

**PARISH STAFF**

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Franklin L. Bartel  
 Associate Pastors: Rev. Regidor Carreon  
 Rev. Kevin Cassidy (Oct-Apr)

Deacons: Forrest Briesch  
 Paul Csuy (Retired)  
 Ray Roger

Director of Liturgy/Music: Paul Bach  
 Associate: Joseph Tye  
 Family Catechesis: Linda Watkins  
 R.C.I.A. Louis & Herma Allocco  
 Pastoral Council Chair Bob Purtill  
 Sacristan: Maryalvin Gonzales  
 Baptism Catechesis: Michael & Cindy Geerling

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Business Administrator: Deacon Forrest Briesch  
 Finance Chair: Harmon Meeker  
 Parish Secretary: Jeanne Schofer  
 Office Support: Deborah Bartel/  
 Mary Raasch  
 Receptionist: Charlotte Abboud

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Maintenance Supervisor: Terry Czarnecki  
 Grounds Maintenance: Galdino Eligio  
 Housekeeping: Edna Morales/  
 Margarita Gonzales

Office Hours: 8:00 AM—4:30 PM (M-F)  
 Closed: 12:00 Noon—12:30 pm

**MASS INTENTIONS  
 FOR THE  
 WEEK**



Day/Time: For: Requested By: Presider:

**Sunday, December 3**

7:00 Irene DePesa The Family Fr. Bartel  
 9:00 Louis Cea, Sr. Elaine Cea Fr. Bartel  
 11:00 William Trent Ed & Rita Trent Fr. Cassidy

**Monday, December 4—Anointing at all Masses**

7:30 Kathy Briesch & Beverly Haley Deacon Forrest Briesch Fr. Bartel  
 8:30 Adele Dermody John O'Keefe Fr. Bartel

**Tuesday, December 5**

7:30 Syl Battoe (L) Darlene Battoe John Battoe Fr. Cassidy  
 8:30 Teresa & Rita Doherty M. J. Doherty Fr. Cassidy

**Wednesday, December 6**

7:30 Syl Battoe (L) Darlene Battoe John Battoe Fr. Bartel  
 8:30 Filippo Loverde Nicolette Loverde Fr. Cassidy

**Thursday, December 7**

7:30 Josephine Koladitz Daughter Fr. Cassidy  
 8:30 Susan Thomas Al & Marge Thomas Fr. Bartel  
 10:00 Sungrove Fr. Waldron  
 4:00 Gregory Cole J & B Reicks Fr. Cassidy  
 6:00 Norma Thompson Mary & Tonia Fr. Bartel

**Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception**

7:00 Syl Battoe (L) Darlene Battoe John Battoe Fr. Bartel  
 9:00 Frank Borowski Bea Gorman Fr. Bartel

**Saturday, December 9**

7:30 Donna Demestre M/M Stanley Hudzik Fr. Bartel  
 3:00 Confessions Fr. Cassidy  
 4:00 Rita Mencfeldowski Family Fr. Cassidy  
 6:00 Intention of Marilyn Collins (L) Marilyn Fr. Bartel

**Sunday, December 10**

7:00 Parishioners Fr. Cassidy  
 9:00 Janice Bonnamy Alex Spizzirri Fr. Bartel  
 11:00 Kathy & Fred Deacon Forrest Briesch Fr. Bartel

(L) = Living

**December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation**

**Presiders Subject to Change**

**For Your Information**

The Office is closed weekends. However, we do have an answering service (not a machine). There is a recording of our Mass schedule, but you can speak to the operator at any time. Simply press "o" and a priest will return your call, if it is an emergency. Otherwise call back on Monday after 8 am.

Our winter schedule began on October 7. The 6:00 pm Saturday Mass is added until Spring. The Church will open Monday through Saturday at 6:45 am. On Sunday, the Church will be open at 6:15 am.

