



## St. Therese Parish

9525 W Bluemound Rd  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

sttheresemke.org  
info@sttheresemke.org  
(414) 771-2500  
Facebook: @sttheresemke

*We are St. Therese Catholic Church, a community of believers, who walk together by faith in Christ Jesus, and minister in the Little Way of St. Therese, as we strive hand-in-hand to live as God's people.*

## St. Vincent Pallotti Parish

### East Church

5424 W Bluemound  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

### West Church/Office

201 N 76th St  
Milwaukee, WI 53213

stvincentpallotti.org / vpallotti@stvpc.org  
(414) 453-5344  
Facebook: @stvincentpallottimke  
YouTube: @st.vincentpallottiparish



*A Community of disciples, nourished by the Eucharist, caring for each other and reaching out to others.*

## December 29, 2024



## THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. - Lk 2:46

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Sunday 7:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
9:00AM - St. Therese  
10:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

### Weekday Mass Schedule

Mon, Wed, Fri: 6:25AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
Tues: 8:45AM - St. Therese  
Tues: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Wed: 6:00PM - St. Therese  
Thurs: 12 Noon - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
First Friday: 5:30PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15-3:45PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Sunday 6:45-7:15AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
First Sunday of the Month - 8:15AM - St. Therese  
Or by appointment on weekdays

### Pray the Rosary

Saturday : 3:15PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Sunday: 7:00AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - East  
Third Sunday of the Month -10:00AM - St. Therese

### Adoration

First Friday 6:00PM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West  
Wednesdays 5:30PM - St. Therese  
Thursdays 11:30AM - St. Vincent Pallotti - West

### Blessing of the Sick

After Mass on the First Full Weekend of the Month.  
You can also contact either Parish Office or Fr. Tom PC on his cell phone (414) 308-6238 to arrange a visit.

### Baptism, Marriage and RCIA

Please call either Parish Office.  
Preparation can take nine months or more.

### Funerals

Contact either Parish Office to plan.

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
*1st Wednesday of the Month*  
*at 7:00PM*

To contact a Parish Pastoral Council Member, send an email to [council@sttheresemke.org](mailto:council@sttheresemke.org) or leave a message for them in either parish office. Meeting minutes are available in the parish offices.

**Chairperson**

Art Nennig

**Vice Chairperson**

Brett Surinak

**Secretary**

Jennifer Tierney

**Trustees**

Dennis Feger – STP (414) 546-7330  
Christopher Gauthier – SVP (414) 302-1033  
Kathy Hubrich – STP (414) 839-2669  
Lenny Schaefer – SVP (414) 534-1450

**Members-At-Large**

David Helterbran    Linda Okruhlica  
Sr. Marilyn Metz    Tom Ratkowski  
Mary Noeske

**Saint Vincent de Paul**  
**(414) 462-7837**

**Hospital Visits**

The Federal Privacy Regulation (HIPAA—Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act) prohibits hospitals from informing churches of a patient’s presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. If you are admitted to a hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please contact either Parish Office.

**Prayer List for Mass**

It is our privilege to pray at our weekend masses for those in need. If you would like to add a name to the list, please contact either Parish Office.

**Need Prayer?**

Call the Prayer Network at  
(414) 810-9844

**Need Holy Communion?**

Call either Parish Office

**The deadline for the January 5 bulletin has passed. The next available bulletin is the January 12 bulletin.**

**Pastor of St. Vincent Pallotti Parish & St. Therese Parish**

Fr. Thomas Pulikkeel Chacko, SAC  
ext. 1 at St. Therese and ext. 102 at St. Vincent Pallotti  
[fr.thomaspc@stvpc.org](mailto:fr.thomaspc@stvpc.org)  
(414) 308-6238

**St. Therese Parish Staff**

**Parish Emergencies** (414) 771-2500 – Push 0

**Office Hours:** Friday and Saturday: Closed    Sunday: 10:00AM-11:30AM  
Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs: 8:00AM–12:00PM Onsite; 12:00PM–4:00PM Remote

**Director of Administrative Services**

Heather Goeden ext. 2  
[heather@sttheresemke.org](mailto:heather@sttheresemke.org)

**Finance Director**

Christine Jensen ext. 4  
[christine@sttheresemke.org](mailto:christine@sttheresemke.org)

**Choir Director**

Carrie Sanders

**Organist**

Kathy Luty

**Catechesis Ministry**

Sr. Marilyn Metz –  
Co-Coordinator Preschool to Grade 8 Program  
& Coordinator of First Reconciliation and First  
Communion: [gr2\\_3@sttheresemke.org](mailto:gr2_3@sttheresemke.org)

Mary Rose Sanger – Co-Coordinator Preschool  
to Grade 8 Program:  
[mrs77stt@sttheresemke.org](mailto:mrs77stt@sttheresemke.org)

Rick Reinders – Coordinator of High School &  
Youth Confirmation: [rreinders@sttheresemke.org](mailto:rreinders@sttheresemke.org)

**St. Vincent Pallotti Parish Staff**

**Office** (414) 453-5344

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday: 8:30AM-3:30PM

**Director of Admin & Development**

Susana Cuellar ext. 109  
[sscuellar@stvpc.org](mailto:sscuellar@stvpc.org)

