

Epiphany of the Lord  
January 3, 2021

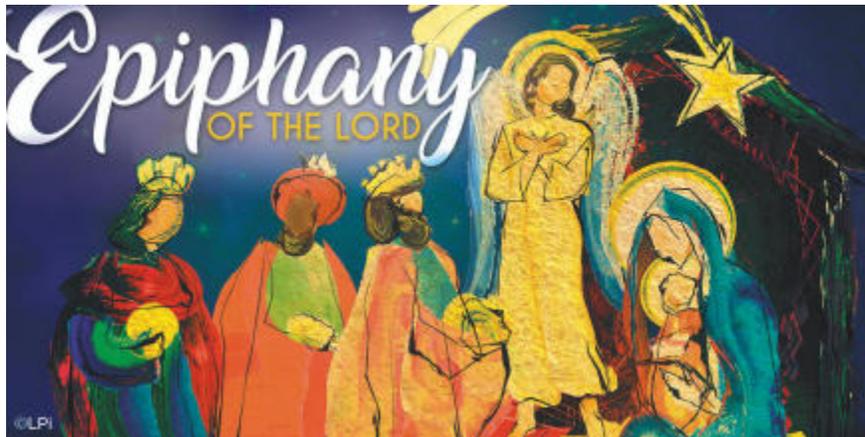


Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

515 North Main St. • Holmen, WI 54636-9387  
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## THE BANE AND THE BLESSED



*Into the Great Silence* is a movie about what the title says. It is a year in the life of the monks who live at a Carthusian monastery in France. The monks promise silence which is the emptiness in which they meet God. If I am not mistaken, a word or two may be spoken at the very end. I hope to view the movie again soon to confirm that fact. But for the duration of the movie not a word is spoken. All we hear is the Great Silence that speaks of love. The love of the monks for one another but especially their love for God. Or rather God's love for them that is evident in the love they show for one another. Unnamed, unseen, even when unspoken to, God is present in every moment, every scene. Because the monks desire to empty themselves, God fills them.

I suppose that is why Herod did not see the star. Or at least chose not to follow it. And those around him as well. It takes loving eyes to see God. And loving eyes to desire to always keep God in sight. Remember Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Or John, "the one whom Jesus loved," on the beach that morning. When you see the star with love, it is all you see and all you want to see. When you see Christ, there is no one else to be seen. And recognized or not, he is always present. Always shining forth. In every face, in every moment.

Seeing the newborn infant, the Magi returned home by a different way. Indeed the face of this child changes everything.

The Lord be with you.  
Father John Parr

## SEAS STEWARDSHIP

Throughout the month of December, our parish office continued to receive calls from families asking for assistance. They had missed our Christmas Caring and Sharing, and they were seeking aid. We made individual appointments with each of them as we had plenty to share, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. Inevitably, our guests were overwhelmed with joy when we presented them with their carts full of food and other surprises that we had to share with them. Over and over again, we heard them exclaim, "I thought I was going to have to cancel Christmas at our house!" "I'm just going to cry!" "I can't begin to thank you enough!" "Wow! I didn't expect so much! You don't know what this means to our family!" Over and over, we said to them, "We can be so generous with you because so many people have been so generous with us."

That is how it goes with generosity and stewardship. We give...and that giving multiplies. We spread love and joy and hope and peace beyond imagination. Jesus knew. It is in giving and sharing that we bring the light of Christ to others. Let us continue forward in our stewardship way of life in 2021.

We are so grateful for our Lectors and Hospitality Ministers who enable us to keep our doors open and to worship safely. If you are interested in joining them and serving as either a Lector or a Hospitality Minister, please contact Carol Reider at 526-4424 or [carol@seasholmen.org](mailto:carol@seasholmen.org). We greatly appreciate your stewardship of Time and Talent.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Knight of Columbus Blood Drive

Our council is inviting you to donate blood.

Date: Thursday January 21st

Time: 12:30 - 5:30pm

Where: St. Joseph the Workman

Walk in or register for a time via "[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)" and enter the sponsor code "KC".

## MASS INTENTIONS

It is the custom of the Catholic Church that priests remember specific intentions at the celebration of the Eucharist. Normally, a small offering or stipend (customarily \$10 in the Diocese of La Crosse) is given for a Mass intention. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, we have openings for intentions throughout 2021. Please contact Sandy in the Parish Office (526-4424).

## EPIPHANY BLESSING

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 21+C+M+B+21. 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.