**Bulletin Deadline:**

**In writing Thursday, 12:00 noon,  
 10 working days prior to publication.**

**Please note that items submitted may be edited for content and space constraints.**

**Today's Readings**

**First Reading** — The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

**Psalm** — To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2).

**Gospel** — Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

**The Coming Kingdom**

Jeremiah could see it coming—the kingship of Jesus and the restoration of Jerusalem. But was anybody listening? Is anybody listening now? It must have been tough being a prophet, but Jeremiah was persistent in his message because he knew that it needed to be heard.

Also persistent in his message is Paul as he encourages the Thessalonians — and all of us — to live in accordance with the kingship that Jeremiah foretold. He encourages us to conduct ourselves in ways of holiness so that we may be well prepared for the king's coming. Finally, Jesus himself tells us to be every diligent so that we may gain favor before our God and King.

Jeremiah could see the kingship of Jesus coming. As we begin the season of Advent, Paul and Jesus tell us now only how to prepare for the Kingdom, but how to live it day to day.

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**Readings for the Week**

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37  
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden. Some of us will set candles in our windows tonight. The custom began in Ireland during the so-called “penal” days, extending from 1691 to the “Catholic Emancipation” in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, Irish families, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the cottage window and left the door unlatched, hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate the Christmas Mass for them.

The possibility of the Mass coming into the family home gave rise to other Irish customs at the beginning of Advent. The cottage received a fresh coat of whitewash, the threshold was swept especially clean, and fresh curtains were hung in the windows. The house was scrubbed until it gleamed, including all the pots and pans, and all garments and table linens were laundered. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!

—James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

**Saints and Special Observances**

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent  
 Monday: St. John of Damascus  
 Wednesday: St. Nicholas  
 Thursday: St. Ambrose;  
 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
 Friday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Saturday: St. Juan Diego

**Still Not a Registered Parishioner?**

**See one of our hospitality ministers. We have application forms available, or go to our website at <http://www.sescc.org>**

**Parish Happenings  
December 3—9, 2006**

**SUNDAY, December 3**

07:00AM—Parish Registration Drive (Courtyard)  
08:00AM—Christmas Concert Ticket Sales (Courtyard)  
01:00PM—Polish American Club (Hall)  
02:00PM—Solo Group Table Games (Tone Rm)  
04:00PM—Christmas Concert Ticket Sales (Courtyard)

**MONDAY, December 4—Anointing at all Masses**

09:30AM—Legion of Mary (Tone Rm)  
12:30PM—Solo Group Bridge (Tone Rm)

**TUESDAY, December 5**

07:00AM—Coffee (Library)  
11:00AM—Cenacle Rosary (Lourdes Rm)  
01:00PM—Marianist Lay Group (Tone Rm)  
02:00PM—Yoga (Hall)  
02:00PM—K of C Officer's Mtg (Guadalupe Rm)  
05:00PM—Solo Group Mtg (Hall)  
07:00PM—St Vincent de Paul Mtg (Tone Rm)

**WEDNESDAY, December 6**

08:00AM—Blood Pressure Check (Hall)  
09:00AM—Novena (Church)  
10:00AM—Library Workers (Library)  
01:00PM—Marianist Lay Group (Tone Rm)  
06:00PM—R.E. (All Rooms)  
06:30PM—Concert Rehearsal (Church)

**THURSDAY, December 7**

Vigil for Immaculate Conception  
08:30AM—SES Installation Mass (Church)  
09:00AM—SES Installation Breakfast (Kit/Hall)  
09:00AM—SES Ladies Workshop (Hall/Kitchen)  
09:00AM—Catholic Outreach Center Counseling (Mtg Rm 1)  
01:00PM—Music Rehearsal (Church)  
06:30PM—Queen of Peace Rosary (Tone Rm)  
07:00PM—Concert Rehearsal (Hall)  
07:00PM—R.C.I.A. (Guadalupe Rm)

