

*John went throughout
the whole region
proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.*

LUKE 3

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 use this column to re-run a series I presented last year before the official incorporation of the new Roman Missal. It's actually been a whole year since we began to use the New Roman Missal, so next week, I will continue my brief history of the Eucharist, but this weekend I'll share some of the reasons why the old Sacramentary was dropped and why the Roman Missal was adopted.

Vatican II called for congregations to be participants in the Eucharist, rather than just observers of prayer and actions conducted by the clergy. Indeed, it was said that the most important "minister" of the Eucharist is the "assembly gathered together." To this end, Vatican II mandated that the liturgy be spoken in the vernacular throughout the world, and not be restricted to Latin.

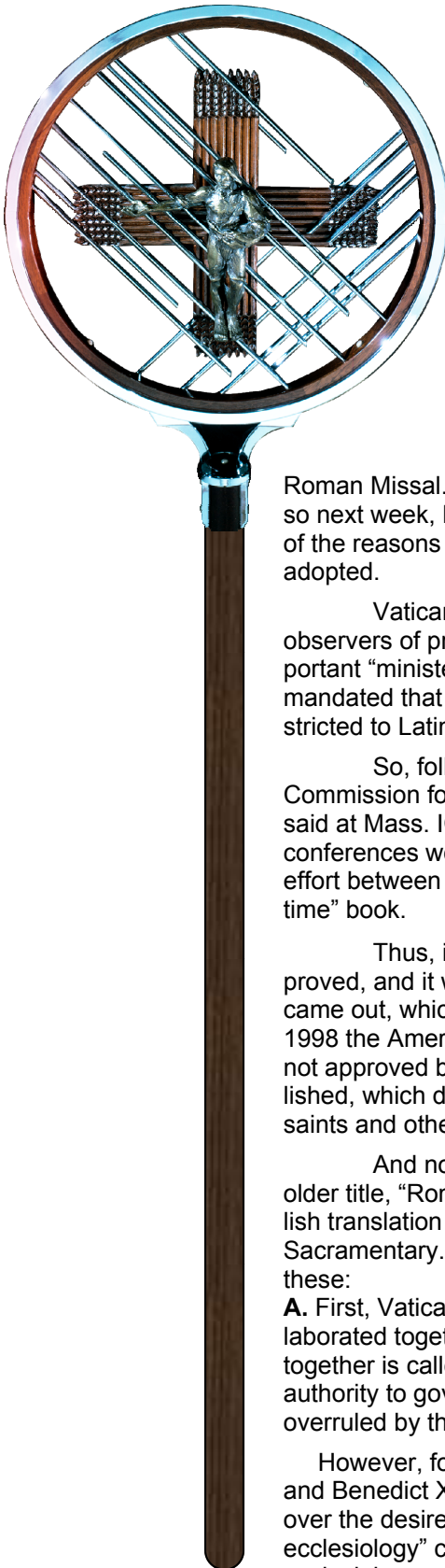
So, following Vatican II, bishops in English-speaking countries formed the "International Commission for English in the Liturgy" (ICEL) to develop an English book of the prayers to be said at Mass. ICEL would develop a translation which the various English-speaking bishops' conferences would then approve, revise, or reject. So the translation would be a collaborative effort between ICEL and local churches, and was seen to be an ongoing effort, not a "for-all-time" book.

Thus, in 1973, the first "Sacramentary", as the new Mass book was called, was approved, and it was published a year later; but just a year after that, in 1975, a second edition came out, which added more Eucharistic Prayers, and "Ritual Masses" for various needs. In 1998 the American bishops finished a new translation of the Latin Sacramentary, but this was not approved by Rome, although in 2002, a third, Vatican-approved, Sacramentary was published, which did not change the current translation of the Latin, but added some new feasts of saints and other celebrations.

And now we have the new book, which no longer has the title "Sacramentary", but the older title, "Roman Missal," and the most obvious feature of the Roman Missal is that the English translation of the Latin is quite different in many places from the translation found in the Sacramentary. The reasons for the significant changes in the new translation of the Latin are these:

A. First, Vatican II emphasized that authority in the Church is found in the bishops as they collaborated together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This style of working and governing together is called "collegiality." Also, Vatican II said that local conferences of bishops had the authority to govern their local churches, and, in many ways, this local governance shouldn't be overruled by the Pope or the Vatican. This was called "subsidiarity."

However, following the Second Vatican Council, and especially in the Papacy of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, there has been a growing reassertion of Papal and Vatican authority, even over the desires of local bishops' conferences. The theological jargon is that the "communal ecclesiology" called for by Vatican II is being eroded by a strong push to restore a "hierarchical ecclesiology."



This movement significantly influenced the process leading to the new Roman Missal. First, Rome rejected the 1998 translation of the Latin Sacramentary which was approved by the U.S. Bishops' Conference. Second, Rome disbanded the International Commission for English in the Liturgy (ICEL), which was set up by the English-speaking bishops, and set up its own commission called "Vox Clara," (Clear Voice), of which Cardinal George is a member.

