

January 2, 2022

# *Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish*

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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

### PASTOR:

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Diermeier  
[dierjoe@aol.com](mailto:dierjoe@aol.com)

### PARISH DEACONS:

Deacon Bryan Hilts  
Deacon John Bourke  
Deacon Gordy Ruplinger

### BULLETIN EMAIL:

[bulletin@stmarysmarathon.org](mailto:bulletin@stmarysmarathon.org)

### WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday—4:00 PM  
Sunday—8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

### Pax Christi Adoration Chapel Hours:

Sundays—11:00 AM until 11:00 PM  
Wednesdays—7:00 AM until 11:00 PM

### PHONE:

Rectory	715 443 2045
School	715 443 3430
Religious Ed.	715 443 2433



We would like to welcome **Chris Maier** who has recently joined the parish.

**The Knights of Columbus** will hold their annual free throw contest at St. Mary's school gym on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 2:00pm. Girls and boys ages 9-14 are eligible to participate. There are no fees for entering; all equipment will be provided. Sign up and give it your best shot. For further info please call 715-443-3676.

**Help those Devastated by the Recent Tornadoes in Several States** Assist families and communities affected by the recent devastating tornadoes in Kentucky and at least 5 other states. Visit Catholic Charities' website – [CCLSE.org](http://CCLSE.org) – click on "Donate Today," and enter "tornado relief" and your gift amount in the "general donations" box.

**Stand Strong For The Unborn** If you would like to participate in the **Pro-Life Signature Ad** which will appear in *City Pages* on January 20, 2022, we will have signature sheets at church on the weekend of January 8 and 9 at all the Masses. This is an opportunity for you to speak out for the unborn and show your support that all human life is precious and should be protected.



Join our Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C., – With two Special Guests! There has never been a more important time to join the March for Life in our nation's capitol, with the Dobbs case being heard by the Supreme Court and the possibility of Roe v. Wade being overturned. Plus, our pilgrims will be addressed by two amazing speakers, before and after the March: Terry Beatley, Founder of Hosea Initiative, and Valentyna Pavsyukova, Founder of Chalice of Mercy. For the registration letter, tentative schedule, and details, visit [diolc.org/M4L](http://diolc.org/M4L).

### FROM THE PASTOR

1. As many of you know, I have been ill for a number of days. I have appreciated the Christmas cards and gifts. Usually I try to respond with a personal word of thanks but this year, please accept my thanks through the bulletin.
2. For the weeks of December our parish contributions have exceeded our weekly expenses. Thank you – your generosity to St. Mary's Parish is overwhelming.
3. You know I very much dislike speaking about money from the pulpit. It has always bothered me when I would visit another parish and the topic would revolve around the need for money. I made a promise to myself that I would try to avoid that practice. Nevertheless, I do need to write about a situation.

Each year we have the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Our target goal is slightly above \$90,000. The Diocesan Appeal covers programs like the weekly televised Catholic Masses that appear on television stations in a number of cities throughout the Diocese. Some of the appeal money goes to Catholic Charities, some for the support of men in the deacon formation program, some for seminarian formation – and this year we have a seminarian, praise God! Anyway, the Diocesan Annual Appeal serves a variety of needs and offers assistance to many throughout our diocese. The Diocesan Annual Appeal is one way that connects us to the greater Diocese to which we belong. This is a good thing in many respects.

But we have a concern. In previous years we had a parishioner who wished to remain anonymous but who graciously assisted us and helped with any deficit. However, our dear donor has gone to the Lord.

Therefore, I am asking that as the Appeal continues, if you can find it in your heart to offer a little more as a gift to the Appeal, it will be most appreciated. When all is said and done, whatever we do not raise in the Appeal quota will be taken from the parish savings. As much as possible, I'd like to avoid dipping into our savings.

Thank you for giving this some additional thought and prayerful concern. God bless you all as we enter into the new year.

*Thank You!* The Marathon Circle of Joy would like to thank everyone that helped out this year by choosing a name from the Giving Tree located at Peoples State Bank and purchasing gifts for the less fortunate families. You have helped make Family Christmas for them so much better.

*With much gratitude,  
Anita Krautkramer & Luanne Wiesman,  
Giving Tree Coordinators.*

## Parish Stewardship for December 12, 2021

Average amount needed in weekly  
stewardship envelopes..... \$13,300.00

Adults Env. & Online .....	\$ 15,338.44
Holy Day .....	\$ 1,430.75
Students .....	\$ 15.65
Plate .....	\$ 1,000.82
Automatic Direct Donation avg .....	<u>\$1,649.25</u>
<i>Total for the week.....</i>	<i>\$ 19,484.91</i>