O God of light and peace,  
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,  
still draws the nations to yourself:  
bless us abundantly  
and dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,  
that, like the wise men, we may come  
to kneel before Christ in true worship,  
offer him our hearts and souls,  
and return from his presence to live as he has taught,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

~Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family

## PRAYER REQUESTS



REMEMBER  
*in your prayers*

The Donaldson Family  
Ken Proctor  
Phyllis Thaldorf

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. Thank you.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Our Spiritual Father.

In his human nature, Jesus had physical, emotional, and psychological needs. God the father never became incarnate like his son therefore God the father entrusted Jesus to the watchful loving care of a human mother and father; Mary and Joseph. They cared for the human growth and development of Jesus just as we have earthly parents to care for our earthly needs. However, our human parents are flawed. Mary is such a perfect model of a mother Jesus gave his mother to be the perfect spiritual mother to all humanity at his time of death. As Catholics we are used to knowing Mary as our spiritual Mother. However, Jesus wants you to be a child of Saint Joseph too. There's no man more capable of modeling true fatherhood for us than Saint Joseph. His loving spiritual fatherhood has the power to draw you extremely close to the hearts of Jesus and Mary, increase your virtue, protect you from Satan, and help you reach heaven. St. Joseph stands ready to shelter you in a safety of the Sacraments and teachings of the Catholic church, clothe with virtue, educate you in the interior life, protect you under his fatherly cloak, and correct you should you go astray. Callaway, Donald. *Consecration to St. Joseph. The Wonders of our Spiritual Father.pg 105*

### **Important Faith Formation Dates**

Wed., Dec. 30 - No Faith Formation

Wed., Jan. 6 - No Faith Formation

Wed., Jan. 13 - Faith Formation

resumes in email format or packet pick up.

### **Virtual Women's Conference**

The Franciscan Spirituality Center is presenting **Overcoming Challenges With Grit and Grace** (via Zoom). The second annual women's conference will be presented in a virtual format on January 16. This celebration of inspirational, resilient and spiritual women features keynote speaker **Kao Kalia Yang**, an award-winning Hmong-American writer, teacher and public speaker based in Minneapolis. This virtual retreat day also will include talks by three local women whose powerful stories not only have changed their lives but also offer lessons for all of us. Lisa McCormick of Tomah will share her story of hope and anti-trafficking advocacy in response to her teenage son's tragic death. Carolyn Bostrack of the La Crosse area will offer inspiration for moving from fear into focus to transform your life. Sarah Johnson of Winona will explore the benefits of mindfulness on quality of life, both professionally and personally. Investment: \$50. To register call 608-791-5295.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### PARISH RECTORY & OFFICE

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

### STAFF

**Pastor**, Father John Parr.....pastor@seasholmen.org  
**Pastor Emeritus**, Msgr. Delbert J. Malin.....djm133@charter.net  
**Pastoral Associate**, Sr. Bridget Donaldson,O.S.B..sbridget@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 Brueggenth.....youth@seasholmen.org  
**Director of Music**, Beth Lakmann.....music@seasholmen.org  
**Secretary**, Sandy Jerue.....office@seasholmen.org

### 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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Please mark your calendars:

### Upcoming Council Meetings

Finance Council— Tues., Jan. 12 at 4:30pm  
Pastoral Council— Mon., Jan. 25 at 6:30pm

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

## CATHEDRAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The La Crosse Diocese has launched a Christ Our Cornerstone campaign to restore the steeple and facilitate other restorations to our beloved St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. The impact of the Cathedral is diocesan wide and beyond and stands as the iconic cornerstone of our faith which radiates as a place of prayer and worship to all our people. This structure, our faith in stone, was gifted to us by the hard work and sacrifices of generations past. It is now our time, our turn to honor our faithful patron St. Joseph the Workman and preserve this historic and magnificent Cathedral. In an unprecedented act of generosity, St. Ambrose Financial Services has offered to match \$2 for every \$1 generously pledged to this initiative up to \$3 million. That doesn't just double your gift to the Cathedral, it triples it! All families within our Diocese are invited to participate. Please know that while one-time gifts are appreciated, we are encouraging everyone to consider making a pledge. There are several pledge plans available in the brochures available at the church or by visiting [cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone](http://cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone). We thank you for your kind assistance in this historic endeavor. It is only together as one that we can truly do great things!

## BAPTISMS



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.

Contact Carol at the parish office for more info.

