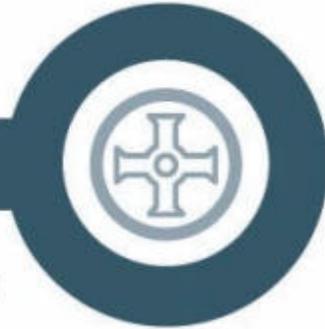




Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020

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 THE BLESSED

Hope has an evil twin. It is called delay or postponement. Sometimes we prefer to hope than to have and we prefer to talk about delay and postponement. We live wanting a Messiah to come rather to believe one has come.

The infant child in the Syrian refugee camp who is nothing but skin and bones, I turn away from the television screen and say, "When the Messiah comes..." To the mother whose innocent son has been shot in the street, "I am sorry, when the Messiah comes..." To every prisoner looking for a ray of light, "I am sorry, friend, but when the Messiah comes..." To the married couple praying in desperation for the birth of a child, "I am sorry, but when the Messiah comes..." To the single mother who has been evicted from her apartment, "So sorry, but when the Messiah comes..."

It is always easier to believe that the Messiah *will* come than to believe the Messiah *already* has come. There is enough misery and pain in the world to make believable the proclamation that the Messiah will come. There is always enough misery and pain in the world to make it unbelievable that the Messiah has come.

But the central mystery of the Christian faith is that the Messiah has come in Jesus Christ. The central mystery of the Christian faith is that the Messiah has come in Jesus Christ, "born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead." The Messiah has come and he is Jesus Christ.

The mystery of Christmas proclaims that the Kingdom is in our midst. And the Kingdom of God proclaims not that where God is there is no misery but the Messiah is to be found wherever there is human suffering or misery or despair.

It is Christmas. The Messiah has come. So we can start looking for him where he always is to be found.

The Lord be with you.  
Father John Parr



## STEWARDSHIP



There are just five days left until the celebration of Christmas begins. Let's live these last days of Advent well. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed Mother's "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple.

We are called to follow her example today. This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. He will give us all the help and strength we need.

— Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**We will be starting fresh with the prayer list January 1. If you so desire to have the name you have submitted to remain on this list, please call the office by Dec. 21st. Thank you and God Bless you.**



Lorraine Atkinson  
Mike Bruha  
Rebecca Chatfield  
Paul Collins  
William Alan Davis  
Ethan William Doe  
The Donaldson Family  
Sherry Hanson  
June Kukovec  
Angela LaFleur

Bob Langer  
Deanna Mason  
Ken Proctor  
Cindy Rittman  
Bailey Rohrer  
Mary Roerkohl  
Sascha Stephens  
Phyllis Thaldorf  
Colleen Tisil  
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.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

**You must have reservations** to attend Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Seating will be assigned prior to Christmas, so we will not be able to add seats to your reservation or change your seats once you arrive. Also, please note:

- Parties will be **seated 30 minutes** before Mass begins. **Groups must check in together** so they can be seated at the same time.
- Assigned seating is necessary so that we can accommodate the most people possible (noting that we are limited to 25% capacity).
- Please notify the office if you have special needs for Holy Communion.
- Hospitality Ministers will seat you, usher you to Communion, and dismiss you after Mass to allow for social distancing.
- Masks are required.
- If you are ill or have been asked to quarantine, please call us and cancel your reservations **by Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>** so we can allow others to attend in your place.

## HOMEBOUND

The homebound parishioners are still an integral part of our parish and are in communion with us, even though they are not physically present. The parish office maintains a list of homebound parishioners. As well as being remembered in our thoughts and prayers, our homebound receive holiday and birthday greeting cards, the weekly bulletin, and quarterly newsletter to be kept aware of parish life. If you wish to be added to this list, please contact the parish office.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



May your Christmas be filled with love and blessings.

Merry Christmas from the Holmen Knights of Columbus.



## FAITH FORMATION

### Reason for the Season

With parents out of work, limited ability to gather, and other concerns, 2020 promises to strip many teens of their beloved holiday traditions. Grieving those things is certainly valid, but we cannot allow sadness to overwhelm us. Christmas consumerism often overshadows the celebration of Christ's coming into the world but losing the trappings of the holidays this year presents an opportunity for teens to return their attention to Christ and the Church this Advent and Christmas.

Encouraging your teens to participate in spiritual Christmas traditions can provide them with some comfort as they lose other parts of the holidays. Help your youth identify the spiritual elements of Advent and Christmas like setting out an Advent wreath or nativity scene, the St. Andrew Christmas novena or the Jesse tree.

*LifeTeenBlog Conney, Mary. COVID Christmas: Helping Teens navigate the 2020 Holiday Season <https://lifeteen.com/blog/covid-christmas-helping-teens-navigate-2020-holiday-season/>*



### Important Faith Formation Dates

Wednesday Dec. 23 No Faith Formation Christmas Break

Wednesday Dec. 30 No Faith Formation Christmas Break

## ACH/ONLINE GIVING

**FYI– For those of you that give online through automatic withdrawals**, there is an option to also give separately for the Christmas envelope. 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. Want to continue to give but are not able to make it to Mass? You can choose to give one time or set up recurring donations. 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.

Thank you for your stewardship to our parish.

Online Giving

## BAPTISMS AT SEAS



At this time, Baptism preparation is being completed individually. If you are pregnant, please call now to schedule an appointment to get started. 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.

