



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 5:15 p.m.
Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 29, 2019

Families

God our Father, we first encounter you in the love of our families,
and we give thanks for those who have loved us.

Yet no earthly family is perfect. All need your grace.

We pray especially for struggling families:

for single-parent households,

for absent parents and their children,

for grandparents raising grandchildren,

for foster parents and for orphans,

and for those with no one left to care for them.

Bring us into your one eternal family, a family filled with your peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Perfecting Our Bonds

Today's Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. Today we reflect on the many meanings of *family*. Our first reading elaborates on the Fourth Commandment: "Honor your father and mother." In cultures that prize youthfulness and autonomy, the aged seem like burdens or even reminders of our mortality. This passage enjoins us to respect and treasure our parents and elders. Acting otherwise offends our heavenly Father.

Joseph and Mary modeled the holiness God wanted for his people. Jesus' parents could not have guided their son in holiness had they themselves not been open to God's love and guidance. Today we hear especially how Joseph modeled parental love. When his family was in danger, he fled to a foreign land in order to protect them. By protecting Mary and Jesus, Joseph ultimately protected the much larger family of God.

During his ministry, Jesus formed a new family. This family is open to everyone and is based not on one's ancestry but on love and faith in Jesus. St. Paul describes the behavior of those who belong to this family in words that are inspiring and heart-warming. Members of God's family are people of peace and gratitude who treat one another with the same love God has shown them.

Our treatment of both biological and spiritual family members may fall short of the behavior commanded in these readings. We ask one another for forgiveness as we call upon God to strengthen our family bonds.

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1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• Mass Intentions •

Monday, December 30

6:30 am Ann Cantoni ☩ / Nathan Wibbenmeyer ☩

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

6:30 am Jerry Priest ☩

5:15 pm Richard and Patricia Comer ☩

Wednesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00 am Douglas Overbey (living)

10:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the Earl and Irene Schweitzer Family

12:00 pm Margarita Alaniz ☩

Thursday, January 2

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

6:30 am Jeanette Dohogne ☩

Friday, January 3 Sai

The Most Holy Name of Jesus / First Friday

6:30 am Homeer Schnurbusch ☩

Saturday, January 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

6:30 am Cynthia A. Duffy (living)

5:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council

Sunday, January 5

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am Rosie and Rocco Migliorino ☩

9:00 am Colin Higgins ☩

10:45 am Rosemary Horton ☩

3:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family (Bilingual)

• Prayer Requests •

Please remember the hospitalized, the homebound, the sick of the parish and those who care for them.

Parish Office

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Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!



Holy Day Mass Schedule

Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve, December 31

5:15 p.m.

New Year's Day, January 1

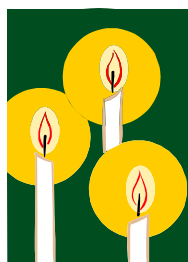
8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.

12:00 noon (Bilingual)

A collection will be taken at each Mass and will be used for the needs of the Amen Center, a Christian-based interdenominational crisis and restoration center which assists families and individuals as they recover from setbacks, crisis, and tragedies that require a place a refuge for a transitional period.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist will take place following the 6:30 a.m. Mass on January 3, 2020. Consider spending time with the Lord in prayer and adoration during the day. Adoration will close with Eucharistic Benediction at 5:15 p.m. allowing those who finish work at 5:00 p.m. an opportunity to come for the final prayers and benediction.



Taizé Prayer Service

A Taizé service, meditative prayer with simple prayer-chants, will be held Sunday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Church. Expect chants or simple songs, silence, prayer, candlelight, scripture, peace or relief from daily stress. All are welcome!

Catholic Mission Trip

You can put your faith into action on a Catholic Mission trip! Immaculate Conception Parish is planning a mission trip May 30 - June 6, 2020, to General Cepeda, Mexico. This trip will be with the Jeremy and Lisa Nice Family through Family Missions Company. Jeremy, Lisa, and their family are living and serving as missionaries and you can serve alongside them in their ministries. Step outside your routine and encounter Christ! Please contact Meg at 579-2188 or icyouthspirit@gmail.com for more information or with questions. *Registration deadline is December 31.*

Council of Catholic Women

The January meeting of the Council of Catholic Women will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower meeting room. You are in for a treat as Barbara Lohr portrays Zerelda James, mother of Jesse and Frank James.

