



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

345 Bear Christiana Road: Bear, DE 19701

PHONE: 302-322-6430

FAX: 302-276-2084

Website: www.setonparish.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SetonParishDE

YouTube: www.youtube.com/SetonParishDE



**SUNDAY,
JAN. 4, 2026**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Vision...from the vantage point of Tradition

PASTOR: Fr. Norman Carroll 112
frcarroll@setonparish.net

Deacon William P. Kibler, *Pastoral Associate* 119

Deacon Cruz Rodriguez, *Hispanic Ministry* 104

Deacon Jose Sanchez, *Hispanic Ministry* 124

PARISH OFFICE office@setonparish.net
(Mon-Thurs: 9:00am – 4:00pm Fri-9:00am-12:00pm)

Lucy Lopez (T, W) 100

Maxine Hall (M, Th, F) 103

Lisa Kennedy, *Bookkeeper* 108

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Deacon William P. Kibler 119

Cathy DeCrescenzo, *Admin* 101

Liturgy Deacon William P. Kibler 119

Dir. of Music Pat Maley

Preschool Dir Janet Gargani 215

Development Tom Cupples

OCIA Carol Wetty

Outreach Food/Financial Assistance 113

Parish Council *Ex. Officer* Ellen Ross

Finance Council *Ex. Officer* Danielle Brabson

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon Wed & Thu: 8:30am
Tue: 6:30pm
Sat: 4:00pm
Sun: 8:00am (YouTube) 10:30am

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:

Sat. 3:15pm or upon request after daily Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Wed. 9-10am & 7-9pm

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANNOINTING:

(Call Parish Secretary for information to register for classes, or to schedule appointment)

BAPTISM CLASSES FOR PARENTS

1st Monday of Month
Godparents are welcome to attend

CLASES DE BAUTISMO PARA PADRES

1^{er} Lunes del mes
Los padrinos son bienvenidos a asistir a las clases.

HISPANIC MINISTRY OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday: 10:00am-2:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm

REGISTRATION FORMS

Parish and Religious Education Registration Forms are available in the Gathering Space.

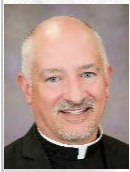
“SETON PRAYS” COMMUNITY

Email prayer request directly to: pray@setonparish.net.
Provide the category in which you would like the prayer request to be placed. Names will appear in the Bulletin for approximately six weeks.

Christ the Teacher School / PreK3-8
2451 Frazer Road, Newark, DE 19702
ChristTheTeacher.org 302-838-8850

Pray for our seminarians: James K, Jakob B

MISSION STATEMENT: We, the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, are an all-embracing, diverse Christian community who warmly welcomes everyone to join us. We draw closer to God and one another through Eucharist, which nourishes us for service to our brothers and sisters. We choose to combine our many gifts to teach, celebrate, evangelize and help those in need proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed. Amen.



A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR...

"Rise up in splendor...your light has come. The glory of the Lord shines up on you! Isaiah 60:1



Happy New Year & Happy Feast of the Epiphany! Like the Wiseman, we are called to look for the King of Kings and then when finding Him, proclaim Him on the mountain tops and the valleys where we and others can get stuck. Christmas reminds us that hope is born. Hope is born in Jesus Christ and that event reminds us to find the hope within and bring it to birth. The words of Isaiah today are a great song: "Rise up in splendor...your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you!" Amidst those who choose to live in darkness and clouds, we choose to see through them with the Light born to us, for us and in us. What could be one way that you take the good news of Jesus Christ out to another level? Maybe even out of your comfort zone?



Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Our patroness certainly went beyond her comfort zone and worked tirelessly to respond to the needs of the new and growing Catholic Church in the United States. She knew that through the various immigrants that were arriving in the country, a strong church would be built and celebrated. We celebrate her courage and dedication that helped set a foundation for the Church in the United States.

Happy Feast Day!
Fr. Carroll



2026 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS are available in the Gathering Space. We thank STRANO-FEELEY FUNERAL HOME and SPICER-MULLIKIN Funeral Home for providing two different calendars. Both provide daily information about special feast days and memorials.



Thank you for your Christmas flowers donations. I hope it looks like we used them! Thanks to all of our decorators who created the Christmas environment to heighten our joy and solemnity! The decorations will gradually come down over the next few weeks.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

Coordinator: Deacon Bill Kibler~Ext 119
Admin Asst: Cathy DeCrescenzo~Ext 101

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**REGISTRATION FOR IN CLASS & HOME STUDY
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ARE CLOSED FOR THIS
YEAR!**

**SACRAMENT PROGRAM
REGISTRATION FOR THIS YEAR'S SACRAMENT PROGRAMS
ARE CLOSED!**

RECONCILIATION
Reconciliation Workshop for Students AND Parents
Saturday, January 17th ~ 1:30-3:30pm ~ Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION:
Confirmation Candidate Sessions
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm
Jan 14, 2026 ~ Feb 11, 2026 ~ March 4, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat, Jan 3
4:00pm In Thanksgiving for the Espiritu Family
 Sun, Jan 4
8:00am Gene Hall
10:30am Elizabeth Crawford
Mon, Jan 5
8:30am Mary Dolphin
Tues, Jan 6
6:30pm Catherine Belford
Wed, Jan 7
8:30am Joseph Trala
Thurs, Jan 8
8:30am Richard Egan
Sat, Jan 10
4:00pm People of the Parish
Sun, Jan 11
 8:00am Albert and Edith Mirto
10:30am Dr. Emilio Valdez

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17



SETON PRAYS

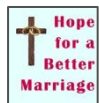
Email prayer requests to:
pray@setonparish.net
"LET US PRAY"