All baptisms are currently taking place outside of Mass, generally after the 10:15 am Mass on Sundays. Each baptism is held privately, and we are observing all safety protocol.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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.”

## NEW MASS POLICIES

Beginning the weekend of January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, **we will NO LONGER be taking reservations** for Mass. We will also no longer be making use of a seating chart. Because of this, you may want to arrive a bit earlier for Mass...particularly if you are in need of a “special seat”. We will reserve some of our front pews for those of you who need a shorter access to the Holy Communion line, and we will continue to have a section for those of you who need Communion brought to you by Fr. Parr. Otherwise, people will seat themselves until the Church is about 2/3 full, and then our Hospitality Ministers will help you to find open seats. It will be important for you to remember to **maintain social distancing** by **sitting 3 or 4 seats apart from other families**. This is a must, as is wearing masks. If this doesn't work out or if our numbers suddenly increase, we will return to reservations and seating charts. We want to do everything we can to worship together safely. Thank you.



**BULLETIN EARLY TO PRESS - NO FINANCIALS AVAILABLE**

## WANT TO JOIN?



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.

## YEAR END GIVING

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 2020 will be the weekend of December 26/27.

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.

## ROTARY LIGHTS & SEAS FOOD PANTRY

Help assist Rotary Lights in its mission of collecting non-perishable food items to help feed the hungry in the greater La Crosse area. Please bring your family (and your non-perishable food items) to the Rotary Lights display in Riverside Park. It is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy an evening together. The SEAS Holmen Food Pantry is the recipient of the donated food items on the following evenings:

**Friday, December 25**

**Thursday, December 31**

## PARISH INFORMATION

### PARISH RECTORY & OFFICE

Phone .....526-4424

Fax Number.....526-3177

Email: [office@seasholmen.org](mailto:office@seasholmen.org)

### STAFF

**Pastor**, Father John Parr .....526-4424

[pastor@seasholmen.org](mailto:pastor@seasholmen.org)

**Pastor Emeritus**, Monsignor Delbert J. Malin.....526-4908

[djm133@charter.net](mailto:djm133@charter.net)

**Pastoral Associate**, Sister Bridget Donaldson, O.S.B.....526-4424

[sbridget@seasholmen.org](mailto:sbridget@seasholmen.org)

**Pastoral Minister**, Carol Reider .....526-4424

[carol@seasholmen.org](mailto:carol@seasholmen.org)

**C.R.E. (3 years-gr. 5)**, Mary Luebke .....526-4424

[reled@seasholmen.org](mailto:reled@seasholmen.org)

**Youth Minister/D.R.E. (gr. 6-12)**, Patrick Brueggen .....526-4424

[youth@seasholmen.org](mailto:youth@seasholmen.org)

**Director of Music**, Beth Lakmann.....526-4424

[music@seasholmen.org](mailto:music@seasholmen.org)

**Secretary**, Sandy Jerue.....526-4424

[office@seasholmen.org](mailto:office@seasholmen.org)

Sister Jean.....

### 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 session early in the pregnancy.

**Marriage:** Our church is trying to create successful marriages. This takes some time. 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

Janice Dvoracek

Pat Stephens

Shawn Handland

Barry Ploessl

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, December 20</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>
8:00 am Mass †	Rod Clark
10:15 am Mass	People of SEAS
<b>Monday, December 21</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	Cecelia Robinson
<b>Tuesday, December 22</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	Angeline Haug
<b>Wednesday, December 23</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass †	Cecelia Robinson
<b>Thursday, December 24</b>	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass	People of SEAS
	<b>Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord</b>
4:00 pm Mass †	Sharon Martin
6:00 pm Mass †	Lynn Schultz, Lyle and Teresa Nelson
<b>Friday, December 25</b>	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>
8:00 am Mass	People of SEAS
10:15 am Mass †	Sandy Beranek
<b>Saturday, December 26</b>	<b>St. Stephen</b>
4:00 pm	Sacrament of Penance
	<b>Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>
5:00 PM Mass †	Susan Schafer
<b>Sunday, December 27</b>	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>
8:00 am Mass	People of SEAS
10:15 am Mass †	Steven Golden



### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass Times

Thursday, December 31st at 5:00 pm  
and

Friday, January 1, 2020 at 9:00 am

Reservations are NOT required for these Masses.



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 63% 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!

## BLESSED CHRISTMAS



### Vigil of Christmas

Thursday, December 24

Masses at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

Masses at 8:00 am and 10:15 am

Reservations are required for Mass

The parish office will be closed December 24, 25, 31 & January 1

On behalf of Fr. John Parr and the staff at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, we want to wish each and everyone of you a very blessed Christmas. God Bless you and a new year filled with God's special graces.

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
grant that we may share with all our hearts  
in this profound mystery of Christmas.  
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace  
for which we sometimes seek so desperately  
and which you alone can give.  
Help us to know one another better,  
and to live as brothers and sisters,  
children of the same Father.  
Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness and purity.  
Awaken in their hearts  
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.  
Join us all together in your love.  
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

(Pope John XXIII)



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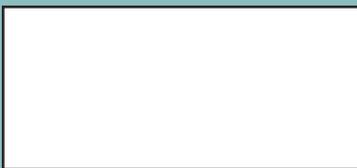
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