
  - 2) Altar railings were taken down.
  - 3) Altars were moved forward from the back wall and were constructed to be tables.
- F. Full participation in the Eucharistic prayer-meal led to reception of Holy Communion in the hand, chewing the Eucharistic bread, standing for the reception of Holy Communion, reception of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine, and hosts which more resembled common bread in color and texture.

**T**HIS IS THE EUCHARIST WHICH IS THE NORM OF THE CHURCH FOR THE FORESEEABLE future, and the New Roman Missal, while significantly changing the wording of the Mass prayers, does not change the nature of the Eucharist or how it is to be celebrated.

**May God Bless You,**

*Jr. Rick Home*

# Living The Word

Reflections for  
Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
Dec. 23, 2012

*Beloved God and  
Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, help in  
these final hours of  
Advent to set aside  
anything that prevents  
us from entering into  
the joy befitting the  
birth of your Son. Send  
us that same Spirit that  
came upon Elizabeth,  
filling her heart and  
soul with great joy.*

## NEXT SUNDAY'S FOCUS: THE TOUCH OF GOD

*The meeting of Elizabeth and Mary must have included their greeting each other with a "holy kiss," as Paul advises the community in his Letter to the Romans. Their mutual joy in what God was doing in and through them to bring salvation to the world invites us to look for how God touches our lives, bringing new life.*

### FIRST READING

*From you shall come forth the ruler of Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).*

This reading is a classic example of a prophet saying more than he even realized. When Micah the Prophet pronounced these words, he was referring to events occurring in his own days. Micah thought of the dynasty ruling in Jerusalem as so corrupt that it could not be salvaged. He was hoping that God would raise up a new king and a new dynasty that

would have small town values (which is the reason for predicting that it would come from Bethlehem and not Jerusalem). The Holy Spirit took his words and gave them a new meaning in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Jesus is the true Good Shepherd who would bring peace to the whole world.

### SECOND READING

*Behold, I come to do Your will (Hebrews 10:5-10).*

There are two ideas in this reading that give us an indication of why it was chosen for next Sunday. First, it speaks of the fact that Christ came into the world. The second theme is that Christ came in the flesh. God did not send a messenger to communicate His good will toward us. Rather, God took on our flesh

and came to dwell among us. This consecrates all that we are and all that we do, for it means that we do not have to reject our humanity to be God-like. Rather, we must be like Jesus who embraced humanity and made it a full expression of God's love.

### GOSPEL

*And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me (Luke 1:39-45).*

The Gospel recalls what happened to Mary between the time that she agreed to be the mother of the Son of God and the actual birth

of Jesus. Mary proved her generosity by forgetting her own problems and traveling to the home of her cousin Elizabeth, who was also with child, so that she might help her. Even before a word is spoken, the baby in Elizabeth's womb, John the Baptist, recognizes the presence of Jesus and leaps to greet Him. (The first person to recognize Jesus' presence in the world was an unborn child). Elizabeth greets Mary with great respect because the Holy Spirit had revealed the truth to her, that Mary was now the mother of her Lord. The entire scene is filled with a sense of awe and joy.

### REFLECTION

Marge Piercy's poem "The Tao Touch" reminds us of the power of touch. A person can die either without touch or because of touch. There is the touch of love that brings healing and joy, and those blows that shatter bones and relationships. The Gospel recalls how God's touch transformed the lives of two women—and the world. When we witness a painting or drawing of the Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth, it generally shows them embracing. You can just imagine the tears, laughter, and words springing from pure joy. Elizabeth must have gasped as the life in her womb exuberantly kicked up his heels in greeting. Not only her body but her words of blessing give witness to Creation's joy. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth cried. "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled," she sang. Scripture says the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth, that Spirit whose gifts include joy, wisdom, and peace, that Spirit who had brought into being the child now growing in her cousin's womb. Advent's Fourth Sunday always takes us into the company of Jesus' kin, putting the spotlight either on Mary, Joseph, or Elizabeth. We enter the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, God's Son, who came into the lives of ordinary people and transformed them, making them part of God's plan for the salvation of the world. This loving plan continues to be worked out in and through us.

## Readings for the Week

### December 17th-22nd:

Mon.: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Tues.: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Wed.: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Thurs.: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Fri.: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

Sat.: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

*Wafers available in the Narthex from  
the Women's Club for a free will offering  
After all the Masses TODAY!*

## Celebrate Christmas with Oplatek



Oplatek, Christmas Wafers, are available for a free will offering after all Masses for those wanting to participate in this centuries old custom. Oplatek, from Latin, Oblatum meaning Holy Bread, is our Christmas oblation. The Christmas wafer is reminiscent of the word Bethlehem which means "House of Bread." The breaking of bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. The thin wafer (unleavened bread) bearing the Christmas characters is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and for the welfare of the present/absent members of the family, the broken wafer pieces are distributed to each one at the table. While doing this, the leader kisses each family member and wishes them a joyful feast. The members, then, greet one another in the same way. The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is the unity of the family.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*The St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Offices  
will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24th  
through Wednesday, Dec. 26th and will  
reopen on Thursday, Dec. 27th.*

*The parish offices will be closed on Mon-  
day, Dec. 31st and Tuesday, Jan. 1st and  
will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2nd.*

## STEWARDSHIP

COLLECTION FOR 12-9-12:  
**\$26,531.41**  
KIDS COLLECTION:  
**\$80.43**

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## WELCOME

**Leonard and Mary Ann Pittacora**

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to the following parents on the baptism of their child on 12-9-12:

**Gavin Phillip**, child of Robert and Crystal Ehrler

**Luke Anthony**, child of Anthony and Kimberly Tabor

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

We remember the sick, infirm, and those recommended to our prayers, that they may experience the healing power of Christ:

**Bob Nelson** (father to Sue Rosinski)

**Dakota Todd**

**Laura Muller**

And for our deceased:

**Dan Keating**

"Heavenly Father, accept the prayers which we offer for them."

