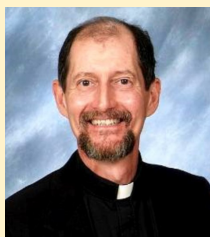




"EMPOWERED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT,...LET US SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST"



Rev. Douglas J. Mayer

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our parish Synod Round table meeting took place on October 14th. Over one hundred and eighteen parishioners participated in the discussions. In early January we will receive eight summation documents, called "White Papers". All of the Catholic parishes in Porter County will send their liaisons to a meeting on February 4th. From the reading of the White Papers, the liaisons will propose their top five goals for each of the eight Pillars of Ministry.



There were two Young Catholics table discussions. One facilitated by Kevin Dywan, just off sight. Chuck Conlin facilitated the other Young Catholic Group.



We held our Ministry Fair the first weekend in November with a Banner Procession in church and the Fair in the parish hall. The following weekend on Commitment Sunday, parishioners turned in the pledge cards telling us where they intended to share their time and talent within the parish. In addition to those who renewed their 2016 pledge and will continue serving in their chosen ministry, twenty eight of our 68 ministries, received new pledges of service. To date, nearly one hundred parishioners have made first time pledges of their time and talent to a new ministry in 2017. If we have not received your Commitment pledge card, you can still submit one for 2017.

Our Widow and Widower Ministry hosted our annual Memorial Mass on All Souls, for all of our deceased family and friends that were called to the Lord between All Saints 2015 and 2016. The Mass began with a touching candle lighting service. As a bell was tolled, we remembered each loved one by name. The following week, the Knights of Columbus Council 7473 held their Memorial Mass. Both masses were followed by a wonderful reception of food and fellowship.

On November 19th, Bishop Hying joined us for the Saturday night Mass and Confirmed twenty of our Freshman parishioners. He encouraged them and us to be courageous witnesses of our faith in the Lord Jesus.



Elizabeth Amones
Elizabeth chose St. Maria as her Patron St.



Alexis Mihalich
Alexis chose St. Lucy as her Patron St.



Blake Piazza
Blake chose St. Valentine for his Patron St.

The following morning at the 9:00am mass, I had the privilege to receive testimony from our Catholic sponsors regarding six baptized Christians who are Preparing to be received into the Catholic Church. Each sponsor testified that their Candidate should be recommended as being ready to be received at Easter into the Catholic Church. We sent Candidates: Melissa and Roger Fisher, Tammie Lavenda, Becky LeRoy, Leann Montes and Pamela Swiss to the Cathedral. Bishop Don, gave his blessing for their final preparation, to be received into the Catholic Church this Easter, at which time they will be Confirmed and Receive Holy Eucharist. You can see their smiling faces (with their sponsors) waiting for the Mass to begin.

It is hard to believe that we have celebrated the birthday of Jesus. Each year, we recall this great mystery, to renew our memory of the great love God has shown us. We stand on the threshold of this new year 2017. We do not know what worldly events will unfold. St. Paul said: "You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace of Christ earned for us and live by that grace in obedience to Christ. Peace, Fr. Doug

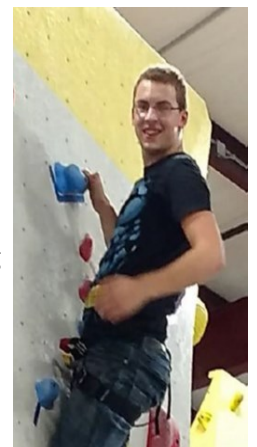


St. Elizabeth Seton Youth Group Rocks

I am frequently asked by teens, "What do I have to do to join Seton Youth?" The simple answer "Nothing." If you are grade 7 through high school, you are already a part of Seton Youth. All teens are welcome and accepted. It is totally fine to bring a friend to our events. Many friendships are made and many teens "hangout" together outside of our gatherings. We always set aside time for fun whether we are at the church having a Halloween Party or on an outing rock climbing, kayaking, bowling, ice skating or at the movies. We are a big family who work and play together.



Like a family, we support each other when we confront life's problems. Peers and adult leaders are always there to help. At our gatherings, we frequently have group discussions about common problems facing teens, so they know how to face them from a Catholic perspective when they arise. St. Seton is a great community, but to experience it, you need to get involved. If you are a teen, or know one who would like to be more involved, please call me or my wife Pam at (219) 464-9680 Andy Byers.