For the repose of the soul of: Ben Rosario; Dottie Lechmanik; Joan Quinn; Vickie Brown; Colin Ryan Chinski; Mildred & Joe Hernandez; Lew Warwick; Jeannie Dorris;
For those in need of healing: Sarah Brown; Bill St. Marie; George Brasure; Dr. Evelyn Hayes; Phillip Knox; Cruz Rodriguez, Jr Betty Lee Olson; Cindy Delasser; Annette Guiberson; Pat DiBella; Dom DiBella Leta Aljadir; Delaney Bush & Family;
For the special intentions of: The Seton Family

TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ELECTRONIC DONATION VISIT: setonparish.net/parishgiving		
ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH DECEMBER 2025 STEWARDSHIP		
	ENVELOPES	TOTAL
7-Dec	Offertory	\$ 13,148.75
14-Dec	Offertory	\$ 10,393.50
21-Dec	Offertory	\$ 13,009.50
28-Dec	Offertory	\$
	Offertory	\$
	OFFERTORY TOTAL	\$ 36,551.75
	Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,342.00
	Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 1,134.00
	Christmas Eve	\$ 485.00
	End of Year Donation	\$ 11,050.00
	Christmas Offering	\$ 1,304.00



We are looking for a few additional offertory counters. It is an important ministry that has Sunday late morning and Monday opportunities. It would be great to welcome some younger parishioners. If you are a good counter and would like to join a team, see Fr. Carroll or email at FrCarroll@setonparish.net.



RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE ~

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit:

www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.



SETON CROCHET GROUP ~ In 2025 members of the **Crochet Ministry** have made over **5137 items** and donated them to the following organizations, just to name a few, Helen Graham Cancer Center, Bayard House, St. Vincent de Paul, NICU, Christiana Hospital Angel Babies, and Exceptional Care for Children a(EEC), Veterans, Homeless and Parishioner Bereavement Prayer Shawls.

Would you like to be part of this worthwhile ministry? We welcome all levels of crocheting expertise, from novice to expert, every Thursday in the Parish Hall from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Looking forward to seeing you then!

PG 3-314



TODAY, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. On this day we commemorate the “manifestation” of the expected Messiah, who reveals himself to all the peoples of humanity, represented by the Three Wise Men who arrived in Bethlehem from

the East.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew tells us that “on entering the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Mt 2:11).

Here are four (4) facts that perhaps you didn’t know about the Three Wise Men and the Epiphany.

1. The Church celebrates three epiphanies. - The feast of the Three Kings is commonly called Epiphany, a word that in Greek means “manifestation” in the sense that God reveals himself and makes himself known.

However, the Church celebrates three manifestations of the life of Jesus as epiphanies: the Epiphany of the Magi from the East (manifestation to the pagans), the Epiphany of the Baptism of the Lord (manifestation to the Jews), and the Epiphany of the wedding at Cana (manifestation to his disciples).

2. It’s believed to be the second-oldest feast day. - The feast of the Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feast days, most likely the second after Easter. It began in the East and then came to the West in the fourth century.

It is said that originally Christians commemorated the three epiphanies on the same date. In some Eastern Churches, they even gave this feast day the celebratory character of the birth of Christ, but this aspect was diminished when the Roman feast day of Christmas was added in the fourth century.

In the Middle Ages, the Epiphany gradually became known more as the feast of the Three Wise Men. Currently, the Catholic Church celebrates the three epiphanies at different times on the liturgical calendar.

3. A saint determined the date - Studies maintain that Epiphany was set for Jan. 6 because this day commemorated the birth of Aion, the patron god of Alexandria, who was related to the sun god. It was also because winter solstice was celebrated on the same date in Egypt since ancient times.

St. Eusebius of Caesarea and St. Jerome in the fourth century — as well as St. Epiphanius in the sixth century — stated that the kings arrived to see the child Jesus before he was 2 years old.

However, St. Augustine (354 AD – 430 AD) maintained in his Epiphany sermons that they arrived on the 13th day after the birth of the Lord — i.e. Jan. 6 on the current calendar.

4. Kings by tradition - St. Matthew, the only one in the Bible who mentions the Magi, explains that they were from “the East,” an area that, for the Jews, was the territories of Arabia, Persia, or Chaldea. The easterners called doctors “magi.”

“Magus” in the Persian language meant “priest,” and precisely the magi (“magoi” in Greek) were a caste of Persian or Babylonian priests. They did not know divine revelation like the Jews, but they studied the stars in their desire to seek God.

Tradition called the wise men “kings” in reference to Psalm 72 (10-11), which proclaims: “The kings of the West and the islands will pay tribute to him. The kings of Arabia and Ethiopia will offer him gifts. “All kings will bow down before him and all nations will serve him.”

This text is currently read in the U.S. Church as “May the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute, the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him.”

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2024/01/06/7-facts-about-the-wise-men-you-might-not-know/>
ACI Prensa Staff, Jan 6, 2024 / 04:00 am (CNA). This story was first published in 2021 by ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, **behold**, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him **homage**." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly **troubled**, and all **Jerusalem** with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the **Messiah** was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the **prophet**: And you, **Bethlehem**, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to **shepherd** my people **Israel**."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search **diligently** for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his **mother**. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their **treasures** and **offered** him **gifts** of gold, **frankincense**, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Unscramble the letters in the left hand column to fill in the grid in the right hand column.

Use the letters highlighted in "YELLOW" to fill in the phrase below. All words can be found in the Scripture Reading.

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You're invited! Please join us for a

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

benefiting



St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Bear. Delaware

Thursday, January 15, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**BE #310: 402 Eagle Run Road
Newark, DE 19702**

WILL DONATE 15% OF NET SALES

to the above organization when you present this flyer at checkout.