

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

During the month of November we remember all the saints. As I think you know, a favorite saint of mine is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Mother Seton was America's first native-born canonized saint. She was a wife, mother, widow, convert, loyal friend, educator, musician, caregiver, volunteer, and founder of the Sisters of Charity. Mother Seton also went through a lot of suffering including the early death of her husband and two of her children. She also experienced alienation from her relatives when she converted to the Catholic faith. There is a lot this American saint can teach us, as author Zoe Romanowsky reminds us in the passage below.

Elizabeth was "constantly looking up". She was even fond of saying it: "Look up and be thankful for the good that yet remains. Look up at the blue heavens and love him!" No doubt "looking up" became a practice Elizabeth had to cultivate in order to overcome discouragement and self-pity. She went from being a member of a socially prominent family to a struggling widow trying to provide for her five children and other dependents. She faced epidemics, frightening sea voyages, uncertainties and misunderstandings — all of which could easily have sent her to the brink of despair.

For Elizabeth, "looking up" was a simple gesture of body and soul, reminding her of who was the true Provider, and where she would find her ultimate home: in heaven. At a time when even a sore throat could spell an early demise and women often died in childbirth, Elizabeth was well acquainted with the fragility of life, and suffering was consistently knocking on her door. Yet she was always "looking up," in hope and trust that her life was in God's hands and also in his promises. Surrender to God's will.

A central theme in Mother Seton's life was the pursuit and acceptance of God's will. She once wrote, "God has given me a great deal to do and I have hoped always to prefer his will to every wish of my own."

And Elizabeth always had a great deal to do. In addition to her own children, she took in her husband William's younger siblings when his father died. She was active in her church, volunteered in various capacities, kept up a great deal of correspondence and wrote prolifically. Later, as a no-longer-wealthy widow, she had even more on her plate, yet she managed to found a new religious community — the Sisters of Charity, who educated the children of so many Catholic immigrants. She sought God's will in the Scriptures, and later in the sacramental life of the Church, but most of all in her circumstances the everyday struggles, triumphs, changes and trials. Her openness to the will of God led to her sanctity, and she was canonized as America's first native-born saint on September 14, 1975, by Pope Paul VI.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS IS AT 9:30AM. Let us gather together to sing the Lord's praises!

NEXT SUNDAY- HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION IN HONOR OF CHRIST OUR KING from 1 to 2 PM. It will be a time of praise and adoration and for approaching the throne of grace for mercy and healing.

ST. MARY'S HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

The mission of our healing prayer ministry is to help people to have a personal encounter with the Lord and experience his healing love. We do this by praying with people who are seeking physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Our healing prayer ministry is founded on our confidence in God the Father, who was given us every spiritual blessing in the heavens; Jesus Christ the Son who has redeemed us by his blood; and the Holy Spirit who fills us with the fire of his love. Persons seeking prayer from the healing prayer ministry will be given the opportunity to make an appointment with a prayer team for one or two confidential prayer sessions. To make an appointment to meet with one of our healing prayer teams, please contact Kaye Oliver at 240-682-0646 or Sam Oliver at 301-848-3206. Email can be sent to Samuel_Oliver@comcast.net.

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO BE A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR?

If so, **congratulations!** It is a great honor because you have been asked to help someone else to grow in faith as a Catholic. To assist those of you who are asked to be godparents or sponsors we have a two-class course called "**Preparing for the Sacraments for Parents and Sponsors.**" The course is for our parishioners who need a recommendation in order to be godparents or sponsors at other parishes. It will provide a good overview of our Catholic faith. This free course is offered from 7 to 9pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month. For more information contact Fr. Conley.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL \$60,000 RAFFLE You may purchase a ticket on your own for \$100 or consider purchasing a ticket with your friends, family or co-workers. Your ticket enters you in all 20 drawings.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM The Social Concerns Christmas Adopt-A-Family Angel Tree will be located in the rear of the church on Nov. 24-25. Details of the program will be provided next to the tree.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE –

The Social Concerns Committee collects food 52 weeks per year. Please help address the needs of our community with food donations. Bins are located in the back of the church. We are grateful for your continuing support.

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS-GREAT FOR EVERYBODY!

Would you like to make your donations electronically? We utilize web bill pay, set up through your individual bank for online donations at St. Mary's, because there are no hidden costs or fees associated with giving for the donor or for the church. For more information on how to set up online donations through your bank, please contact our Parish Accountant [Lisa Shumaker](mailto:Lisa.Shumaker) by phone at 301-870-2220 Ext. 11 or by email at smbacct@comcast.net.

THIRD ANNUAL PRO-LIFE SYMPOSIUM

The 3rd Annual Pro-Life Symposium is coming to St. Joseph's in Pomfret next month! Please join the Holy Family Respect Life Committee and Charles County Right to Life for the morning of Saturday, December 1 for a packed schedule of pro-life representatives preaching and teaching on this year's theme: Make an Impact! The keynote speaker this year is Steve Wagner, Executive Director of Justice for All.

For registration and the most up-to-date list of speakers, please visit www.tinyurl.com/somdprolife. Find us on Facebook/Instagram at @charlescountyrighttolife.

*Please Note: a First Saturday Mass will be offered for Catholics wishing to partake in the devotion during the 8:30am registration period.

ANGEL'S WATCH SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN HUGHESVILLE is in desperate need of comforters, sheets and pillows. We are moving soon to Waldorf. All our beds will be bunk beds, top twin and bottom full size. It would be greatly appreciated if we can receive new or gently used comforters for our shelter residents. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Clark at 301-274-0682.

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE PROGRAM

4 Stages of Marriage – The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stages of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille. All calls are confidential. To register or obtain more information visit our website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 443-400-7017.

NEEDS HELP!!!

A parishioner needs a ride here to church on weekends, lives in the Huntington area in St. Charles. Would prefer 4pm or 8am Mass, if possible. Please contact Mary at the rectory, if you are able to help: (301-870-2220) or (301-274-3187).

RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE NEEDS HELP

We need some help to work after the 12 Mass. Please call Ellen Walls at 301-579-2557 or Fay Adriani at 301-645-3531.

LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC, A JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE IN FAULKNER, MD IS SEEKING A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER.

Responsibilities include payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, benefits management and bank reconciliation. Experience with QuickBooks required. Experience with data base management and budgeting preferred. Loyola on the Potomac is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Competitive salary. Part-time position working 24 hrs. per week. Apply on or before 11/19/2018. Submit your resume to the Executive Director via email @ director@loyolaretreat.org.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR SPONSORED BY THE SODALITY AT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, LA PLATA, in the Friendship Room on Saturday, December 1, from 9 AM to 2 PM. Vendor tables are still available! For more information, call Maria at 817-821-8137.

KNOW OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND? Please contact Fr. Conley or Sister Theresa at the rectory so we can minister to their spiritual needs.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Parishioners, 10am Helen Wells, **12N:** Virginia Merz, **MON:** 8am JoAnne Weingarden, **TUES:** 8am All Souls, **WED:** 8am All Souls, **THURS:** 8am Maurice Long, Sr., **FRI:** 9:30am All Souls, **SAT:** 9am Kathleen Conway, 4pm Paul Istvan.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Stephen Balenger, Anna Bankins, Mary Bowes, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Susan Welch Day, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Keith Van Gadson, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, James Gibson, Zynae Green, Irma Johnson, Angie Kalnasy, Regina Kijesky, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Mary Reeves, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Jean Turner, Eva Washington, Beth Weise, Pat Werner, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND: \$7,119.00. The unidentified donations totaled \$891.00. We received \$95.00 for our School Support.