

**Christmas Eve Masses**

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

**Christmas Day Masses**

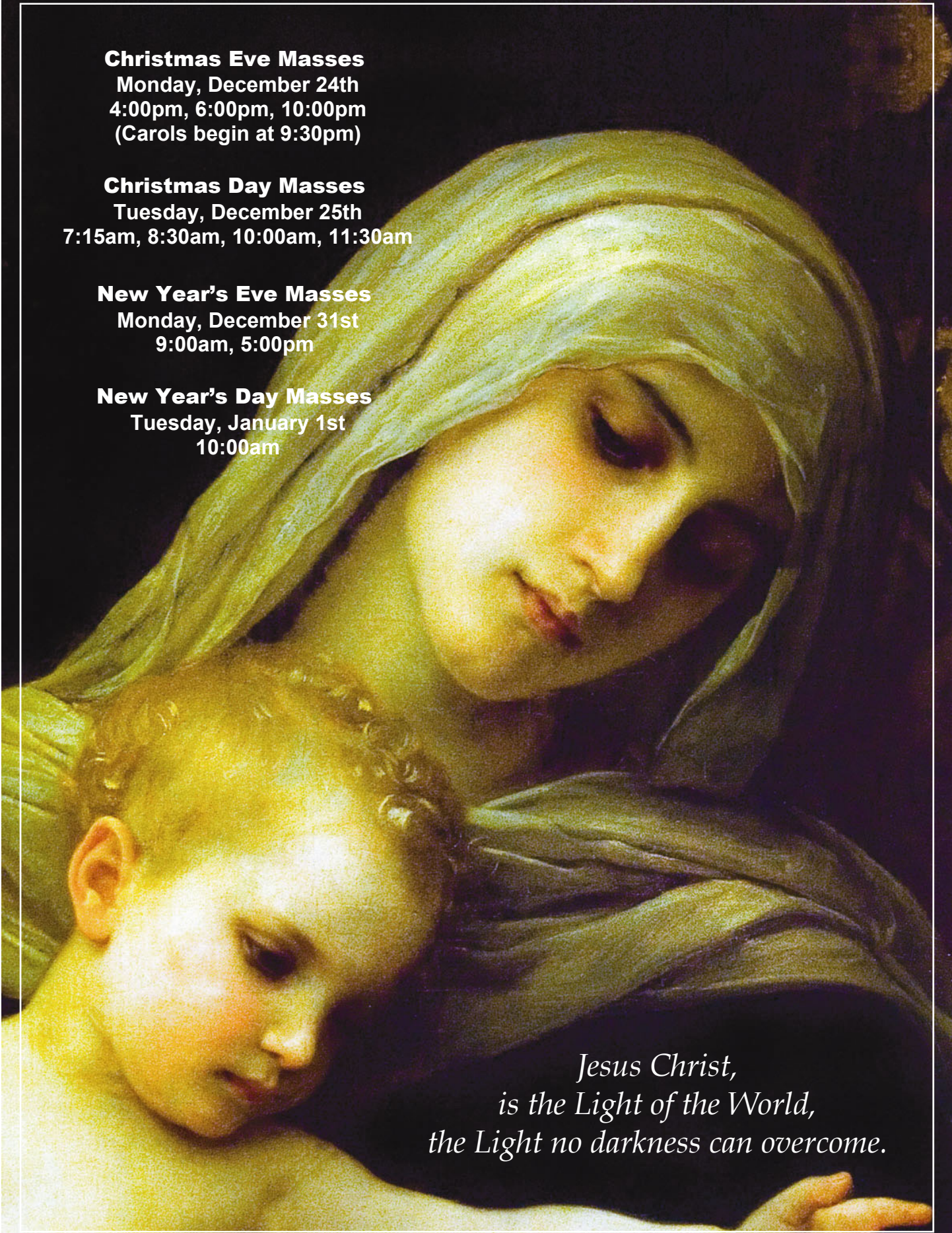
Tuesday, December 25th  
7:15am, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am

