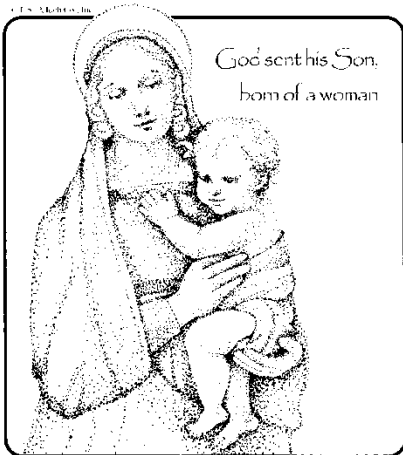


*Solemnity of Mary
Holy Mother of God
January 1, 2012*



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

On this feast, we can see how devotion to Mary has been a beacon of hope to the sick throughout history. In the new cathedral of Los Angeles, the faithful enter through a single door topped by a striking sculpture of Mary with arms stretched down in compassion. Sculpted into the massive bronze doors are the titles of Mary most treasured by various cultures. Many of them speak of how the sick are consoled by a sense of Mary's presence.

Dorothy Day once recalled St. Bonaventure's remark that after the Lord's long forty days of fasting in the desert, when he was diminished and weak from his struggle, the angels who ministered to him went first to the Blessed Mother's house. There they saw the soup that was on her stove, and took some to the Lord so that he would delight in it even more since his mother had prepared it. "Of course," said Dorothy Day matter-of-factly.

In praying the rosary and savoring the stories of Mary's steadfast love in the face of all suffering, the sick are strengthened by one of our tradition's most shining treasures, and the whole Church is enriched. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

This Wednesday, January 4, is the feast day of Elizabeth Ann Seton. She was a daughter, debutante, wife, mother, widow, convert, grieving parent and the founder of the first congregation of religious women in America, the Sisters of Charity. Canonized in Rome in 1975, she is the patron saint of our parish.

On the eve of her canonization, Terence Cardinal Cooke, then Archbishop of New York wrote:

In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a Saint for our times;
In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a woman of faith for a time of doubt and uncertainty;
In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a woman of love for a time of coldness and division;
In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a woman of hope for a time of crisis and discouragement;
Thanks be to God for this saintly daughter of New York, for this valiant woman of God's Church!



We offer this prayer in her honor. Let us pray it often:

*Prayer in Honor of
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

Lord God, You blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton with Gifts of grace as a wife and mother, educator and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to Your people. Through her example and prayers may we learn to express our love for You in love for our fellow men and women. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Figures on the Christmas Tree

Thank you, thank you to the friends, parishioners who graciously decorated the Narthex tree with their own doll ornaments. All shapes and sizes, all nationalities, each unique and precious. Make sure you take time to enjoy them – I know both kids and adults will be inspired.

Without a doubt it is the finest tree we've had as long as I've been pastor.

† *Father Ed Connelly*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 1 - 8, 2012

| | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------|
| Sun | 8:00am | Parishioners |
| | 9:30am | Estela Gaunder-D |
| | 11:00am | Respect Life Awareness |
| | 5:30pm | Rita Cocchiaro-D |
| Tues | 9:15am | Florence Wronski-D |
| Wed | 9:15am | Brendan Walls, Sr.-D |
| Thurs | 9:15am | |
| Sat | 4:30pm | Adeline Sarro-D |
| Sun | 8:00am | Wesley Bowne, Sr.-D |
| | 9:30am | Parishioners |
| | 11:00am | Katherine Powers-D |
| | 5:30pm | Anthony Caiazzo-D |

Lord, grant each one listed in our Parish Book of Intentions, health of spirit, mind and body.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT DECEMBER 17 & 18, 2011

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly Budget Requirement | \$89,350.00 |
| Total Attendance | 1,343 |
| Monthly Electronic Giving | \$22,455.00 |
| Envelopes Month-to-Date | \$42,640.52 |
| Non-Envelopes Month-to-Date | \$7,582.00 |
| Children's Envelopes Month-to-Date | \$14.21 |



POOR BOX DECEMBER 17 & 18, 2011

Birthright of Annapolis - \$351.47
Next week's Poor Box will be for
Haiti Outreach



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

We would appreciate your prayers for those who are ill. **Bounnhang Vilaythong, Kenneth Santill, Ken Smith, Roberto Rodriguez, Paula Hagan, Ann Mayefskie, Shirley Sperier, Gregory Tilton & Myra Walker.**



REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of
Brendan Walls, Sr. & Donald Dahl
May they rest in peace.



