St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Roman Catholic Church
Lake Ridge, VA

www.setonlakeridge.org

Seton Spotlight

DECEMBER 25TH
The Solemnity of the
Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day

DEC. 31ST / JAN. 1ST
The Solemnity of Mary,
The Mother of God
See Mass Times on Page 4
No Confessions
No First Friday Mass

JANUARY
ACTS Food Collection Month

JANUARY 2ND
First Saturday Devotions
Blessing of Holy Water
9:30am

JANUARY 3RD
Bible Study
10:30am Details on Page 6

Religious Education Classes
Resume—live stream only
3:00pm-4:00pm

PARISH OFFICE:
12807 Valleywood Drive
Lake Ridge, VA 22192

Hours:
Mon—Thurs: 9:00am - 8:00pm
Fri: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am - 12:30pm

Phone: 703-494-4008 **Fax:** 703-494-1995
Email: receptionist@setonlakeridge.org
RE: 703-494-3966

Sacramental Emergency:
571-455-0402

Current Schedule as we Reopen the Church

The Parish Office remains open, but without evening hours.
Adoration and Holy Hours are still suspended.
Confession: Mon. 7:00pm-7:45pm; Fri. 9:30am-10:00am; Sat.3:30pm-4:30pm

All Masses will be held in the Main Church at regular times.
Daily 9am, Saturday Vigil 5:00pm, Sunday Masses 7:30am, 9:00am
10:45am, 12:30pm, and 6:30pm
Daily 9am Mass and Sunday 9am &10:45am Masses
will continue to be live streamed.

www.setonlakeridge.org

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Welcome to Seton Lake Ridge! Please complete a registration card found in the church narthex or by stopping by the parish office. Also, please remember to notify us if you move, or of any changes to your contact information.

RETURNING CATHOLICS:

Everyone is invited to rediscover the gift of our faith and the unique role that each of us has in this family of God. *Welcome home!*

RCIA

If you are interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the faith, please contact the parish office.

BAPTISMS:

Occur most Sunday afternoons. Please contact the parish office to set a date and to register for the required Baptism workshop.

PASTORAL CARE of the SICK:

Please notify us of parishioners who are hospitalized or homebound. **Holy Communion** and the **Sacraments of Penance** and **Anointing of the Sick** are arranged by the parish office. In a danger-of-death situation, call the parish emergency line, 571- 455-0402.

MATRIMONY:

Congratulations on your engagement! Registered parishioners who wish to be married here, or elsewhere, are asked to contact one of the parish clergy at least six months in advance of their intended wedding date to begin the Pre-Cana preparation process.

HOLY ORDERS & CONSECRATED LIFE:

Seeking information about the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated religious life? If so, please contact one of the parish clergy or the diocesan Office of Vocations, 703-841-2514.

FUNERAL ANNOUCEMENTS:

Parish funeral information is on our website:

www.setonlakeridge.org/liturgy/funeral/in memoriam.

As well as on myParishApp - look for the "In Memoriam" button.

THE PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER IS: 703-494-4008

PARISH CLERGY

Reverend Brian Bashista, *Pastor*
703-494-4008
pastor@setonlakeridge.org *(Non-Confidential)*

Reverend Dort Bigg, *Parochial Vicar*
703-494-4008 ext. 122
frdort@setonlakeridge.org

Reverend Mr. Rob Warner, *Deacon*
703-494-4008
dcnrob@setonlakeridge.org

PARISH OFFICE

Christine O'Hearn, *Office Manager & Pastor's Assistant* **- Ext 125**
c.ohearn@setonlakeridge.org

Mary Gildersleeve, *Business Manager* **- Ext 127**
m.gildersleeve@setonlakeridge.org

Violet LaVille, *Database Manager & Financial Assistant* **- Ext 133**
v.laville@setonlakeridge.org

Donna Engborg, *Communications Manager* **- Ext 140**
bulletin@setonlakeridge.org
d.engborg@setonlakeridge.org

Walter Purdy, *Facilities Manager* **- Ext 143**
w.purdy@setonlakeridge.org

Maria Contreras, *Facilities Maintenance*

Jenny Jones, *Receptionist* **- Ext 120**
Daisy Ramos, *Receptionist*
receptionist@setonlakeridge.org

EVANGELIZATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Kris Fischer, *Director* **- Ext 202**
k.fischer@setonlakeridge.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (K-12)

Sheri Suess, *Director* **- Ext 130**
s.suess@setonlakeridge.org

Mylene Garcia, *Secretary* **- Ext 135**
m.garcia@setonlakeridge.org

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Melissa Maleski, *Director* **- Ext 132**
m.maleski@setonlakeridge.org

HUMAN CONCERNS OUTREACH

Betty Maher, *Director* **- Ext 145**
b.maher@setonlakeridge.org

MUSIC

Carter Stevens, *Director & Organist* **-Ext 203**
c.stevens@setonlakeridge.org

PARISH COUNSELOR

Bianca Alvarado, 703-859-3147

PARISH SCHOOL

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School

13750 Mary's Way, Woodbridge, VA 22191
Sister Mary Sheila, O.P., *Principal*
Phone: 703-491-4447 **Fax:** 703-492-8828
wwwaquinastars.org

STAY CONNECTED! Sign up to receive the bulletin each week via email.
Visit our website: **setonlakeridge.org**, click "Bulletins", scroll down to the link to "sign up".

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: Must be received, in writing, by **Monday, two weeks** before the Sunday publication date. Please send proposed submissions to ***bulletin@setonlakeridge.org***.

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Christmas, we never could have imagined that in just a couple months, our lives and our world would be forever changed by a global pandemic. In faith and love, we have striven to persevere through these difficulties. This year we have also been shaken once again by racial tensions in our nation. With trust in God, we continue to seek the transformation of our society, that it might more fully reflect God's Kingdom. Now, the celebration of Our Lord's birth renews us in the hope and peace that comes from him alone.

When we seek models of encouragement, especially in times of trial, we need look no further than the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph traveled a long and dangerous road to keep Jesus safe. They experienced exhaustion, and yet they remained strong in faith and trusted in God's plan for them.

As we celebrate this sacred season of Christmas, may we imitate Mary and Joseph and celebrate with reverence and joy the majesty and wonder of Christmas: "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14). By taking on human flesh, he joined us in our earthly existence. Christ endured the pain, disappointment and struggle of this life but also sanctified those moments. This Christmas, may we become more fully a dwelling place of the Word by entrusting our challenges, crosses, and very lives to his infinite love and divine mercy. In him, we will find the strength and grace we need.

In this Christmas season, God invites us, through the words of St. Paul, to "let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body" (Col 3:15). May we be instruments of his peace and compassion in a world that desperately needs the witness of our faith and unity. Let us encourage and support one another in faith with a renewed commitment to serve our brothers and sisters in most need, striving daily to imitate Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that Our Lord and Savior will bless you and your family with the peace that only he can give. May this precious gift be yours throughout the Christmas season and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

There are many ways you can get connected at Seton Lake Ridge! We have so many opportunities for you and your family to be involved in your Parish Community - with 30+ Groups and Ministries to choose from! The best place to start is with our website: **www.setonlakeridge.org**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has a Gift for You!

Enjoy a free subscription to formed.org, an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place!

With FORMED you can:

* Prepare for Sunday Mass by watching an insightful five minute video by renowned Catholic teachers.
* Enjoy a movie with your family that is both nourishing and entertaining.
* Enrich your marriage with the award-winning video series Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage
* Help your children grow in character and embrace the beauty and wonder of the Faith.

Sign up by going to www.formed.org. Click on "SIGN UP"; then "I Belong to a Parish Organization"; type Parish Name/Organization as "St. Elizabeth Ann Seton"; click on 12807 Valleywood Dr; then "NEXT"; add your name and email; then click "SIGN UP"

Sip up some holiness. Subscribe to #2Minutes2Virtue

TEXT '2m2v' to 84576

To get a free, weekly reflection on the Sunday Gospel and a challenge to live by—featuring priests in our Diocese!

CATHOLICS COME HOME.org

Experience Love & Acceptance by coming home to the Catholic Church

There's an old saying that goes, "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic." Maybe you have been away from the Church for a little while or for quite some time, but now you feel a tug at your heart calling you back to the Catholic Church. Listen to that tug. It's your Heavenly Father reaching his arms out to you, the Holy Spirit whispering in your ear, hoping to draw you home.

