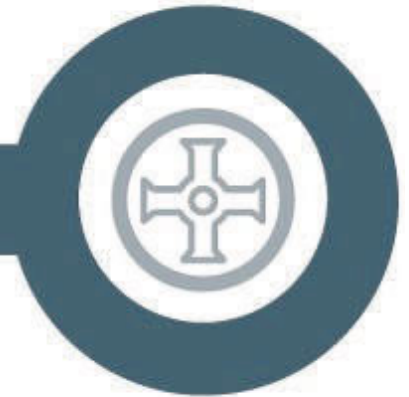


Epiphany of the Lord  
January 2, 2022

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



I remember as a child the excitement felt when the Christmas tree arrived. Most years it was a tight fit through the front door. The smell of pine filled the room. Then the work began. Chairs and a table had to be moved or removed. Even as a child I recognized that when Christmas comes, things have to change. In a couple weeks the tree will be gone. But Christ intends to stay.

The Magi discovered that as well. Matthew tells us “they departed for their country by another way” (2:12). When you see Christ you cannot pretend you did not see him. When you hear him say, “Come follow me” you cannot go on as though you haven’t heard. God cannot keep his love to himself. He is always giving it to us. The Magi did not discover the Christ child. The love of the Christ child found the Magi. They set out on their journey because they knew they were lost. But the Child had found them when they were lost and before they even knew it.

Pope Francis asks how can we not know that we are lost? He writes: “How did we become blind to the preciousness of creation and the fragility of humanity? How did we forget the gifts of God and of each other? How to explain that we live in a world where nature is suffocated, where viruses spread like wildfire and bring down our societies, where heartbreaking poverty coexists with inconceivable wealth, where entire people like the Rohingya [Note: because of their great suffering a people especially close to the heart of Pope Francis] are consigned to the dustheap?” The Holy Father answers the questions he asks of himself and the world. “I believe what has persuaded us is the myth of self-sufficiency, that whispering in our ears that the earth exists to be plundered; that others exist to meet our needs; that what we have earned or what we lack is what we deserve; that my reward is riches, even if that means that the fate of others will be poverty.”

We are lost indeed if we believe such things. Seeing the Christ child the Magi “returned home by another way.” No longer were they lost. They knew the way. They were found by The Way. May we who are lost be found and come home with them.

The Lord be with you.

Father John Parr

The blessing of the home (on the Solemnity of Epiphany, in the United States celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8) is a popular custom. Using blessed chalk, the father or mother marks their entrance door (and other interior doorways, if they wish) with the year and with the inscription CMB, which may stand for Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the name of the three wise men in legend. The inscription also stands for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which means "Christ, bless this home." The popular form the inscription takes is 20+C+M+B+22. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

### House Blessing

Lord God of Heaven and Earth,  
 who has revealed your only begotten Son  
 to every nation by the guidance of a star:  
 Bless this house and all who inhabit it.  
 Fill them with the light of Christ,  
 that their love for others may truly reflect your love.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Blessed chalk will be available in the gathering place.*



As we begin a new year, now is the time to reaffirm your commitment to your spouse.

Marriage is a lifelong relationship that requires effort and work along the way. However, a thriving marriage is not a victory to be won. It is a journey...and it is a journey that is lived out in the little things, in little ways. Let this be the motto for your life and your marriage this year, "Every day, in every way, get a little bit better." Be a little kinder. A bit more patient. Pray a minute longer. Listen more carefully. Do a task that isn't "yours". Show your love in the power of little things. It will be an amazing gift to your marriage.



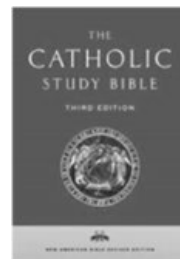
Thanks to all the people who made the Free Throw Contest possible!  
 Sunday, January 9, 2022 - General Meeting in the parish gathering place at 7pm

### Altar Servers

Fr. Parr is looking for altar servers! Anyone 4<sup>th</sup> grade or older, male or female, is invited to serve. Serving at the altar is a great way for young people to be involved in parish life. Please contact Mr. Pat Brueggen for inf. on training. If you are already trained, please contact the parish office to receive info on signing up through the app. Thank you for your stewardship.

