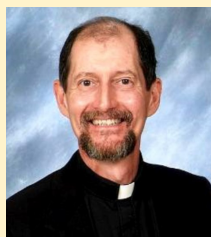




**"EMPOWERED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT,...LET US SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST"**



Rev. Douglas J. Mayer

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Dear Families and Friends,

I was at a meeting of the Pastoral Council and they said "WE NEED A NEW PARISH DIRECTORY. The picture to your left was taken eight years ago when I first joined our parish. It's time we create a fun new Parish Photo Directory!

We need YOU to make our directory complete! To celebrate our church family and strengthen the bond within our congregation, we welcome you to be a part of our upcoming new directory. A new directory:

- Preserves this special time in the life of our church
- Becomes a lasting record of our current membership
- Helps us connect faces with names

We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary hard copy directory, a down loadable directory for your smart phone or PC and an 8x10 portrait. You can sign up for photography online at our church website at [www.seseton.com](http://www.seseton.com) or call our office at 219 464 1624 X 222

### PHOTOGRAPHY DATES

Thursday	April 20th— May 4th—May 25th	1:30pm to 8:20pm
Friday	April 21st— May 5th	1:30pm to 8:20pm
Saturday	April 22nd— May 6th	10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday	April 23rd —May 7th	9:00am to 3:00pm
Tuesday	May, 23rd,	1:30pm to 8:20pm
Wednesday	May 24th	1:30pm to 8:20pm

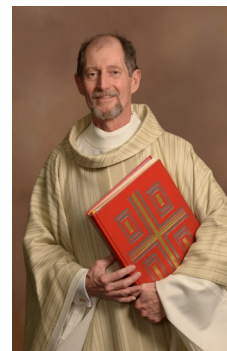
For your convenience, all photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with NO sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken. One pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. Lifetouch's portrait price lists are available in the church office for those who would like them prior to photography.



Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory. I am encouraging 100% participation! You can even schedule a picture with your extended

family and your pet. I choose my team colors!

Blessing, Fr. Doug



## Rite of Election



Bishop Hying receives Mr. De' Juan Mc Duell with his godparent as an "Elect".

On February 26th, 2017, the Rite of Election was held at Holy Angles Cathedral. Bruce Cogdill and De' Juan Mc Duell have been preparing for over a year to become Christian. As part of that journey Bruce and De' Juan's sponsors/godparents have to testify to Bishop Hying that these men are ready to live their life as Catholic Christians. Happily Bishop Hying *enrolled them as the ELECT*. Bruce and De' Juan will journey with us through Lent and will be baptized, receive Confirmation and receive First Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Please keep them in your prayers.



Bishop Hying receives Mr. Bruce Cogdill with his sponsor as an "Elect".

## Seton Youth Misson

This summer, following Pope Francis' example, we are focusing on service to others and working to evangelize the world. For a week in June, we will be assisting a needy community in Hardeeville, South Carolina, through an organization called Catholic Heart Workcamp.



CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP VOLUNTEERS

To share the love of Christ as we serve the neglected, broken-hearted and the marginalized in any way needed. Equally, to inspire participants to live as disciples of Christ through serving others as a way of life; and to foster the Catholic Faith of each participant through the sacraments, prayer, and involvement in social service.

Our typical day will begin with an early wake-up at the local school where we will be staying. After breakfast, we will divide into small work teams and travel to various worksites at the homes, food banks, or daycare centers of the needy in the community. Our duties may involve painting, roofing, siding, cleaning, passing out food, caring for children or assisting the elderly. Returning to the school in the

late afternoon, we will have some free time to clean up before dinner and our Faith Program begins. We will hear witness talks, discuss faith issues, participate in mass and reconciliation, and enjoy praise and worship music. This mission allows the teens to help others and recharge themselves.

If you would like to assist us in our mission, please pray for our safe journey, support our fundraisers, and consider donating to the Seton Youth Mission Fund.

## SES Bereaved & Homebound Ministries

This past Christmas our Ministries experienced the highest volume of flower deliveries to the bereaved and homebound (58 total). Your generosity of spirit brought countless numbers of smiles to those who mourn a loss and to those who are unable to participate in parish life.

I applaud the many of you who gave of your time, and those who went the extra mile to bring joy and the true spirit of Christmas to your fellow parishioners. With your help, we would like to deliver an Easter flower to our homebound and bereaved.

