

ADVENT... A TIME FOR REFLECTION... A TIME OF PROMISE... A TIME FOR HOPE

We're almost there! We're getting closer to that wondrous day of our Lord's birth. Advent, the time of longing for the Savior, the time of anticipation is nearly over. The Church is a refuge during this time of preparation.

Catholic churches look and feel different during Advent. We're reminded of Lent, only shorter, with the purple vestments and the absence of the Gloria, that Christmas song sung by the angels at Bethlehem so long ago. Today's pink vestments reassure us the wondrous birth is fast approaching. Are we ready? Are we ready to greet the Light of the world? How have we prepared for this long awaited event? That event the prophets foretold and we experience, in a special way, during the Mass when Christ, the Son of God, comes to us completely and whole in the Eucharist.

The Christmas lights that are all around us serve as a reminder that Jesus Christ the light of the world is coming to fulfill the prophesies of old and to reassure us that salvation is near. Take a moment in your busy preparation for Christmas and once again reflect on today's readings.

Take a moment for quiet reflection and listen for the voice of God to speak to your heart.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Office, 804-359-5661; vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: GIVE BACK THROUGH YOUR IRA

During this time of giving, a distribution from your IRA is a great way to give back to the Church! Did you know: if you are 72 or older, you can make your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA straight to our parish. Giving through your IRA is EASY! To learn how you can make an impact through your IRA right now, contact your financial advisor or Maggie Keenan at the Catholic Community Foundation, (804) 622-5221; email to Maggie at: mkeenan@richmonddiocese.org.

Please make your gift as soon as possible so you can ensure it is received by December 31st, 2023!

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of study and prayer for those who have never been baptized, were baptized in another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, or were baptized Catholic, but never received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation. For more information about our programs at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, please contact the parish office at 804-932-4125 to be put in touch with our RCIA Coordinator.

K OF C BABY PRODUCTS DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus are holding a baby products drive for the East End Pregnancy Center during the month of December. Please place your donated items in the labeled collection bin in the Commons Area of the Church.

K OF C PARISH WINTER 50/50 FUNDRAISER

K of C Council 14034 is raising money for the SEAS Kitchen/Social Hall and maintenance fund to help with the cost of a new commercial refrigerator and other items for the social hall. The council will hold a parish winter 50/50 drawing with ticket prices \$10.00 for the first and \$5.00 for each additional ticket purchased at time of initial purchase. Ticket sales began on Dec. 2 and will run through Jan. 18, [drawing on Jan. 18.](#)

Parish Staff

Pastor:	Rev. J. Scott Duarte, J.C.D.	804-557-3962
Secretary & Bulletin Editor:	Rose Reed secretary@seascatholicchurch.org	804-932-4125
Bookkeeper:	Cheryl Rosser bookkeeper@seascatholicchurch.org	804-932-4125
Pastoral Council Members:	Matt Luther, Ginger Mary and Michelle Boyer	
Finance Council Members:	Greg Barlage, Harold Wayne and Paul Tran	
Sacristan:	Mary Brooks	804-932-4125
Parish Musicians:	Elisabeth Satterley and Michael Horvath	804-932-4125



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Email: secretary@seascatholicchurch.org

Website: www.seascatholicchurch.org

Facebook: facebook.com/SEASCatholic

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM; Sunday: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered Saturdays at 5:00 PM and by appointment.

*Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023*

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Sermon of St. John the Baptist, Frans Pourbus the Elder, 16th Century

On the mission of the Church...

"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers.

It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach... to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented."

From Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*

Parish Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 16—Vigil

5:00 PM—Confessions
5:30 PM—Mass: †Thomas E. West, III

Sunday, Dec. 17—3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM—Mass: People of the Parish
11:00 AM—Mass: †Edward Gillikin, Sr.

Monday, Dec. 18—Late Advent Weekday

5:30 PM—RCIA Mtg.
7:00 PM—Choir Practice

Tuesday, Dec. 19—Late Advent Weekday

Wednesday, Dec. 20—Late Advent Weekday

11:00 AM—Mass: Special Intention
5:30 PM—Ladies' Group (SEAS Conf. Rm.)
6:30 PM—Eucharistic Adoration (Confessions Available)

Thursday, Dec. 21—St. Peter Canisius

Friday, Dec. 22—Advent Weekday

Saturday, Dec. 23—Vigil

4:30 PM—Confessions
5:30 PM—Mass: †Dr. George Gray

Sunday, Dec. 24—4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM—Mass: People of the Parish
*There is no 11:00 AM Mass

Sunday, Dec. 24—Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)

3:00 PM—Mass: People of the Parish
5:30 PM—Mass: †Tom & Eileen Dailey

Monday, Dec. 25—Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

11:00 AM—Mass: †Fr. James Guttendorf

***Wednesday: Daily Mass is at 11:00 AM and Eucharistic Adoration is at 6:30 PM.**

SEAS Parish Prayer List



"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well."
James 5:15

Please hold in prayer this week all the sick and home-bound of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, our local community and the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless your friends who are sick.

Give them the strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain.

Let them recover their health, so that, restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise your name, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

And those who have died are remembered in a special way, especially:

Edward L. Edwards, Linwood Parker, Edward J. Gillikin, Sr., Dr. George Gray, Joseph Yates, Joseph Frank Stacklin, Natalie Pastore Johnson, Anthony Iacovone and Alice R. Iacovone.