All women of the parish are members of the Council and are invited to attend. Come and see what the Council of Catholic Women is all about!

IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?

May He Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of

Julius Lueders, a member of the St. Vincent Parish family.

*May he and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



Eucharistic Minister Workshop for New and Current Ministers

If you would like to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Minister), or you are currently a Eucharistic Minister, please attend one of the upcoming workshops. Each current Eucharistic Minister is requested to attend to be refreshed on the requirements and a few minor adjustments. The workshop will identify the main responsibilities of Eucharistic Ministers before, during, and after each Mass. Those who bring Communion to the homebound, hospitals, and nursing homes are still required to attend a workshop, even if you do not assist at Mass! Each workshop will cover the same material. Contact Father Brian if there are any questions!

The workshop options are:

- Tuesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m. in the Church
- Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Church
- Saturday, January 11, 9:00 a.m. in the Church
- Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 p.m. in the Church

Ugly Quilt News

Beginning January 8, 2020, the Ugly Quilt Ministry will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. This ministry takes place in the Ugly Quilt Room in the lower level of the De Paul Center.

Virtus Sessions

The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children is the adult safe-environment program being offered by the Diocese of Springfield-Cape. The Diocese requires all adult employees and volunteers who have substantial contact with children to attend. Upcoming sessions include:

- **Saturday, January 11**, 9:00 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul, Cape
- **Monday, February 10**, 6:30 p.m., St. Vincent de Paul, Cape
- **Saturday, March 7**, 9:00 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape

Check availability for additional dates/locations on the VIRTUS website. To attend a seminar you must pre-register with your full legal name. **Pre-registration is necessary:** Go to www.virtusonline.org and click on the yellow link labeled 'Registration' (you may either view a list of sessions or begin the registration process). To register for a specific session, select 'Begin the Registration Process'. From the pull-down menu, select 'Springfield-Cape Girardeau'. Follow the online prompts, completing the Code of Conduct and your information for a background screening.

Year-End Charitable Giving

More than half of all charitable giving is made during the last two months of the year. Why? It is the time of year when thanks is expressed for the many blessings received. It is the time to review finances and do tax planning.

As you consider your end-of-year tax planning, please consider a gift to St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Any donation received or postmarked by December 31 can reduce your income taxes and make a positive difference to the parish.

For information, contact the parish office at 573-335-7667.

• The Week Ahead •

Monday, December 30

7:00 pm Prayer Ministry

Tuesday, December 31

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 2

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 11:00 am)

6:15 pm i.d.Cape Disciples Night

Friday, January 3

7:00 am Adoration of the Eucharist

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

5:15 pm Benediction

Saturday, January 4

7:00 am Men's Cursillo Group

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 am - 12:00 noon)

3:30 pm Confession

Sunday, January 5

9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

4:30 pm Confirmation Prep (High School)

*In observance of
the New Year holiday /
Feast of Mary, Mother of God,
the parish office will be closed
Tuesday, December 31
(12:00 noon), and
Wednesday, January 1.*



Readings - January 5, 2020

Isaiah 60:1-6 • Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Collection - December 22, 2019

Collection	\$ 39,861.01
E-Tithing	\$ 11,061.00
Total	\$ 50,922.01
Weekly Budget	\$ 31,450.00
Year-to-date Difference	-\$ 31,629.57

Please be a good steward of God's gifts
by using Faith Direct or by using
your contribution envelope.

• Ministries •

Saturday, January 4 • 5:00 p.m.

Servers Vita Galati, Mark Schuchardt, **Volunteer**
Lectors Eric Schuchardt, Brooke Clubbs
Eucharistic Ministers Tim Coad, Jim Govreau, Judy Hanschen, Mike Hanschen, Lynne Karnes, Ken Kiefer, Elizabeth Rolwing, Shane Sinn, Mark Springer, Jim Welk
Sacristans Gene Heuring, Judy Heuring
Hospitality **Volunteers**
Musician Tom Wencewicz

Sunday, January 5 • 7:30 a.m.