**FRIDAY, December 8—Immaculate Conception**

**SATURDAY, December 9**

09:00AM—K of C District Mtg (Guadalupe Rm)  
10:00AM—Concert Rehearsal (Hall)  
12:30PM—Music Pot Luck (Kit/Hall)  
01:30PM—Bell Rehearsal (Church)  
05:00PM—Christmas Concert Ticket Sales (Courtyard)  
05:00PM—1000 Club Ticket Sales (Courtyard)  
07:00PM—Youth Group Planning Cookie Bake Sale (Guadalupe Rm)

**Prayer Chain**

Whenever you need someone to pray for your special intentions, call the Prayer Chain—Irene Riggs 972-2266 or Marillyn Mayer 933-5744.

If you wish, all they need is the name of the person or first name and last initial of the person. Our members want to give encouragement and hope to loved ones.

**Parish Stewardship**

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

See Luke 21:34

Collection 11/19/06: \$ 15,754.00  
11/26/06: \$ 15,004.00

Budgeted Weekly Need: \$\* 20,497.00  
(\*Monthly budget divided by the number of weekends in the current month.)

Actual Net Income Over Budget Needs  
Year to Date @ 11/26/06 \$ 38,439.00

Campaign for Human  
Development Collection: \$ 5,262.00

**“Thank you” to those parishioners who continue to responsibly and generously support our parish. We need many others to reconsider their financial support.**

**Please remember your financial support of the Parish is not a donation to a charity, but a serious obligation to make your best effort to support your Church family. Please be generous.**

*Fr. Bartel, Deacon Briesch, Finance Council*

**St. Vinney’s Corner**



People ask us where we spend the money for our work? Of the \$53,620 we received this last fiscal year, from all sources, we disbursed a record \$52,881. We: visited and assisted 190 families with various social and economic problems; paid out \$29,261 in rental assistance; \$13,989 in utility payments; \$2324 to sister conferences and provided \$2200 for

back-to-school uniforms for a nearby school. The remainder was spent for the food we disburse, medical, transportation, clothing and furniture for our clients. All this was accomplished with an operational and administrative expense of only \$739. We hope you will agree that your shoebox dollars and personal checks are used wisely and efficiently for our work. “We couldn’t do it without you”. Thank you.

**Lay Marianists**

The Lay Marianists from St. Elizabeth Seton will have Fr. Al McMenemy, a Marianist from St. Louis, Mo, here December 5 and 6 in the Deacon Tone Room from 1 pm—3:30 pm followed by Mass at 4 pm. He will give us Advent Retreat days.

Come join us; all are welcome.

**Catholic Tuition Organization**

Supporting Choice in Education

Would you be willing to help a Catholic school student with their education expenses if it didn't cost you anything? If you file an Arizona state tax return, you can contribute up to \$1,000 for married couples and \$500 for singles in the Catholic Tuition Organization by December 31, and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit up to your tax liability, in return. Funds raised are awarded to students who need tuition assistance at thirty-seven Catholic schools. No student should be denied a Catholic education because of the inability to pay. Please consider using this incredible opportunity to make a difference in a child's future. Pick up a brochure at the parish office or contact Catholic Tuition Organization at (602) 218-6542 or [www.catholictuition.org](http://www.catholictuition.org). Send payments to Catholic Tuition Organization, Bank Processing Center, P.O. Box 53321, Phoenix, AZ 85072.

**NEW!**



**THE CHALICE APOSTOLATE**

This is an opportunity to promote and pray for vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and religious life. It is also an occasion to remember, support and pray for those currently serving as priests, deacons and religious (sisters,

brothers).

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

You will be presented a small chalice at the end of a Sunday or weekday Mass (or privately, if you wish). Keep it in your home for two (2) weeks. Make sure it is visible and in a place of honor (fireplace-mantel, dining room table, etc.) Pray daily for vocations; every time you see it pray for your parish clergy and religious. Suggested prayers and further instructions will be supplied. When you have guests at your home, explain its purpose and witness. After two weeks return it to the Sacristy (Saturday evening/Sunday morning) or the office (weekdays).