Third, Rome has rejected a number of requests by the U.S. Conference of Bishops regarding the way certain words or phrases were to be translated from the Latin.

B. In 2001 the Roman Congregation for Divine Worship issued a document entitled "Liturgiam Authenticam," (Authentic Liturgy). This document drastically changed the principles under which the translation of the Latin was to be undertaken. This is an outline of those changes:

Documents following Vatican II:

A. Emphasize "dynamic equivalency:"

- translate the meaning rather than the exact wording.

B. Emphasize the reception of the text by the worshipping assembly.

C. Emphasize the characteristics of the receptor language.

D. Emphasize common language.

Liturgiam Authenticam:

A. Emphasizes "verbal identity:" translate the Latin words as literally as possible.

B. Emphasizes the sending of the text to the worshipping assembly.

C. Emphasized the characteristics of the donor language.

D. Emphasized "sacral" language.

All this results in the Roman Missal which is now, and for the foreseeable future, the official book of the prayers of our Eucharist.

May God Bless You,

Jr. Rick Homa

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

A big congratulations are in order for two of our most dedicated and hard-working parishioners, Elizabeth Wisnasky and John Shattuck.

Many of you know Elizabeth, who is affectionately called "Liz Wiz" because of her tireless and unending efforts at coordinating and reaching out to so many people in lots of different ways, from "Respond Now" to sewing thousands of funeral palls for deceased infants in Haiti.

John has worked countless hours and days coordinating relief efforts to aid the people of Haiti, whose already impoverished lives were further devastated by the hurricane which caused so much damage a couple of years ago.

Well, through the efforts of Gale Shafer of our parish, who is a member of the Swallow Cliff Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, both John and Liz are to be awarded with the Daughters of the American Revolution Community Service Award. The DAR states these reasons for the award:

The purpose of the Community Service Awards is to recognize worthy individuals for unpaid voluntary achievements in cultural, educational, humanitarian, patriotic, historical, citizenship, or environmental conservation endeavors. The recipient must have contributed to the community in an outstanding manner through voluntary heroic, civic, benevolent service or by organizing or participating in community activities.

Liz and John will be presented with their award, which is a certificate and a pin, at the DAR Christmas Luncheon on December 15th. Congratulations, John and Liz! You certainly deserve this recognition. And thanks, Gale, for your efforts in nominating them for this award.

Jr. Rick Homa

Living The Word

Reflections for
Third Sunday
of Advent
Dec. 16, 2012

God who created all things and who sent Jesus to be with us until the end of our days, hear my prayers that I may know the joy of the risen Lord. Give me an awareness that the Lord is indeed near, and send the peace that surpasses all understanding into my heart. Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY'S FOCUS: ST. PAUL'S FIVE-STEP PROGRAM

Every year the Third Sunday of Advent calls us to live in joy. St. Paul's insistent words ring out: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice." He then provides us with a program that just might be instrumental in helping us to attain this elusive goal.

FIRST READING

The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

This reading from the latter part of the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah speaks of the restoration of Jerusalem. God would visit the city to protect it. He would bring a great period of rejoicing. This reading expresses well the

theme of "rejoicing". We rejoice because the birth of Jesus is near, but also because we have been working to transform our hearts during this season of conversion.

SECOND READING

The Lord is near (Philippians 4:4-7).

St. Paul wrote this letter after he had been imprisoned and faced the possibility of being put to death. This gave him a clearer perspective on life and faith. He wanted the Philippians to dedicate themselves to the only

things that were really important. Thus, he speaks of prayer, petition, thanksgiving, and above all, joy. If God is the center of our lives, then we will find joy, no matter what might happen to us.

GOSPEL

What should we do? (Luke 3:10-18)

Luke speaks of the coming of the Day of the Lord, a day of judgment upon Israel and the world. John the Baptist preaches to the people of Israel and invites his listeners to turn away from their sins. Unlike the accounts found in Matthew and Mark, St. Luke's ver-

sion speaks of how tax collectors and soldiers could convert their ways. He did not require them to abandon their occupations. Rather, he simply asked them to exercise their responsibilities as honestly as they could. God does not ask us to reject who we are, but rather simply asks us to be as virtuous as we possibly can be. Yet the time had come for people to make a decision. God was going to separate the good from the evil as one separates wheat from chaff. As we approach the Third Sunday of Advent, we are encouraged to make some serious decisions concerning how we live, work, play, etc. Like the tax collectors and soldiers who spoke to John the Baptist, we are called to conform our ways to the Good News.