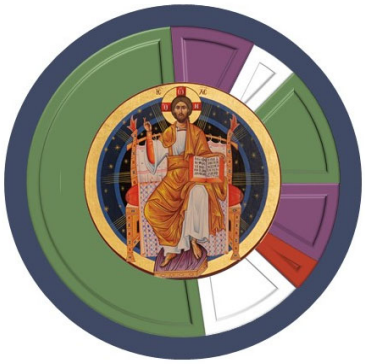
We hope you accept this as your invitation to rediscover the truth, wonder and mystery of the Catholic faith. As your brothers and sisters in our worldwide Catholic family, we want you back. We've missed you, and our Church is not the same without you.

Regardless of why you left or got out of the habit of going to Mass, you can always come home and return to the practice of the sacraments and the fullness of relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church he founded. We are Catholic. Welcome home.

Your Father in heaven wants you to come home, and so do we, your fellow members of Christ's body, the Church. The longing you have in your heart can be fulfilled through Jesus and his Catholic Church. You are not alone. Countless of your own brothers and sisters in Christ have returned home, have come back to Confession and to Mass, and have experienced the joy of a renewed relationship with the God who loves them and accepts them unconditionally. Now, you can too.

Welcome Home!

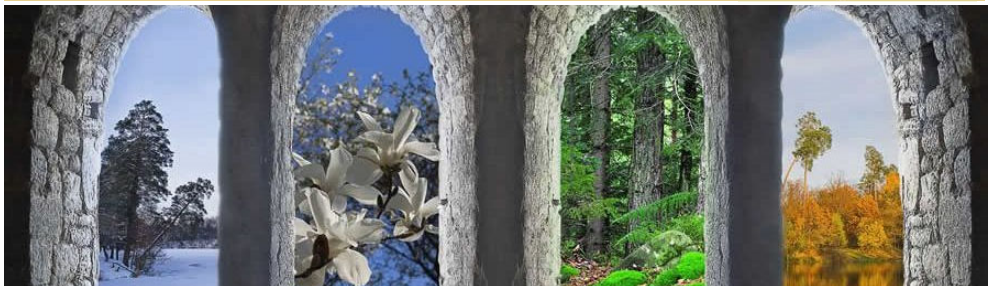
OUR LITURGICAL YEAR *www.setonlakeridge.org/via-vita/*



The *Via Vita* Liturgical Calendar Wheel. You will see this image frequently in 2021 as we live out our liturgical year.

The Liturgy is the preeminent activity of the Church. In its broad sense, the Liturgy includes the whole scope of the public official service required of the faithful: the sacraments, prayers, and celebrations that connect us in a universal faith, as well as the prayers and celebrations that are particular to the distinct rites within the Catholic Church. The liturgical year, and the cycle of seasons and devotions that make it up, guide us in forming and conforming our lives to that of Christ and in becoming authentic witnesses to our faith.

The lectionaries (both Catholic and RCL versions) are organized into three-year cycles of readings. The years are designated *A*, *B*, or *C*. Each yearly cycle begins on the first Sunday of Advent (the Sunday between November 27 and December 3 inclusive). Year B follows year A, year C follows year B, then back again to A. **We are currently in the yearly cycle B.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for

EMBER DAYS 2021

A tradition of reflection, reconciliation, and Stewardship

Spring Ember Days
February 2021
24, 26, 27

Summer Ember Days
May 2021
26, 28, 29

Fall Ember Days
September 2021
15, 17, 18

Winter Ember Days
December 2021
15, 17, 18

EMBER DAYS

Four times a year, the Church reserves three special days that are dedicated to God's goodness through the gift of his creativity.

During these days, the faithful are encouraged to reflect on His goodness, pray and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to take seriously our responsibility as stewards of creation.

Join us on the Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of each Ember season to deepen your faith through this ancient tradition of the Church!

VIA VITA

THE WAY TO LIFE

Literally, "The Way of Life", but more than that, it is "The Way to Life".

***Via Vita* is a framework through which we can discover and develop a more personal, intentional, and meaningful relationship with Christ, his Church, and our Catholic Faith.**

***Via Vita* helps us grow in understanding and confidence to live out our baptismal promises with authenticity, boldness, and peace.**

Through *Via Vita* we become immersed in the Catholic culture of faith through the cycles, seasons, devotions, celebrations, and prayers of the Church's liturgical year.