If you are interested, call the office (623) 972-2129 and leave your NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, and a convenient time to reach you. Our coordinator, Mr. Charles Bolduc, will contact you and give you more details. We prefer that you be a registered year-round parishioner or winter parishioner. While the chalice is not "valuable" in the monetary sense, it is a sacred vessel and we need to keep it secure and respected.

**The Catholic Outreach Center**  
 12301 W Bell Rd, suite A-103  
 Sun City, AZ 85373 (623) 933-4300

Free **Blood Pressure Screening**, sponsored by The Catholic Outreach Center, is available in Seton Hall this Wednesday, December 6th from 8 to 9 a.m. (the first Wednesday of every month).

**NEW BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

A 7-session **Bereavement Support Group** will begin at The Catholic Outreach Center, **Suite A-102**, on Thursday, January 11th at 1:30 PM. This group is designed to provide support and information to promote healing for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Please call Kit at 933-4300 for more information and to register. It is not too late!

**Transportation (For Medical Appointments, Shopping, Errands**

**Volunteers provide transportation to clients. Transportation is generally limited to the greater Sun Cities area. Frequently, clients who do not drive, or drive only within a limited area, require transportation for medical appointments, shopping and errands.**

**DONATIONS IN ANY AMOUNT ARE WELCOME**

**Boxtops /Soup Labels for Education**



Please continue to deposit General Mills box tops and Campbell's Soup labels for education in the containers on the counter in the entrance to the Church.



Proceeds from redeeming these coupons benefit struggling parochial schools.

**ALERT!!!**

Please help us keep our Church, God's House, as comfortable and sanitary as possible by not leaving used Kleenex tissues in the pews, books, racks, on the floor or in the foyer. Either take them home with you to dispose of them, or put them in the waste baskets provided in the foyer.

Also, please do NOT bring to the Church religious mailings you received at home, NOR leave them in the Church.



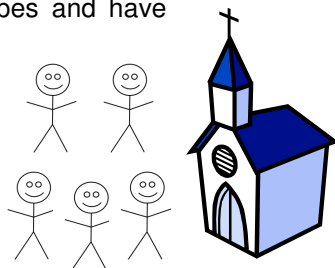
**THERE WILL BE SIGNS  
in the sun, the moon, and the stars**

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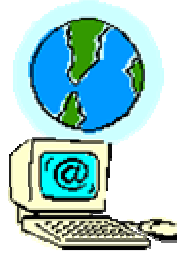
**Parish Registration Drive**

St. Elizabeth Seton is having a Parishioner Registration Drive from November 25 to December 3. Our goal is to have all Catholics who attend Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton register as parish members. To make it easier for you, we will have registration forms available for you to fill out outside the church after every Mass on those two weekends. You may also take them home and return them the following week. Please take five minutes and register. We need you.

You need not register if you already receive envelopes and have a member number assigned to you.



**St Elizabeth Seton Website**



Our website at [www.sescc.org](http://www.sescc.org) is complete and available. Don't miss all the information it contains:

- Home Page and Staff Section
- About Us
- Ministries and Services
- Bulletins (a month's worth of info)
- Special Activities
- On-Line Registration (so easy!)
- Links to the Diocese and Rome

As you will see we have one of the most complete and informational sites in the Diocese—not too much colorization or graphics, so downloading is easy. Very user friendly! Enjoy it!

**1000 Club**

**SEE INSERT IN BULLETIN**

**THANK YOU**

*Thank you for all your prayers and greeting cards during my recent bout with back problems.*

*My condition is improving.*

*God bless You.*

*Fr. Frank*

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Skilled care and assisted living expenses for religious past age 70 exceed \$450 million each year.

One out of every five religious institutes has less than 20% of the amount needed to care for elderly members.