**New Year's Eve Masses**

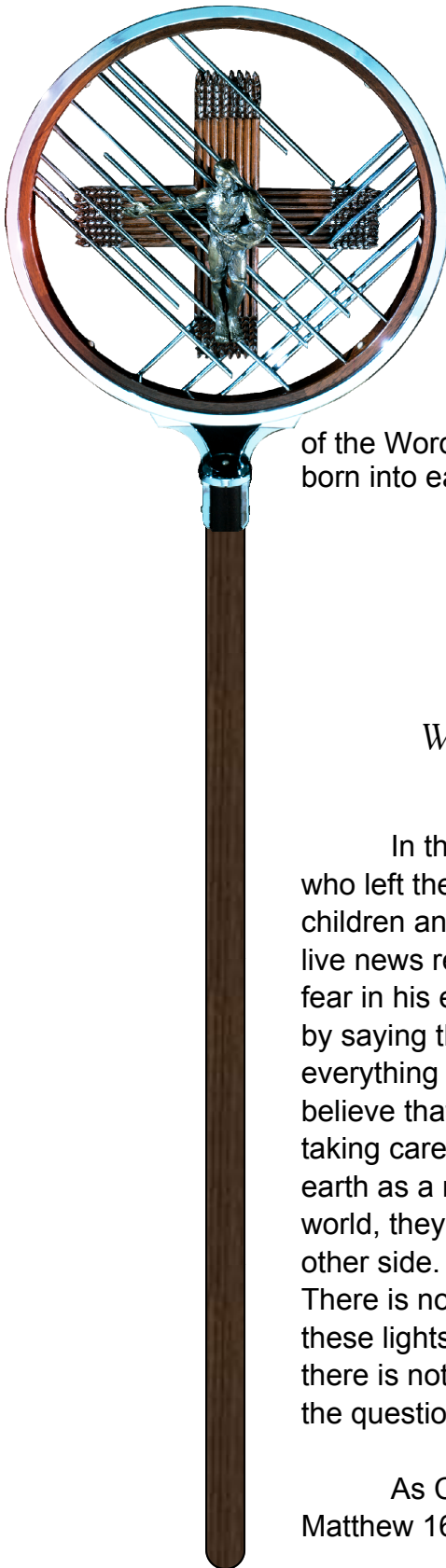
Monday, December 31st  
9:00am, 5:00pm

**New Year's Day Masses**

Tuesday, January 1st  
10:00am



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



# Sharings

**From Father Rich Homa**

## **DOES THE CHRISTMAS SEASON GIVE US HOPE?**

The fact of Jesus being born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago may or may not bring us hope, but for myself, the possibility of the Word becoming flesh today, the possibility of the Love of God being born into each moment of my life, truly is a source of Hope!

This article from “*Celebration*” magazine speaks to the Hope of Christmas:

### **God is With Us – Right?**

*We celebrate the Incarnation best by being people of hope*

By Jay Griffin

In the recent movie, “Signs,” Mel Gibson, playing an Episcopal priest who left the ministry after losing his wife, is huddled together with his two children and his brother in front of their television set. They are watching live news reports of apparent flying saucers hovering above Mexico. With fear in his eyes, his brother asks him for some reassurance. He responds by saying that there are two kinds of people in the world. The first think everything happens for a reason. There are not any coincidences. They believe that there is something beyond them watching out for them and taking care of them. This group looks at these lights hovering above the earth as a miracle. They may have some fear, but if this is the end of the world, they are OK because there is someone waiting for them on the other side. They have hope. The second group believes in coincidences. There is nothing beyond what is right now and right here. They look at these lights and are filled with fear because if this is the end of the world, there is nothing on the other side for them. It is simply over. Then he asks the question: “Which group do you belong to?”

As Christians, do we live as people who have hope? Peter, in Matthew 16, comes face to face with this question when Jesus begins

to describe that he is to be killed and on the third day rise again and Peter rebukes him, saying, "God forbid, Lord." Jesus bursts out, "Get behind me, Satan!" Strong words that often trouble us. But what was he saying? Perhaps Jesus was coming face to face with his greatest temptation: The love Peter and his disciples had for him. It is always painful to let down those whom we love and who love us. But his next line is the most telling. "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." In essence: "Peter, you are thinking as one who has no hope." Peter is part of the second group unable to see that there is anything beyond the here and now. Peter, our foundation!

For Christians, Christmas is a time for hope, a time to renew our vision that we belong to the first group. It is easy to get caught up in the "Christmas Spirit" but the miracle of the Incarnation has little to do with gift-giving and holiday parties and good cheer. It has everything to do with our becoming a people with hope. People who know and trust that there is something with us, and also waiting for us on the other side.

Admittedly, it is challenging to plan liturgies, homilies and music that accurately celebrate our hopefulness and our expectations for life in Christ so commercialized. For our Christmas liturgies, it is too easy to simply re-enact the nativity story as something to remember from long ago. However, the birth of Jesus was just the beginning. Homilists should describe ways in which they have witnessed the Incarnation (God present in humanity) in their congregation. Children's pageant directors can try acting one of the many stories of Dorothy Day or Catherine Dougherty that show how the Incarnation was realized through their works of charity.

It can be dangerous to mess with Christmas because people think they know how it is supposed to go. It is dangerous, but if we fail to flirt with the fine line between that which confronts us and that which challenges us, we are closing ourselves and our people to the awesome mysteries of God.

And so we come back to **THE** question: which group do we belong to? Will we be people of hope or does it end here? That is the question and challenge of the Christmas season.

**May you and your loved ones have a truly Blessed Christmas,**

*Jr. Rick Home*

# Living The Word

Reflections for  
Solemnity of The  
Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph  
Dec.30, 2012

## Readings for the Week

### December 24th-29th:

Mon.: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Tues.: Is 52:7-10; Jn 1:1-18  
Wed.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
Thurs.: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Fri.: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
Sat.: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Loving Father, You  
have created all in  
Your image and like-  
ness. Help us to recog-  
nize all others as our  
brothers and sisters  
and to honor, respect,  
forgive, and love them  
as Your children.  
Together, enable us to  
bring Your peace and  
justice, healing and  
reconciliation to our  
world. Amen.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S FOCUS: JESUS, FAMILY MAN

*Next week we are invited to consider how the mystery of the Incarnation, of God becoming flesh in Jesus, has something special to say to families. Jesus was born into and grew up in a family. In becoming a part of the human family, Jesus revealed His Father's committed love for the human family..*

### FIRST READING

*Samuel, as long as he lives, shall be dedicated to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28).*

Hannah is a faith-filled woman who could not bear a child and was berated by Peninnah, the other wife of her husband Elkanah. She prayed to the LORD that she be given a child whom she promised would be dedicated to the service of the LORD. The LORD listened. She bore a son whom she named Samuel (a name that means "God listens") and as prom-

ised, dedicated him to the service of the LORD. She left Samuel at the sanctuary in Shiloh where he assisted Eli and his sons who were priests of God. Samuel was to be the last judge of Israel (a role that included priestly, prophetic, and kingly responsibilities). It was he who anointed Saul and then David as kings of Israel.

### SECOND READING

*We are called children of God. And so we are (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24).*

We are not slaves or servants, we are children of God. Yahweh treats us with the same respect and honor that He treats Jesus, His only-begotten Son. He calls us to share in His love and His mission here upon the earth, and in His glory in heaven. The promise of heaven is that we will be like the One whom

we love. We will not only share in the likeness and image of God, we will truly be one with Him. The way we know we are God's children is that we keep His commandments. We must live moral and giving lives. The commandments are not rules to imprison us. They are guidelines that help us to make right choices.