Faith Formation Thanksgiving Food Drive



Our students in Faith Formation gathered to Thank God for their blessings and brought can and dry goods for the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Our Faith Formation Sunday Youth Mass Liturgical Servers



Back Row: Left to Right: Julianna Zandzian, Carter Smith, Kristie Kula, Emma Maloney, Faith Zendzian. Front Row: Left to Right: Camry Smith, Isabella Domoras, Evan Lahart, and Blake Laba. The children were lectors, table setters, ushers, gift bearers, etc.

On the left is Mata Ramirez our cross bearer. Juliana Cook is on the right helped bring up the gifts.

St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving and Christmas

SVDP 2016

Thanksgiving Baskets



One hundred and twenty four family boxes prepared!

On Friday, November 18th, eight members of St. Vincent de Paul arrived after morning mass and began putting 124 boxes together (food for 596 family members) and marking them with the names of each family that would receive a Thanksgiving Basket.

On Saturday November 19th, the door opened from 9:00am to 10:30am. Families came and received their turkey or ham along with the box of fixings for Thanksgiving Dinner and gift cards so they could purchase fresh produce for their holiday meal.

The Christmas Angel Tree went up on the First Sunday of Advent with 139 Angels for needy families. Almost every angel card was off the Christmas Tree by the end of the 11:00am Mass. Wonder gifts were distributed to families along with a Christmas Food Basket to each family. Many thanks to all of our St. Elizabeth Seton Parishioners and to all of the SVDP volunteers!



St. Elizabeth Seton Angel Tree provided gifts for **139 families**.

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Stewardship in the New Year: Making Commitments to the Lord

Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that needs constant renewal and transformation. This time of year has always been one of looking forward to a new year, reflecting on the changes we need to make in our lives and resolving to follow through on those changes. Perhaps those who seek to make resolutions to be better stewards might find inspiration in one or more of the following examples:

Stewardship of Prayer: Resolve to strengthen your relationship with the Lord through prayer. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. If you are a beginner, commit to short, daily prayer times.



Stewardship of Family: Resolve to set aside more time to stay connected with your family. Eat dinner together, schedule regular dates with your spouse, plan family outings, and go to Mass together. Practice patience and forgiveness.

Stewardship of the Parish Family: Resolve to serve your faith community in some way this year such as at liturgy, in the parish's outreach or education and formation efforts. Is it time to enhance your generosity to the parish?

Stewardship of Mind: Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your Bible. In this presidential election year in the United States, become even more familiar with Catholic social teaching.

Seton Seniors



Some Seniors love potluck luncheons because there is so much good food! And Desserts! Some Seniors prefer to go out to a restaurant for lunch! So... we do both.

This Year the Christmas Luncheon was held at Pesto's in Valparaiso. Christmas Carols were sung and a good time was had by all.

Join us for lunch on the second Thursday of the month. Check the bulletin for our luncheons site.



Respect Life Ministry



Margie Wilson at Planned Parenthood

Forty years after “Roe Vs Wade” we continue to pray for the life of every mother and child. There is power in the prayers of the faithful. St. Seton Respect Life Ministry invites you to join them every Thursday at 4pm to say the Rosary at Planned Parenthood 8545 Connecticut St, Merrillville.

Funeral Luncheons



The Lord has given me the gift of being a Food Coordinator and I return that gift by serving others. I am amazed by all the food that the ministry brings. No matter how many funerals we have the ministry always responds. “God’s Angels” is what I call them. God Bless them with their continued help!

Diane Kosmoski

Black Tie-White Collar Gala

The first Black Tie-White Collar Gala to support the culture of vocations to the Priesthood was held at Trinity Hall (St. Patrick’s Church) in Chesterton, IN on November 12, 2016. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s Vocation Ministry, donated two baskets for the silent auction. Mr. and Mrs Ivan & Brianna Pierce, parishioners of St. Elizabeth Seton attended the gala with their son, Tyler Pierce. Tyler Pierce was accepted by the Diocese of Gary as a first year college seminarian.