Religious institutes spend an average \$133/day for skilled nursing care. (The average cost for a shared room in a skilled nursing facility in the United States is \$169/day; a private room averages \$192.)

The average Catholic family spends more than \$2 each year on cookies, more than \$21 on potato chips, more than \$29 on take-out coffee, and just a little more than \$1 per adult on the Retirement Fund for Religious.

**PLEASE BE GENEROUS**

**The Collection will be taken up next weekend**

**Important Notice**

We will only announce funeral services if they take place at St. Elizabeth's or are conducted by parish clergy at another location.

Notification of death and funeral arrangements must be made by a family member(s) or their legal equivalent.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Yoga Class**

Do yourself a favor — all ages are welcome to join our Yoga class every Tuesday at 2:00 pm in the Deacon Tone Room.



Call Lolly at (623) 977-5934 for details.

**Book Sale**



Mark your calendars—the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be having a gigantic book sale on February 17/18, 2007.

Donations of books will be greatly appreciated and may be dropped in

Seton Hall during office hours.

A box will be provided and so marked for the sale.

Thank you in advance for your contributions.

**MINISTRY TRAINING SESSION**

The LAST opportunity for MINISTRY TRAINING will be Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. New Liturgical Ministers who have not fulfilled this requirement must attend this required

day-long Training Session. Those long-time ministers who have not yet attended a Ministry Training since we began this process in September 2003, **MUST ATTEND IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE IN MINISTRY AFTER JANUARY.**

If you are unsure as to whether you should attend, contact your Ministry Coordinator. Your Ministry Coordinator will contact you to confirm your RSVP.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> renewal training program in the new ministry cycle will begin in the Fall of 2007. This program will be for all those who attended the original program in September 2003 and need to renew their certification.

More information to follow in the Spring.

**St. Elizabeth Seton Helping Hands**

Helping Hands are here to help with rides to the doctor, grocery shopping, relief for caregivers, etc. Please call one week in advance 972-2129.

Volunteers are needed for this ministry: drivers and visiting shut-ins. Call 875-0307

**Advent Calendar of Events**

An Advent Calendar of Events is located on our website at [www.sescc.org](http://www.sescc.org).

**27th Annual French Mass**

Date: Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 2:30 pm

Where: Brophy Chapel, 4701 N Central Ave, Phx

Price: Free of Charge

For Info Call: Leanne Debeurre of the Alliance Francaise at (602) 499-6245

**Legion of Mary**

Our Lady Bright as the Sun Presidium  
The Privacy Act will not allow the Legion of Mary to obtain patients' names and room numbers.

If you are admitted to the hospital and would like the Legion of Mary to visit you or to follow up afterward in your home, please contact (623) 773-2287.

**Ladies, are you Eligible?**

You are, if your father, brother or husband, living or deceased, is or was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Eligible for what? Eligible to join the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

Come join us on the second Wednesday of the month, and find new purpose, warmth and friendship, as we support the activities of the Knights.

We meet in Seton Hall, at 6:30 pm for the Rosary, followed by our meeting at 7 pm.

Come try us; you'll like us!

**First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2006**

I will raise up for David a just shoot;  
he shall do what is right and just in the land.

— *Jeremiah 33:15*



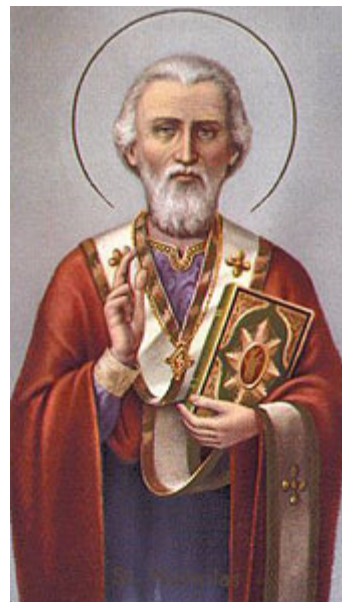
**Welcome Knights! Join Us**

New residents, or visitors to our area: We have monthly social & business meetings. Wives and widows of Knights are welcome. Enjoy the camaraderie and make new friends.