## Parish Stewardship for December 19, 2021

Average amount needed in weekly  
stewardship envelopes..... \$13,300.00

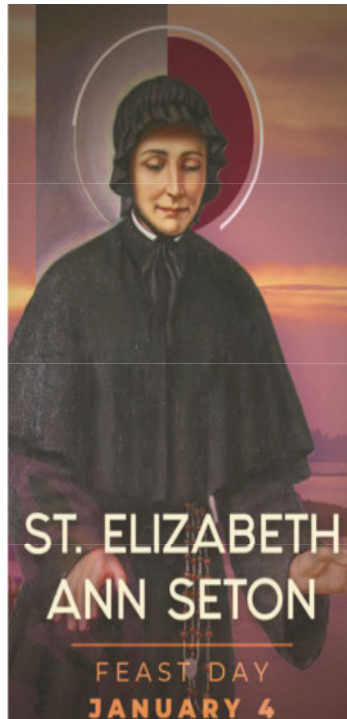
Adults Env. & Online .....	\$ 19,559.00
Students .....	\$ 33.92
Plate .....	\$ 884.64
Automatic Direct Donation avg .....	<u>\$1,649.25</u>
<i>Total for the week.....</i>	<i>\$ 22,126.81</i>
Retired Fund Religious.....	\$ 1,065.00

## Week at a Glance

**Wed., Jan., 5** ..... GSRE 5:45pm  
**Wed., Jan., 5** ..... HSRE Gr 10 6:30pm  
**Wed., Jan., 5** .... Communal Rosary 7:00pm

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
<b>Monday:</b>	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



### SAINT OF THE WEEK

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

## Our Mission and Identity

Our parish, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grows only in Christ and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Flowing from these gifts, we dedicate ourselves to live and proclaim the Gospel message of Christ's love. To live Christ's love may at times be difficult. Nevertheless, it is our goal.

We are called to reach out to our parish family, to the needs of the local community, the diocesan Church, the universal Church, and to the global community. We do this by being attentive to the voice of God found in the Sacred Scriptures, in the Sacred Tradition of our Catholic faith, and through an informed conscience which we try to cultivate.

In light of our baptism, we try to be Christ centered in every aspect of our faith life.

## Contact Information

Jennifer Switlick .....Administrative Assistant  
 ..... and Bulletin Editor  
 Joseph Koch ..... School Principal  
 David Salber ..... Plant Manager  
 Jim Schumacher ..... Religious Ed. Coordinator  
 Steve Kreager.. Interim Religious Ed. Coordinator  
 Dane Kirk ..... Youth Minister  
 Toni Zemke RCIA Coordinator  
 Suzie Lang ..... School Secretary  
 Karen Fischer ..... School Hot Lunch Manager



## Pax Christi Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel can ONLY be described as a wonderful gift. It is the gift of being close to the presence of the Lord Jesus as we contemplate His love for us.

During the Holy Mass, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. During times of Adoration when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, we see the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine which have truly become the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. In one sense, this is a miracle in our midst – that Jesus would come to us in this way. But often that is the way of the Lord – a silent and unobtrusive way. He comes to us in silence, remains within us and invites us to carry Him into the world around us. None of us can ever fully understand how this occurs, but we do know why it occurs. It happens because God loves us and loves this world so deeply. He wants to remain with us and we with Him.

If you are willing to give the Lord even a bit of your time by adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament, you will find these words to take on new meaning:

*Come in faith, Remain in hope, go out in love.*

**The effects of adoration:** Here is a comment from one of our parishioners who has a weekly hour of adoration. “In the past, I never had a personal relationship with Jesus. I knew of him, I knew about him, but I didn’t know him. I didn’t really love Jesus because you can’t love someone you don’t know. The first time I went to adoration, I was bored out of my mind and spent most of the time looking at my watch. During my second visit, I didn’t pray at all. The third time, however, I was at a low point. Adoration has improved every aspect of my life. I’m no longer in a state of constant worry about situations I have no control over. I don’t know what the future holds, but I find great comfort in knowing the One who does.”

**\*Currently the Adoration Chapel is open on Sundays and Wednesdays.**

# SACRAMENTS and SPIRITUAL LIFE

## Weekend Mass

Saturday at 4:00PM

Sunday at 8:00AM and 10:00AM

## Weekdays

Holy Mass is offered most days. A Communion Service is scheduled at 8:00AM on weekdays when the Mass is not celebrated.

## Baptism

Preparation classes will be held each month in the church meeting room. Pre-registration is required by calling the parish office.

## Reconciliation

Anytime by request.

## Marriage

Couples desiring marriage should contact the pastor at least six months prior to the anticipated date of the wedding.

## Anointing of the Sick


Anytime by request.

- Regular visits are made to the hospital. Families may notify the parish office when a parishioner is hospitalized.

- If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please call the Religious Education Office.

- If you are interested in the religious life, the diaconate, the priesthood or lay ministry, please contact the pastor for further information.

- All adults (anyone beyond high school age) living within the parish and regularly participating in the liturgy may register as parishioners. To register, please contact the pastor.

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Thanks, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I love being here to help the community where people are making a difference every day. Thank you for all you do.

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