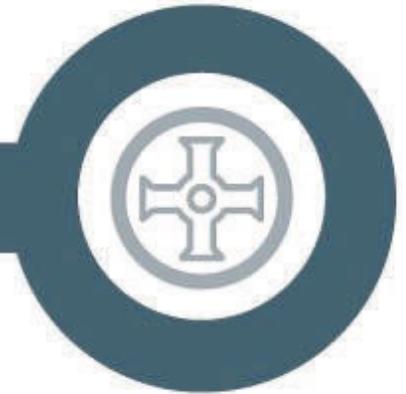


Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 2021

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

515 North Main St. • Holmen, WI 54636-9387  
608-526-4424 • office@seasholmen.org • www.seasholmen.org



## THE BANE AND BLESSED

The priest had been invited to lead a day of retreat for college students. He asked the students to write down the worst six words they had ever heard. The words would not be shared with anyone. He wanted them to delve into their hurt places and to recognize how wounds can stay with us and words can be so harmful. The retreatants became silent as they thought and wrote. Though it wasn't intended that anyone would offer, one young man in the front row asked, "You want to hear mine?" He said, "Mine are these: *Dad, you loved me too much.*" The priest said the student spoke so quietly that he didn't think anyone else heard. But he still sees the young man's face, hears his voice, and remembers his words.

Our God loves us too much. What do we do with love that is so total, so pure, so unwavering? What do we do with God's love that tells us that we don't have to change, we don't have to get better, we don't even have to get out of sin for him to love us? What do we do when we realize that there is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we can do to make God love us less?

We can turn away from God's love, and we do so. We can feel that we are not worthy of such love, and truly that is the case. We can think God loves others that way but not me. And thus deny that God is love or think I can make God stop being God.

Or we can recognize that indeed our God does love us too much. A Child has been born for us. And through his love we are to be born in him.

The Lord be with you.  
Father John Parr



**Christmas Giving Options-** If you don't receive monthly giving envelopes which have an extra envelope for Christmas, we have another option to give. Visit our website at [seasholmen.org](http://seasholmen.org) and click the ONLINE GIVING button. Through this, you can give regularly, or to other funds like **Christmas** and **Easter**. You can use your savings/checking/credit or debit. If you have any questions regarding the set up, please contact Sandy in the parish office.

Due to Covid, we continue to have the collection basket in

**Online Giving**

the gathering place after each Mass but encourage you to give online if you are able. Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

### **Thank You!**

Our deepest gratitude goes out to so many of you for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure in support of our Christmas Caring and Sharing. Our Caring and Sharing event was very successful. We



provided generous gifts, clothes, and food to over 100 families, bringing them a great deal of Christmas joy. Special thanks to:

- the many people who donated the clothes, bedding, and other items that were gifted to the families
- the parishioners who “adopted” the children and provided toys, pajamas, hats, gloves, socks, and other goodies
- Mary Clark and all her elves who cleaned, sorted, organized, and labeled all the donated items
- all who took and filled a Christmas food box... and Judy Jakes who gathered, collected, and organized the entire food box project
- the elves who transported all the items from the rectory to the church on Saturday and those who set everything up on Sunday
- the shopping elves who fulfilled the wish lists of our guests throughout the week
- Finally, the working elves who enthusiastically shared all with our guests on Friday

It took MANY hands and MANY generous hearts... but because of all of you, many Christmas dreams became realities. May God bless you and keep you and may your Christmas be blessed also. Thank you.

**Religious give thanks.** “Thank you’ hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us,” says a Catholic sister regarding the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation.

Envelopes were in your December monthly packet or you can still donate by placing in a plain envelope marked for the **Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**. Please return donation to the parish by **Dec. 31**. Thank you.



Expecting parents-

Preparing for Baptism is an opportunity for you to enrich, deepen, and strengthen your Catholic faith – the faith you are asking to have your child brought into at the celebration of their baptism.