### GOSPEL

*His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).*

The Holy Family are good and observant Jews. They travel to Jerusalem for the Pass-over festival. It is odd that this is the only

story between when Jesus was an infant and when He began His ministry. Why did Luke include this particular story? A Jewish boy was considered to be a man at 12 years old. Jesus understood then what it was to be a man but he also discerned at this time that He was both human and divine. It was the first moment that Jesus proclaims God to be His Father in heaven. The description of Jesus speaking with the teachers in the temple does not mean He was teaching them. It could be that He was so sincere, so honest, that He astounded them.

### REFLECTION

If you were to choose an adjective to accompany "family," what would it be? Holy? Or is it more likely to be "dysfunctional"? If culture reflects reality, our greatest American playwrights hold up families falling apart as the norm: Eugene O'Neil's Tyrone family, Tennessee Williams' haunted southern siblings, Arthur Miller's Willie and Linda Loman and sons, and, most recently, the families of Tracy Lett's *August: Osage County* and John Rabin Baitz's *Other Desert Cities*. Behold, the American family! And yet, granting that every family, like every person, is imperfect and on occasion wounds each other in both small and big ways, we do find holiness in families. It is the holiness that we see in Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, who cared for and respected each other, a holiness that witnesses to the power of God's grace at work in hearts open to it. In the Gospel we see this gracious care in the worry of parents who could not find their Son. We hear it in Mary's anxious words to Jesus, in Jesus' fidelity to his dual parentage — earthly and heavenly — and in the simple statement that "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them." As members of the human family, imperfect and even sinful, we too are graced with a capacity for "advancing in wisdom and age and favor before God and one another." Each of us is called to holiness, to a fullness of being made possible by being open to the loving touch of God's grace made visible in the Incarnation.

## St. Procopius Gift Thank You



*Parish offices were packed to the brim!*

The St. Elizabeth Seton Social Action Ministry would like to thank those who provided gifts and those who volunteered to sort and load the truck for the delivery of the gifts. In addition, we also received a generous amount of gift cards that were given to St. Procopius.



*Fr. Chuck (left) poses with Doug Benker.. and a bike!*

### 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 Monday, Dec. 31st and Tuesday, Jan. 1st and will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2nd.*

### WELCOME

**Kurt Krueger**  
**Lisa Werner**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

**Dakota Todd**                      **Laura Muller**  
**Irena Juska**                      **Nancy Heebner**  
**Danute Todter**                  **John Mayer**

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 22nd (5pm) **Josephine Tarantino; Donald Shea; Alice McDonald; Frank J. Smith III; Nora Keane; Lillie Wallace**  
Sunday, Dec. 23rd

(7:15am) **Jacob Fischer**

(8:30am) **Joan Sipowicz; Victorino and Jovita Legaspi;**

**Christine Dorsey; Dennis Corluka; Stella Sanza**

(10am) **Clara McMullen; Justinas Glamba; Demma Family;**

**Annabelle Santucci; Barbara Bosco; Ed Chianalli;**

**Elizabeth Konieczny; Robert Parker; Elizabeth Piwowar;**

**Steve Banasiak Family**

(11:30am) **Robert and Cecilia Zmuda; Mary Biegel;**

**Maxine Tomasiewicz; Ray and Corinne Gillis**

Mon., Dec. 24th (9am) **Libero Colacino; June Tunelius;**

**Robert Parker**

(4pm) **Parishioners**

(6pm) **Parishioners**

(10 pm) **Parishioners**

Tues., Dec. 25th

(7:15am) **Parishioners**

(8:30am) **Parishioners**

(10am) **Parishioners**

(11:30am) **Parishioners**

Wed., Dec. 26th (9am) **Maxine Tomasiewicz; Luka Macewko;**

**Camille Rosiak; Leon and Alicia Blair; Lisa Pappas-Lugo;**

**Michael Mazur**

Thurs., Dec. 27th (9am) **Winona Traube; James Frys;**

**Frank Buddell; Mary Flores; Nicola Tornincasa**

Fri., Dec. 28th (9am) **Bill Boardman; Ellen Murphy;**

**Oscar Flores**

### STEWARDSHIP

COLLECTION FOR 12-16-12:

**\$29,787.58**

KIDS COLLECTION:

**\$54.66**

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *What is Christmas about? Encounters? Visitations?*

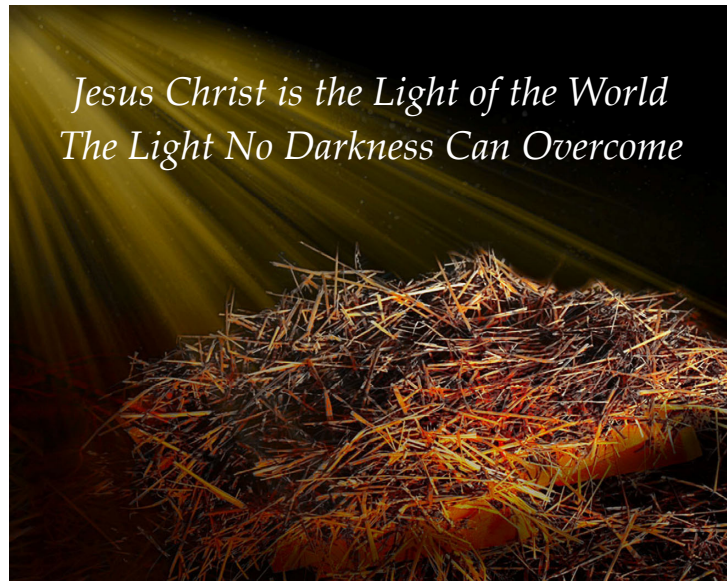
*A Reflection by  
Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S.,  
Kathleen Harmon, S.N.D. de N.  
and Christopher W. Conlon, S.M.*

**WHEN  
TWO  
PEOPLE  
ARE UNSURE OF  
THEMSELVES,  
ENCOUNTERS CAN  
SURELY BE MOST  
AWKWARD!**

Suppose a wife and husband have had a disagreement before they go off to work; coming home in the evening might be awkward until someone takes the initiative to smooth things out. Or perhaps an important birthday or anniversary of a friend has been forgotten and one encounters the friend unexpectedly in the grocery store; the exchange might be awkward until the social breach has been admitted and repaired. In every awkward word exchanged, in every attempt to move on, in every admission of hurt and anger between the husband and wife, or the two friends, God is reborn.