Readings for the Week

December 10th-15th:

Mon.: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tues.: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wed.: Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38
Thurs.: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Fri.: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Sat.: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a-10-13

REFLECTION

St. Paul's letters always offer practical advice, flowing from whatever particular teaching he offers. The second reading contains a series on how to live joyfully in Christ. They can be heard as independent statements. But consider Paul's words as offering a program for "rejoicing in the Lord always." First, he advises, "let your kindness be known to all." This advice reminds us of a bumper sticker: "Commit random acts of kindness." In today's Gospel, John the Baptist's call for repentance offers some concrete forms of living kindly. "If you have two cloaks, share one with someone who has none," he says to the crowds. He then advises tax collectors not to use their office to gouge the people, and he advises soldiers not to bully or blackmail. Paul's second "step" calls us to keep aware that the Lord is near. Our God does not abandon us, even though we have times we might not feel God's presence. Remember the words of the risen Lord: "I will be with you always, even to the end of time" (Matthew 28:20). Paul's third word advises us how to keep aware of Christ by turning to Him whenever anxiety threatens to overwhelm us, and uniting our prayers with His as we make our requests known to the Father. When this is done, steps four and five follow, when peace with "guard your hearts and minds," and out of this peace joy will flow as a gift of the Spirit. Have you asked for the gift of joy from the Holy Spirit?



Bethlehem Gifts

Proceeds benefit schools in the Holy Land

FOR SALE THIS WEEKEND
Saturday, Dec. 8th
Sunday, Dec. 9th
in the Church Hall

Handmade Olive Wood Art from Bethlehem in the Holy Land is available for sale after all Masses. There will be rosaries, crucifixes, and figurines, Last Suppers, and more. Less than 2% of the population in the Holy Land are Christians. Your purchase supports their continued presence in the land of birth of Our Lord. For information please visit www.bethlehemgifts.com or call 815-509-9701.

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.



Wafers available in the Narthex from the Women's Club for a free will offering.

WELCOME

Mike and Melissa Iaciano
 (Child: Michael Iaciano)

WEDDINGS

Please remember in your prayers these couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony:

Melissa Halyko and Kyle Gasser; 12-15

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

Patrick McKernan	Bob Nelson (father to Sue Rosinski)
Robert Roeper	Catherine Pisczor
Dan Keating	Irene Juska
Margaret Walsh	George Meyers
Nicole Emmett	Nancy Heebner

For our deceased:

Walter A. Kienzle
Carl Demma

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 8th (5pm) **Mamie Michels; Ann Fitzgibbons; Josephine Tarantino; Alice McDonald; Delores Hooks**
 Sunday, Dec. 9th

(7:15am) **John and Mary Tonhaiser; Jennifer Stanek**

(8:30am) **Angelo Zambuto; Adeline Smigiel**

(10am) **Diane Kraus; Charlotte Dabrowski; Ed Chianelli;**

Kaylie Nicole Mathis; Jack E. Caveney, Sr.

(11:30am) **John Heebner; Ernest and Laura Lenke;**

Angela McMahon; Don D'Ercole

Mon., Dec. 10th (9am) **Jack Yanahan; Ellen Murphy;**

Hazel Schwaller

Tues., Dec. 11th (9am) **James Buckler; John Tandyk;**

Jim Thornton; Sr. Myra Lambert SSCM

Wed., Dec. 12th (9am) **Cecilia Zmuda; Edward Smith;**

Nicole Emmett; Florence Emmett

Thurs., Dec. 13th (9am) **Anton and Ante Samanic**

Fri., Dec. 14th (9am) **Gertrude and Louis Brien; Lydia Irwin;**

Martin Fay

STEWARDSHIP

COLLECTION FOR 12-2-12: **\$28,155.15**

KIDS COLLECTION: **\$76.02**

Thank you for your generosity.

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 10th-December 14th

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

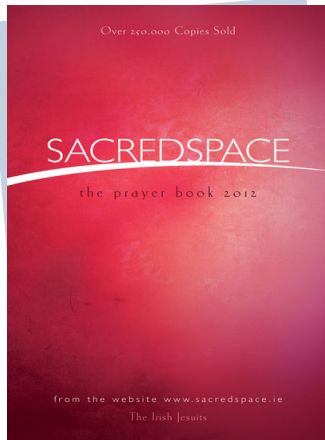
Please join us Monday through Friday in the center aisle of the Church at 8:30AM in the morning. **Prayer Booklets** are supplied and we sit around a beautiful fresh Advent Wreath and light the candles each week as we pray in a monastic style of Left/Right rotation of voices.

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.



When we pray
we are not alone.
We are part
of a
global community.

SACRED SPACE REFLECTION: A SIMPLE REFLECTION ON MARY

THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end."
— *Luke 1:30-33*

MARY MIGHT WELL HAVE FELT AFRAID as she became aware of the presence of God. Neither the Hebrew law, nor the Muslim, nor the Catholic ever smiled on an unmarried mother. Such people always and everywhere are the single most precarious persons in the whole community. They are still massively vulnerable today in many cultures. Their comfort can be that Mary stands with them. As she promises in the *Magnificat*, God raises up the humble.