Please call Carol at the parish office to schedule an appointment for Baptism prep. At this time, Baptism preparation is being completed privately, and each child is baptized individually. Families can choose to have the Baptism during Mass or after the 5:00 pm or the 10:15 am Mass. We look forward to welcoming your new little one into our parish family.



Are you recently engaged? Is there a wedding in your future? If so, prayerful congratulations on your engagement!

What an exciting time for you as you prepare to spend the rest of your lives together! For more information regarding marriage preparation, please contact Carol Reider at 526-4424 or at [carol@seasholmen.org](mailto:carol@seasholmen.org).

Support the Beautiful Work of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides warm shelter and clothing to homeless people, gives material assistance to those in need, helps families struggling to provide Christmas gifts for their children, assists birth-moms in crisis and parents wishing to adopt, and does so much more. Please consider supporting this great work, whether you can help financially, through volunteering, through your prayers or all three. To learn more, visit [cclse.org](http://cclse.org) and click on “Get Involved.”

**Attention Registered Members-** To update your personal info that we have on file such as, phone numbers, emails, addresses, etc., please log in to [MyOwnChurch](http://MyOwnChurch) through the link on our website at [seasholmen.org](http://seasholmen.org). Here you can access your contribution statements as well. Any questions, please contact Sandy in the parish office. Thank you.

Typology is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. In 2 Samuel 6: In the time of King David the Ark of the Covenant had been in the house of Obed-Edom for 3 months and his household had been blessed because of the Ark's presence. King David then took it into Jerusalem with great celebration and praise, and he was leaping and dancing before the Ark. The Ark contained the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod and a pot of manna all sacred things from God.

Today's Gospel Luke 1:39-56 speaks of Mary travelling to the hill country to stay for 3 months with Elizabeth and how the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt with joy because of Jesus in Mary's womb. The typology of these verses foreshadow Mary as the new Ark of the Covenant.



### Important Faith Formation Dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 22 - No Faith Formation  
Wednesday, Dec. 29- No Faith Formation  
Wednesday, Jan. 5 - Catechist Meeting  
6:30 pm in church



### 2022/2023 Aquinas Catholic School Enrollment period begins soon!

On Monday, January 17, 2022, enrollment for the 2022-23 Aquinas Catholic Schools school year begins! If you are

interested in exploring your options when it comes to education, we would be happy to show you what Aquinas has to offer. Current Aquinas families can also begin the re-enrollment process at that time.

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.

Please join us for our upcoming open house dates at Aquinas High School & Middle School:

**AHS Open House: Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6pm**

**AMS Open House: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6pm**

Follow @AquinasCatholicSchools on Facebook to stay up-to-date on everything Aquinas.



**ATTENTION ALL GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 9 THROUGH 14:** The annual Knights of Columbus **Free Throw Contest** will be held Wednesday, **December 22nd** at the Holmen Boys and Girls

Club. Registration begins at 6:00pm with free throw shooting to begin around 6:30pm. You do not need to pre-register to shoot in the contest. Come and join the fun on December 22nd!!



If you're an avid outdoor enthusiast, hunter or simply enjoy a tasty meal of wild game, we have a very special event for you. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**HUBERTERS** was formed in 2015

in an effort to raise money for St. Elizabeth's Parish and surrounding community through their Sportsmen Night and Wild Game Feed event held annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February. Along with the event, they have raffles with prizes for the outdoor activities. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Pat Brueggen in the parish office at 608-526-4424.

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support of our parish. Just a reminder as we draw near to the end of the calendar year: the last collection of 2021 will be the weekend of December 25/26.

Contributions are to be applied in the year received so if contributions are mailed, the envelope must be post-marked before the end of the year. Thank you so much for your financial support which is vital to the operation of our parish. God bless you and your loved ones.



Thank you to all those who have turned in your pledge cards for the Diocesan Appeal so far. If you have not turned yours in yet, please keep in mind, you can pledge an amount and pay later. No amount is too small. Prayers are welcome also. We have reached 51% of our target at the time of publication. Extra pledge cards are in the parish office or visit [diolc.org/appeal](http://diolc.org/appeal). Thank you again!