Parish Contributions

If you are a registered SEAS parishioner and would like contribution information, please contact the parish office at 804-932-4125.

Donation options: Sign-up for E-giving on the parish website at seascatholicchurch.org; mail your contributions to our mailing address: PO Box 648, Quinton, VA 23141; drop off contributions at Mass or to the parish office during office hours, M-F 9:00am-2:30pm.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, Dec. 24—3:00 PM (children's) & 5:30 PM
(there will only be one Mass Sunday morning at 8:30am)

Monday, Dec. 25—11:00 AM

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

Monday, Jan. 1—12:00 PM



Scripture Readings

Dec. 16 Saturday of the 2nd Week of Advent

Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Ps 80:2ac&3b,15-16,18-19/Lk 3:4,6/Mt 17:9a,10-13

Dec. 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a,10-11/Lk 1:46-48,49-50,53-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Is 61:1/Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Dec. 18 Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Dec. 19 Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a,5-6ab,16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Dec. 20 Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-4ab,5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Dec. 21 Thursday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Dec. 22 Friday of the 3rd Week of Advent

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1,4-7,8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Dec. 23 Saturday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10&14/Lk 1:57-66

Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:38/Lk 1:26-38

Dec. 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3,11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:10-11/Lk 2:1-14

Parish News

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice has been scheduled for **Dec. 18th** at 7:00 PM. We will be practicing the new Mass parts. If you are interested in joining the choir or assisting with music for Advent and Christmas, please make plans to attend or speak with Beth Ann Luther or Debbie Grosser after Mass.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When New Kent County public schools are closed due to poor weather conditions, the parish office and church will be closed.

On the weekend, please check the parish website and parish office voicemail for any updates or news.

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSING DATES

The parish office will be closed on the following dates in December: Dec. 25th-27th.

NUN RUN FOOD DONATIONS

Items donated for the monthly Nun Run help support two communities of women religious: the Poor Clare Nuns in Barhamsville and the Little Sisters of St. Francis in western New Kent County.

The cloistered Poor Clares are vegetarian but eat fish twice a week. They can use canned veggies, fruit, flour, salt, canned tuna and salmon as well as toothpaste, paper products and soap.

The Little Sisters of St. Francis appreciate canned foods, gelatin desserts, puddings, soups as well as paper products, disinfectant wipes, laundry detergent and wash cloths for bathing their disabled residents.

On the first weekend of each month, there is a collection for both communities. Donated items can be placed in the collection box in the Commons Area of the Church. The next collection date is: **Jan. 6/7**. Deliveries to the two communities of women religious occur on the Tuesday after the first weekend of the month.

A GENTLE REMINDER

Donations to the parish must be received by December 31, 2023 in order to be included in this year's contribution statements for tax purposes. Donations post-marked after December 31st will be for the 2024 calendar year. Thank you.

FROM FR. SCOTT...

Many of you over the years have gotten to know my dog, Julia Maria, who passed away this past Tuesday at twelve years, six months of age. I'm grateful to God for the gift of her and enjoyed many wonderful years with her at the rectory, which she loved.

My only consolation is what Pope Francis recently said, that when we die we will see the glory of the Risen Christ shine on the faces of our beloved pets.

I'm so grateful to the parishioners who helped in taking care of Julia Maria over the years, especially the Giffin family and Karen Martin and I'm fortunate to still have my dog, Suzy Victoria and my little kitten cat, both of whom are ten years old.

Thank you so much to everyone for all your prayers at this difficult time.

ADDITIONAL TIMES FOR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AVAILABLE THIS WEEK

Father Scott will have extended times available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week on Wednesday Dec. 20th, at the beginning of Adoration at 6:30 PM and on Saturday, Dec. 23rd at 4:30 PM.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as being already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Schedule: K of C Council 14034 meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. The in-person meetings are in the SEAS Social Hall and please bring your membership cards. The first meeting is the Officers/Directors Meeting and the second meeting is the Membership/Business Meeting. Both meetings are open to all Brother Knights and the membership are encouraged to attend. A free light dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Donations are gratefully accepted to defray meal costs. There will be a 50/50 drawing after every meeting.

Prayer Request: Please remember in prayer: Ed Gillikin, Sr., and the Gillikin family, the Harshbarger family and for the soul of Brandon Harshbarger's father who passed away recently, the Kulick family, the Deis family, the Gothreau family, the Cashin family, the Almeida family, the Cassano family, the Gargiulo family, and all our military, law enforcement, first responders and their families.

Save the Dates: K of C Baby Products Drive, through Dec. 31; Parish Winter 50/50 Drawing Ticket Sales, through Jan. 18.

Recitation of the Rosary: We will be having monthly Recitation of the Rosary the 1st weekend of each month and each weekend in May.

Membership: To learn more about the Knights of Columbus Council at SEAS Parish and all we do, please contact Acting Membership Director Kevin Almeida at: alexandre2018@yahoo.com or call 804-803-9725. To learn more about the K of C in Virginia, visit our website: kofc.org/joinus.

DIocese of Richmond Office of the Bishop

The Diocese of Richmond encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of the Richmond Diocese to notify civil authorities, including Child Protective Services (CPS) at 1-800-552-7096 and reach out to the confidential Victim Assistance Reporting 24-Hour Number at 1-877-887-9603, or by email at: vac@richmonddiocese.org.