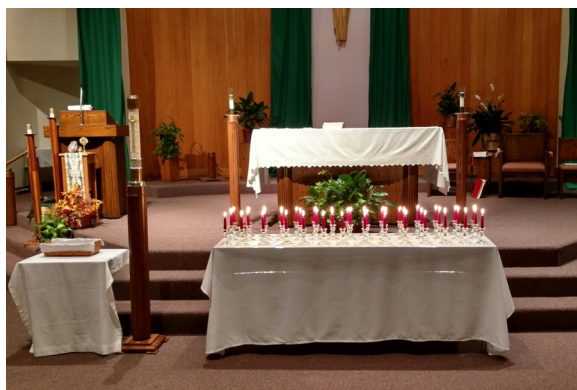
The Gala was attended by Bishop Donald Hying, Rev. Kime, Director of Vocations, fellow priests and other seminarians from our diocese. The evening began with cocktails and appetizers, followed by dinner, dancing; a silent auction and a live auction. Everyone had an opportunity to meet our seminarians and engage in conversations.

Pictured to the right are other St. Elizabeth Seton parishioners who attended the Black Tie-White Collar Gala.



Next year the Gala will be held November 11, 2017 at Trinity Hall, Chesterton, IN. Save the Date!

Remembering loved ones in a special way



Memorial Candles waiting to be lite by families.

A Memorial Mass for all deceased members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and any of their family members were remembered in prayer on All Souls Day, November 2, 2016 at 7 pm.

As the name of each deceased person was read, a bell tolled and a family member lit a candle in their honor. At the mass we remember fifty loved ones by name and our Lord’s promise of Eternal Life.

Following the Liturgy, all were invited to share fellowship at a reception held in the vestibule. Wonderful food was lovingly prepared by members of the Widow and Widower Ministry.

To quote Andy Byers “ My mother, Mary Lou Byers, would of appreciated this Memorial– it was very nice”.

Deepen Your life with Christ . . . A January Invitation

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH is a weekend experience that takes place at our parish. It is based on the teaching of Jesus and the scriptures. The weekend is designed to nurture the spiritual growth of regular Catholic Christian men and women. As an adult, when was the last time you did something to deepen your faith and your personal relationship with Christ? Many have had that very blessing come to them through their participation in a Christ Renews His Parish weekend! These guys did.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
At the Christ Renews His Parish retreat I was able to relax, away from the demands of my daily life. After years of coping with various stresses pretty much 24/7, I listened as others described their different but equally stressful challenges and how their faith and the Lord's tender loving care were working in their lives to bring them direction, hope, peace, and joy. I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit there encouraging me to relax and trust that all is well! I met and got to know and care about women I'd seen in church for years but with whom I'd never before had a real conversation.

Many special and lasting friendships were formed. Nothing was required of me, but I left with a deeper faith and

sense of well-being that have greatly enriched my life and my family's life.

I've come to look on the Christ Renews His Parish weekend as a gift from God in answer to my prayers asking for help with my stressful life! To all of my brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Elizabeth Seton, may I extend to you an invitation to sign up for this wonderful weekend.

Vickie Schimpf, A fellow parishioner



As members of the men and women's team, we would like to invite all the men and women of our parish who have reached the age 18 and above, to join us for our upcoming January Christ Renews His Parish weekend. Come and experience a way of prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth that will stay with you long after the weekend is over.

Women's Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, January 14-15, 2017—Contact: Sharon Hofferth 219-929-8888, Karen Kordys 219-464-9009 or Sherrie Horan 219-252-6388

Men's Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, January 28-29, 2017—Contact: Ed Hamilton 219-996-4538 or Frank Villareal 219-617-6119

Faith Pratt, Director of Music

Faith Pratt all decked out in red with the members of the St Elizabeth Seton Bell Choir, posed for a picture following the Confirmation Mass in November. She has been our Director of Music since June 1, 2000.



Faith Pratt has been playing the piano and organ at Mass for sixty six (66) years to the Glory to God! Faith is retiring in 2017, after she helps us find a new music director. Thank you for your ministry!