This Sunday's gospel features an *encounter* between two pregnant women. All the ingredients are there for an awkward encounter: both pregnancies occur under most unusual circumstances. Yet, instead of awkwardness there is immediate recognition and blessing.

Two days before Christmas, this Sunday is priming us to encounter the Word made flesh. The gospel alerts us to recognize the mystery of Christ's presence through *encounter*, and highlights the fitting response we make to these *encounters*. Mary does a natural thing when one has good news to share—she makes a visit to a relative, especially this relative because Elizabeth is pregnant, too. Both pregnancies are wrapped in mystery. Both pregnancies burst with something new.



*Jesus Christ is the Light of the World  
The Light No Darkness Can Overcome*

**M**ary went in haste to Elizabeth's house, entered, and greeted her. Elizabeth recognized and responded to the mystery taking place. She expressed astonishment, wonder, amazement: "How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" **There is encounter. There is blessing. There is praise.** One woman carries the infant who is born to be precursor.

The other carries the infant who is born to be Savior.

It is too easy to dismiss this *encounter*. We might be astonished at the singularity of these two women; we might wonder at their holiness and obedience; we might be amazed at their openness to God's grace. An even greater astonishment, wonder, amazement, however, is also at work: the Lord himself comes to *us*. How do *we* respond? Mary responded by believing and saying yes to God's will. Elizabeth responded by opening herself to be a participant in the mystery of salvation and uttering praise and blessing when she encountered her Lord. Our response to the mystery of the Word made flesh must be similar to theirs: *believing, saying yes, praising, blessing*. This response primes us to celebrate the mystery of Christmas in all its fullness.

**D**uring these holidays, with family and friends gathering, there will be many opportunities for *encounters* and *self-giving*. Perhaps it is a matter of taking a few minutes to be present individually to one of our Neighbors, Aunts, Uncles or Grandparents. Perhaps it means playing awhile with the little ones. Perhaps it means simply helping to clean up and do dishes. However the opportunity for self-giving presents itself, it always is an opportunity for blessing.

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*O Come, Lord, and make your place in the midst of our families and households.*

*By your grace, may we, like Mary, "make haste" to be with one another in times of crisis, hurt, and estrangement; like Elizabeth, may we be sources of understanding and compassion for the members of our families.*

## 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, all 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. This freshly made straw bed will be used for our Christmas crèche.

## 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.*

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

- \* Do I realize that I put myself above others, presuming greater importance or seeking personal comfort at their expense?
- \* Do I confront problems in my relationships and do my part to bring healing and reconciliation?
- \* Do I take time and make an effort to listen to my family, my friends, my co-workers?
- \* Do I offer joy and hope to others?

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

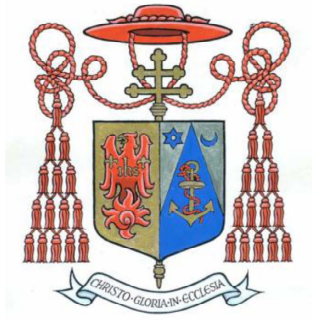
- \* Do I accept my own human frailties?
- \* Do I slow down enough to appreciate all of creation, other people, and life itself?
- \* Do I value or even imagine the possibilities silence can offer?

### IS MY PRAYER LIFE ALIVE?

- \* Do I participate in the sacraments and the prayer of the Church?
- \* Do I give thanks and praise to God by words and actions?
- \* Do I accept responsibility for the abilities God has placed in my hands?
- \* Do I respect the powers that are intended to be left in the hands of God?

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

- \* Do I avoid spreading the darkness of unkind, insensitive, or untrue remarks about others?
- \* Do I guide against giving too much credence to negative views of the world and its people?
- \* Do I judge others harshly based on isolated incidents or casual contacts?
- \* Do I appreciate the value of letting go — of honoring life's changes and passages?



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Christmas 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

Filled with awe and wonder at the mystery of the Incarnation, how do we welcome God Incarnate? Filled with awe and wonder at the mystery of the Eucharist, how do we approach its celebration? During this Year of Sunday Mass, it is fitting to point out that the world is different because Mass is celebrated and we participate in that celebration. Not just we individually, not just the Church, but the world as a whole would be a very different place were the Holy Eucharist not celebrated.

Since the first Christians in Jerusalem discovered their identity around the altar of the Lord on his day, Catholics have known that without the Mass they cannot live fully in Christ. By inviting us to a new life and shaping our attitudes toward this life, the Eucharist does not merely express who we are and what we believe; it helps us discover who we are and what we can become in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Full and active participation in the liturgy leads us to embrace the truth, to take up the cross, and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus throughout every dimension of our lives in praying for life eternal.

Through the Eucharist, the power of the Holy Spirit transforms us into the living Body of Christ, set to transform the world. Moreover, it moves us to express in action what it is that unites us to God and therefore to one another. When we are faithful to the image of God stamped upon us through baptism so that we are like Jesus Christ and when, in the celebration of the liturgy, our actions are witnesses to God's own transcendence, our lives our holy. When we live in the world with Christ's love, spreading his peace and justice, we are God's instruments. This in its entirety is the spirit of the liturgy. Liturgy is not about us except to the extent that we are in Christ.