## FUNERALS

At this time, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish is available for wakes, funerals, and burials. Per health guidelines for social distancing, we can accommodate approximately 80 people in the church. Unfortunately, at this time, we are not able to offer any type of food service, luncheon, or meal. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Parr at 526-4424. Thank you.

## RIGHT TO LIFE

### Wisconsin Right to Life Signature Ad

Due to all the uncertainties surrounding Covid 19 and the reduced numbers of church attendees, Wisconsin Right to Life has decided to forego the annual signature ad in the La Crosse Tribune.

Your continued prayers for the increase in the respect for the dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death, are still very much appreciated.

Pray especially as we approach the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fateful Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortion in our country.

## VOCATIONS

There are few things in life are more uplifting than being able to help someone or be there for someone in need. When we can use our gifts and talents to make someone else's life better, it can bring joy to not just our lives, but to those we are able to serve as well. Jesus tells us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend. As friends of Christ, we are called to love in this way, to be willing to lay down our life for others. A powerful way to do this is by being a priest of Jesus Christ. He is calling young men to consider this call to serve, to offer their lives out of love for their sisters and brothers. He may be calling YOU! If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about this call to the priesthood, please contact me at: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

## SAVE THE DATE

January 30 – Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: "Walking with Mom's in Need"

Some people accuse pro-lifers of caring only about the child in the womb and not women in need. Not true at all, as you will see from this virtual afternoon of reflection on January 30, 2021, with keynote speaker Bob Perron, Executive Director of JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando, FL. You will also hear about the fourteen Pregnancy Care Centers in the Diocese of La Crosse and what you can do to help one near you. This afternoon of reflection will have broad appeal for families, adults and teens. More details coming soon!



## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, January 3</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
8:00 am Mass	<b>People of SEAS</b>
10:15 am Mass	† <b>Judy Bockenbauer</b>
<b>Monday, January 4</b>	<b>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</b>
8:30 am Mass	† <b>Barry Schaller</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 5</b>	<b>St. John Neumann</b>
8:30 am Mass	† <b>Emily Campbell</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 6</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass	† <b>Judy Bockenbauer</b>
<b>Thursday, January 7</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
8:30 am Mass	† <b>Barry Schaller</b>
<b>Friday, January 8</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
<b>Food Pantry Reopens</b>	
8:30 am Mass	† <b>Douglas Boss</b>
<b>Saturday, January 9</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
4:00 pm Sacrament of Penance	
5:00 PM Mass	† <b>Willard Tanke</b>
<b>Sunday, January 10</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>
8:00 am Mass	† <b>Susan Schafer</b>
10:15 am Mass	<b>People of SEAS</b>
6:30 pm Confirmation Session	



On January 4<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the patroness of our parish. St. Elizabeth was the first American-born saint canonized (1975). Her life was a journey of love and sorrow, trust and holiness. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, and the death of loved ones (her husband and two young daughters). She was raised Episcopalian but became a Catholic as an adult. After the death of her husband, she opened a school, and later founded a religious order. The many letters Mother Seton wrote reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to great holiness. The accepting and embracing of God's will was most influential in her spiritual life. Her only goal was to do God's will, as God willed it, and because God willed it. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the patron saint of Catholic schools, those rejected/persecuted for their faith, orphans, and widows.

"Live simply, so that all may simply live."

-- Elizabeth Ann Seton

## NEW MASS POLICIES

Beginning this weekend, **we are NO LONGER taking reservations** for Mass. We are also no longer making use of a seating chart. We are trying this out in order to give everyone a bit more flexibility in these winter months when weather or illness may cause people to change plans more often. We noticed in December that more and more people were not holding to their reservation numbers and this made seating a tad trickier. Because of this change, you may want to arrive a bit earlier for Mass... particularly if you are in need of a "special seat". We have reserved some of our front pews for those of you who need a shorter access to the Holy Communion line, and we 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 our trial with this doesn't work out, we will return to reservations and seating charts. We want to do everything we can to worship together safely. Thank you.

## THANK YOU



Our heartfelt thanks to the many people who contributed their time and talent to our worship this Christmas season. Because of Covid, some things may have

been a bit different but many others remained constant here. We are ever grateful to Betty Schultz, Randy Stetzer, Nikki Schultz, Charlene Winchell, Mary Lamprich, Heide Harron, Stephanie Harron, and friend Molly for our beautiful décor, both inside and outside the Church.



**Features**  
 Weekend Breakfast Sat and Sun 7am to noon  
 Sunday Breakfast Buffet Includes Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, American Fries, French Toast Sticks, Fresh Fruit, Danish, and Croissants.  
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