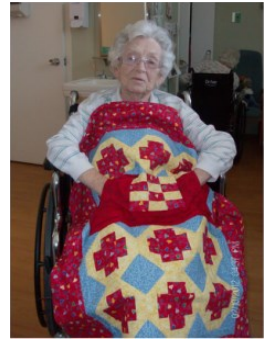
Martha/Mary Prayer Guild, Warming Hearts

Are you familiar with the stories of 2 sisters in the bible, Martha and Mary? Lazarus becomes very ill and the sisters send out a message to Jesus to come and heal their brother. They believed in Jesus's power to heal. However, by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already lain in the tomb for 4 days! The sadness of the 2 sisters touched Jesus. He too, loved Lazarus, so even after 4 days in the tomb, through Jesus, God brought Lazarus back to life!

Faith in God and Jesus can have very strong healing powers. So too, our own Martha/Mary Guild Ministry. We pray for the healing power of God to help the sick of our community. While we pray, our hands are kept busy crocheting and knitting prayer shawls for anyone who is in need of the healing grace of God. We meet a couple times a month to have fellowship, crochet and pray. The finished shawls are placed in a cupboard here at church, free to anyone with a need for special healing.



This ministry is open to anyone. You don't even have to know how to crochet or knit. Our members enjoy teaching the willing. There is no cost involved. There are boxes of donated supplies here at St. Seton. Normally, we meet at church the first Tuesday (6:30-8:00 PM) and third Wednesday (9:00-10:30 AM), of each month. If you are interested in more information, or have a shawl, or yarn that you might like to donate, please feel free to contact Gwen Graf at (219) 477-5087. Men are welcome, too.



Prison Ministry - A Corporal work of Mercy

Our parish Prison Ministry program assists ex-offenders. Letters arrive in the mail every day of the week. Each Monday morning the team begins by reading the letters requesting clothing and personal items. At 10:00am the teams stops all their work of making care packages. They then turn to the Lord in prayer and begin praying for those about to be newly released as well as those they have helped in the past. A special thanks to all who donate items and to those who supported our November Raffle and Bake Sale. Did you know we get thank you letters from the men we help?



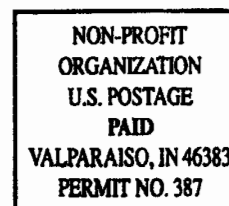
Knights of Columbus 2nd Annual Hayride



The Knights of Columbus held their 2nd Annual Hayride on October 15. The event drew parishioners from St. Seton and Holy Spirit parishes.



Nearly 100 people attended including members and their families as well as friends and several members of our Youth Group. They enjoyed the hayride, games, hot dogs, s'mores, fellowship and a lot more! A good time was had by all.



Return Service Requested

SETON NEWSLETTER

509 W. Division Road
Valparaiso, IN 46385

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Valparaiso, IN 46385

219-464-1624; fax 219-465-7673

Email: seseton@comcast.net

Website: seseton.com

Facebook: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Masses: Tuesday-Friday 8 am

Saturday, 5 pm

Sunday, 7:30 am, 9 am & 11 am

Pastor: Rev. Douglas J. Mayer



Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

- **Tuesday morning Scripture Study:** This group meets every Tuesday morning at 9 am. Starting January 10, 2017, we will be studying Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit, by Michael Timmis. Please contact Sue Dywan, 219-988-2087.
- **Tuesday evening Scripture Study:** This group meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm. We will discover the meaning of the Book of Revelations. Please contact Kathy Balmes, 219-765-7785.
- **ECHO:** ECHO is an on line video series hosted by Bishop Donald Hying. Pilgrimage with Bishop Donald as he leads us through the US Catholic Catechism for Adults. To register go to: smartin@dccgary.org and follow the link to Pilgrimage with Bishop Hying—ECHO
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** January 6th join the community for the 8:00am morning mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 8:30am through Noon. The closing prayers of Adoration and Benediction begin at 11:40pm.
- **Christ Renews His Parish Women's Weekend:** Saturday & Sunday, January 14-15, 2017—Contact: Sharon Hofferth 219-929-8888, Karen Kordys 219-464-9009 or Sherrie Horan 219-252-6388
- **Christ Renews His Parish Men's Weekend:** Saturday & Sunday, January 28-29, 2017—Contact: Ed Hamilton 219-996-4538 or Frank Villareal 219-617-6119
- **Men's Bible Group:** At church, every fourth Sunday evening from 6:30pm to 8pm.