A big thank you to the liturgical ministers and volunteers that put in hours of work to make our Christmas celebrations great!

You Are Needed

There is an urgent need for volunteers to recite the rosary with the residents at the Crofton Care and Rehabilitation Center every Friday at 10am. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Sue Lowell at 410-721-4224.

Food Pantry News

December was another busy month at the pantry with over 120 families getting food. January will be Pasta month. Please bring boxes or bags of all kinds of **pasta** or **noodles**. Thank you.

Music Ministry

The 9:30 Choir needs more voices! Please join us. For more information, contact Brendan Walls at 410-721-5770x231 or e-mail Brendan.walls@seaseton.org.

Our Respect Life Message

March for Life – January 23, 2012: Since the anniversary of Roe v. Wade falls on a Sunday, the 39th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., will be held on Monday, Jan. 23rd. This day you will have an extraordinary opportunity to put your faith into action and take a stand for those most vulnerable in our society – the unborn babies! They have no voice but ours!! Join others, young and old alike, who have come throughout our great country, peacefully marching to show our legislators that we will not rest until Roe v. Wade is overturned and abortion is no longer legal in our country. For further information regarding the March for Life Convention and the Rose Dinner, go to www.marchforlife.org

Christmas Bookmark: In honor of the birth of Jesus, the Respect Life Committee invites you to please pick up the beautiful bookmark with a thoughtful prayer by Pope John Paul. These bookmarks are in the Christmas basket in the vestibule.

Respect Life Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5th, at 7:30pm in the first floor conference room of the Connelly Parish Center. All are welcome.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

Awaken Your Catholic Faith

Is this you?

- Too busy? Not been to church in a while?
- Children asking questions about faith that you're not sure how to answer?
- Looking for answers and an opportunity to explore your faith?

Awakening Faith may be just right for you. This six-session series includes topics such as "Spirituality: What's the Buzz?", "Can I Accept God's Mercy?", "Can the Mass Make My Life Meaningful?" and "The Church and Me". This is an opportunity learn and ask questions in a friendly and confidential setting. This program will begin on Wednesday, January 11 (7:00-8:30 pm) in the Ark (2nd floor of the Fr. Connelly Parish Center). Please check out our website at www.seaseton.org or take a brochure from the magazine rack in the foyer. For more info, contact Sister Katherine at 410-721-5770 ext. 233 or Katherine.Odonnell@seaseton.org.



Rite Of Welcoming

This coming weekend at the 9:30 Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming/Acceptance with our catechumen-**Aaron Krouse** and candidate-**Jennifer Langford**. At this time, they will make a serious commitment to prepare for full initiation into the Catholic Church. Both **Aaron and Jennifer** and **Tre Lynn and Christina Aguiño** who are completing their initiation by preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist have been in the RCIA process since September. As a parish community we welcome them and support them with our prayers.

Adult Confirmation

Did you miss Confirmation as a youth? At the beginning of January, we will be forming a group of adults who are regular, practicing Catholics and who would like to begin preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program will include an interview, six Wednesday evening sessions beginning early January to explore your faith and another session to prepare for reception of the Sacrament which could be scheduled some time in the spring. If you are interested, contact Deacon Fred Seibold, email: Fred.Seibold@seaseton.org.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

(continued)

On Your Way Home

This is an opportunity for the men of our parish to meet on their way home from work to reflect on and share the Sunday Readings. The next meeting will be this week, **January 3 at 6:00pm** in the Conference Room. *All are welcome!* For more information, contact Bill Conroy at 410-721-9327 or via e-mail at WJConroy@verizon.net.