### Reading the Bible

A new year is a great time to start a new habit...and a great habit for Catholics is the reading, studying, and praying of the Word of God. Do you own a Bible that you can read, study, and pray from? If not, now might be a great time to purchase one. There are many wonderful options available for every member of your family. There are Catholic study bibles, teen bibles, journaling bibles, and even children's bibles. During Mass, we hear from the New American Bible Revised translation, but there are other Catholic translations available as well. Local book stores have copies as do many online shops. Just google "Catholic bibles" and you will find many great options. Find one that is just right for you. A life of Christian stewardship is based on following the teachings of Jesus Christ...and we can learn so much about Jesus from the Bible. Due to modern scholarship, we know so much about the Bible...and so much of that knowledge is available in the footnotes of the modern Bibles. Take the time this year to get familiar with Scripture. Your faith will grow immensely.



### Dropped Host

**Question:** What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

**Answer:** This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: *How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled?* If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

©LPi

## The Epiphany of the Lord

In his book, *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*, Pope Francis shares ideas highly applicable to today's feast. He describes our time as a change of epoch, not simply a time of change. He says that this change, "accelerated by the coronavirus, is a propitious moment for reading the signs of the times." Avoiding the trap of easy answers, Francis says, "A gap has opened up between the realities and challenges we face and the recipes and solutions available to us. That gap becomes a space in which to reflect, question, and dialogue."

Let us look to the Magi as models. Inspired by the gap between their knowledge and their hopes, they set out to seek meaning that their lives had not yet given them. They reflected together on the signs of their times and sought wisdom from foreigners, confident that truth from another quarter would only add to the truth they already understood.

As a synodal people, let us be on the move, discerning the signs of our times while refusing to be awestruck by self-important leaders. Let us share the Magi's humble curiosity. Let us appropriate a share of their courage and confidence to that we too can seek, find and follow Christ in our world.

McGlone, Mary. *The Epiphany of the Lord*. NCR. <https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/jan-2-2022-epiphany-lord>

## Important Faith Formation Dates

Sun., Jan. 2 Pre-K/Kindergarten Wee Believe 9:15 am

Wed., Jan. 5 Catechist Meeting 6:30 pm in church

Wed., Jan. 12 Faith Formation classes resume 6:30 pm



## Wisconsin Right to Life Signature Ad

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court handed down the decision in *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion in the United States through all nine months of pregnancy. This decision has resulted in the legal deaths of over 62 million unborn babies since that time. Please join the La Crosse chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life and other prolife members of our community in making a public statement of our belief in the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death. With the Supreme Court's upcoming decision, it is more important than ever to take a stand for life.

The ad will appear in the La Crosse Tribune on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

We are asking for a donation of \$3 per name or \$5 per family, if possible, to help defray the cost of the ad. We will be collecting signatures after Masses January 8th and 9th in the gathering place. Thank you for your support for LIFE!



Thanks to Rotary Lights, our food pantry is restocked. We are grateful to their organization for including our pantry for those donations. Hopefully you got a chance to go see all their hard work in making Riverside Park a winter wonderland. It takes many volunteers and many hours of service to create such a magnificent display. Many of our own parishioners are involved in this endeavor. We thank you and hope there are many more years of Rotary Lights.



## 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.

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

**AHS Open House: Mon., Jan. 10, 2022 at 6pm**

**AMS Open House: Wed., Jan. 12, 2022 at 6pm**

## 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**.

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, January 2</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
8:00 am Mass †	Susan Schafer
10:15 am Mass †	Cecil Rochester
<b>Monday, January 3</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	Dennis Vosen
<b>Tuesday, January 4</b>	<b>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</b>
8:30 am Mass †	David Scholze
<b>Wednesday, January 5</b>	<b>St. John Neumann</b>
8:30 am Mass †	Diane Scholze
No Faith Formation classes today	
6:30 pm Catechist Meeting	
<b>Thursday, January 6</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	Dan Latham
<b>Friday, January 7</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	David Kasha
Food Pantry Reopens 9-11 am	
<b>Saturday, January 8</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
4:00 pm Sacrament of Penance	<b>Vigil: Baptism of the Lord</b>
5:00 PM Mass †	Willard Tanke
<b>Sunday, January 9</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>
8:00 am Mass	People of SEAS
10:15 am Mass †	Robert Brown
6:30 pm Confirmation Sponsor Session	

The pastoral staff at SEAS wants to provide appropriate care to our members who are hospitalized. Please call the parish office (608) 526-4424 to notify us of the name of the patient, the name of the facility along with the room number and indicate how we might assist you (Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion, a visit...all three?). Visiting the sick is a Corporal Work of Mercy, and we want to be there to provide support, comfort, and the Sacraments to our parish members. In addition, when you are discharged or transferred to another facility, please let the parish know and whether you'd like further visits. Thank you. God Bless You.