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 15th (5pm) **Frank Stasic; Merrikay Carrick;  
Josephine Tarantino; Dolores O'Connor; Alice McDonald;  
Lorraine Walsh; Frank Smith III; John Raymond**

Sunday, Dec. 16th

(7:15am) **Thomas Walsh**

(8:30am) **Margaret Peck; Monika Rogalski; Ellen Murphy;**

**Mamie Michels; Frank and Casey Galowicz;**

**Melencio Panganiban**

(10am) **Stella Sanza; Frank and Stella Brotan; Jack Keenan;**

**Mary Yardley; Demetrio Barin, Sr.**

(11:30am) **Felix Serafini; Leonard and Tomczyk Families;**

**Alice McDonald**

Mon., Dec. 17th (9am) **Marilyn Marshall; Diane Sheehy; Edward  
Smith; Rolland Sprague; Lucille Gecan**

Tues., Dec. 18th (9am) **Daniel Paska; Jack Squires;**

**Mary Doherty**

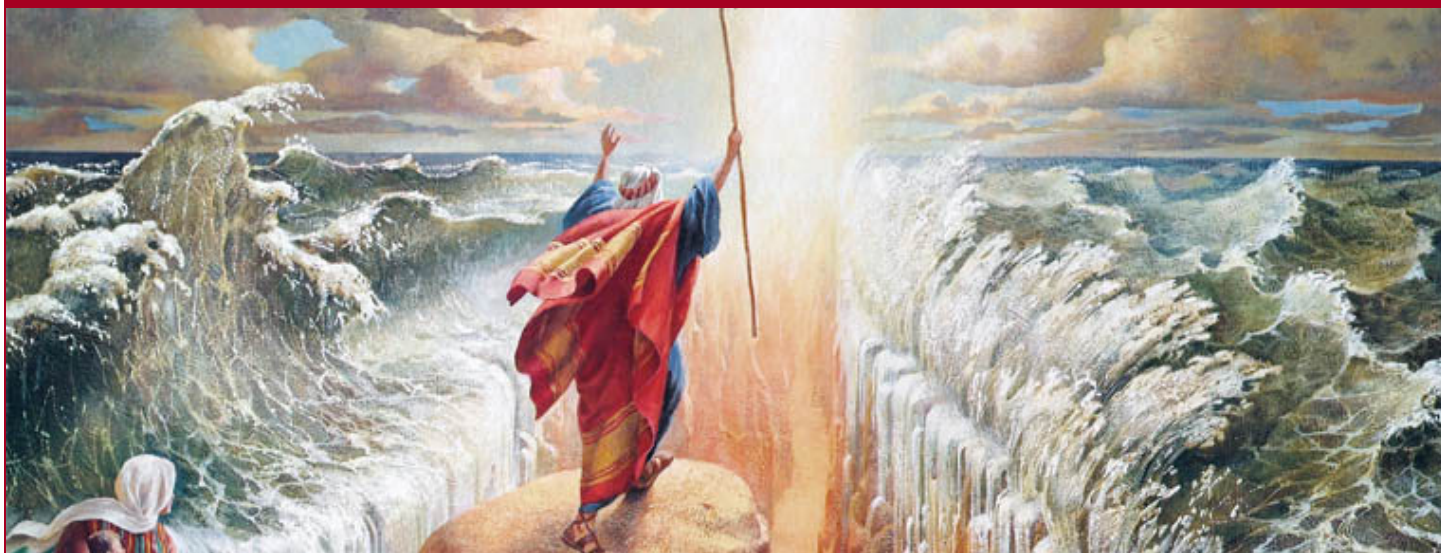
Wed., Dec. 19th (9am) **Jack Squires; Margaret Francone;**

**Puchte Family**

Thurs., Dec. 20th (9am) **Thomas Brugman; Frances Pajor**

Fri., Dec. 21st (9am) **Frank Stasic; Jean and Dr. Joseph Lis**

**Register Now for Seton Scripture Study!**  
**THE BOOK OF EXODUS**



**Thursdays: January 24th until March 21st of 2013**  
**Morning Session: 9:45-11:00 a.m.**  
**Evening Session: 7:30-9:00 a.m.**

The study of the Book of Exodus will allow us to enter into the world of the Old Testament and the ancient Israelites. It is the story of Pharaoh's oppression of the Hebrews, the call of Moses, the Passover, the deliverance through the Red Sea, the journey through the wilderness, the Covenant on Mount Sinai and much more. Exodus tells us how God's miraculous intervention delivers the Hebrews from slavery, makes them a "people of his own" and leads them to the Promised Land.

**PLEASE REGISTER NOW!**

**Registration Deadline: Monday, Jan. 7, 2013. Materials ready for pickup on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Morning Session (9:45-11am) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Session (7:30-9pm) \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$20 (Please make check payable to ST. ELIZABETH SETON CHURCH).

For information, contact Mary Vlaming, 708-460-6235 or Father Gubbins, 708-460-9485.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“The crowds asked John the Baptist,  
‘What should we do?’” — LUKE 3:10*

*A Reflection by  
Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S.,  
Kathleen Harmon, S.N.D. de N.  
and Christopher W. Conlon, S.M.*

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

This can be a loaded question! Sometimes it is simply a matter of mulling over two attractive choices for a night out at the movies. Sometimes the question is prompted by a perplexing situation to resolve, for example, the gift tags on the Advent Giving Tree for families in need haven't all been taken. Sometimes, like in this Sunday's gospel, the question comes when we are faced with changing our behaviors. How we answer the question has life-giving consequences.

