

# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

## January 3, 2021

**My Dear Parishioners,**

**I pray that you and your families had a peaceful and happy celebration of Christmas and New Year's.**

**As we begin the first full week of our New Year, we do so with celebrations of two American saints, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Neumann.**

**Their Feasts also brings us to the topic of our 2021 trips and vacations. If you are like me and my family and friends, you are probably planning on staying closer to home than usual, and if you are still looking for ideas, may I suggest visits to the shrines of both of these American saints.**

**The Shrine of St. John Neumann is located in the Church of St. Peter at 5<sup>th</sup> and Girard in Philadelphia. The shrine is accessible from I-95, Broad Street, and Vine Street and has some off street parking available. Along with being the home of the relics of St. John Neumann, St. Peter's Church also served for a period as the second cathedral of Philadelphia. Today, the parish and shrine are still served by the Redemptorist community in which St. John Neumann took his vows and was ordained. For more information about visiting the Shrine of St. John Neumann and for Mass and Confession times, please visit their website at <https://stjohnneumann.org> or call (215) 627-3080.**

**St. John Neumann is remembered for his sanctity of life, his love of the Holy Eucharist, his support for Catholic Education, his building of our present Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, and his humility. Maybe most important for us, however, is that he is remembered as an adopted Philadelphian and Pennsylvanian. We all sleep much better knowing that he is watching over and praying for us.**

**The Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and is about a 3 hour drive from Hilltown. It is within about 15 minutes of Gettysburg, PA and the Gettysburg Battlefield, and so a visit to the shrine and the battlefield can be part of a combined trip. It is also close to Mount St. Mary's University and its beautiful hilltop grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes, which is also well worth a visit. A few years ago a priest friend and myself did an overnight trip to Gettysburg and visited all three places, and I can honestly say that it was one of the best trips of my life.**

**January 4, 2021 happens to be the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her passing and so a great year to visit the Shrine. For information about visiting the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and for Mass and Confession times please visit their website at <https://setonshrine.org> or by calling (301) 447-6606.**

**I have included in this e-newsletter a prayer of St. John Neumann and a teaching from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton along with the readings for the Feast of the Epiphany.**

**Let us continue to pray our Rosaries and our Chaplets for first responders, the sick, the deceased, and for a great 2021 for us all!**

**Yours in Christ,**

**Fr. Michael J Pawelko**

## Prayer for the Year of St Joseph by Pope Francis



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and  
courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*

## A Prayer with St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R.



*St. John Neumann,  
You were once a layman:  
help those in the priesthood of the laity  
to respond gladly to God's call to holiness.  
You were once a seminarian:  
help our young men and women  
to answer God's call for service in the Church.  
You were once a catechist:  
help those in the teaching ministry  
to burn with the divine Word that they proclaim.  
You were once a diocesan priest:  
help all of our priests  
To serve in vowed commitment to the Lord.  
You were once a member of a religious order:  
help all of our religious  
to walk faithfully in the footsteps of their  
founders.  
You were once a bishop:  
help the leaders of our Church  
to shepherd us in building God's kingdom today.*



# From a conference to her spiritual daughters by Elizabeth Ann Seton

Our daily work is to do the will of God

I will tell you what is my own great help. I once read or heard that an interior life means but the continuation of our Savior's life in us; that the great object of all his mysteries is to merit for us the grace of his interior life and communicate it to us, it being the end of his mission to lead us into the sweet land of promise, a life of constant union with himself. And what was the first rule of our dear Savior's life? You know it was to do his Father's will. Well, then, the first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will.

I know what his will is by those who direct me; whatever they bid me do, if it is ever so small in itself, is the will of God for me. Then do it in the manner he wills it, not sewing an old thing as if it were new, or a new thing as if it were old; not fretting because the oven is too hot, or in a fuss because it is too cold. You understand—not flying and driving because you are hurried, not creeping like a snail because no one pushes you. Our dear Savior was never in extremes. The third object is to do his will because God wills it, that is, to be ready to quit at any moment and to do anything else to which you may be called....

You think it very hard to lead a life of such restraint unless you keep your eye of faith always open. Perseverance is a great grace. To go on gaining and advancing every day, we must be resolute, and bear and suffer as our blessed forerunners did. Which of them gained heaven without a struggle?...

What are our real trials? By what name shall we call them? One cuts herself out a cross of pride; another, one of causeless discontent; another, one of restless impatience or peevish fretfulness. But is the whole any better than children's play if looked at with the common eye of faith? Yet we know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life, that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty.

But we lack courage to keep a continual watch over nature, and therefore, year after year, with our thousand graces, multiplied resolutions, and fair promises, we run around in a circle of misery and imperfections. After a long time in the service of God, we come nearly to the point from whence we set out, and perhaps with even less ardor for penance and mortification than when we began our consecration to him.

You are now in your first setout. Be above the vain fears of nature and efforts of your enemy. You are children of eternity. Your immortal crown awaits you, and the best of Fathers waits there to reward your duty and love. You may indeed sow here in tears, but you may be sure there to reap in joy.



# Sunday Mass Readings

## The Epiphany of Our Lord

### Reading 1: [Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

### Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13](#)

R. (cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

► O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. **R.**

► Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. **R.**

► The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

► For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **R.**

### Reading 2: [Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6](#)

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel: [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.