**Parish Target: \$90,240**  
**As of 12/22/21 (time of publication):**  
**\$50,304 pledged**  
**134 donors out of 830 registered families have pledged so far**  
**55% of goal has been pledged**  
 Please send in your pledge as soon as possible if you have not done so.

## 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.

### Parish Council Members

Alyson Haugen  
 Jennifer Fisk  
 Brian Clements  
 Christine Olson  
 Mary Lenz  
 Kathy Nicklaus  
 Bill Heinz  
 Patty Heiderscheit

### Finance Council Members

Larry Warzynski  
 Shawn Handland  
 Janice Dvoracek  
 Barry Ploessl  
 Pat Stephens



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Julie Malin  
 Addison Quinn  
 Bailey Rohrer  
 Phyllis Thaldorf  
 Heather Yang

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.



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## Vigil/Votive Candles

In the sanctuary next to the tabernacle, you will notice that we have a set of vigil/votive candles. These candles are available for our parishioners to light at any time. Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered. Candles may be lit for loved ones who have died, in gratitude, supplication, or for any other intention. There is a suggested donation of \$ 3.00 to offset the cost of the candle that can be left in the basket next to the candles.

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17



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

In order for us to continue with fundraising events such as the annual Rummage Sale and Bazaar or any new ideas, we **need a President** for our PCCW. 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 events or fundraisers.

Did you know?

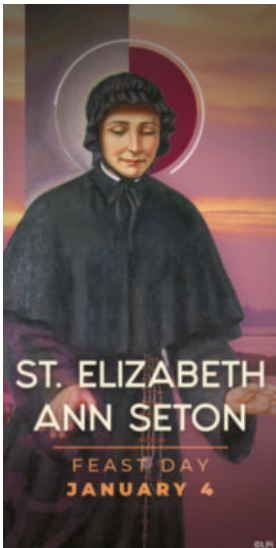
- This group of women includes all the parish women members of St. Elizabeth's age 18 and older
- No dues to belong
- They host fundraising events, such as the Rummage Sale, Christmas Bazaar, and organize the Baccalaureate Brunch.

Any new ideas and fundraisers are welcome. Please consider a role in this important parish council.



## The Rosebud Program

The Elizabeth Ministry program at SEAS is introducing a visual reminder of the power of prayer through the Rosebud program. At the front of the church in the sanctuary under our Blessed Mary, you will see a vase of roses. These roses each represent a sacred life and each color represents a different prayer request. A **pink** rosebud honors pregnancy and the unborn baby. A **red** rosebud celebrates birth or adoption. A **white** rosebud remembers a child lost through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or infant or child death (whether recent or in the past). A **yellow** rosebud represents those waiting to conceive or adopt. A **blue** rosebud represents those families experiencing troubling times, and a **purple** rosebud represents grandparents' concerns. When the occasion arises, simply approach the altar, pick out the appropriate rosebud, and place it in the vase. A journal is available to fill out with your name or with an anonymous notation whatever details you would like the parish to hold in prayer. Prayer cards for the various situations are located next to the roses and can be taken home and kept for personal meditation. The roses will serve as reminders to all members of the parish to hold your intentions in prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Reider at 608-526-4424.



## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Feast Day - January 4

Celebrate the first American-born saint! St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in New York City in the late 1700s and raised Episcopalian. She married William Seton. Together they had five children. He fell ill, and the family moved to Italy for his health. While there, Elizabeth discovered Catholicism. Her husband eventually passed away, but God had more plans for the Seton family. Elizabeth felt a further stirring in her heart. She opened a school for girls in 1808. The calling grew. Within a year, Elizabeth had founded the Sisters of Charity, the first community for religious women established in the United States. Their work established the first Catholic school system in the country. On her feast day this January 4th, pray for our teachers and students!

*Cheerfulness prepares a glorious mind for all the noblest acts of religion—love, adoration praise and every union with our God.* —St. Elizabeth Ann Seton