As Mary eloquently expresses in the *Magnificat*: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior," may you go forth from Mass "glorifying the Lord by your life." You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses and prayers. A blessed and Merry Christmas to all!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I." in a cursive style.

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

*"What you received as a gift, give as a gift." Mt 10:8*

## THE BELT BUCKLE

*A Christmas Story by John Shea*



**I**T HAPPENED IN OKLAHOMA CITY WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, FRESH ON THE SPEAKERS' CIRCUIT. I had just finished my talk, and people were coming up to ask me questions or point out things I should have said.

An old Native American man—a Cherokee, I suppose—suddenly stood in front of me. He had a large and elaborate belt buckle in his hands. It was a swirl of multicolored beads. If they formed a pattern, I couldn't detect it.

"Please accept this gift," he said.

I was a little taken aback, but I had a quick response: "Thank you. It's beautiful. But I can't accept it."

"Why not?" he asked with a puzzled look.

I pointed to the expanse beneath my chest. "Well, would you want to call attention to this stomach with a large, beautiful belt buckle?" I laughed.

The man did not smile. He simply extended the belt buckle again. "Please accept this," he said again.

"It's too expensive," I said. This was probably closer to the truth of why I said no. I was always taught not to take expensive presents from people. The belt buckle was hand-crafted and had a look of elegance about it.

"You know," the old man said, "you can give it to someone else."

I accepted the belt buckle.

Eventually, I followed the old man's advice and gave the belt buckle to someone else, a student whom I thought had made excellent progress.

The student said he couldn't take it.

I told him the story of how I had received it, and then he took the belt buckle with a knowing smile. Although we did not discuss it, I am sure he knew the gift was to be given away. It was not a possession but a mission.

**T**ODAY, TONIGHT, TOMORROW, SOON... someone is moving toward you with a beautiful beaded belt buckle. He or she will not take "no" for an answer.

- Has someone in faith moved toward you gifting you with a listening ear?
- Have you moved toward someone maybe a stranger with one of your gifts and not taken a "no" for an answer?
- How does God reveal his presence in the simplest, everyday moments of your life?

*Lord God, may we behold the joy of your birth  
with the humble gratitude of the shepherds.  
May the grace of your Christ who comes to shepherd us  
help us to care for one another;  
may the good news we hear in our struggling Bethlehems  
bring joy and hope to all our mornings;  
may your coming to us as one of us inspire us  
to lift up one another in the dignity of being your sons and daughters.*



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

## The Road To Emmaus

By Margie Guadagno  
St. Elizabeth Seton Pastoral Associate

### How To Leave Regrets Behind

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.

**O**UR CHRISTMAS DAY LOOKS MUCH DIFFERENT NOW THAN IT DID SEVERAL YEARS AGO. When my in-laws were still alive, there were visits to their home, visits to my parents' home, visits to great-grandparents, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, great-aunts and uncles and definitely some cousins! And that's not counting trying to squeeze in quick hellos to good friends.

Now my husband's parents aren't with us, my dad is gone, as is great-grandma, and some very much missed aunts and uncles. And with my own immediate family grown and living in far off suburbs, all that hustle and bustle is certainly diminished. However, it is still very difficult to get around and visit with everyone that I would like to see. The more things change, the more they stay the same. (someone else said that first!)

I've been thinking lately a great deal about those Christmases past. Though they were always filled with such joy and gladness, they were also filled with that 'hurried-ness' that comes with having such a large family. It leaves me enjoying them much more in memory than I did at the time because we were always in a rush to get to someone's house, squeeze that visit into a short amount of time, and then we were on to the next house. There was just never enough time. Now that I look back on it, it lends a certain amount of sadness to the

memories, because now I wish I had truly been present for those I was visiting. And since some of them are not here anymore, I won't get a do-over.

Last week I said that the best presents you can give your family is your 'presence.' So, I am going to take my own advice this year!! When I do my visiting, I will sit still and really be present in that moment, both for myself and for them. I will savor the sights and sounds of their home, the smells of their kitchen, the tone of the voices, the beauty of their faces, the warmth of their hearts. I will make that time 'our time' so I won't ever have any regrets, even little ones.

**I** WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU MY WISHES THAT YOU HAVE A VERY PEACE FILLED AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS. God has given us so many gifts, starting first of all with God's own son. He is our hope. Our hope from the past who fulfilled God's promise. Our hope for today that all who hear his words will take them into their hearts and become transformed. Our hope for the future that one day all people will live in the peace and harmony that God meant for us to have from the very beginning. And as Christ is our hope, let us become that hope for others who still need him so desperately in their lives. That is what our gift of 'presence' can truly be for all those we see during this holy season.

*Merry Christmas!*

### 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.



### O Come Let Us Adore Him!

How is God calling you to love, adore, and serve Him? 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 or call 312-534-8298 or visit www.ChicagoPriest.com. For information on religious life contact Sr. Elyse Ramirez, OP at 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.

**VOCATION CROSS PARTICIPANTS**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 26th**  
**Soprych Family**

*Vocation Cross Participants Needed*  
Participants are presented the Vocation Cross at the 9am Mass on Wednesday mornings and pray for Vocations for the week. The cross is returned the following Wednesday at the 9am Mass.  
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

Photo © John Zich



# Adore

To adore is not merely to admire, although we use the word "adore" in this loose sense. When I adore someone or something, I center my life on this person or thing. To adore is to worship. To adore is to hold in awe.

Each human being will adore someone or something. We have a drive within us to center our lives this way. Faith tell us that only God is worthy of our adoration, but people can adore the false gods of money, pleasure, status, and even their own convenience.