We will be asking for Easter Flower drivers starting the weekend of April 1st.

Many Thanks, Mary Hollis





## Faith Formation-Kaitlyn Kula



My name is Kaitlynn E. Kula. I will be 12 years old in April. I am in sixth grade at Colonel John Wheeler Middle School. I have two brothers Brandon and Derrick. Brandon is 15 and a freshman in high school. Derrick is 21, and he is in college. My parents are Kristie and Ziggy Kula. I love my family very much. In addition, I have two guinea pigs whose names are Elfie and Don Pablo, and two cats named Oreo and Scarface.

I love coming to Faith Formation because I like learning about what Jesus did for us. In Faith Formation I learn about the early church which strengthens my faith because I learned that the apostles received the Holy Spirit and I believe the Holy Spirit guides me to make good decisions.

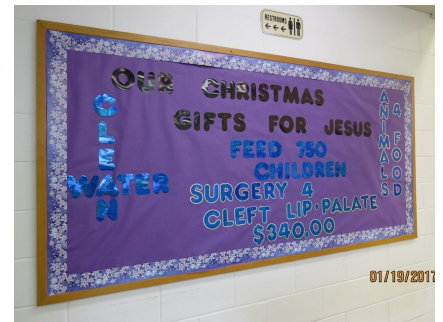
I also learned that some apostles were persecuted for their beliefs. I know that some people even die for their beliefs today so we are able to love and care about God the way I do now. What I learn in Faith Formation helps me in my life because I know when someone is talking behind someone else's back. I stand up for what is right and tell them to please stop, and they do.

## Faith Formation Advent/Christmas Project

### OUR BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO JESUS

Our Faith Formation students were asked to do EXTRA projects around the house during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Parents were asked to provide them with .25—\$1.00 for their efforts. This year our students raised a total of \$340.00.

We are dividing this amount into four contributions of \$85.00 to the following organizations: Fr. Ron Mrozinski with Cross International Catholic Outreach will receive \$85.00. This contribution will feed more than 750 children at a cost of .10 cents per day. ([www.crosscatholic.org](http://www.crosscatholic.org)). Heifer International will receive \$85.00 for a Share of a Buffalo, Share of a Llama, Flock of Chicks, and Ducks/Geese that will go to poor families. ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)). Children's Safe Drinking Water will receive \$ 85.00. A .10 cent PUR packet sanitizes 10 liters of contaminated water, making it safe to drink in 20 minutes. Our donation will save the lives of countless children. ([www.csdw.org](http://www.csdw.org))



## Three Kings Visit Faith Formation



When Faith Formation classes resumed after Christmas break, we had three very special visitors who came bearing gifts to our students. This year Deacon Kim Eaton, Jim Murphy, and Ed Stram dressed as the

Three Kings and visited each classroom explaining the bible story from Matthew 2:1-12. We remember the wise men that traveled from afar to find Jesus and give him gifts. Their names were Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the East saw a bright star in the sky. They knew that something special had happened. They followed the star until they came to where Jesus was. They honored Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This story provides an opportunity to think about what Jesus means to us. Like the wise men, we should look for the star in our lives and follow it. Like the wise men, we too must bring him gifts, especially the gift of our hearts and our love. This story is important also because it helps us remember that Jesus came for people of all nations, near and far. Each king carried a large bowl filled with candy, and students got to choose three of their favorite pieces.

## Bishop Donald Hying's Invitation



Bishop Donald Hying presided at the opening session of the February Synod meeting hosted at our parish.

On Saturday, June 3rd over 400 delegates from all of the parishes in the diocese and religious communities will meet at Bishop Noll High School.

In addition to Fr. Doug, our parish will have two voting representatives; Beth Casbon a member of our parish Synod Team, and our Parish Liaison, Barbara Peuquet. They will be asked to select the top five strategic goals for mission in our diocesan and our parishes based on the eight pillars of the Bishop's Pastoral.