Welcome to all our guests who have joined us this weekend. From our parish family to you, thank you for being with us.

Interested in becoming a member at St. Elizabeth's? We would love to have you join us. Just stop in to the parish office to fill out a registration form and receive a welcome packet with parish information. We can't wait to meet you. It's that easy.

The registration form can also be found on the website at [seasholmen.org](http://seasholmen.org) along with other important information about St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Check out our Facebook page to keep up-to-date on parish events.

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, December 19</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>
8:00 am Mass †	<i>El Bloudeck</i>
10:15 am Mass	<i>People of SEAS</i>
<b>Monday, December 20</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass	<i>Special Intention of Carol Tanke</i>
<b>Tuesday, December 21</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass	<i>Special Intention for Brian Clements</i>
6:30 pm	Advent Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, December 22</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	<i>Margaret Burns</i>
<b>Thursday, December 23</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass	<i>Special Intention for Harold and Joan and family</i>
6:30 pm	Sacrament of Penance
<b>Friday, December 24</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
<b>Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord</b>	
Parish Office Closed	
4:00 pm Mass †	<i>Sharon Martin</i>
6:00 pm Mass †	<i>Lynn Schultz and Lyle Nelson Family</i>
<b>Saturday, December 25</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>
8:00 am Mass †	<i>Andrea Jessesky</i>
10:15 am Mass	<i>People of SEAS</i>
<b>Sunday, December 26</b>	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>
8:00 am Mass †	<i>Sandy Beranek</i>
10:15 am Mass	<i>People of SEAS</i>

### We welcome

#### Kennedy Ann Elam,

daughter of Travis and Briana Elam, to our faith community in the celebration of Baptism.

It is now our privilege to help this child grow in faith. We have a great gift of faith to share.



**Calling children and young people of all ages...** We invite the children and young people of the parish to participate in the

Offertory Procession by bringing in food from home to donate to the food pantry or by taking one of the food items from the basket in the back of church. Simply meet in the back of the church when the Offertory song begins. Parents are welcome to accompany their children. Thank you for living out Jesus' call to feed the hungry!

## PARISH INFORMATION

### PARISH RECTORY & OFFICE

Phone/526-4424 Fax/526-3177 Email: office@seasholmen.org  
STAFF

**Pastor,** Father John Parr.....pastor@seasholmen.org  
**Pastoral Minister,** Carol Reider.....carol@seasholmen.org  
**C.R.E. (3 yrs-gr. 5),** Mary Luebke.....reled@seasholmen.org  
**D.R.E. (gr. 6-12),** Patrick Brueggen.....youth@seasholmen.org  
**Director of Music,** Beth Lakmann.....music@seasholmen.org  
**Secretary,** Sandy Jerue.....office@seasholmen.org  
Pastor Emeritus, Msgr. Delbert J. Malin

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Weekend:** Sat. 5:00 pm and Sun. 8:00 & 10:15 am

**Weekday:** 8:30am

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8am-4pm, Fri. 8am - noon

**Gluten Free Hosts:** St. Elizabeth's has gluten free hosts available. Please contact Fr. Parr, and he will make the necessary arrangements.

### SACRAMENTS

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:00 pm or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Baptism involves membership in the church. Parents are to attend a preparation session.

**Marriage:** Arrangements for a wedding date are to be made at least six months before the anticipated date.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Individual celebrations upon request. Please call the office when family members are hospitalized.

**Confirmation:** Two year preparation program in grades 9 and 10.

### PASTORAL VISITATION

Anyone who desires a personal home visit is invited to call the parish office.

### CATECHUMENATE

Anyone wishing to become a full member of the Church is invited to visit the parish office.