Every time we kneel before the altar at Mass, we profess our commitment to adore God alone, our true center. "We adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, O God, almighty Father."

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO + STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLAN  
**YEAR OF SUNDAY MASS / YEAR OF FAITH**



## Fall Into Winter Concert and Gala Spectacular

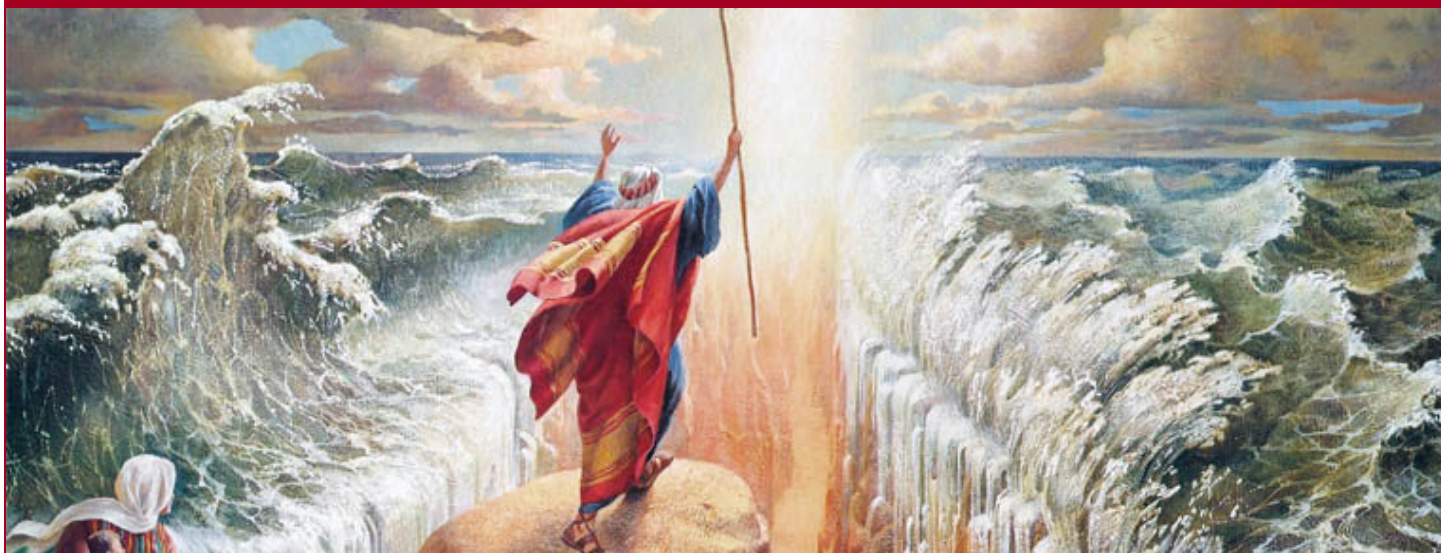
The Annual St. Elizabeth Seton Music Department Concert and Gala took place on Sunday, Dec. 2nd in the church and Parish Life Center. It was a beautiful concert and fabulous gala which put everyone in the holiday spirit. Thank you to all the choir members, musicians, dancers and volunteers who helped to create such a beautiful day. Many thanks to **Maryola Ward** and **Mary Vlaming** for organizing our gala. Thank you to all who supported our ad book and raffles. St. Elizabeth Seton's Music Department is blessed to minister to you and our community.

**Fall Into Winter Concert DVDs are available for purchase for \$5.00. Please see Linda McKeague or call 708-403-0101 x112.**





**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 p.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.

## 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.*

### Fr. Rick Frechette Celebrates Special Mass at Seton



FATHER RICK FRECHETTE OF NUESTROS PEQUEÑOS HERMANOS IN HAITI (PHOTO, THIRD FROM RIGHT) was an honored guest at a special Mass of Thanksgiving in late fall. He wanted to share a Mass with the special people who make the burial palls for his special ministry. During the Mass, he spoke of the impoverished lives that he witnesses everyday. When death does come," he said, "these burial palls give a dignity and value to their lives, and spares them from the 'humiliation of death.'" He said he prays often and asks for intercession from the thousands he has buried in Haiti and feels their help. Father Rick is also a physician and oversees a network of child care facilities that include an orphanage and a pediatric hospital. In addition, he runs St. Luke Foundation, which provides 450 jobs, outreach and health care to more than 120,000 patients each year.

The burial pall ministry began at St. Elizabeth Seton over three years ago and to date, over 41,000 burial palls have been made with great love. The ministry has expanded to over 40 different churches and has grown to include sewing dresses, boys pants, and diapers.

Father Rick traveled to the U.S. with two adult pequeños, Esther and Anton, both of whom were raised at the Haiti NPH orphanage. Esther, now a mother of three, sang during the Mass in French and English. She works everyday at the morgue in Haiti and sings her songs of hope there.

We all felt blessed to hear Fr. Rick's stories, receive the Body of Christ with him and share food and laughter at the reception that followed in the Parish Life Center. This gentle, humble man of God inspired us and carved a special place in our souls. Please remember Father Rick and all the children of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in your prayers.

### Fr. Rick Wins \$1 M Opus Award

We congratulate Fr. Rick on winning the prestigious Opus Award from the Opus Prize Foundation, a private and independent nonprofit group. The \$1 million humanitarian award is one of the world's largest faith-based awards for social innovation. In a statement their officials said, "Fr. Rick is fearless in his willingness to accept any challenge and responds to needs on a massive scale, performing each service with hope and compassion." Fr. Rick expects the bulk of the prize money to keep the hospital running. He and his staff are an inspiration to all of us. For more information on Fr. Rick and Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, please visit [www.nph.org](http://www.nph.org). For burial pall/sewing information please call Liz Wisnasky at 708-614-6475.