***Spend a few moments with Mary contemplating
the plan of God that unfolded through her.***

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.**



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” — LUKE 3:3

A Reflection by

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

BLACK ICE IS A WINTER NIGHTMARE for anyone living in cold regions. It's nearly invisible. The pavement can look clear, but one false step and the feet fly out from under us and down we go. When we suspect or are warned about black ice, we tend to walk tentatively, gingerly. We are not secure walking on black ice, and we move very carefully. If we are driving, black ice can cause us to totally lose control without having any chance to prepare ourselves. Yes, black ice is a winter nightmare. It is time to assess how secure we are in our journey toward being “pure and blameless for the day of Christ” (Second Reading). It is a time to “advance, secure in the glory of God” (First Reading). Advent invites us to enter into the mission of John the Baptist. We must hear “the word of God” (Gospel), proclaim it faithfully, and open ourselves more completely to Christ's presence. The expectation and preparation of Advent bring us to look at the path we are traveling on our life journey. What kind of path is that?

John proclaims that we must “prepare the way of the Lord” by repenting. Isaiah and John both describe repentance as a leveling and a straightening out of the uneven and crooked shape of our lives. When the paths of our lives are not straight and smooth, we can at best move only tentatively, as we do on black ice. We



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

cannot be free to enter wholeheartedly into our journey toward God. If our eyes are too closely focused on the rocks and crags of our lives, we cannot see the presence of God beckoning us toward smoother going. Isaiah's image of a straight and smooth way is a metaphoric, descriptive definition of repentance. It is Isaiah's and Advent's way to call us to faithful living in

right relationship with God.

Isaiah and John call us to ask whether our path is taking us closer to God as well as opening up for others the way to God. Smooth paths—those unmarred by false knowledge, misguided perceptions, forgotten values (...DISCERN WHAT IS OF VALUE, Second Reading) are those which help us focus on God and root out anything that keeps us from God. Smooth paths are those that increase our love for God and others, prompting us to bring others along the same smooth and straight path on which we are journeying toward final fulfillment with God.

- *What crooked road can you straighten this Christmas?*

GPS devices have taken the meandering out of our road trips and guaranteed smooth travel toward our destination. During these Advent days, think about “REPENTANCE” being our GPS—our Gospel Path to Salvation.

Redeeming God, may we take up this Christmas the work of your herald John: straightening the crooked roads of our lives, transforming “deserts” barren of love into places of welcome and reconciliation, gathering up the lost and forgotten, proclaiming the coming of your Christ into our homes and hearts.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Durkin Family	12/08	5:00 PM
	12/09	7:15 AM
Roti Family	12/09	8:30 AM
Krusenoski Family	12/09	10:00 AM
Irace Family	12/09	11:30 AM
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Torres/Ward Families	12/15	5:00 PM
	12/16	7:15 AM
Biallas Family	12/16	8:30 AM
Schmidt Family	12/16	10:00 AM
Ucha Family	12/16	11:30 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Branches Teens	12/22	5:00 PM
	12/23	7:15 AM
Men's Club	12/23	8:30 AM
Chiarito Family	12/23	10:00 AM
Biegel Family	12/23	11:30 AM

We are still in need of Advent Candle Bearers. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Claudia Nolan, Director of Liturgy, in the parish office or call 708-403-0101.



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

The Road To Emmaus

By Margie Guadagno
St. Elizabeth Seton Pastoral Associate

Crying Out in the Wilderness

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.

I REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN MY SON, WHO WAS AROUND 20, BEGAN TO 'RAIL AGAINST THE SYSTEM.' What started out as one, maybe two, nights of not coming home, evolved into one, maybe two nights, actually AT home. He resisted every rule that his father and I laid down, every bit of advice that we offered. You would think he would have known that we were only speaking in his best interest. After all, we had been around a lot longer. But, no, he knew what was in his best interest, he loudly informed us. So, after much debate, he moved on and out with some friends.

But guess what? Miracle of miracles. We began to see him more than when he lived at home! At first his little visits were filled with just basic conversation...like, do you have any extra towels? ... do you have any extra pop? ... do you have any extra toilet paper??? Then, they slowly became more involved and he started coming for more substantial advice on his life. I guess he realized that his dad and I were good for more than just things, that we cared for him—always—even when he didn't need the necessities of life!

Thank heavens my husband and I stepped back from the situation enough to remember that, we, too, had made our own bids for independence at just about the same age that my son had. It gave us just enough understanding so that we didn't throw out any obstacles in his path. We allowed him the freedom to raid our pantry because eventually it gave us

the freedom to raid his perspective on what it meant to be an adult.

AS I READ THROUGH THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY, IT MADE ME THINK OF THAT TIME WITH MY SON. Suddenly I saw his little rebellion in a new way. I realize that even though he willingly left our home to go to a place he thought he wanted to be, he was really crying out in the wilderness. He was trying to make a place for himself, to find out who he was away from his dad and I. It's a normal process, but while you're in the midst of it, it can be a painful one. And as I looked at his journey in a new way, I looked at the way my husband and I handled it in a new way. I saw us as the ones trying to level off HIS path so he was able to find his way back, find his way home. But, it was more than that because it not only allowed him to get to us, it also allowed us to get to him, a two way street if you will.