Caregivers' Support Group

The group will meet on **Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00pm** in the Ark. For many years, we have been blessed to have Mary Fridley BSN, RNC facilitate this group. If you are feeling the stress of caring for an ill or elderly loved one, please join us for these monthly meetings.

Faith Formation



Happy New Year!

No Class January 5
Next Class: January 12th

First Eucharist

First Eucharist preparation begins on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm with a Parent Meeting in the Church. Please visit the parish website for additional info.

Confirmation



General Session 5

Session 5 will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Great Hall. Candidates are required to attend.

Youth Ministry



Middle School Youth Group - Our next meeting is January 8th, 2012.

High School Youth Group - Our next meeting is January 22, 2012.

Parish Interest

All married couples are cordially invited to join Archbishop Edwin O'Brien for the special World Marriage Day Mass and Reception at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. (*not the Basilica downtown*), **February 12, 2012 at 3:00pm**. The Mass will be bilingual in English and Spanish and interpreted for the deaf.



Seeking Our Longest Married Couple: Our parish is participating in Worldwide Marriage Encounter's search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. **One nominee** from each parish will be honored during a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Edwin O'Brien. Please report the names, address, wedding date, and phone number of your candidate couple, married at least 50 years, to the PARISH OFFICE no later than January 24, 2012. The parish will inform the longest married couple that their names have been submitted and the longest married from each parish will receive a follow-up call from the World Marriage Day committee, inquiring whether or not they plan to attend the Mass on Feb. 12, 2012 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. All longest married will receive a certificate from WWME.

CELEBRATING 25 or More YEARS? Couples celebrating their 25th or more year anniversaries in 2012, register for recognition online by clicking on the World Marriage Day Button at <http://wwme.net/>, or by email to: BaltimoreAnniversaries@gmail.com or by phone to Committee Chairs, Chris and Darla Phillips, 410-987-4210 by **January 29, 2012**, to receive special recognition at the Mass, Feb. 12, at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen and a letter of congratulations from the archbishop.

Pastoral Spanish Classes/Spring 2012 - Notre Dame of Maryland University

Spanish Language and Culture for Pastoral Settings is for professionals or volunteers who currently work with or will work with Hispanic communities in parishes, schools, hospitals or other pastoral settings. No prior experience in Spanish is necessary. For more information and class schedule, visit www.ndm.edu/PastoralSpanish. Contact: Linda Stilling, SSND at 410-532-5306 or lstilling@ndm.edu.

Bon Secours Spiritual Center

Bon Secours offers events and activities on an ongoing basis. On the calendar for January are Introduction to Zumba, Keep up the Spirit – A Day for Job Seekers and Career Changers, Introduction to Tai Chi Chih and Praying with Henri Nouwen. For a complete schedule and more information, visit www.BonSecoursSpiritualCenter.org.



School of the Incarnation

Pre-school – SOTI is opening a 4yr old pre-school program in Fall 2012. We would like you to take a moment and fill out a survey if you have an interest for your child to attend in the coming years. Please copy and paste the following link in your internet address bar. www.surveymonkey.com/s/FF5S2LBWe appreciate your time and efforts to help us offer a wonderful pre-school to our Catholic community.

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Please help support SOTI by dropping your Box Tops and Labels for Education in the bin in the Vestibule (remember to include the UPC)! Thank you!

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Book of Numbers sounds to contemporary ears like the title of some dry statistical treatise. But much of it is poetry or song, as can be seen from today's beautiful first reading: "The LORD bless you and keep you! / The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! / The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

Isn't that a great choice for the first scripture reading of the first day of the new year? It leads us into the mystery of God's appearing in our world, not in some terrifying explosion, but in kindness and peace, "born of a woman."

God comes to us as a human baby, born of a human mother, to show us that we are so much more than we tend to think we are. We are not slaves, but heirs of God. In Jesus, through Mary, God shines upon us kindly and gives us peace.