John's clear and unequivocal answers to "What should we do?" gave direction to people's lives. He challenged the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to change their behavior, to make other people their focus and care. John's good news, however, went beyond merely telling the people how to behave toward each other, but also instilled expectation in them. His answers indicated that something new is happening. His good news pointed to the One who is all Good News, "a mighty Savior" who is in our midst—(first reading), who is near—(second reading). The Good News is not a message but a person—Jesus.



### WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

The gospel gives a simple challenge: make Jesus the center of our lives. Make how he responded to people the way we respond to people. Make his fire well up in our hearts so that our baptism with the Holy Spirit conforms us more perfectly to him. Make our answer to the question one that leads

us to preach to others the same Good News Jesus preached to us. And we must preach the same way he did: not simply with words, but with deeds.

When we say "The Lord is near," we mean not that Christmas is almost here, but that Christ is always being enfleshed in our midst. "What should we do?" to celebrate this Presence already and always so near to us? John tells us, and so does Jesus. All we need to do is answer the question by the quality of how we live.

All of us have experienced the sheer goodness of another person, the utter joy of an event, the complete surprise of intimacy. With reflection we conclude that we have indeed experienced the nearness of Christ in the flesh among us.

- What one "gift" would you like to receive this Christmas that would bring fulfillment or healing to every season of your life?

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*O God of compassion, you know our needs better than we do.  
Come, make your dwelling place in our hearts,  
illuminating our consciences with your wisdom,  
healing our brokenness with reconciliation,  
alleviating our fears with hope, filling our spirits with grace.*

## Advent Prayer Opportunity



Morning prayer makes us rise and thank God for a restful night, for another day of life and for the strength and courage to do God's will. The spiritual practice of celebrating Morning Prayer is a way of consecrating the day to God. The official public, daily prayer of the Church is the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. Psalms are prayed, scriptures are proclaimed, hymns and canticles are sung and the intercessory prayer is offered. The daily singing and reciting of the Book of Psalms is a most ancient tradition.

## ADVENT LITURGY OF THE HOURS

*Morning Prayer Daily  
(Monday-Friday) 8:30AM  
December 17th-December 21st*

**Prayer Booklets** are supplied and we sit around a beautiful fresh Advent Wreath and light the candles as we pray in a monastic style of Left/Right rotation of voices. We encourage you to begin praying the daily prayer of the church in this community setting.

## What is the Liturgy of the Hours?

*The official public, daily prayer of the Church is the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. Psalms are prayed, scriptures are proclaimed, hymns and canticles are sung and the intercessory prayer is offered. The daily singing and reciting of the Book of Psalms is a most ancient tradition. The Liturgy of the Hours is also called the Daily Office, the Divine Office, or the Breviary.*

### **Daily Advent Morning Prayer**

Please join us Monday through Friday in the center aisle of the Church at 8:30AM in the morning. **Prayer Booklets** are supplied and we sit around a beautiful fresh Advent Wreath and light the candles each week as we pray in a monastic style of Left/Right rotation of voices.

Our hope is that the Liturgy of the Hours becomes a satisfying human ritual marking the passage of day and night in our lives.

“When the people are invited to the Liturgy of the Hours and come together in unity of heart and voice, they show forth the Church in its celebration of the mystery of Christ.”

LITURGY DOCUMENTS II -GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Morning prayer makes us rise and thank God for a restful night for another day of life and for the strength and courage to do God's will. The spiritual practice of celebrating Morning Prayer is a way of consecrating the day to God.

## This Advent, Come to the Manger...

This Advent, we focus on the Manger. The manger is a symbol of true love and forgiveness, a place of comfort and hope. At our recent Parish Reconciliation Service, participants were given a piece of straw. After an Examination of Conscience, all were invited to come forward for confession and place their straw in the manger.

## We welcome you to Come to the Manger...

The manger is in front of the Ambo and offers us a reminder of Reconciliation. Before or after Mass, you are invited to "prepare the Manger" for the coming of Christ, the rebirth of Hope. (Straw can be found in a bowl at the ambo.)

## Let us pray...

Lord Jesus, in these busy weeks of Advent, help us to pause to remember the depth of your love for us. Beyond anything we deserved or could have imagined, love led you to a stable in Bethlehem and all the way to Calvary.

Open our hearts to welcome you anew so that we have something to share with a needy world each day.

Grant us the joy of your friendship and bring us the strength, courage and determination to serve our brothers and sisters in your name. Amen.

**Christ is the Light of the World,  
the Light no darkness can overcome.**



## Examination of Conscience — Advent 2012

*As we reflect on our own lives, we ask God to guide us as to how our hearts are in need of change or in the awareness of an experience of God that has transformed us. We ask for God's mercy and grace so that we may once again be open to the light of God's love burning brightly in us.*

### IS MY PRAYER LIFE ALIVE?

- \* Do I see my daily life as the place to experience the power of transformation and love?
- \* Is God given a sacred place in my life?
- \* Do I make room for God in my mind and heart?
- \* Do I make time and take time for prayer?

### HOW DO I SHOW LOVE FOR MY FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS?

- \* Do I show concrete signs of love and respect to my family and friends?
- \* Do I show gratitude to those who help or support me?
- \* Do I freely share my talents with people in need?