This new perspective really opens up John the Baptist's words for me. When I heard them in the past, I took them personally in terms of making changes in my life so that I could get to God easier. I never even considered that straightening out my life would also make it easier for GOD to get to me. It's pretty jarring to realize that God has been letting me raid his pantry so he can help me learn what it really means to live as an adult Christian. I guess that darned two way street never shuts down, even when you're not 20 anymore.



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

KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

Photo © John Zich



Share

Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd and says unforgettably, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 NRSV). In sharing himself, he

shares the fullness of life with us. Every Mass expresses this divine generosity in the sharing and self-giving of Jesus to us, his people. We can only stand before this gift in utter amazement and gratitude.

As Jesus shares with us in the Mass, we share with one another. His generosity is contagious. We bring our voices, our hopes, and our uplifted hands to share with others in the Mass. We each fulfill and share a ministry at Mass from celebrant, to servers, to readers, to ministers of Communion, to musicians, to ushers, and to the singing and praying assembly. Our sharing continues after the Mass and into the world, when we are told, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."

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

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Be Still... A Call To Centering Prayer
Wednesday, December 12th at 7pm
You are invited to join in an hour of quiet time and learn about Centering Prayer. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Cornerstone building located on the corner of 167th St. and 94th Ave.
Questions? Please call Marge at 708-460-5357.



Parish Vocation News

In today's Gospel we hear, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths."

Are you being called to help God's people to prepare "for the coming of the Son of Man" as a priest, religious or deacon? For information about diocesan priesthood in Archdiocese of Chicago, please contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or bwelter@archchicago at bwelter@archchicago.org 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.

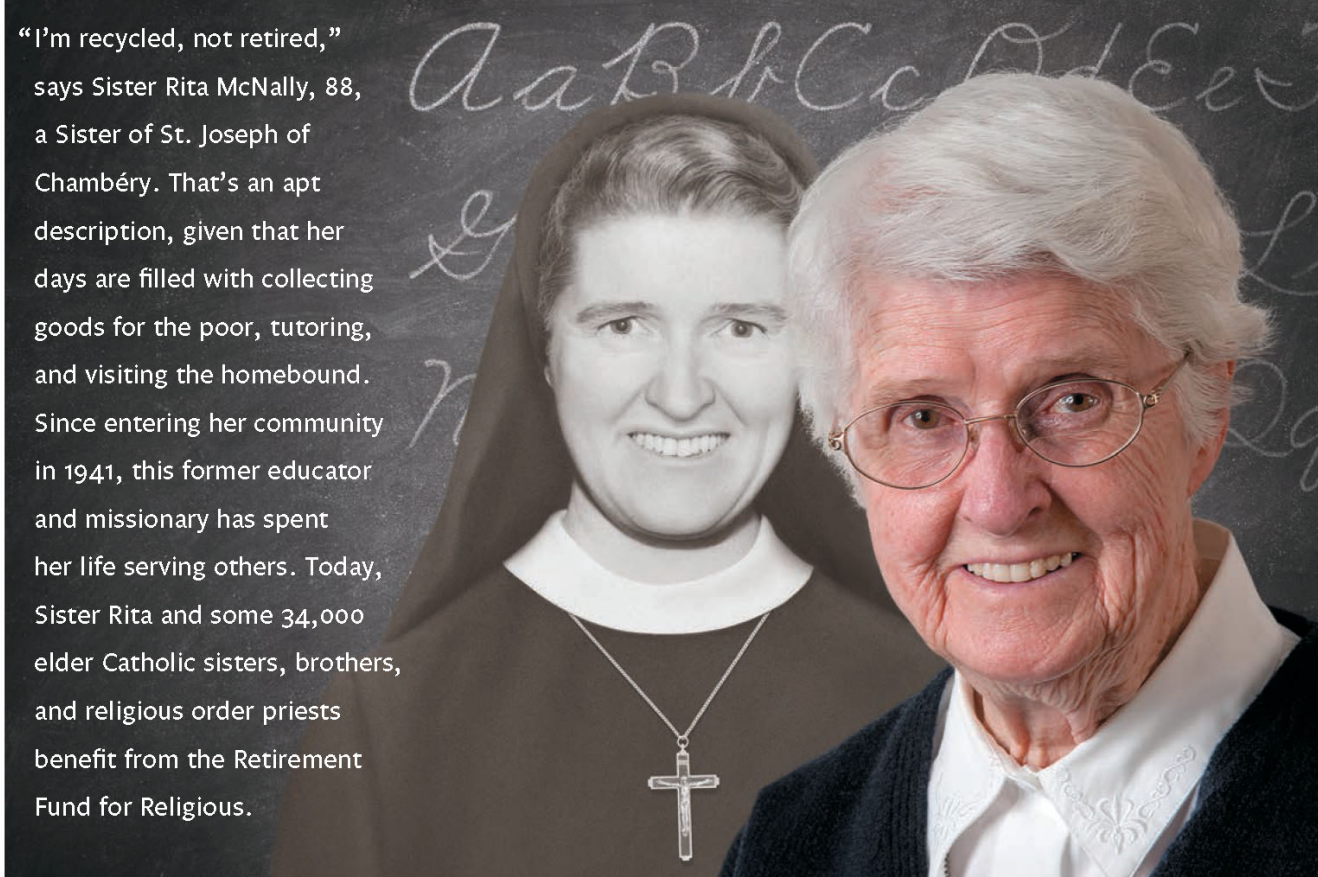
VOCATION CROSS PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