**For information call 623-910-8854**

*The World's Largest Catholic Men's Fraternity*  
Council 12144, St. Elizabeth Seton in Sun City ([www.kofc-suncityaz.org](http://www.kofc-suncityaz.org))

**Lives of the Saints**



St. Nicolas (Born? – 350 AD)

Few saints enjoy such popularity or are credited with so many miracles. He was probably born in Asia Minor. His life has been so embellished by legend and questionable biographies it is difficult to weed out the truth. However, Sts. John Chrysostom, Peter Damian, and Bonaventure have competed in eloquence with one another in the telling of the merits and goodness of St. Nicolas. Probably

born in the late Second Century, he devoted himself to the conversion of sinners, charitable works, and distributing his wealth to the poor. He was imprisoned for a time for his faith. One story about St. Nicolas relates that he rescued three impoverished young daughters from a father who was going to sell them to a house of ill repute because the father did not have any money for their dowries. It is said that St. Nicholas secretly on three occasions threw bags of gold through the father's window and all the girls were able to marry. This led to the practice of children receiving presents at Christmas in St. Nicholas's name, and ultimately to the metamorphosis of his name to Sinter Klaus and then into Santa Claus by the Dutch. The actual figure of Santa Claus and his reindeer is based on a non-Christian ritual of the Germanic god, Thor. Thor is associated with winter and the Yule log. It was believed he rode a chariot drawn by two goats named Cracker and Gnasher. St. Nicholas died as the Archbishop of Myra and is the patron saint of Greece, Sicily, Apulia, Lorraine, and Russia. His feast day is celebrated on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### WHY ARE WE PRAYING FOR DIFFERENT CONGREGATIONS?

Why are we praying each weekend for different congregations, many of whom are not Catholic? It all goes back to Christ's farewell discourse at the Last Supper. He told His disciples that He was praying for them. And then He continued; "I do not pray for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one. . . I pray that they may be one in us. . ." John 17:20-21

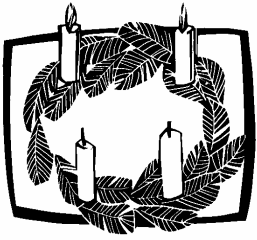
So, Christ's desire is that all who believe in Him should be one. However, we know that there have been divisions among Christians, even from the earliest times up to our present day. In 1898 a Day of Prayer for Unity was set up. In 1908 it was changed from one day to a whole Octave, 8 days, from January 18 through January 25, from the Feast of St. Peter to the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, but was limited pretty much to the Catholic Church and the Anglican Church.

This Week became a truly international and inter-denominational celebration when it became jointly sponsored by the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches during the Second Vatican Council in 1964. Since that time, during this "Week" Christians of many denominations throughout the world join in common prayer for Christian unity, participating in statewide, citywide, and local small area celebrations.

In the year 2000 several congregations in the Sun City area began to celebrate the Week together. Presently there are 14 congregations of various denominations that celebrate the Week together, gathering in a different church each day for common prayer worship services. These celebrations are held Monday through Friday so as not to disrupt the normal liturgical celebrations on weekends. Wanting to go beyond the Week itself, these 13 congregations said, "Why limit our praying for one another to only the 8 days of the Week of Prayer? Why not pray for each other during the entire year?" And that is precisely what is happening. A schedule has been drawn up praying for a different congregation on each weekend, praying to remind us of our common foundation in Christ and that we may grow together in faith and in love, until we attain that unity which is the will of Christ. This past year, when it was our turn on the schedule, we had 13 other congregations praying for us on 4 different weekends. Up to last Pentecost, St. Elizabeth Seton had not actively joined in doing this and we wanted to get involved.