### DO I SEE MY OWN LIFE AS A PART OF GOD'S AMAZING CREATION?

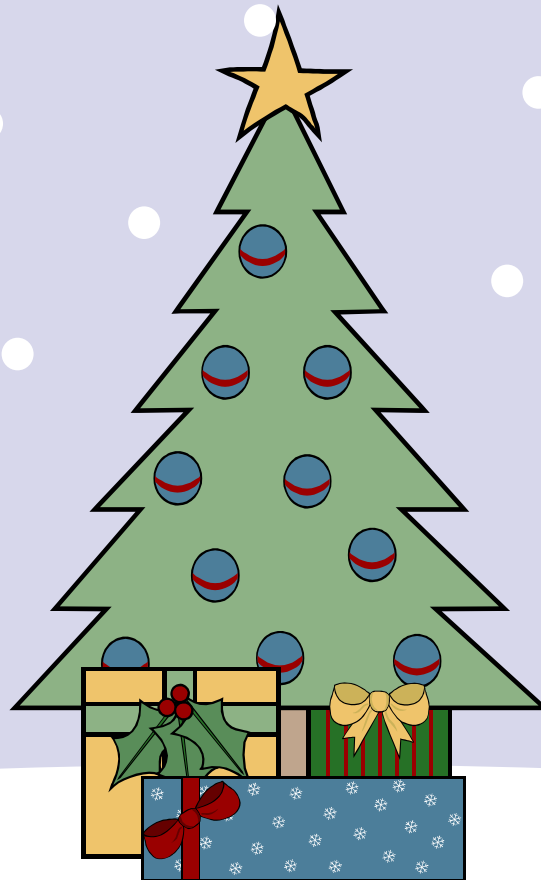
- \* Do I honor my body, mind and spirit as holy and created in God's image?

- \* Do I have unreal expectations of myself?
- \* Do I have unreal expectations of others?
- \* Do I conserve natural resources and preserve the environment in any way I can?

### DO I LIVE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IN THE WORLD?

- \* Do I stand up for my beliefs when they are challenged?
- \* Do I long for, pray for, and work for a life and a world that promotes unity, joy and peace?
- \* Am I willing to risk rejection or hardship by speaking up when my voice is needed?
- \* Do I look beyond my own community in sharing my spiritual and material blessings with the poor?
- \* Do I insure my living and working habits never jeopardize the well being or safety of others?
- \* Do I make an effort to be a peacemaker, working to resolve conflict?
- \* Do I embrace with faith the difficult times of life?

# St. Vincent DePaul Holiday Drive



During Christmas seasons, St. Vincent DePaul has sponsored a special collection of items for the homeless. Many come without adequate clothing. We thank all the parishioners for their heartfelt generosity. Proceeds will be distributed to the South Suburban PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) Homeless Shelter Organizations.

**The collection will continue until this Sunday, December 16th,  
the Third Sunday of Advent.**

**Suggested gift items are:**

**deodorant  
hand sanitizer  
toothpaste  
toothbrushes  
disposable razors  
shaving cream**

**white socks  
winter coats  
hats  
scarves  
gloves (men's large)  
mittens**

**NO gift wrapping needed. Items must be identifiable from outside.**

## St. Elizabeth Seton Social Action Ministry

*Please remember to save the fronts of your religious Christmas cards to use for our Burial Pall workshops. Please drop off cards in the parish office.*

### Respond Now Needs Toys And More... For Christmas

**Help the needy for Christmas with a donation of toys and more...**

At Christmas time, Respond Now, a non-profit social service outreach organization in the south suburbs, attempts to gift a new toy to the 1,000+ children from the 2,700 families that they serve each month. This year, due to the poor economy, funds are low. To donate a new toy or new gloves, socks or hats for the winter, please call Liz Wisnasky at 708-614-6475.

**Angel volunteers are Needed for Respond Now**

Volunteers are needed for distribution of toys at the First Christian Church, 1045 Dixie Hwy., Chicago Heights: Wednesday, Dec. 19th from 9am-5pm; Thursday, Dec. 20th/Friday, Dec. 21st from 9am-3pm. Clean-up Friday, Dec. 21st from 3-5pm. Any time frame appreciated. Student service hours available. Call Liz at 708-614-6475.

**Texas Roadhouse Restaurant will donate a ham...**

has made a special holiday donation opportunity: they will donate a ham to Respond Now for every \$50 gift certificate that is purchased at their restaurant in December (please mention this ad when purchasing your gift certificate).

*“Thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wonderful Works to humankind. He satisfies the thirsty and the hungry. He fills the hungry with good things.” — Psalm 107:8, 9*

### HOPE: An Immigrant Story

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me..”(Matthew 25:35)



Maria and her undocumented husband migrated to the south suburbs of Chicago 13 years ago. Because of the fear of being separated from their American-born children, they move often, sometimes in the same neighborhood. In solidarity with the Holy Family seeking shelter (*posada*) in Bethlehem, Maria finds comfort in her often repeated words, “the will of God will not take you where the grace of God cannot protect you.” Oh Holy Family, you were immigrants, dependent on the charitable hearts of neighbors and strangers. During this season of Advent, continue discovering the blessings that flow from the faith experience of walking with Joseph and Mary in solidarity with immigrants seeking our welcome.

**How can we participate in Posada this Advent?**

**ACTION:** Join the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Immigrant Affairs’ *Seeking Posada* on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> or attend a *Posada* in a local parish. For this and the Advent Reflection Pamphlet, go to <http://www.archchicago.org/Immigration/>.



Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education  
3523 S. Lake Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60653  
Elena Segura (312) 534-5333, [esegura@archchicago.org](mailto:esegura@archchicago.org)



### Do you recognize this box?



### It is the St. Vincent DePaul Society Offering Box

*You are invited to give a monetary gift or Jewel food certificates which will go toward providing a better Christmas for families in our community.*

### The SVDP Christmas Collection

For your convenience, SVDP boxes are located at all the entrances of our church. We depend solely on the contributions placed in the donation boxes. SVDP members would like to thank all who contributed to the Thanksgiving collection—and to those who use the SVDP boxes at each entrance. All monies donated go directly to those in need. We service clients within our parish boundaries with emergency assistance for utilities, rent, security deposits, food, clothing, medical, dental, eye care and occasionally gasoline to get to a job site. As calls come throughout the year we look to your generosity and sense of sharing and justice to assist these people. It is your goodness that makes our work possible. May God continue to bless you.

**Father Bill Gubbins and the St. Elizabeth Seton SVDP Society**



Journey with the Lord and let your heart hear God's Words....

## The Road To Emmaus

By Margie Guadagno  
St. Elizabeth Seton Pastoral Associate

### Presence — Not Presents...

When the disciples  
met Jesus  
on the road,  
they were  
disappointed  
and sad.  
He walked with them  
and listened to  
their story.  
Then, by opening up  
the Scriptures  
He gave them hope!  
He helped them see  
that they were  
not abandoned  
or left orphaned,  
that God  
was with them  
and would  
always be part  
of their journey.

### THIS YEAR WE HAVE A SHORTER ADVENT SEASON.

The coming week is the last full week before Christmas and I am sure many households will be a beehive of last minute activities to get everything done—and bought—that is on 'the list.' So, before the last minute frenzy sets in, stop and do this. Take three deep breaths. Observe what you are doing and where your focus is. Then realize that your Presence is the best present your family and friends can receive from you. If I may, I would like to share this little story with you that certainly gave me the needed perspective:

Two Americans teaching in the public schools in Russia were invited to a large orphanage at Christmas time. There were about 100 boys and girls who had been abandoned, abused and left in the care of a government-run program.

They gathered all the children around and began to tell the traditional Christmas story of Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem and finding no room at the inn went to a stable where the baby, Jesus, was born and placed in a manger. Throughout the story, the children sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word. Upon completing the story, each child was given three small pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger, and a small paper square cut from yellow napkins. Following instructions, the children tore the paper and carefully laid strips in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel were used for the baby's blanket and a doll-like baby was cut from tan felt.

All was going well. However, at one table, little Misha had quickly finished and

was sitting quietly. As one of the Americans looked at his manger, she was startled to see not one but two babies in the manger. She called for a translator to ask why there were two. Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at his manger scene, he began to repeat the story very seriously. He related the happenings quite accurately—until he came to the part where Mary put the baby Jesus in the manger. Then he began to ad-lib.

"When my baby Jesus was laid in the manger, he looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him, 'No, I have no mama and I have no papa, so I have no place to stay.' He said I could stay with him, but I said I couldn't because I didn't have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But, I did want to stay with him very much, so I thought about what I had that maybe I could use for a gift. So I asked Jesus, 'If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?' And Jesus told me, 'If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me.' So I got into the manger and then Jesus looked at me and he told me I could stay with him—for always." As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon nor abuse him, someone who would stay with him—for always.

**O**NE THING THEN BECAME CLEAR to all present, that it's not what you have in your life, but Whom you have in your life that counts.

### Christmas Flower Memorial Gift

If you plan on using the Christmas Flower envelope found in your monthly packet of envelopes, or if you already sent in a flower memorial gift, please fill out the form below so we can publish the names of your loved one(s) in the bulletin after Christmas.

*Given in Memory of*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Given by* \_\_\_\_\_



Please place in collection basket. Thank you.



**JOHN THE BAPTIST FILLS THE PEOPLE** with “expectations.” They sense in him the possibilities of following God. If you have ever thought about the priesthood, consider attending the next Exploring Priesthood Weekend retreat held on January 11-13, 2013 at Mundelein Seminary to learn about, reflect and discuss the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. For more information contact Fr. Brian Welter at [bwelter@archchicago](mailto:bwelter@archchicago) or call 312-534-8298 or visit [www.ChicagoPriest.com](http://www.ChicagoPriest.com).

For information on religious life contact Sr. Elyse Ramirez, OP at [eramirez@archchicago.org](mailto:eramirez@archchicago.org), or call 312-534-5240, and for the Permanent Diaconate Program, call Deacon Bob Puhala at 847-837-4562 or email [bpuhala@usml.edu](mailto:bpuhala@usml.edu).

#### VOCATION CROSS PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

**Vocation Cross Participants are presented the Vocation Cross at the 9am Mass on Wednesday mornings and are asked to pray for Vocations for the week. The cross is return on the following Wednesday at the 9am Mass to give to the next participant. Please sign up in the parish office.**

*Please join in prayer...*

#### **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

**HOLY SPIRIT**, eternal Spring of joy and peace, it is You who open the heart and the mind to the Divine Call; it is You who make effective every impetus towards good, towards truth, towards charity. Your “inexpressible groans” rise up to the Father from the heart of the Church, which suffers and struggles for the Gospel. Open the hearts and minds of young people so that a new flowering of holy vocations may show forth the fidelity of your love, and all may know Christ, the true light of the world to offer to every human being the sure hope of eternal life.

**AMEN.**

### KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

# Believe

Photo © John Zich



Each Sunday at Mass, we make our profession of faith that begins, “I believe in one God. . . .” We re-affirm what we believe. The Creed holds all the great mysteries of our faith: Creation, the Holy Trinity, the Incarnation, the Redemption,

the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and finally “the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” To all this, we say, “Amen. I believe.”