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.**



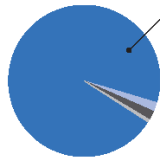
“I’m recycled, not retired,” says Sister Rita McNally, 88, a Sister of St. Joseph of Chambéry. That’s an apt description, given that her days are filled with collecting goods for the poor, tutoring, and visiting the homebound. Since entering her community in 1941, this former educator and missionary has spent her life serving others. Today, Sister Rita and some 34,000 elder Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Retirement Fund for Religious

COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND Share in the Care

Like Sister Rita, thousands of senior women and men religious worked for small stipends. Their sacrifices over many decades now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and elder care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

How Your Donation is Used



- Financial Support for Religious Communities: 95.8%**
- National Appeal Promotion: 1.9%
- Administration 1.9%
- Educational Programs 0.4%

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

www.retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Put RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Please check with your employer about matching gifts.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

E-mail address _____

(Arch)diocese _____

National Religious Retirement Office
 3211 Fourth Street NE
 Washington DC 20017-1194
 Telephone (202) 541-3215
 Fax (202) 541-3053



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St. Elizabeth Seton Social Action Ministry

Thank you from our sharing parish, St. Procopius Church

St. Procopius/Holy Trinity Croatian

1641 S. Allport Street
Chicago, IL 60608
www.stprocopius.com
312-226-7887

Dear Fr. Homa and Seton Parishioners,

Greetings from St. Procopius—Holy Trinity Croatian!
I write to thank you all for your generosity and kindness during this Thanksgiving season. Your gifts of turkeys and gift cards helped us to distribute over 260 Thanksgiving baskets to those in need for our parish and neighborhood.

We are very grateful that we can provide these families with food during the holiday season, and we know that we cannot do this without your very generous assistance.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers, and for all that you do for us here at St. Procopius!

Sincerely,



Rev. Sean O'Sullivan, SJ
Pastor

Respond Now Needs Toys For Christmas

Help the needy for Christmas with a donation of toys. 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. 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.

Come Christmas Carol With Us!

On Thursday, Dec. 13th, the St. Elizabeth Social Action Ministry will be singing Christmas music at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno. More smiles and happy faces are needed to cheer the lonely war heroes. Caravan leaves at 8:30am. Join us for lunch at Noon (on your own) at a local restaurant in Manteno. Call 708-614-6475 for details.

**Do you recognize
this box?**



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

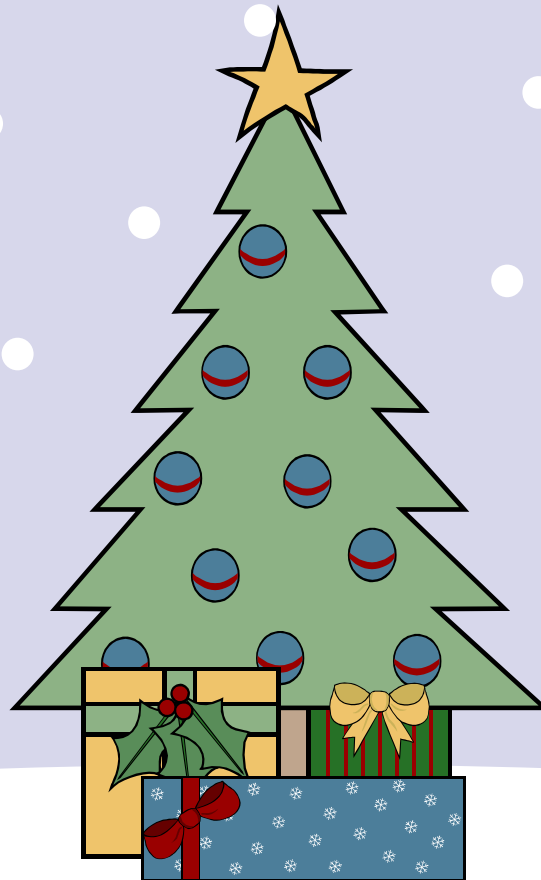
*You are invited to give a monetary gift or
Jewel food certificates
which will go toward providing
a better Christmas for families
in our community.*

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**

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.