**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**

*Celebrating the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at our sharing parish, St. Procopius*



Fr. Stan concelebrated Mass at the festive celebration. Altars were decorated with bright colors for the celebration.



Over 40 Seton parishioners attended the Mass and enjoyed the Mexican dinner and folk dancing. Eleanore Sierra and Doug Benker brought the gifts forward. At the conclusion, the children swarmed for candy canes.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**A REMINDER THAT FAITH SESSIONS  
WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, JAN. 7TH  
AND TUESDAY, JAN. 8TH.**



# Seton Sprouts

**ST. ELIZABETH SETON CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**A Celebration of the First Half of the Religious Education Year**



**Photo (top):**Opening Prayer Service and Book Blessing with Father Bill Gubbins.

**Photo (bottom):**  
Third Grade We Follow Jesus Retreat



### **IMPORTANT RE DATES:**

- **First Eucharist Presentation of Candidates**  
Saturday, Jan. 12th at 9am in the Church
- **Eighth Grade Confirmation Retreat**  
Sunday, Jan. 13th  
Candidates should arrive by 12:45pm. Retreat will start at 1pm in the Parish Life Center and will end at approximately 4pm in the Church. Candidates must attend the entire retreat to fulfill the Confirmation Responsibility.
- **Fourth Grade Family Reconciliation Service**  
Monday, Jan. 14th at 7pm in Church.



Photos (top): First Grade Church Tour



Photos (bottom left and right): Eighth Grade Confirmation Group Catholic Action Project: Jeans for Jesus (approximately 1175 pairs of jeans were collected and donated to Respond Now outreach organization).

# NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. THERESE, DARIEN, IL

## SENIORS OF SETON TOUR, DECEMBER 11, 2012



A wooden carving of St. Theresine's life and the Nativity Scene



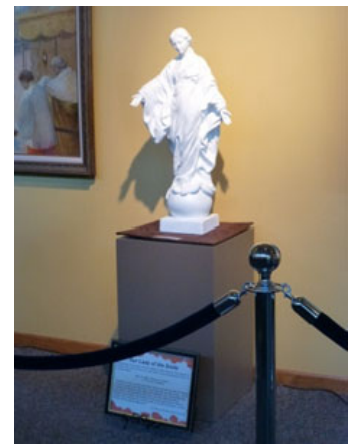
St. Theresine, the Little Flower



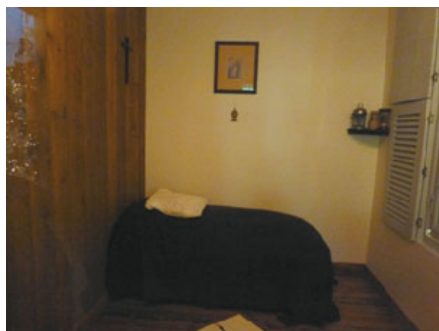
Gathering in the main room



Replica of St. Theresine in her Coffin



Our Lady of the Smile



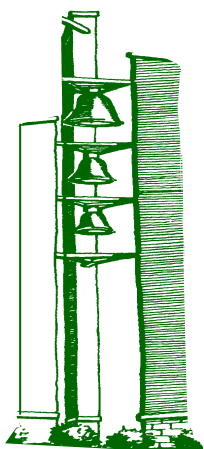
St. Theresine's cell in the convent



Fr. Bernie saying Mass



A delicious lunch was served



## Seniors of Seton

### UPCOMING EVENT

**JANUARY 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.

**FEBRUARY 18TH**

#### **ST. MARTHA'S**

*Keep this date open!*

*More information to follow later.*

*We wish everyone a  
Merry Christmas from  
the Seniors of Seton!*




### **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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

## HOLY INNOCENTS



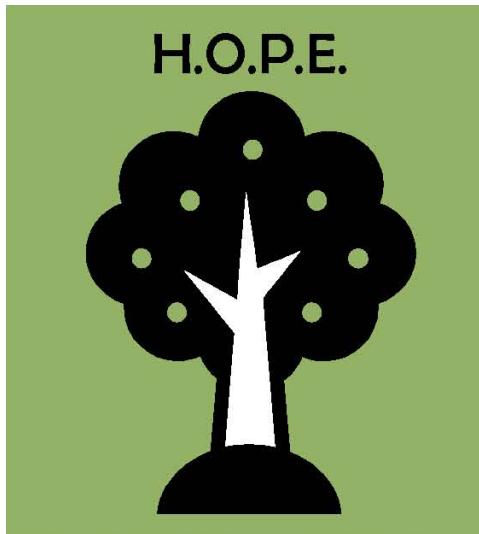
*We especially pray for the victims and families of Sandy Hook School in Connecticut.*

HEROD "THE GREAT," KING OF JUDEA, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts and, warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob/Israel. She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

### **COMMENT:**

*The Holy Innocents are few, in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth—a human person, destined for eternity and graced by Jesus' death and resurrection.*



**Helping Outreach for People  
Seeking Employment**

**Join the HOPE Ministry  
in kicking off our  
8<sup>th</sup> year of service  
with a Special Mass!**

**Tuesday, January 15th  
Rosary at 6:30pm  
Mass at 7pm**

The **H.O.P.E.** (Helpful Outreach for People seeking Employment) **Employment Support Ministry** meets at St. Elizabeth Seton Church on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Our sessions are open to all faiths and denominations. We meet to offer support, fellowship, guidance and information for the employed, unemployed, or those in Career Transition. **HOPE** Ministry

leaders review and critique resumes; offer job search and interview tips; and pass along job leads. Each month we also provide a guest speaker to support those in transition.