What is this Creed about? Why every Sunday? To whom are we speaking? There is repetition. We need that to cling more surely to what we believe. We do talk both to God and to ourselves, so that we can stand more firmly in faith. And there is something else at work in this profession of faith. To believe means both to accept the revealed mysteries and to attach ourselves in ever more confident trust to God who has revealed the mysteries to us. Finally, we seal our profession with a resounding great Amen—at the end of the Creed, but also at other special moments of faith, as at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer and before the Body of Christ presented to us. “Amen. I do believe.”



### Newborns in Need

The Seton Sowers Chapter of Newborns in Need will be meeting Monday, Dec. 17th at 9:30am in the downstairs meeting room. If you knit, crochet, or sew, we can use your skills to make clothing and blankets for

newborn babies who need to spend time in the hospital. This meeting will be the last time that donations can be collected in time for Christmas delivery. We can also use donations of yarn and fabric. For more information, call Carol Dimer at 708-479-6994.

### St. Stephen Church and CJB School Comedy Night FUNdraiser

You're invited to the Second Annual Comedy Night Fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 26th at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park. Doors open at 6pm. St. Stephen and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School are hosting the event. Bill Brady's Comedy Capers are back featuring Bob Jay (Man of 999 Voices) and Brian Hicks (National Comedian). Tickets are \$35 and include dinner and show. Buy your tickets BEFORE Dec. 24th for a chance to win the *Dinner On Us!* Raffle (\$50 Barraco's Gift Card) Purchase tickets at St. Stephen Office or download order form at [www.stestephentinley.com/events](http://www.stestephentinley.com/events). For ticket information contact [2013comedyntnight@gmail.com](mailto:2013comedyntnight@gmail.com) or call 708-342-2400 or find the event of Facebook.



### Veteran Cemetery Medallion Available

The Veterans Administration is now furnishing, upon receipt of claim, the Veteran Medallion for affixing to an existing privately-

purchased headstone or marker placed at the grave site of an eligible deceased Veteran who is buried or entombed in a private cemetery. The medallion, free of charge, is made of bronze and available in three approximate sizes. Each medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. Eligibility:

- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies/died on active duty and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.
- Any deceased Veteran discharged under honorable conditions, who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone/marker.
- A deceased Veteran discharged under conditions other than honorable, who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone/marker, may also be eligible.

This also applies to Veterans entombed in a crypt or family monument. For details, call 773-767-2166, see your cemetery/personal funeral director or applications are in the parish office.



### CJB Steps Back in Time

Cardinal Bernardin School's sixth graders stepped back in time to visit Ancient Greece. As part of their lesson on Greek city-states, the students created and participated in their own version of the Olympic Games. The Games began as each student recited the Olympic oath and participated in select Olympic events (tailored for classroom competition.) Students competed for medals in the relay race, javelin throw (using a toothpick), discus throw (cardboard piece covered with aluminum foil), and pole vault (using paper towel rolls, a straw, and penny). Ms. Kristin, CJB Social Studies teacher, organizes the event to enhance the study of Ancient Greece and she provides students with an opportunity to experience the excitement of being a part of the Olympic Games. And, the students very much enjoyed the Games. Morgan Sasseti echoed the sentiments of many of her classmates saying, "The Olympic Games were a lot of fun. My favorite was the javelin throw. We learned about the Olympic Games and the fact that everyone competed but not everyone wins. It was a great example of sportsmanship." If you would like to learn more about other creative classroom activities CJB Catholic School, please visit [www.cjbschool.org](http://www.cjbschool.org) or call Mrs. Cynthia Devlin at 708-403-6525, x127.

### Evening of Christmas Music

All are invited for an evening of Christmas Music on Thursday, Dec. 27th at 7pm with the St. Christopher Music Ministry under the direction of Phil and Amy Switalski. Adult, Children's, Living Stones and Bell Choirs will be accompanied by the St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra and will perform their Christmas favorites. St. Christopher Church is located at 147th and Keeler, Midlothian. Free will offering. Refreshments following the concert.

### O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Join Fr. Thomas Acklin as he leads us in a Novena prayer from Dec 17-25, including meditations on the "O" Antiphon titles for Christ. Go to [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com) – keyword "Advent" – for audio links and schedule. Chicago **950AM**, Chicago West **930AM**, NW Indiana **1270AM**.



## Women's Club

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ■ Wednesday, Dec. 19th 6pm

#### Annual Soup 'R Salad Supper Night

Doors open at 6pm. Meeting begins at 6:30pm. If you have not bought your ticket yet please contact Kathy McSwain at 708-614-0576. Each participant is asked to bring an appetizer, soup, salad or dessert to share with serving utensils. Entertainment from "Tank and the Beez." If you want to participate in the Christmas grab bag, don't forget to bring a wrapped gift worth \$10. Invite a friend! Great time to come and experience the warmth of the Women's Club.



#### HOW ABOUT A BAKER'S SQUARE PIE?

**\$10 for fruit pies \$12 for cream pies**

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE  
IN THE PARISH OFFICE**

Purchase a pie coupon and pay no sales tax! Simply take the coupon to Baker's Square and trade it for your most favorite fresh pie! Certificates will expire 12/31/13.



## OPEN HOUSE



*SEE WHAT YOUR PARISH SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER!*

**Sunday, January 27, 2013**

1:00pm until 3:00pm

Pre-K 3-years-old through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Just added to our already popular Pre-K half-day programs – FULL DAY Pre-K 4!!**

3- and 4-year old Pre-K Presentation at 1:15pm

Kindergarten Presentations at 1:45pm

Cardinal Bernardin Catholic School is a Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

For information visit [www.cjbschool.org](http://www.cjbschool.org) or email Cynthia Labriola Devlin [cdevlin@cardinaljbschool.com](mailto:cdevlin@cardinaljbschool.com) or call 708-403-6525 x127

# Branches

## SETON YOUTH PROGRAM

#### ■ SUNDAY, DEC. 16TH

#### TEEN MASS AND OPEN GYM

**5:30-8:30PM**

Come to Mass in the Stations Chapel in the back of church starting at 5:30. Open gym will follow.