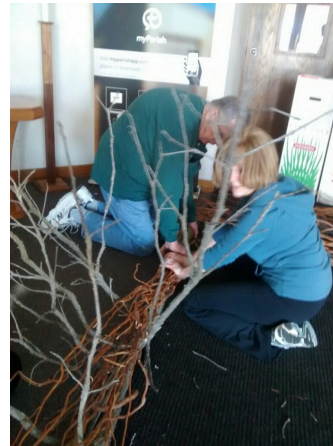
The Synod is a monumental event in the life of the Diocese of Gary. On Sunday June 4th, at 2:00, there will be a solemn Mass presided by Bishop Hying. **We are all invited to this historic Mass at the Genesis Center in Gary Indiana. After the Mass, the celebration will continue at the Cathedral of Holy Angels with food and fellowship. Our parish will be reserving buses to take those of us who want to attend this historic event.**

In order to get some idea of how many buses we will need to reserve, please send us an email at: [se-seton.com](mailto:se-seton.com), or phone us at 464 1624 x 221. To reserve a seat for your party, please be sure to give us your name, phone number and the number of people that want to attend the June 4th Mass and celebration.



## Preparing for Lent

Members of the Environment Ministry



prepared the Church for Lent with a large barren tree formed into the shape of a cross.

The use of stones, a crown of thorns, a whip and nails were also used to remind us that Christ suffered for our sins. Thanks to all members of the Environment Ministry for sharing their time and

talent to enhance our liturgy for the benefit of all members of the parish. A special thanks to Ed and Tim for climbing the ladder to remove the Risen Christ during Lent!

Fr Doug with members of our parish burn last years palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.



## Café Manna

### Denise and Chuck Conlon

Christine Harsh, the Volunteer Coordinator for Café Manna at St. Teresa Avila, has invited our parish to help them serve meals while the Valparaiso University students are on summer break. Christine said: "As you know, we serve every Thursday from 4:30-6:30pm. We average about 325 meals served weekly." Our volunteers usually come in from 4:00pm to-7:00pm. They help with serving, cleaning up, hospitality, and such."

Denise and Chuck Conlon coordinated all of our parish volunteers last year and have agreed to lead our team again. Denise and Chuck need 10 to 12 volunteers an evening. We need interested volunteers for May 18th, June 15th, July 20th and August 17th. Parishioners interested in being on one of the St. Seton teams serving Café Manna should email Denise and Chuck at:

[melpiker@comcast.net](mailto:melpiker@comcast.net).



## Feeding the Homeless Men

For the past nine years, St. Elizabeth Seton volunteers have been feeding the Homeless men of New Creation at the Mennonite Church on the first and third Sunday of the month from October through April.

These men sleep at that church on Sunday evenings and move to a different church every night of the week.

The volunteers provide a home cooked meal and serve it up with friendly smiles. In the photo, Kevin and Sherry Barker along with Dick Maxwell serve up the yummy food.



The men are so grateful not only for the great dinner but also for the care and concern of the volunteers. It's a beautiful ministry.

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

### 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

April 7th and 8th

Begins:  
Friday,  
April 7th  
At  
3:00PM



Ends:  
Saturday,  
April 8th  
At  
3:00PM

We invite all of you to come and spend some time in prayer, at our 24 Hour Prayer Vigil. All of our prayer requests will be placed on a table before the Lord.

We encourage you to come and take a few of the Prayer Cards and pray for the needs of one another.

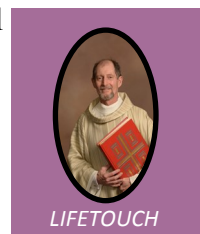
*Come anytime - for a short or longer time of prayer and adoration.*

## SETON WEBSITE

We have an improved website!! Our address is still: [www.seseton.com](http://www.seseton.com) but you will find that it has changed for the better. In addition to an improved design and aesthetic, I think you will find that it is very user friendly. As you scroll down our homepage you will find a fun aerial view of the church grounds. Below that we now have an interactive parish calendar. That means we will be able to add any new event to our online parish calendar. Faith Formation also has it's own online interactive calendar for parents and parish.

In the past you could view our bulletin online, but now it has a subscriber link so you can have it sent to your email on a weekly basis. To help all of our ministries get the word about a "special event" we have created a link for parishioners and visitors using our web site.

Our SPECIAL EVENTS link will make it much easier to find out about upcoming activities. We created a Lifetouch link so you can set up your appointment to have your picture taken for our new Parish Directory.