Servers Landon Alpers, Cora Burford, Loren Burford
Lectors Tom Higgins, Joan Walter
Eucharistic Ministers Thomas Drummond, Sr., Mary Higgins, Gary Lively, Marilyn Lively, Luke Miget, Wayne Nesslein
Sacristans Carol Jones, Ken Jones
Hospitality Maria Gates, Millie Hinkle, Natalie Jones, Rae Anne Kloss, Cheryl Klueppel, **Volunteers**
Musician Dale Haskell

Sunday, January 5 • 9:00 a.m.

Servers Sonnie Childress, Haylee Kilburn, Mykensie Kilburn
Lectors Karen Roggow, Denise Trampier
Eucharistic Ministers Peggy Berryhill, Alan Essner, Denise Essner, Alex Harold, Diana Harold, Ben Pfau, Hugh Protzel, Bonita VanGennip, Jerry Welker, Sue Wibbenmeyer
Sacristans Mary Kay McCrate, Monica Pfau
Hospitality Marilyn Bell, Lisa Church, Allen Toole, Anita Toole, **Volunteer**
Musicians Lenny Kuper, Nick Hogan

Sunday, January 5 • 10:45 a.m.

Servers Lydia Strohmeier, Judd Thoma, Madelyn White
Lectors Jeri Spence, Vicki
Eucharistic Ministers Duva Arpin, Roger Arpin, Calvin Garner, Bobbi Palmer, David Palmer, Stephen Slaten, Amanda Strohmeier, Kyle Thoma, Lester Wells, Dotty Wencewicz
Sacristans Joyce Gibbar, Ken Gibbar
Hospitality Judy Cantoni, Phil Cantoni, Amanda Mitsdarfer, Patrick Mitsdarfer, Jessie Rnick, Bridgett Wengert, Matt Wengert
Musicians Lenny Kuper, Lily Parker

If you would like to take up the offertory gifts at one of the weekend Masses in the upcoming months, please contact Debbie Wells at the parish office or email her at stvincentcares@gmail.com.

Attention: Adult Catholic Men

You are invited to the Cape Girardeau-area



Thursday, January 23, 2020 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Parish • Cape Girardeau, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession,
and a Manly Meal with discussion.

To help plan for food please RSVP to
SEMOcatholicManNight@gmail.com,
SEMO Catholic Man Night on Facebook or 573-837-2556

**If you are interested in helping with this event,
please contact Tony Buehrle at 573-979-5013.**



47th Annual March for Life

You are invited to attend an amazing pro-life pilgrimage by accompanying hundreds of thousands of marchers in the nation's capital on January 24, 2020. Organized by the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau's Voice for Life lay apostolate, a bus will leave at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, from St. Vincent De Paul Church, Cape Girardeau. The mission of Voice for Life (VFL) is to support life from conception to natural death while promoting awareness and conducting advocacy campaigns in accordance with Catholic teaching. Contact Kathleen Keesee, kkeesee@charter.net or 573-986-3320.

Youth Ministry News

Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC)

The Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry invites **all** high school students to the **DYC 2020** which will be held March 27-29, 2020 in West Plains, Missouri! **Put it on your calendars now!** The theme this year is **"RISE"**. The keynote speakers for the conference will be Paul J. Kim, Carrie Ford, and "American Ninja Warrior" - Father Steven Gadberry. Also, the St. Vincent's house band will be returning! Bishop Rice expects to be with the diocesan youth for the entire weekend, along with several priests, deacons and the beloved seminarians. More information and a registration packet will be available in early 2020. For more info, contact Father Brian or Father Rick.

Ignite Youth Conference

All 8th grade students are invited to attend the **Ignite Youth Conference** on Saturday, March 28, at the West Plains Civic Center in West Plains, Missouri. This **one day** event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude after Mass with Bishop Rice at 5:00 p.m. Lunch is included. Just like last year, St. Vincent de Paul will have a chartered bus to go to the conference. Registration information will be coming in early January! For more info, contact Father Brian or Father Rick.

Steubenville STL Mid-America Youth Conference

Save the date, **July 10 - 12**, for the 2020 Steubenville Youth Conference in Springfield, Missouri. Registration information will come in early January, 2020! For more info, contact Father Brian or Father Rick.

📍Same address, now with a NEW look!📍

Check out St. Vincent's newly designed website at the same URL - www.svcape.com! The website is now mobile-friendly and has some fun features!