***Via Vita* encourages us to have confidence to share our faith and inspire others to encounter Christ**

To dive deeper, go to our *Via Vita* page on our website:

www.setonlakeridge.org

ARE YOU WONDERING IF THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISCOVER A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

My name is Kris Fischer and I am the Director of Evangelization and Adult Education. The purpose of evangelization is to lead others to a ***personal encounter*** with Christ. My role is to help you accomplish that by providing the Seton Lake Ridge parish with ways you can do that through resources, programs and accompaniment. I hope to see many new faces join the plethora of groups here at Seton Lake Ridge in 2021.

Here are a few of the things we have to assist you in finding your *personal encounter with Christ*:

<u>*Alpha!* New</u>

Beginning January 20th; Come and see! Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment by offering the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and express your own views no matter what they might be, from the comfort of your own home! Each session will be offered through Zoom & includes a video segment followed by the opportunity to discuss. Contact Kris Fischer to register.

<u>Saturday Morning Running and Walking Groups</u>

Every Saturday meet up in the parking lot outside the parish office doors for fellowship and exercise. All levels of fitness welcome! Runners meet at 7:00am and venture "off-campus", running 3 to 6 miles around our Lake Ridge neighborhood. Walkers meet at 8:00am and stay on the premises to walk and talk their way around the parish property. Both groups finish up in time to go to 9:00am Mass!

<u>Sunday Bible Study</u>

Bi-weekly (ongoing) 10:30am-12:00pm Upcoming dates: January 3rd, 17th, and 31st. St. Peter and Paul Rms.

Bring your own bible and parishioner/facilitator Jared MacFarlane will walk you through the entire Bible, using teachings and sources faithful to the Magisterium so that you can learn how to read and understand the bible as a Catholic.

RCIA
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

<u>RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults *and Children*)</u>

Are You Interested in Becoming Catholic? Or Know Someone who might be? Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This is a year-round process so it is never too late or too early to start. Participate in sessions with your questions, your insights, and your faith story - in a warm and accepting environment. For more information contact Catherine Mays (RCIA Director) at **rcia@setonlakeridge.org**, or call the parish office. Please leave your name, phone number, and email.

<u>Small Groups</u>

Small groups create environments where friendship and God's Word serve as catalysts for deeper conversion by drawing adults into a transformative friendship with Jesus and one another through God's Word. ***Journey together. Share life. Reflect upon God's word. Pray for and with one another***. For more information or to join a small group, please contact Kris Fischer.

<u>One-on-One discipleship</u>
Journeying Together

Programs don't make disciples; events don't make disciples; **disciples make disciples**! Would you like to learn how to pray? Or how to get more out of Mass? Or how to notice God in your life?

Then one-on-one discipleship might be for you. Let someone walk you through the steps, sharing their personal experiences in a natural, authentic Christian apprenticeship. To find out more contact Kris Fischer.

HUMAN CONCERNS

The Seton Lake Ridge **HUMAN CONCERNS OUTREACH MINISTRY** is dedicated to supporting (through service) the needs of the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, the ill, the disabled, and the grieving in our parish, diocese, and community and provides opportunities for parishioners of all ages to perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy through its myriad outreach programs. The ministry overseas the year-round operation of the ***Mother Seton Food Pantry***, and during Advent we sponsored the ***Christmas Giving Tag Tree Program*** which provides gifts for the residents of St. Margaret of Cortona and Christ House, two Diocesan transitional housing programs for the homeless.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January ACTS Food Collection Month
February 17–March 26 Lenten Giving Tag Tree Program
April ACTS Food Collection Month
April 18-24 Prepare meals for the Hilda Barg Homeless Center

We always welcome new volunteers. To sign up, contact out Director of Human Concerns Outreach,

Betty Maher at **b.maher@setonlakeridge.org**

MUSIC

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNIES
Cantoring is our only active Music Ministry right now, due to COVID singing guidelines. We welcome new cantors who are talented singers & comfortable leading a congregation in hymns, Mass parts, and proclaiming the word of God in the Responsorial Psalm. Experience with reading music or the ability to quickly and efficiently learn music by ear is a must.