Families will be able to join the parish online and return their completed paperwork on line or in person. Adults looking to become Catholic will find an easy link to our Rite of Christian Initiation Program. Engaged couples will be able to see the dates of our Baptism and Marriage Pre Cana Class and download registration forms.

Our St Vincent De Paul Society and Knights of Columbus have their own quick links to help outreach to those in need of their services. In fact all of our parish ministries have their own new links that explains what their ministry is about. We will be able to imbed pictures of each ministry's events and post the name, phone number and email of their team contact. As in the past you will be able to go to our website to look at our bulletin and our ministry schedule.

We hope you find our new website user friendly. With your help and creativity we can add links using YouTube, Facebook, and videos to showcase our parish and it's ministries. I encourage you to be creative and submit those items to Lisa Wolf who administers our website. We still have some work to do to get the site the way we want it. If you see something that needs our attention, email us at: [seseton@comcast.net](mailto:seseton@comcast.net).



## MEMORIAL REMEMBERS THE POOR



Marianne Kacmarik and John Hruskocy grew up in Whiting Indiana. John and Marianne's parents were immigrants. In fact both families immigrated from the same town of Zborov, Slovakia. Yet the Kacmarik's and Hruskocy's did not know each other, until Marianne and John met in Whiting Indiana and married. Eventually they had a daughter Margaret. Early in their marriage John discovered that his wife Marianne had a special place in her heart for the poor. John and Margaret recounted that "Marianne was always concerned about those suffering from cold and hunger". As a family, Marianne would take young Margaret with her and they would take donations to the St. Joseph Church Food Pantry in Hammond. Over the years, John would go turkey hunting. As a family they would take the turkeys to St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen for Thanksgiving.

In 2014 John and Marianne joined St. Elizabeth Seton parish. Prior to joining our parish, Marianne had been diagnosed with cancer. With all the treatments and health issues, Marianne was unable to volunteer with our St. Vincent De Paul. Being influenced by the humble background of her parents, she always had a heart for the needs of the vulnerable. When Marianne, knew she was losing her battle with cancer, she asked her husband and daughter to tell everyone not to purchase flowers for her funeral. Marianne Hruskocy was called to eternal life on January 1, 2017. John and Margaret presented St Elizabeth Seton's St. Vincent De Paul Society with a generous memorial gift so that Marianne could help us care for the poor as Jesus taught.

## Stewardship of Others: Our Life as Servant Leaders

by Leisa Anslinger, author and co-founder of Catholic Strengths and Engagement Community (CSEC).



We can be inspired by the faith and courage of the apostles and those who came to believe in Jesus Christ as a result of their witness and stewardship of their community of faith.

During this Easter season we again immerse ourselves in the wonder of Jesus' resurrection and the story of the early Church through our Sunday liturgies. Each year, I look forward to hearing from the Acts of the Apostles during this season. I am inspired by the faith and courage of the apostles and those who came to believe in Jesus Christ as a result of their witness and stewardship of their community of faith. I am also encouraged when reading the story of the development of the early communities of believers – not only did they face immense challenges from the Roman and Jewish authorities, they were often challenged from within, as they figured out what it meant to be Christians in community with one another.

In his book on the gift of administration, Reverend Donald Senior, biblical scholar and former president of Catholic Theological Union, writes of the ways leadership emerged in the early Church. He writes:

*The inspiration for all leadership in the New Testament is rooted in the example of Jesus. His qualities of compassion, integrity, and selfless service in the carrying out of his mission are reflected in the virtues lifted up in the examples of early community leaders such as Peter, Barnabas, Paul, and Priscilla and Aquila. The fundamental responsibility of New Testament leaders is to foster the common good of the community – and here, too, the example of Jesus is paramount. Jesus the healer and teacher was committed to the restoration and well-being of God's people. So, too, the charismatic leadership of Paul and the more administrative type of leadership exercised by Peter, Barnabas, Phoebe, and Priscilla and Aquila and many others were directed to building up the Body of Christ." Fr. Senior goes on to summarize this form of leadership, modeled by Jesus himself, as "servant leadership."*<sup>1</sup>

As we hear the story of the early Church this Easter season, let us reflect on our stewardship of others in our family of faith, our role as servant leaders: How do we continue the mission of Jesus with compassion, integrity and selfless service? How do we build up the Body of Christ as a community of disciples and stewards?

