



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

January 4, 2017



New and Notable...



MEN'S BREAKFAST

*This Saturday, January 7th
8:00 a.m. at Kim & Patty's*



Thoughts from Lori

Today is the feast day for Elizabeth Ann Seton. Born in 1774 in New York to a well-to-do family, she had a somewhat difficult childhood and turned to poetry, music, and the church for comfort. That was the Anglican (now Episcopal) Church. She married William Seton, to whom she was devoted, and they had five children together. But a series of tragedies resulted in bankruptcy and William's death, leaving Elizabeth a young widow.

In the course of these developments, she found comfort in Catholicism and converted in 1805. She became the founder of the first order of women religious in America in 1809, the Sisters of Charity, and was their Mother Superior until her death on January 4, 1821. She was beatified by Pope John XXIII in 1963 and canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975. Thus, she is the first American to be named a saint by the Catholic Church.

As someone who has always been attracted by religious orders, I've been fascinated by Elizabeth Ann Seton's story. It would be almost 50 years before the first order of Episcopal nuns would be founded in the United States, the Community of St. Mary

(see <http://stmary-conventsewane.org/>), and I wonder if it had been founded earlier and been available to her if she would have remained an Episcopalian. In any case, our calendar of feast days in Holy Women, Holy Men includes her on January 4th.

She is an extraordinary example of a woman who experienced many phases in her life: a rather ordinary youth, married love, motherhood, and religious community. Each of these phases, especially in her maturity, were forms of service to God and to the world. Thanks be to God for Mother Seton!



Faithfully,
Lorí†

Feast of the Epiphany

is this Friday, January 6th

It is the celebration of the arrival of the magi, the three kings who fell to their knees to worship the Christ Child. This Sunday then is The First Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as The Baptism of our Lord. Curious?
Come Sunday morning to learn more.



All are cordially invited and urged to attend

**St. Paul's Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 29
following our morning worship.**

The meeting begins with a COVERED DISH luncheon after which we will review the business of the parish. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Also remember to bring canned or dry goods for our grocery basket in the spirit of "Feed ourselves, feed others."

Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "Jesus is Baptized." Leaders are Kim Morris and Terry Jaworski.



All children are welcome to attend after the service for a snack, bible story, and activity.

In case you missed it....



Opportunities to help!

As you're considering your new year's resolution, think about adding something to your life. The Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Children's Chapel, as well as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Intercessors, and Ushers are wonderful opportunities to grow and bring you closer to our Church. There are never too many hands to help and this is a great way to take part in the life of the parish.

The **Altar Guild** tends to the physical items we use in worship, including the hangings and vestments, the linens, candles, brass, and silver. Members of the AG are scheduled to set up and prepare for the Eucharist. The **Flower Guild** prepares the flower arrangements for the altar and usually places additional arrangements near our statue of Mary and on the narthex table. Volunteers for **Children's Chapel** take turns preparing and leading a brief lesson (provided) for our young children after church during coffee hour. **Eucharistic Ministers** are trained and licensed to assist at the Eucharist, including administering the chalice. **Lectors** read one of the lessons, **Intercessors** read the Prayers of the People, and **Ushers** greet people arriving for worship as well as directing people during Communion.

Those who serve in these positions are scheduled on a rotating basis, usually about once a month.

To volunteer for any of the above, contact:

Altar Guild -- Deb Lang at dllobjn@comcast.net

Flower Guild and Children's Chapel -- Pam Dietmeyer
at pwd3485@hotmail.com

EMs, Lectors, Intercessors, Ushers -- Lisa Strandberg
at lisa@stpaulmchenry.com

Coming to St. Paul's January 10th



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St. Paul's on 1/10/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

**In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call
1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers**

The usual fare...

Servants for January 8th

Bill Lang - *Usher*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Deb Lang, Charlie Boak - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Darrell Rowe - *Vestry Person of the Day*

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, January 8th
(First Sunday after the Epiphany - Year A)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS:

The prophet Isaiah describes the chosen servant of God who "will faithfully bring forth justice" (***Isaiah 42:1-9***). ***Psalm 29*** gives images of the "voice of the Lord." The reading for the Epistle is ***Acts 10:34-43*** which includes a portion of the sermon of St. Peter regarding John the Baptist's part in the story of Jesus. ***Matthew 3:13-17*** relates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 128. "We Three Kings." The text and tune of this Epiphany carol were both composed by John Henry Hopkins, Jr., in 1857. It is one of the few hymns in our modern hymnal which have withstood alteration over the years.

Sequence Hymn: No. 529. "In Christ There is No East or West." This hymn was written by a traveling businessman named William Arthur Dunkerley. He began writing novels and songs as a diversion with the penname, John Oxenham. This particular hymn reflects his deep theology from visiting countries all over the world embracing a God whose Son Jesus Christ brings together East and West, and North and South. The tune, "McKee," was adapted from an Afro-American spiritual by Harry T. Burleigh, a choir member of St. George's, New York City, and is named in honor of his Rector, Elmore McNeill McKee.

Presentation Hymn: No. 448. "O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High." The author of his hymn is generally believed to be Thomas a' Kempis, born near Dusseldorf in 1379 into a peasant family. At a young age, he was sent to a pauper's school run by a religious order in which he later became a member and was priested in 1413. The tune "Deo Gracias," is a 15th English ballad melody and is best sung with spirit and movement.

Communion Hymn: No. 126. "The People who In Darkness." This hymn is new to the 1982 hymnal but was written by Dr. John Morison, a Scottish cleric, minister of a parish in Canisbay, Caithness where he died in 1798 at the young age of 49. This

hymn portrays our Lord as the light of God that shines forth in the darkness. The tune, "Dundee," is an ancient melody harmonized by Thomas Ravenscroft, a prolific composer of church hymns and anthems.

Recessional Hymn: No. 135. "Songs of Thankfulness." Christopher Wordsworth, Bishop of London and nephew of the poet, William Wordsworth, wrote this hymn for the sixth Sunday I after the Epiphany. The fourth verse was written and added by Francis Bland Tucker, an Episcopal priest who authored and translated many hymns and helped develop the 1940 hymnal. The tune, "Salzburg," was composed by Jakob Hintze and later harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach.

From the cartoons created by
The Rev. William P. McLemore



"Who do you think you are?
...a WISE GUY or something?"

Church Humor!

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

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Click [here](#) to access Lori's sermon from January 1st

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Vestry Minutes

[June 2016](#)

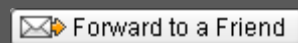
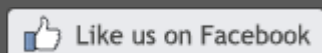
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