How have we done this? Ordinarily there are already more than enough intentions in our General Intercessions during Mass. Instead, we decided to say a parish prayer for that particular congregation before Mass, just as we have been doing, saying a parish prayer for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, etc.. We began saying this prayer the weekend of Pentecost. However, now, since we are saying a parish Advent prayer before Mass, we are including our prayer for Christian unity in our General Intercessions.

As we approach the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, there will be Bulletin articles regarding the Week itself. These will address more thoroughly its history, the joint sponsorship by the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches, what this joint sponsorship has meant, what Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have done to foster it, and what we have been doing in the Sun City area since the year 2000 to celebrate it.



# ADVENT

**“Always waiting, always longing....  
for Heaven to Open!”**



## SINGING ABOUT A PROMISE

On Advent Sundays we come into our liturgy singing together about a promise so dear to us, a promise that echoes Isaiah: “Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.” We Christians live all our days by a promise. In Advent we draw that promise around us like a winter garment: “Emmanuel, God-with-us.” The promise doesn’t come true on December 25. The stories of Christmas only remind us how beautiful is this promise when it begins to transform our households and our community and our world.

When we sing our way into the Advent liturgy we repeat:

Come, O come, Emmanuel.  
Come, O come, Emmanuel.  
Come, O come, Emmanuel.

As we do this, the cantor unfolds for us some of Advent’s treasure of images. Over the centuries the scriptures have been mined for different ways to name this Emmanuel: Wisdom, Holy One, Dawn, Beloved. Each name draws us into the mystery that we can never fully name. But the images surround us; they open our ears to the scriptures, and they open our eyes to the world.

Here are some of the invocations the cantor sings. Which of the images – for Wisdom, for Holy God, for Dawn, for Beloved – ring some “Bible bells” in you?

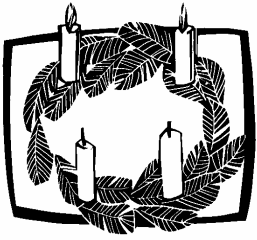
You are Wisdom, from the mouth of God –  
You are Wisdom, playing before God –  
You are Wisdom, wondrous word of God –  
You are Wisdom, ever loved by God –

Holy God, swords to plows shall be –  
Holy God, greed to grace shall be –  
Holy God, strife to peace shall be –  
Holy God, earth made whole shall be –

You are Dawn, morning stars shall sing –  
You are Dawn, birds awake and sing –  
You are Dawn, rising sun shall sing –  
You are Dawn, Sun of Justice, sing –

O Beloved, word made flesh, we cry –  
O Beloved, dwell with us, we cry –  
O Beloved, full of grace, we cry –  
O Beloved, grace on grace, we cry –

In Advent, as we try for some little quiet in our households, these words can be a meal or bedtime prayer, interspersing the refrain: “Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel . . .”



# ADVENT

**“Always waiting, always longing....  
for Heaven to Open!”**



## TO YOU I LIFT MY SOUL

In the round of the year, we enter Advent singing a communion song with this refrain:

The bread is rising, rising.  
All hungry, thirsty, come.  
And God shall gather in,  
and our God shall gather in.

What is this “bread rising”? Happily, most of us know! We have seen this amazing thing: flour and water and a few other ingredients and some yeast and a little warmth and what happens? That flat, heavy lump begins to expand, to “rise.” Something is at work and it can’t be stopped.

What are we singing about? Many things. We are singing about Jesus, who called himself “bread.” We are singing about ourselves, the Church. We are singing in the days when the Scripture stories recall the pregnancies of Mary and of Elizabeth (and before them of Sarah and Hagar and Hannah and others). The bread is rising. It is a time of waiting. We can’t hurry it and we can’t deny it.

And when do we sing this? As we who are (or want to be) hungry and thirsty make a procession, a bread-line. Jesus said that all those who thirst should come. Advent is this lovely time when we discover the hunger and thirst inside us – not just inside each one of us, but inside our Church, our parish.