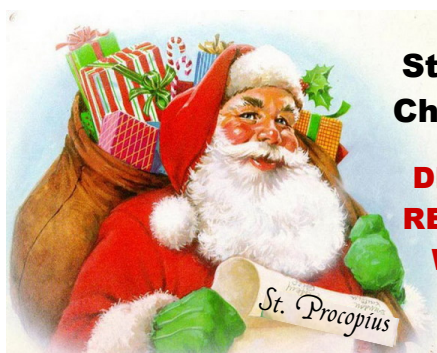
**The collection will continue until Sunday, December 16th,
the Third Sunday of Advent.**

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. Procopius Christmas Gifts

DEADLINE TO RETURN GIFTS: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12TH

If you selected a name for the St. Procopius gift drive please remember

- 1) Buy a **NEW GIFT**. (No used clothing or toys).
- 2) **Wrap the gift**.
- 3) **FIRMLY ATTACH** gift tag provided to you onto the gift. In order to document that the gift was dropped off in the parish office, **THE TAG MUST BE ATTACHED**.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, Jewel gift certificates are accepted. Please bring gift certificates to the parish office anytime before Dec. 12th.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

to sort/load gifts on Saturday, Dec. 15th from 9am-Noon in the Church Narthex. Any hours you can assist are appreciated. Please call Doug Benker at 708-429-4518.

Shop at Santa Land Craft/Vendor Fair

Adults and children are invited to *Shopping at Santa Land*. On Saturday, Dec. 15th. Event includes crafters and vendors from 10am-3pm; "Snack Bar" (available from 12:30-2:30pm). Crafters/vendors are welcome to participate! Please call Nancy Johnson at 708-403-6500. Alden Estates of Orland Park, 16450 S. 97th Ave., Orland Park.

St. Julie Church Holiday Concert

Let the beautiful sounds of Christmas move you as we prepare for the true celebration of Christmas, Christ's birth. St. Julie Holiday Concert, Friday, Dec. 14th at 7pm. 7399 W. 159th St., Tinley Park. Presenting our three Parish Choirs. Refreshments to follow.

Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Band

First Annual Bandcake Breakfast

On Sunday, Dec. 9th, the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Band will host its Bandcake Breakfast from 8am-1pm in the Brother Rice cafeteria, 10001 Pulaski, Chicago. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children ages 5-12. Free for children 4-under. Santa Claus will be on hand for picture opportunities (small fee).

Mount Assisi Academy Open House

Mount Assisi will host an Open House TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 9th from 1-3pm at 13860 Main St., Lemont. Experience Mount Assisi Academy's safe, quiet, and picturesque 60 acre campus. In their nurturing environment, Mount Assisi Academy girls achieve their fullest potential academically, spiritually, and in co-curricular activities. For information visit mtassisi.org or call 630-257-7844.



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 8th 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 or email Cynthia Labriola Devlin cdevlin@cardinaljbschool.com or call 708-403-6525 x127



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.



Mom & Tot Storyhour at CJB School

Join us for our Winter Sessions
Fridays,

Dec. 14 • Jan. 18 • Feb. 22

Sessions from 10:30-11:30am. Open to 2 and 3-year olds. Parent /guardian must remain with child. Hear a story, make a

fun craft, and participate in learning activities while you and your child meet new friends! Mom & Tot Storyhour is FREE, but you must reserve a spot. Call 708-403-6525 x150.

Hey Kids! Santa will is here **THIS** Sunday
to share a donut and photo with you!

Sunday, December 9th

After the 8:30am, 10am,
and 11:30am Masses in
the Downstairs Church Hall



Sponsored
by the
St. Elizabeth
Seton
Men's Club



Men's Club News

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fourth Meeting of the 2012-2013 Year!

- **Men's Club General Meeting**
Wednesday, Dec. 12th
Doors open at 7pm
Meeting begins at 7:30pm



December Agenda:

- Recap of Donuts with Santa
- Request for volunteers for Advent Candle Procession and Offertory
- Annual Wolves Game April 13th \$15 person
- Annual Men's Club Toy Drive
Collection of toys for Together We Cope
\$10 unwrapped toy (boy or girl)
- Annual Ham Raffle
Five hams to be donated to the Social Action Ministry to be served at the Shepherd Table Day Break Soup Kitchen in Joliet.

As always, new/returning members are encouraged to attend.

Please Note

Donuts with Santa TODAY! Dec. 9th, sponsored by Men's Club after Masses (starting with 8:30am).

Men's Club Holiday Outreach



St. Elizabeth Seton Men's Club ambassador Ron Dickover delivers donated turkeys from our Men's Club members to Together We Cope, a local outreach organization located in Tinley Park.