#### ■ SUNDAY, DEC. 23RD

#### (Christmas Eve Eve)

#### LOCK-IN IN THE GYM

Branches members only. Arrive between 7-9pm (doors locked promptly at 9pm) and bring some food and/or drinks to share. We'll play games, have access to the gym, eat a late dinner, have some spiritual time, and maybe even get some sleep. Pick up time is by 8am on Monday, Dec. 24th. Go on the Branches Facebook page to let us know you're coming and what food you're bringing so we have a variety.



#### WEDNESDAY,

**DEC. 26TH**

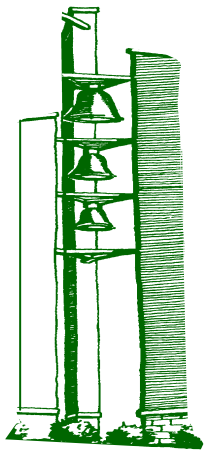
#### DOWNTOWN

#### CHICAGO TRIP

Meet at Tinley 80th Ave. train station by 2:30pm for an afternoon and evening of shopping, eating, and seeing Christmas lights and windows. We'll return by 10:45pm. Bring money to spend for food and shopping.



**QUESTIONS? Call Mr. Hall at 708-403-7834 or visit Branches on Facebook for updates.**



## Seniors of Seton

### UPCOMING EVENT

**JAN. 24TH**

### GAELIC PARK SNOWBALL

Call Phyllis at 478-0471 for reservations with payment of \$25.00 per person. There will be a choice of stuffed pork tenderloin or roasted chicken and there will be a cash bar.

### Families Anonymous

If your life has gone astray due to living with someone who has a substance abuse problem, consider attending Families Anonymous on Mondays from 7-8:30pm at Palos Hospital, 123rd and 80th Ave., Palos Heights (Ambulatory Care Center, Rm. 1, enter Emergency Room to elevator to the Lower Level). For information call Warren, 708-429-2507 or Therese at 708-269-9853.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you have a problem with alcohol and feel a sincere desire to stop drinking, you are welcome to attend a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) in the downstairs St. Elizabeth Seton Church Hall on Thursdays from 7:30-8:45pm. Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover. The only requirement is a sincere desire to stop drinking

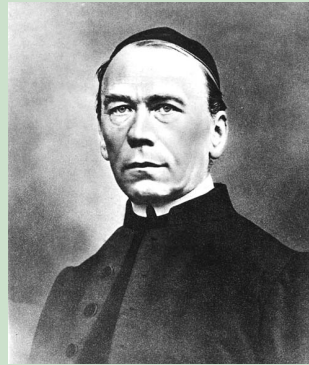
*Makes a great Christmas gift!*



**2013**  
*Golden Opportunities Books Are Here!*  
**Only \$20**

**Golden Opportunities Coupon books** offer many favorite local restaurants offering discounts of 50% off or 2-for-1. In addition, great savings at movies, grocery stores, sporting events, and more! Many coupons are valid once a month. The best deal in town!

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



## BLESSED ADOLPH KOLPING

1813-1865

THE RISE OF THE FACTORY SYSTEM IN 19th-century Germany brought many single men into cities where they faced new challenges

to their faith. Father Adolph Kolping began a ministry to them, hoping that they would not be lost to the Catholic faith, as was happening to workers elsewhere in industrialized Europe.

Born in the village of Kerpen, Adolph became a shoemaker at an early age because of his family's economic situation. Ordained in 1845, he ministered to young workers in Cologne, establishing a choir, which by 1849 had grown into the Young Workmen's Society. A branch of this began in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1856. Nine years later there were over 400 *Gesellenvereine* (workman's societies) around the world. Today this group has over 400,000 members in 54 countries across the globe.

More commonly called the Kolping Society, it emphasizes the sanctification of family life and the dignity of labor. Father Kolping worked to improve conditions for workers and greatly assisted those in need. He and St. John Bosco in Turin had similar interests in working with young men in big cities.

He told his followers, "The needs of the times will teach you what to do. Father Kolping once said, "The first thing that a person finds in life and the last to which he holds out his hand, and the most precious that he possesses, even if he does not realize it, is family life."

He and Blessed John Duns Scotus are buried in Cologne's Minoritenkirche, originally served by the Conventual Franciscans. The Kolping Society's international headquarters are across from this church.

Kolping members journeyed to Rome from Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Oceania for Father Kolping's beatification in 1991, the 100th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's revolutionary encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On the Social Order). Father Kolping's personal witness and apostolate helped prepare for that encyclical.

### COMMENT:

"Adolph Kolping gathered skilled workers and factory laborers together. Thus he overcame their isolation and defeatism. A faith society gave them the strength to go out into their everyday lives as Christ's witnesses before God and the world. To come together, to become strengthened in the assembly, and thus to scatter again is and still remains our duty today. We are not Christians for ourselves alone, but always for others too" (Pope John Paul II, beatification homily).

