

# St. Elizabeth

December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

# Ann Seton Catholic Church

## Third Sunday OF ADVENT

**This is the one about whom it is written:**

“BEHOLD, I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU: HE WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.” MT 11:10



### MASS SCHEDULE

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, 10:30 am  
11:00 am Rosary/  
Confession

Thursday, 10:30am  
11:00 am Rosary/  
Confession

#### WEEKEND MASS

Sunday, 11:30am

### CONTACT US

755 Hwy 49  
Tennessee Ridge, TN 37178

931-721-3769

seastnoffice@aol.com

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 8:00am-11:00am.

Tuesday 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Thurs 9:00 am—2:00 pm

### OUR CLERGY

#### 12TH BISHOP OF NASHVILLE

Most Rev. J. Mark Spalding,  
DD, JCL

#### PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Aby Thanickal, CMI  
frabyfrancischurch@gmail.com

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St Elizabeth Ann Seton Tn



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## From the Pastor's Desk Rev. Fr. Aby Thanickal, CMI



### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

In today's Gospel, we meet John the Baptist at a moment of deep uncertainty. From his prison cell, John sends his disciples to Jesus with a simple but profound question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" These words echo the longing of every human heart—especially during Advent—as we wait, hope, and search for God's presence in the midst of our own trials.

Jesus does not answer John with theories or arguments. Instead, He points to signs—signs that reveal the very heart of God's kingdom breaking into the world. "Go and tell John what you hear and see..." The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news. These are not merely miracles; they are manifestations of God's compassion and the unmistakable marks of the Messiah. Where Jesus is present, brokenness is healed, and hope becomes possible again.

John the Baptist reminds us of the beauty of a life lived with singular purpose. He is the one who prepared the way, the voice crying out in the desert, calling people to repentance and renewal. Jesus honors him as the greatest born of women, yet also reveals a divine mystery: even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. This is not a criticism of John, but an invitation for us. We are called not merely to point toward Christ, as John did, but to live in the fullness of the kingdom Christ has already begun.

As we continue our Advent journey, this Gospel gently challenges us to reflect on our own expectations of God. Do we sometimes look for Christ only in extraordinary signs, while He quietly walks beside us in the ordinary moments of life? Do we recognize Him in acts of kindness, in forgiven wounds, in renewed relationships, in unexpected peace?

Advent is a time to open our eyes again—to see what God is doing in our lives, in our families, in our parish, and in our world. Jesus invites us, just as He invited John, to look carefully and listen deeply. The signs of His presence are all around us: in the joy we share, in burdens lifted, in simple blessings, and in the quiet assurance that God has not forgotten His people.

May this season of waiting strengthen our trust in the Lord who comes, who heals, and who renews all things. Let us prepare our hearts with humility, repentance, and joyful expectation, confident that the same Christ who walked the dusty roads of Galilee walks with us today.

Prayer



Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see Your presence in our lives and our hearts to receive Your healing grace. As we await Your coming in glory, strengthen our faith, deepen our hope, and fill us with Your peace. Amen.

**Fr. Aby Thanickal CMI**

# NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Tennessee Ridge, Tn. 37178

## PARISH STAFF

**Secretary Linda Allen**

**Tues: 9:00– 1:00**

**Thurs: 9:00-2:00**

**Book Keeper Tin Williams**

**Monday 8:00-11:00am**

**Wednesday 8:30-2:30  
(SFOA)**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### St Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Sun, Dec 14, St Elizabeth  
Ann Seton Parishioners**

**11:00am** Adoration/Rosary  
**11:30am** Mass

**Mon, Dec 15, Patricia  
Newton +**

**10:30am** Mass  
**11:00am** Rosary/Confession

**Thurs, Dec 18, Patricia  
Newton +**

**10:30 am** Mass  
**11:00am** Rosary/  
Confession

### St Francis of Assisi

**Sun Dec 14, St Francis of  
Assisi Parishioners**

**8:00am** Rosary  
**8:30am** Mass

**Wed, Dec 17, The children  
of St. Francis of Assisi**

**5:00pm** Rosary/Confession  
**5:30pm** Mass

**Fri, Dec 19 Robert Womack  
& Family**

**9:00am** Mass/9:30 Rosary

**Sat, Dec 20, For our Lectors**

**5:00pm** Rosary  
**5:30pm** Vigil Mass

**Sun, Dec 21, St. Francis of  
Assisi Parishioners**

**8:00am** Rosary  
**8:30 am** Mass

## WEEK IN A GLANCE

Today is our Christmas Potluck  
Stay and fellowship

Tues, Dec 16th OCIA at 4:30pm

New Mass times on Mondays &  
Thursdays (10:30am)

## Christmas & New Year Mass schedule

December 25th 11:30am Mass  
January 1st Adoration at 11:00am-  
11:30am– Mass at 11:30am.



THE THIRD CANDLE IS PINK & IS THE

*"Candle of Joy."*

IT RECALLS THE JOY WE HAVE IN  
KNOWING, LOVING, AND FOLLOWING  
CHRIST – NO MATERIAL POSSESSION OR  
GIFT CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF THE JOY  
WE HAVE IN FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a Liturgy meeting  
today after Potluck.

Winter Mass Schedule  
Change

Monday & Thursday 10:30am  
Mass  
11:00am Rosary/Confession

On Monday, December 22  
Father Aby will hear confes-  
sions after the 10:30 Mass

## Spread some Christmas Joy!

Each year, we have a fun  
tradition of hanging stockings in  
the hallway for our children, and  
people are free to put candies,  
little gifts or toys, holy cards, etc.  
in the stockings. Each stocking is  
marked with the child's name.  
The children will receive their  
loot on Christmas or thereafter.  
This year we have 14 children  
ranging in age from about 1-14.  
Their names, sex, and ages are on  
the bulletin board if you need that  
info - there are sheets to take  
with you if you like.



## Secretary Position

We are looking for a part time  
Secretary for both parishes  
starting in April. See Fr. Aby for  
more details.

# Liturgical Ministers

Minister	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 25	Dec 28	Jan 4
Lector	Seth Rye	Diane Lill	Bonnie Lill	Sue Resler	Bill Resler
E.M.H.C	Connie Vorholt	Janet Hake	David H.	Diane Lill	Gregg Lill
E.M.H.C	Sue Resler	Glenn Hake	Diane Lill	Gregg Lill	Bonnie Lill
Gift Bearer	Smith	Vorholt	Walker	Williams	Zwolak
Money Counters	Arthon/Jurgovan	Lill/Walker	NA	Arthon/Jurgovan	Lill/Walker
Greeters	Larry & Tony	Greg & Diane	Zwolaks	Larry & Tony	Greg & Diane

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK/FEAST DAYS

Dec 14-21

- Sunday Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11 3rd Advent
- Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13/Mt 21: 28-32
- Wednesday Gn 49: 2, 8-10/Mt 1: 1-17
- Thursday Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1: 18-25
- Friday Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
- Saturday Is 7: 10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday Is 7: 10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1: 18-24 4th Sun/Adv

## Prayer Intentions

Henry Garrett, Tammy Arthon, Gregg Lill, Dale Edwards, Ken Simpson, Frank Visconi, Robin Frederick Laws and Sue Resler.



**Thank you for your support!**  
Our Gifts to the Lord

Last Week's Collection: Online \$  
Cash & checks: \$  
**Total:\$**

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**Please consider end of year giving to the church.**

**“Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord, who will pay back the sum in full.” Proverbs 19:17**



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