You can submit your cell phone number and email address for upcoming email and text notifications! You can now submit a message to any staff member through the website — just visit the About page. Any ministry can have information easily added to the website if you have additional information about the ministry you lead or are involved in. To do so, please email Kelli Foster at kcefooster@gmail.com or call/text 573-433-4703.

Take a look around the site! Consider submitting a family or event photo to help keep the site updated and personal. Do you have action or group photos showing the vibrancy of St. Vincent Parish? If so, send them to stvincentcapegirardeau@gmail.com.



Donate with Faith Direct

Faith Direct is the innovative solution that allows you to support St. Vincent de Paul Parish using electronic funds transfer from a bank account or credit/debit card just as you may do now with your mortgage payment, etc. It is simple, safe and convenient. You can begin supporting St. Vincent electronically today by visiting faith.direct/MO885. Thank you!

Cursillo

Cursillo is a recognized movement in the Catholic Church. Many who have attended a Cursillo weekend speak of a spirit-filled Catholic experience. It is a small course on the fundamentals of Christianity and the Christian way of life. Cursillo begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday.

• Upcoming Retreat Weekends •

Men - February 20-23, 2020 • Women - March 19-22, 2020
Pinecrest Camp, Fredericktown, Missouri

Registration may be found on the diocesan website at <http://dioscgo.org/index.php/cursillo2/>. Each applicant will be required to list a sponsor on their registration form. The sponsor may be a pastor or someone who previously attended a Cursillo weekend. More information about the National Cursillo Movement can be found on their website: <https://www.natl-cursillo.org/>.

Celebrating the Sacraments Celebrando los Sacramentos

Marriage: Please contact the parish office at least **six months** in advance. (If you have been married before, an annulment may need to be done first.)

Matrimonio: Por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial por lo menos con **seis meses** de antelación. (Si usted ha estado casado antes, una anulación del matrimonio puede necesitar ser hecha primero.)

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Baptism: Your family needs to be registered in the parish for three months prior to the baptism. It is necessary to schedule baptismal preparation classes six weeks prior to your child's baptism. Taking the baptism class prior to birth is encouraged! Contact Deacon Mark Kiblinger at the parish office (573-335-7667).

Bautismo: Es un requisito ser inscritos en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de bautizar. También los padres tienen que celebrar la santa misa cada fin de semana. La clase de preparación para el bautismo para padres y padrinos es cada último lunes del mes. Favor de comunicarse con Padre Rick una semana antes al 573-335-7667.

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Holy Orders and Consecrated Religious Life: Would you like to talk about how to be a Priest, Permanent Deacon, Religious Brother or Religious Sister? Come to a gathering on the last Thursday of each month for snacks and discussion about this way of life. For more information, call Father Rick at the parish office (573-335-7667) or email him at stvcapepadre@gmail.com.

Orden Sagrado y vida religiosa consagrada: ¿te gustaría hablar de cómo ser sacerdote, diácono permanente, hermano religioso o hermana religiosa? Ven a una reunión el último Jueves de cada mes para algunos bocadillos y discusión sobre esta forma de vida. Para más información, llame al Padre Rick en la oficina parroquial (573-335-7667) o stvcapepadre@gmail.com.

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Anointing of the Sick: If you are going to the hospital for a planned surgery, please call the parish office so this Sacrament can be celebrated with you.

Unción de los enfermos: Si usted va al hospital para una cirugía planificada, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para que este Sacramento pueda ser celebrado con usted.

• Job Opportunities •

Principal Opening - St. Francis Xavier School, Sikeston, has an opening for the position of Principal for the 2020-2021 school year. All interested parties must be a practicing Catholic in good standing, be living his/her Catholic faith and a moral life, have experience of teaching in a Catholic School, and preferably have some administrative experience or working towards a degree in Administration. If interested, please contact Father David Dohogne at 573-471-2447 for an application.

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools - The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has an opening for Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2020. The diocesan school system includes 23 elementary and 3 high schools. Requirements: Practicing Catholic, advanced degree in Educational Administration, certifiable in State of Missouri, and experience in Catholic school administration, preferably on a diocesan level. Ability to promote Catholic mission of the schools is a high priority. Must also be willing to travel throughout the diocese. Competitive salary, excellent health benefits, and retirement based on diocesan guidelines. Send cover letter and resume to Janet L. Smith, Chancellor, 601 S. Jefferson, Springfield, MO, 65806. You may also call 417-866-0841 or email jansmith@dioscg.org to request an application packet.