12/22 & 12/23	5:00PM	7:15AM	8:30AM	10:00AM	11:30AM
<b>GREETERS</b> <b>Attention All Ministers!</b> <b>Ministers schedules available at: <a href="http://www.steseton.com">www.steseton.com</a></b> <b>Then visit: Music and Liturgy</b>	R. Coe S. Klean A. Miller B. Rose P. Rose M. Rose J. Rose J. Schuman R. Sharp J. Sikora M. Taska R. Vlaming	A. Dovgin L. McGhee S. McGhee D. Skrzpiec B. Tenuta A. Shemanske B. Shemanske G. Staszewski P. Staszewski	K. Fox M. Fox D. Gurka M. Gurka P. Gurka M. Gurka J. Klomes J. Klomes L. Klomes M. Klomes A. McCoy	R. Chehy A. Gent P. Havlin L. Locsis P. Locsis B. Krueger S. Lorenz N. Lorenz J. Moran D. Weber	R. Andrews M. Broderick M. Gniady K. Ivancich B. Ivancich S. Klean M. McMahon B. Wojewnik
<b>LECTORS</b>	M. Hamilton R. Coe	P. Rodgers	G. Shafer T. Shafer	D. O'Connor L. Junkans	C. Steckhan P. Hambrick
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	J. Ucha M. Nemeć S. Nemeć	B. Walter S. Biallas J. Biallas	H. Smith L. Fitzgerald J. Smith	C. Binder K. Ahern M. Batka	O. Jania A. Jania D. Berzins
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	G. Yakes R. Piorkowski T. Doyle M. Dziallo T. Hanlon J. Murphy M. Jeswein M. O'Connor D. Cristofaro AJ Kunde D. Pott B. Cristofaro	M. Fundator C. Nolan D. Houha D. Nykiel J. Kenney A. Weishaar	J. Klomes R. Hicks J. Juds V. Patrizi V. Patrizi L. Lopina S. Hall J. Kelly K. Kelly E. Pawlak T. Krull A. Roti	M. Fehrenbacher E. O'Connor S. LaCrosse S. Rosinski J. Nemeć B. Hansen J. Mysker K. Engraffia K. O'Sullivan J. Eisenberg J. Federico T. Federico G. Chehy	N. LaCoco A. Talley G. Talley J. Bilas J. Holmquist K. James K. Hall M. O'Connor M. Schmidt D. Sigourney

## St. Elizabeth Seton Church

9300 W. 167th Street Orland Hills, IL 60487

Parish Office: 708-403-0101

WEBSITE: WWW.STESETON.COM

Religious Education: 708-403-0137

PARISH SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:30AM-4:30PM

SATURDAY-SUNDAY: 8AM-1PM

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School 708-403-6525

Principal, Mary Iannucilli Administrative Assistant, Cindy Labriola Devlin

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Richard Homa, Pastor

Rev. Stanislaw Kuca, Associate Pastor

Margie Guadagno, Pastoral Associate

Donna Stolinski, Business Manager

Claudia Nolan, Director of Liturgy

Linda McKeague, Director of Music

Elaine Pawlak, Religious Education Coordinator

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. William T. O'Mara

Resident Priest: Rev. William Gubbins

Deacon: Frank (Betty) Gildea

Deacon: Joseph (Nancy) Bishop

### Liturgy and Music Staff

Claudia Nolan, Director of Liturgy

Linda McKeague, Director of Music

### Parish Office Staff

Donna Stolinski, Business Manager

Darlene Raila, Parish Publications

Joan Nemeć, Morning Receptionist

Karen Mirecki, Afternoon Receptionist

### Religious Education Staff

Elaine Pawlak, Catechetics

Diana Barracca, Administration

### Branches Youth Program

Bruce Hall, Coordinator

Rick Vlaming, Coordinator

Rick Wojcik, Coordinator

### Athletics

Bob Myjak, Director

### Maintenance Staff

Raymond Yanowsky, Director of Maintenance

Carlos Juarez, CJB Maintenance Coordinator

Frank Siwec, Staff Marie Makuch, Staff

Joseph Shake, Staff Michael Makuch, Staff

Mark Siwec, Staff

## REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday 9am

Saturday 5pm

Sunday

7:15, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am

## ST. ELIZABETH SETON PARISH INFORMATION

- **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered on Saturday, between 4:15-4:45pm.
- **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated twice monthly at 1pm. Reserve your time by calling the Pastoral Center early. We are limited to six children per Sunday.
- **Baptismal** Couples preparing for the birth of their child should contact the Pastoral Center to register for a one night seminar, focusing on a parent's role in his/her child's faith development. This session is mandatory prior to the Baptism.
- **Anointing of the Sick** is available in the Church every Monday after the 9am Mass. For those who are ill or facing hospitalization, it is appropriate to receive the sacrament once every six months. Please call the Pastoral Center for more information.
- **Ministry of Care** is available to give Communion to the housebound, to visit and pray for hospitalized and/or to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Pastoral Center for assistance.
- **In the Hospital?** Because of HIPAA Privacy regulations hospitals can no longer contact the parish regarding your hospitalization. It is the responsibility of you or a family member to notify our parish. We desire to offer whatever spiritual support we can. Please call the Pastoral Center.
- **Sacrament of Marriage** Couples planning to marry are encouraged to make arrangements at least six months in advance.
- **Wedding Workshops** are offered throughout the year. They provide engaged couples with guidelines and suggestions for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. The workshop covers topics ranging from readings and music to flowers and video taping.
- **Adult Choir** sings at all 10am Sunday Masses, as well as at a number of special liturgies.
- **Moving?** Please call the office at 708-403-0101.

### HELP IS A PHONE CALL AWAY:

**DOMESTIC ABUSE 24-HOUR HOTLINE: 708-429-SAFE**

**CRISIS PREGNANCY HOTLINE: 888-4-HOPE-4-1**

**HURTING FROM AN ABORTION?: 888-456-HOPE**