To help kick off the 8<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community, our January Meeting has been rescheduled to the evening of **Tuesday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will start at **approximately 6:30pm in the Church as we will say the rosary. The rosary will be followed with Mass at 7pm.** We invite people of all faiths to join us for this Mass. The Mass is intended to be a shared prayer for support and inspiration in the job search; in gratitude for blessings received; and for the hope of blessings forthcoming.

Whether you are employed or unemployed, all are most welcome to attend, including spouses and children, as they are part of everyone's support group. We especially encourage Alumni of the **HOPE** program to attend and share their experiences. A Networking Reception will immediately follow this uplifting, energizing event. Please RSVP to Tom McMahon via email – [tom.mcmahon@mcmahonjobs.com](mailto:tom.mcmahon@mcmahonjobs.com) so that we can plan accordingly for the reception. Please put **HOPE Mass** in the subject of your email.

LinkedIn Members are encouraged to join the **H.O.P.E. Employment Support Ministry Group** to share job leads, network, etc. The group can be accessed through [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com).

Employers: Please forward your job leads to [Tom.McMahon@McMahonJobs.com](mailto:Tom.McMahon@McMahonJobs.com) for distribution to our members.

**Start the New Year off right with some HOPE and a Mass on  
Tuesday, January 15th @ 7:00pm...  
because everyone could use a little HOPE!**

*In addition to our HOPE Meetings at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, we also host meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7:00pm, at St. Patrick's Church in Lemont (St. Patrick's Parish Ministry Center Parish Hall - Cass Street Building, 205 Cass Street, Lemont, IL 60439); and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7:00pm, at Our Lady of the Woods Church in Orland Park (10731 W. 131<sup>st</sup> St.).*

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
from  
YOUR PARISH  
SCHOOL!**

The Cardinal Joseph  
Bernardin Catholic  
School Administration,  
Faculty, and Staff

extends prayers of peace and wishes of joy to each of  
you this Christmas. May each day of the New Year bring  
blessings that renew your spirit.

**Ms. Mary Iannucilli, Principal,  
and the entire CJB Staff**



### 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 served.

### Free Independent Foreclosure Review

If you faced foreclosure in 2009 or 2010, Catholic Charities wants you to know help may be at hand. You may be able to get a free foreclosure review through a program ordered by federal bank regulators. This review will be conducted by a neutral third party. If errors in your foreclosure process are found, you could get compensation. You give up nothing by requesting a review or accepting compensation. The deadline is December 31, 2012. To determine eligibility and request your review, call 888-952-9105 or go to [www.independentforeclosure.com](http://www.independentforeclosure.com).

### 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



**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 Devlin [cdevlin@cardinaljbschool.com](mailto:cdevlin@cardinaljbschool.com)  
or call 708-403-6525 x127

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

Saturday, Jan. 26th at the Orland Chateau in Orland Park. Doors open at 6pm. Bill Brady's Comedy Capers featuring Bob Jay (Man of 999 Voices) and Brian Hicks (National Comedian). Tickets: \$35 dinner/show. Buy ticket BEFORE Dec. 24th for a chance to win the *Dinner On Us!* Raffle (\$50 Barraco's Gift Card). For ticket information contact [2013comedynight@gmail.com](mailto:2013comedynight@gmail.com) or call 708-342-2400 or find the event of Facebook.

*Makes a great Christmas gift!*



**2013 Golden  
Opportunities  
Books Are**

**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!

### Men's Club Annual Donuts with Santa!



There was much excitement on Sunday, Dec. 9th when the Men's Club welcomed a very special guest, Santa Claus, to their Annual Donuts with Santa. Santa says he always loves to visit our parish and visit with all our wonderful families. Ho! Ho! Ho!

### Seton Men's Club Making A Brighter Christmas For Many



The Men's Club has continued their sharing ways this Christmas Season, with a donation of five boxes of toys from our annual toy drive for "Together We Cope", a foundation which helps the underprivileged in our community. Our Club also donated five hams to be served at the "Daybreak Shelter" in Joliet and a \$150 cash donation to "Respond Now" in Chicago Heights. These are charities that Liz Wisnasky and the St. Elizabeth Seton Social Action Ministry support and donate time and talent to. Hopefully these gifts will brighten a few families this Christmas Season.



# Branches

## SETON YOUTH PROGRAM

**TONIGHT!  
SUNDAY,  
DEC. 23RD  
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.**

12/29 & 12/30	5:00PM	7:15AM	8:30AM	10:00AM	11:30AM
<b>GREETERS</b> Attention All Ministers! Ministers schedules available at: <a href="http://www.steseton.com">www.steseton.com</a> Then visit: Music and Liturgy	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. Taska J. Bessette	D. Houha	D. Stefanovich K. Oliver	B. Hurley M. Eisenberg	A. McKanna P. Hambrick
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	C. Grebenor A. Grebenor M. Walter	M. Reiter M. Krause M. DeHaan	A. Gregg D. Phillips R. Gregg	M. Dougherty R. Anthony C. Buck	M. Perillo M. Walsh M. Nacik
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	A. Sharp B. DeJonge J. Murphy J. Harris J. Connelly L. Jeffrey M. Miller M. O'Connor T. Hanlon S. Abbatemarco M. Abbatemarco T. Doyle	A. Weishaar C. Nolan M. Fundator D. Nykiel J. Dickover J. Kenney	C. Bannon C. Hayward C. Kirk E. Pawlak J. Austin L. Austin L. Lopina M. Dziallo P. Skowronek S. Weishaar T. Krull W. Bekta	B. Hansen E. Barin F. Scellato G. Chehy J. Mysker K. Engraffia K. O'Sullivan M. Gabrione M. Schmidt R. Laud R. Grill S. Michalek S. Rosinski	B. McMahon D. Daley J. Mitchel L. Koning M. Merino M. Morajda R. Dollah T. Wolski K. James M. O'Connor

### 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 Nemec, 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**