“And God shall gather in!” The Scriptures of November have prepared us for the scriptures of early Advent. With wild visions of destruction they tell a truth: We are all under the judgment of God. Not some day. Every day. God is gathering us in. What does that feel like? Our two other lines in this song might be an answer: “No ear has ever heard! No eye has ever seen!”

Psalm 25 has been for centuries and centuries a central psalm of Advent. On this First Sunday, the cantor uses some verses of this psalm. Look up the whole psalm.

To you I lift my soul – To you, O Lord, my soul –  
Show me, O Lord, your way – And teach me how to live –  
So good and just is God – Who cares for all the poor –  
So faithful is our God – To all who walk God’s ways –

# The Ringing of Bells

The ringing of bells has been associated with Christian worship for centuries. It is said that people never forget the unique sound of their own parish bells no matter how long they are away. Bells in church buildings were often given names, for example, "Gabriel bells," in honor of the angel Gabriel, the messenger of good news.

The dedication of church bells, referred to as the "baptism of a bell," was an elaborate ceremony, using holy water, blessed oil and prayers of invocation. Blessed bells were regarded as a sacramental. The first known use of bells in churches was by a bishop named Paulinus in the year 400. By the Middle Ages, the ringing of bells had become an elaborate ritual rich with symbolism: the "sacrament bell" was rung to get people's attention before the sermon (it's not known if this was as a warning or as a welcome!), the "Ave bells" were rung during devotions to Mary at certain times of the day and the "passing bells" solemnly tolled at funerals.

One of the other reasons for ringing bells during the liturgy was to announce the elevation of the host and of the chalice. An architectural feature of churches for many years was the separation of the sanctuary from the main assembly area by large, ornate partitions known as rood screens. (It was thought that only the clergy and choir could watch the sacred actions. Even the choir wasn't always allowed to observe the elevation, and a curtain was drawn around the altar and priest at this time.) Many of us remember the remnant of the rood screen, the altar rail. On the other side of the rood screen, the congregation involved itself in private devotions and prayers such as the rosary, since they were not active participants in the action of the liturgy. The bells were rung by servers to announce that something important was happening, so that the people could participate by ear, if not by eye. Often chalices were adorned with small bells so that the movement up and down would attract people's attention.

But now, long after the rood screens have disappeared, with the altar in the midst of the Assembly and everyone able to see the actions of the liturgy and encouraged to join in the dialogue and acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer, the bells are no longer necessary at this point in the Mass.

The ringing of outside bells is a marvelous and traditional way to call people to worship, to enhance liturgical processions or to announce the times of morning and evening prayer. Even when silent, bells evoke a certain attention to the place they adorn as they wait to summon the community to prayer.

Although we do not utilize outside bells to call us to worship we do continue the tradition of bells through our St. Elizabeth Seton Bell Choir. The Bell Choir is made up of a small group of individuals who ring two octaves of brass bells. These individuals are dedicated to ringing bells at special celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. They will be ringing at the 7:00 Christmas Eve and 9:00 Christmas Day.

We extend an invitation to the Parish Community to bring bells of any kind to ring at all our Christmas Masses. In this way, we show forth the spirit of our faith-filled prayer as we give glory and honor to God.

Text adapted by Paul Bach from the text by Philip Horrigan. Art by Rita Corbin. Copyright © 1977, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1800 North Hermitage Avenue, Chicago IL 60622-1101.

***'The Most Wonderful Time  
of the Year!'***

***A Christmas Concert***

**The combined choirs of  
St. Elizabeth Seton & 'St. Elsewhere'**

***Musical Fun! Santa's Sweet Shop!  
Prizes! Mrs. Claus Booth!***

**Sunday, December 10, 2006**

**4 P.M. in Seton Hall**

**St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church**

**9728 W. Palmeras Drive**

**Sun City, AZ 85373**

**Adults: \$12.50**

**Children 12 and under: Free**

**TICKETS available after Mass or at Parish Office**

**For additional information, please call the Parish Office (623) 972-2129**