Branches

SETON YOUTH PROGRAM

■ **SUNDAY, DEC. 9TH**

SOUL SURVIVOR SUNDAY

6:30-8:30PM IN THE CORNERSTONE

Bring a gently used or unused item from home for a gift exchange. It should be something others might want to own, and be sure it is wrapped so others don't know what it is. Also as part of this Soul Survivor event, please bring two addresses, one for your school or former school (grade school or even pre-school) and one for a good friend you don't see every day.

■ **SUNDAY, DEC. 16TH**

TEEN MASS AND OPEN GYM

5:30-8:30PM IN THE CORNERSTONE

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

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, DEC. 21ST

DOWNTOWN CHICAGO CHRISTMAS TRIP



Visit Branches on Facebook for updates/added events!



HOW ABOUT A BAKER'S SQUARE PIE?

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

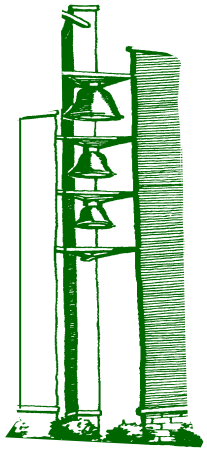
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

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.

MARKET DAY PICKUP WEDNESDAY

Pickup is Wednesday, Dec. 12th from 5:30-6:30pm in the Seton Church Hall. Pay by credit card online or pay with cash/check at the sale. Questions? Please contact Jen Krueger at 708-873-1387.



Seniors of Seton

UPCOMING EVENT

DEC. 11TH

ST. THERESE'S SHRINE

PLEASE REMEMBER...

Meet in the Shrine parking lot at 9:45am for 10:00am Mass.

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

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Only \$20

Chicago South Suburban Edition
www.goldenopportunities.com

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

ST. LUCY

d. 304

EVERY LITTLE GIRL NAMED LUCY MUST BITE HER TONGUE IN DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN SHE FIRST TRIES TO FIND OUT WHAT THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT HER PATRON SAINT. The older books will have a lengthy paragraph detailing a small number of traditions. Newer books will have a lengthy paragraph showing that there is little basis in history for these traditions. The single fact survives that a disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian and she was executed in Syracuse (Sicily) in the year 304. But it is also true that her name is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, geographical places are named after her, a popular song has her name as its title and down through the centuries many thousands of little girls have been proud of the name *Lucy*.

One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today's pleasure-at-all-costs world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life. Her friends must have wondered aloud about this hero of Lucy's, an obscure itinerant preacher in a far-off captive nation that had been destroyed more than 200 years before. Once a carpenter, he had been crucified by the Roman soldiers after his own people turned him over to the Roman authorities. Lucy believed with her whole soul that this man had risen from the dead. Heaven had put a stamp on all he said and did. To give witness to her faith she had made a vow of virginity.

What a hubbub this caused among her pagan friends! The kindlier ones just thought her a little strange. To be pure before marriage was an ancient Roman ideal, rarely found but not to be condemned. To exclude marriage altogether, however, was too much. She must have something sinister to hide, the tongues wagged.

Lucy knew of the heroism of earlier virgin martyrs. She remained faithful to their example and to the example of the carpenter, whom she knew to be the Son of God. She is the patroness of eyesight.

COMMENT:

If you are a little girl named Lucy, you need not bite your tongue in disappointment. Your patron is a genuine, authentic heroine, first class, an abiding inspiration for you and for all Christians. The moral courage of the young Sicilian martyr shines forth as a guiding light, just as bright for today's youth as it was in A.D. 304.

12/15 & 12/16	5:00PM	7:15AM	8:30AM	10:00AM	11:30AM
GREETERS Attention All Ministers! Ministers schedules available at: www.steseton.com 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
LECTORS	T. Wojcik J. Bessette	K. McSwain	E. Espina W. Dendler	M. Quinn P. DeWilkins	A. Miller G. Rekar
ALTAR SERVERS	M. Krause H. Galvin M. Pedzimaz	H. Gacek B. Kaslewicz M. Bialka	TJ Quinlan E. Juds P. Maiolo	J. Jaeger J. Jaeger R. Gregg	B. Ryan J. Ucha A. Cachey
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	L. Jeffrey S. Abbatemarco M. Abbatemarco D. Pacholski J. Harris J. Paluch M. Paluch J. Skorzewski A. Sharp B. Raymond B. DeJonge J. Connelly	J. Janiak C. Nolan A. Weishaar D. Nykiel D. Houha J. Kenney	J. Austin L. Austin M. Bekta T. Cohoon T. Leeson J. Mantyck K. Mantyck S. Weishaar P. Skowronek C. Kirk C. Bannon B. Knight	R. Grill R. Laud S. Michalek L. Gent M. Gabrione P. Hartz J. Krusenoski J. Frese K. Frese F. Scellato C. Davis M. Schmidt J. Kokotan-Krauss	M. Miller T. Scorzo M. O'Connor D. Daley J. Mitchel L. Koning M. Merino M. Morajda T. Wolski B. McMahan

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