Our four Parish ensembles are typically:

Traditional Choir: sings hymns and choir anthems at the 10:45am Mass. We welcome those able to sing in parts to join us in singing these great hymns of faith.

Schola: sings Gregorian Chant, Latin Mass parts, and hymns at the 12:30pm Mass. We welcome all those interested in learning about singing the music which the Second Vatican Council has said has "pride of place" in the Church.

Contemporary Ensemble: Sings & plays Contemporary Catholic and Praise and Worship style music for the 9:00am and 6:30pm Sunday Masses. Opportunities for singers, guitarists, woodwind, strings, and keyboard players to work as a team to bring this joyful and meditative style to our parishioners.

Children's Choir: Is open to all children in grades 2-6 and sings periodically at the 5:00pm Saturday vigil Mass. We welcome all children to join and experience the joy of singing in a group, and the depth of our Catholic musical heritage.

RELIGIOUS EDUCTION

Our **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM** for K-6th grades offers a unique weekly opportunity to meet onsite or via live stream as a family. We have a letter, saint, virtue, and a specific devotion each week. Our text books this year include a Catholic Children's Bible, a Catechism for children, a Rosary guide and rosary. Our catechists are teaching the fundamentals of our faith in a fun, interactive, and informative style.

Middle school students meet on Zoom, in person, and via live stream. Their classes are tailored to meet the requirements of Confirmation preparation. Our high school students have the option to meet in person or on Zoom.

We also have a **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM** with scheduled meetings throughout the year to prepare both the students and their parents for the upcoming sacraments.

We are truly thankful for the support and participation of the families in our parish.

May God continue to bless you.

Contact Sheri Suess at s.suess@setonlakeridge.org

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY at Seton Lake Ridge is an active family of youth, adult core members, and parents who desire to grow closer to Christ and live out our Catholic faith.

The Sacraments are our life blood. The Church is our second home and we always have room for others in our hearts and at our tables.

OUR MINISTRY MISSION
To help fill the God-sized hole in the hearts of our youth.

OUR MINISTRY GOAL
In imitation of our Mama Mary, and in communion with the saints, we strive to give God our personal and intentional FIAT (out yes!) every day.

To learn more, visit our webpage at **www.setonlakeridge.org/faith-formation/youth-ministry**, or our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Melissa Maleski at

m.maleski@setonlakeridge.org

12 Ways to Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas

In the Church calendar, Christmas does not end on Christmas Day. It is only the beginning. It lasts for 12 days, a tradition from which we got the famous Christmas song. There are many ways we can mark the Christmastide season and deepen our Catholic identity. Here are 12 suggestions:

December 25

Celebrate the birth of Jesus!

December 26

Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, and deacon of the early church. Take time to honor all deacons, especially our deacon! Send a card or tell him you appreciate the work he does.

December 27

Feast of the Holy Family
Have a family game night, and, say the Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family:
www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action programs/family/consecration-to-the-holy-family/10371-consecration-to-the-holy-family.pdf

December 28

The Feast of the Holy Innocents. Celebrate by blessing your children. Line them up, trace the sign of the cross on their forehead, saying, "May almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, for time and eternity and may this blessing remain forever with you."

December 29

St. Thomas Becket.
Enjoy a hike in the woods. While you're out, see how many creatures cross your path.

December 30

St. Egwin of Worcester
Take a "pilgrimage" to the Vatican with one of their virtual tours:
www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html

December 31

St. Sylvester, Pope
Take a few moments to pray for our Holy Father and his intentions.

January 1

The Solemnity of Mary
Attend Mass and later, pray the Rosary as a family. If unaccustomed, start with one decade.

January 2

Feast of St. Gregory and St. Basil (Saint friends)
Spend time today with close friends. Be sure to tell them how much they mean to you.

January 3

Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Jesus' name is holy. So is ours. Find out what your name means.

(This year the Church celebrates the Epiphany at Mass on this Sunday.)

January 4

Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, our patroness and first American-born canonized saint! Stop by the parish and spend a few moments in prayer, or thank a staff member for what they do.

January 5

Feast of St. John Neumann, first Bishop in America. Try learning the Hail Mary in another language.

January 6 Epiphany!