<sup>1</sup> Senior, Donald, "The Gift of Administration: New Testament Foundations for the Vocation of Administrative Service," Collegeville, MN, Liturgical Press, 40.



## Seton Youth in Action: January, February & March

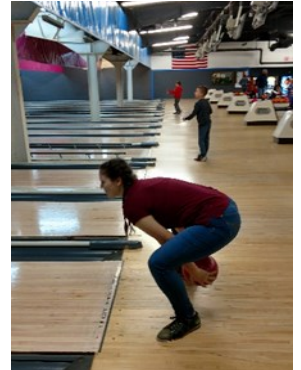
**Lock-In** – One cold January night Seton Youth spent the night in the church. Between movies, games, food, prayer and deep discussions we didn't get to sleep until WELL after midnight. After starting Sunday with a



filling breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and bacon, our teens hit the ground running with their usual busy schedules; a swim meet, Diocesan Youth Council meetings and, of course, homework.

**Bowling** – Okay, so we're not endangering any national bowling records, but we still have fun. On a Sunday afternoon, Seton Youth descended upon

Super Bowl in Crown Point for an afternoon of pizza and pins. No one's high score peaked above about 130, but then again, no one used bumpers.



**Teen Dance** – Seton Youth wanted to hold a dance open to all 7th-12th graders in the Diocese. On February



25th, teen Stephanie Hudson made it happen by planning a "Bringin' Back the 80's Dance" in Seton Hall. Teens dressed in their finest 80's fashions and danced to YMCA. Dinner, junk food, an 80's trivial game, limbo, and a fantastic DJ with a great light show kept the teens moving all night. We had teens from across the Diocese and everyone had a fantastic time. Great job Stephanie!



**Stations of the Cross** – Currently, Seton Youth is practicing for our annual Stations of the Cross presentation. The teens work hard on this, perfecting their acting, singing and backstage skills. We hope to see you there Good Friday at 7 pm.



## Christ Renews His Parish 2017

Women -(back row):  
Elizabeth Hightshoe,  
Erica Cadwell,  
Tina Hudson,  
Debbie Rzepczynski  
( front row):  
Cheryl Nash,  
Caitlyn Pszonka,  
Jean Kirk



Men: (Left to Right):  
Robert Mihalich,  
Bob Crawford,  
Mark Hansen,  
Tim Henderlong,  
Ed Weber,  
Ziggy Kula,  
Frank Roti

Fourteen men and women of our Parish attended our annual Christ Renews His Parish weekend this past January. They were renewed in their faith and touched by the Holy Spirit in many ways, and all



enjoyed the experience. Many thanks to our own Parishioners who planned the weekend and those who supported the teams with food, hospitality and especially to Fr. Doug for all his support. If you would like to attend the weekend next year, please check the upcoming Newsletters for more information."



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
509 W. Division Road  
Valparaiso, IN 46385**

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## SETON NEWSLETTER

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Valparaiso, IN 46385

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

**Email:** [seseton@comcast.net](mailto:seseton@comcast.net)

**Website:** [seseton.com](http://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. Please contact Sue Dywan, 219-988-2087.
- **Tuesday evening Scripture Study:** This group meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm. 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@dcgary.org](mailto:smartin@dcgary.org) and follow the link to Pilgrimage with Bishop Hying—ECHO
- **Eucharistic Adoration: *Stewardship of Prayer* April 7th 3:00pm to April 8th 3:00pm**
- **Men's Bible Group:** At church, every fourth Sunday evening from 6:30pm to 8pm.
- **BESTLENTEVER.COM** Log on and enjoy daily reflections by Matthew Kelly
- **St. Elizabeth Seton Communal Penance Service: April 5th, 7:00pm**
- **SEDER SUPPER: April 12th, 7:00pm** For Reservations Call: 4646 1624 x221 or 222
- **HOLY THURSDAY—MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: APRIL 13TH, 7:00pm**
- **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION: APRIL 14TH, 2:00pm**
- **LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS: APRIL 14TH, 7:00PM**
- **EASTER VIGIL MASS 7:30PM**
- **EASTER SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am**
- **Totus Tuus [Totally Yours] - July 24th to July 28th** for Youth entering grades 1-6.
- **Totus Tuus [Totally Yours] - July 23rd to July 27th** for Youth entering grades 7-12