High School Principal - The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is seeking a principal for Notre Dame Catholic High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, effective July 1, 2020. Qualified applicant must be an Active Catholic, have Missouri principal certification, have a Master's degree in School Administration (or be working towards it) with 3-5 years of Catholic school experience. Administrative experience preferred.

Please contact Anne Buckley at the Catholic Center, 417-866-0841, abuckley@dioscg.org to request an application packet.

FORMED

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Go to the Web browser on your computer or phone and type: <https://svcape.formed.org>. Click on Register. Next you will need to type in your information and create a password. Check the box that you have read and understand the terms of service. At the bottom, click on "create account." You will now have access to all of the resources in **Formed**. You can also access Formed by searching for "Formed" through your app store.

Low-Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion

Low-gluten Communion hosts are available at all weekend liturgies to those suffering from Celiac Sprue disease. The hosts, made by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, contain 0.01% wheat gluten. They are accepted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/celiac-disease-and-alcohol-intolerance.cfm>), and are recommended by the journal *Gluten-Free Living* as "perfectly safe" for sufferers of Celiac Sprue disease (Vol. 9, no. 1). The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has approved these low-gluten altar breads for use in the Diocese. During a weekend Mass, the minister having the consecrated low-gluten hosts will be in the **center aisle** on the **left side**. When you approach this minister, just indicate that you need one of these consecrated hosts.

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

- ☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau. ☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.
- ☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.
- ☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.
- ☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.
- ☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.
- ☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 30

The Era of Salvation

Anna tells how a new era of salvation has begun with Jesus. The old world with its deadly vices like anger and pride is passing away. Those who follow Jesus and his life of love become part of God's new world, a world of justice, peace, and mutual love. Today thank someone who has been like Anna to you, teaching you to give thanks to God and to do his will so as to become part of his new world. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.*

Tuesday, December 31

For the World

St. John sometimes uses the term *the world* simply to refer to everyone, but at other times *the world* refers to evil, to hostile elements, and to people who oppose God and his Son. God offers the light of his salvation for all the world, but some people prefer to remain in darkness. Such people might even have been baptized and anointed with the Spirit, professing their belief that Jesus was sent by God to save the world, only to turn away from the truth later. Talk with or pray for someone who has left the Catholic Church. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

Wednesday, January 1

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The use of the title Mother of God emerged in the early centuries of the Church during debates about the nature of Jesus. Some theologians claimed that only the human Jesus took flesh in Mary's womb. Others rightly insisted that Jesus wasn't sometimes fully human and at other times fully divine: he was fully divine even while in his mother's womb. Mary is thus the bearer of divinity, the Mother of God. Honor her by praying the Rosary today. *Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8 (2a); Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

Thursday, January 2

St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

The Gospel of John reads like a great courtroom drama in which Jesus is on trial, witnesses are called, and we must ask ourselves who we believe Jesus is. John the Baptist is the first witness to take the stand. John's true testimony about Jesus, the Son, unites him to the Father. Several centuries later Sts. Basil and Gregory also strove to speak truly about who Jesus was at a time when people denied Jesus' full divinity. Take some time today to reflect first on Jesus' divinity and then on his humanity. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Friday, January 3

Lamb of God

John the Baptist continues his testimony, declaring that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Jesus is the Passover lamb who saves people from death, the food of fellowship between God and his people, a lamb sacrificed for our sins, and the triumphant Lamb who now reigns in heaven. He purifies all who believe in him, all who strive to turn away from sin and toward God's love. Write a prayer or draw a picture that honors Jesus, the Lamb of God. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.*

Saturday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Today we celebrate the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded the first Catholic school. The First Reading assures us that although we each sin, we are forgiven by God, who dwells with his Church, keeping it pure. When John the Baptist urges his disciples to follow Jesus, the process of forming this purified community begins. The two disciples, soon joined by Peter, stay with Jesus. They will remain with him forever. Imagine that you go to stay with Jesus, too. What do you talk about with him for the rest of that day? *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*



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