**We will be starting fresh with the prayer list Jan. 1. If you so desire to have the name you have submitted to remain on this list, please call the office by Dec. 20th. Thank you and God Bless you.**



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Lorraine Atkinson  
Renee Borkowski  
Rod and Linda Halvorson  
Sherry Hanson  
Julie Malin  
Ken Proctor

Cindy Ritteman  
Bailey Rohrer  
Aubrey Scott  
Diane Scholze  
Phyllis Thaldorf  
Addison Quinn Usitalo

Please remember, the sick, hospitalized, military members, homebound and anyone needing of our prayers. May they experience the healing power of God. When requesting that an individual be added to our prayer list, you must have the consent of the individual or their family for their name to be published. Contact the parish office to add and to remove requests. Thank you.



Weekend Breakfast 7am-11am  
Lunch Menu starting at 11am  
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**Christmas Mass Times**  
**Vigil of Christmas**  
**Friday, December 24**  
**4:00 pm & 6:00 pm**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Saturday, December 25**  
**8:00 am & 10:15 am**

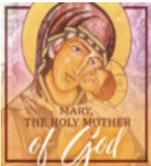
(There will be no 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, Dec. 25)

**No reservations are being taken for Christmas Masses.**

\*We ask that everyone in your party arrive 15 minutes before the start of Mass as we will fill all available seats at that time.

Masks are strongly recommended. Please bring your own as we have limited available.

**The Parish Office will be closed Fri., Dec. 24, Mon., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 31**



**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
**Mass Time**  
**Saturday, January 1, 2022 at 9:00am**  
**(Not A Holy Day of Obligation in 2022)**

**In Memory of Sister Bridget Donaldson OSB**

For thirty-seven years Sister Bridget served our parish and touched the Gospel to the lives of many people in our community and beyond. We miss her dearly.

Through your generous donations so far, we were able to commission the sculptor Timothy Schmalz of Canada to create *The Last Supper* as a lasting memorial. As can be seen in the accompanying photo the sculpture depicts our Lord at table giving himself to us in the Breaking of Bread (Eucharist). The twelve empty seats invite people to sit at Christ's table to be fed with his body and blood and to be his disciples in the world today.

The sculpture costs about \$27,000. The table, stools, installation and landscaping will bring the total cost to about \$60,000. He estimates about one year for the work to be completed.



If you wish to donate, you can do so by making a **check out to SEAS** and in the memo please include *Sr. Bridget Memorial* or you can donate online using checking/savings/credit or debit on our parish website at: [seasholmen.org](http://seasholmen.org).

**PCCW- Parish Council of Catholic Women Needs You!**

We are **in need of a President** for our PCCW beginning January 1st. Kathy Severson is stepping down from the position. We are truly grateful for her many years of service. If you are interested in lending your time and talents to this group, please contact the parish office.

The position will include running the meetings held a few times a year, organizing committees for the annual Rummage Sale and Christmas bazaar, along with any other fundraisers.



Did you know?

- This group of women includes all the parish women members of St. Elizabeth's age 18 and older
  - No dues to belong
  - They host fundraising events, such as the Rummage Sale, Christmas Bazaar, and organize the Baccalaureate Brunch.
- Any new ideas and fundraisers are welcome. Please consider a role in this important parish council.

**Attention Parishioners:**

You may have noticed we are back to using missalettes. We ask that you do not take these home as they are an expense to the parish and we have only enough for our Masses.

If you would like to purchase one for yourself, they are available at OCP.org. Search for the Breaking Bread 2022 w/Daily Readings to have the exact copy. Thank you for your understanding.



Please celebrate the Lord's mercy in the **Sacrament of Penance** during these days of Advent. **Thursday 23rd** at 6:30pm or please feel free to contact Father Parr if you wish to schedule a time more convenient for you.

**La Crosse's Rotary Lights**

Help assist Rotary Lights in its mission of collecting non-perishable food items to help feed the hungry in the greater La Crosse area. The SEAS Holmen Food Pantry is the recipient of the donated food items on the following evenings:

- Sat., Dec. 18**
- Fri., Dec. 24**
- Thurs., Dec. 30**