LOOKING FOR ANGELS

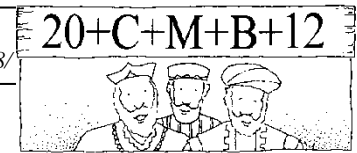
Today's Gospel reading begins with the shepherds rushing "in haste to Bethlehem." We know why they were running. Angels had appeared to them in the night, a breakthrough from the world beyond the ordinary. And the shepherds responded with great excitement.

Some nine months earlier, an angel had burst into the life of the young woman Mary. That also was a breakthrough from the world beyond our world, a message from the Divinity. It was a call to Mary to see beyond the ordinary possibilities of her life. She responded with an open heart and became the Mother of God.

After the shepherds had departed, "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The angels also reach out to us, call to us from God. We must be alert for their call. We must listen for those messages from beyond our ordinary world. Mary can help us stay awake this year, alert and listening for God's call.

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Please visit this website for an explanation of this blessing for the home: <http://annunciations.wordpress.com/2009/01/07/20-c-m-b-08/>



CALENDAR ♦ January 2 - 8, 2012

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Monday | | Office Closed | |
| Tuesday | 9:45 a.m. | Eucharistic Adoration | Church |
| | 6:00 p.m. | On Your Way Home | Conference Room |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Haiti Outreach Meeting | Connelly Parish Center |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Caregiver Support Group | Ark |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Executive Board Meeting | Conference Room |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Welcoming Committee Meeting | Dove |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Cooking for Sarah's House | Kitchen |
| Wednesday | 10:00 a.m. | Mom's Morning Out | Ark/Dove |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Teen Instrumentalist Rehearsal | Brendan's Office |
| | 7:30 p.m. | 9:30 Choir Rehearsal | Church |
| Thursday | 7:00 p.m. | Catechist Training | Youth Room |
| | 7:00 p.m. | RCIA | Ark/Dove |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Respect Life Meeting | Conference Room |
| | 7:30 p.m. | 11:00 Choir Rehearsal | Church |
| Sunday | 9:30 a.m. | RCIA Dismissal | Church |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Liturgy of the Word with Children | Youth Room |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Liturgy of the Word with Children | Youth Room |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Teen Choir Rehearsal | Church |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Middle School Youth Group | Youth Room |

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Mass is signed for the hearing impaired*

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Nursery available at the 9:30 a.m. Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses (September through June)

Eucharist at Neighboring Parishes

Holy Family, Davidsonville, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Church of the Holy Apostles, Gambrills, Sun., 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

St. Joseph, Odenton, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00

Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 and 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNION CALLS

Please advise us if you would like Communion brought to a member of your family.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday from 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Attendance at a baptismal preparation program is required before Baptism can be scheduled. Please call the Parish Office as early as possible to make arrangements. Preparation may begin any time during pregnancy.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

According to Archdiocesan policy, couples are required to make an appointment with a priest or deacon of the Parish at least six months in advance of the date they plan to celebrate their wedding in order to accommodate mandatory marriage preparation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

Adults interested in full membership in the Catholic faith are asked to call the Parish Office for information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN (R.C.I.C.)

Children, ages 8-17, whose families are interested in initiation into the Catholic faith, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Readings for January 2-8, 2012

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Psalm 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98:1-3, 6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Psalm 100:1-5; Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 3:23-28 or Mk 1:7-11

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Priest Presiders January 7 & 8, 2012

| | | |
|----------|------------|----------------------|
| Saturday | 4:30 p.m. | Father Ed Connelly |
| Sunday | 8:00 a.m. | Father Ed Connelly |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Father Ed Connelly |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Father Vince Cushing |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Father Ed Connelly |

Sick or Hospitalized?

Please notify the office or a staff member when someone in your family is sick, hospitalized or homebound. If you or a family member is admitted to Anne Arundel Medical Center, **please inform them that you are Catholic and your affiliation is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.** This should be part of your admission process.