**Director of Liturgy & Music**

Carrie Sanders (414) 258-4165  
ext. 107  
[csanders@stvpc.org](mailto:csanders@stvpc.org)

**Food Service Director**

Laura Ruiz-Reyes ext. 120  
[lruiz-reyes@stvpc.org](mailto:lruiz-reyes@stvpc.org)

**Secretary**

Lori Gabert ext. 101  
[lgabert@stvpc.org](mailto:lgabert@stvpc.org)

**Bookkeeper**

Kari Utzerath ext. 104  
[kutzerath@stvpc.org](mailto:kutzerath@stvpc.org)

**Scrip Coordinator**

Therese Schaefer (414) 534-3836

**St. Vincent Pallotti Parish School Staff**

**Office:** (414) 258-4165    **Fax:** (414) 258-9844

**Principal**

Joe Fryda ext. 111  
[jfryda@stvps.org](mailto:jfryda@stvps.org)

**Vice Principal**

Tracy Irwin ext. 114  
[tirwin@stvps.org](mailto:tirwin@stvps.org)

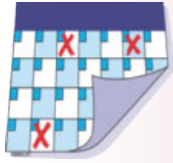
**Office Manager/  
Choice Coordinator**

Lirse Jones ext. 110  
[ljones@stvps.org](mailto:ljones@stvps.org)

**Parish Membership / Support**

Anyone over age 18 is invited to register as an adult member.  
Please call either Parish Office for more information.





# Events for the Week

STP = St. Therese Parish    SVP-E = St. Vincent Pallotti East Church  
SVP-W = St. Vincent Pallotti West Church

## Sunday, December 29

STP Parish Office Closed

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted

## Monday, December 30

SVP Parish Office Closed

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E

## Tuesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

SVP and STP Parish Offices Closed

- 8:45AM Morning Mass at STP
- 3:30PM Adoration at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Holy Day Mass at SVP-W

## Wednesday, January 1 – Happy New Year

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God/World Day of Peace

SVP and STP Parish Offices Closed

- 6:25AM Holy Day Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Holy Day Mass at STP

## Thursday, January 2

- 11:30AM Adoration at SVP-W
- 12:00PM Afternoon Mass at SVP-W
- 7:00PM Group 100 AA

## Friday, January 3

- 6:25AM Morning Mass at SVP-E
- 9:00AM Church Cleaning at SVP-W
- 5:30PM First Friday Mass at SVP-W
- 6:00PM Adoration at SVP-W

## Saturday, January 4

Prayer Shawl/Healing Blessing at SVP

- 3:15PM Confessions at SVP-W
- 3:15PM Rosary at SVP-W
- 4:00PM Mass at SVP-W

## Sunday, January 5

Prayer Shawl/Healing Blessing at SVP

- 7:30AM Mass at SVP-E
- 8:15AM Confessions at STP
- 9:00AM Mass at STP – Live Streamed on Facebook
- 10:00AM Blessing of the Sick at STP
- 10:00AM Sunday Morning Catechesis Preschool – Grade 8 Program at STP
- 10:00AM High School Catechesis and Confirmation Prep at STP
- 10:30AM Mass at SVP-W – Live Streamed and Posted



# Intentions & Readings for the Week



## December Sanctuary Candle at STP

For those working in social support roles

## Sunday, December 29

Readings 1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a) 1Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

## Monday, December 30

Readings 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40  
6:25AM (SVP-E) †Alice Badura (J. Badura)

## Tuesday, December 31

Observance: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Readings 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18  
8:45AM (STP) The St. Therese Parish Community  
4:00PM (SVP-W)

## Wednesday, January 1

Observance: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Readings Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
6:25AM (SVP-E) Parishioners  
9:00AM (STP) The St. Therese Parish Community

## Thursday, January 2

Observance: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Readings 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28  
12:00PM (SVP-W)

## Friday, January 3

Observance: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34  
6:25AM (SVP-E) †Ed Schwartz (J. Badura)

## Saturday Mass, January 4

Observance: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Readings 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42  
4:00PM (SVP-W) Very Special Intention

## Sunday Mass, January 5 – The Epiphany

Observance: The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
7:30AM (SVP-E)  
9:00AM (STP) The St. Therese Parish Community  
10:30AM (SVP-W) Parishioners



To be included, please call either Parish Office.

Dorothy Ash, Peter Carlis, Brandon Choe, Michael Czarnecki, Nancy Dineen, Dean Doberstein, Kylie Doyne, Marge Dunn, Elizabeth and Elijah, Jan Eno, Kathleen Fugiasco, Family G, Matthew Harrison, Dan Heinz, Josette Jaeger, Mary Kirchner, Helen Klister, Julie Kross, Betty Lovinus, Rachel Lund, Kathy Manthe, Debbie Martin, Loretta Merz, Bob O'Neil, Debbie Opichka, Fr. Norm Oswald, Celeste Rau, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Kaity Shields, Michael Sullivan, Robert Szablewski, Beverly T., Rosann Thate, John Wachowiak, Chris Wehausen



# Holiday Schedule

## St. Therese Parish Holiday Office Hours

- December 30 - Open regular office hours
- December 31 through January 1 - Closed
- January 2 - Open regular office hours
- January 3 and 4 - Closed
- January 5 - Resume normal office hours

## Mass Cancellation

The Wednesday, January 1 Evening Adoration and Mass are canceled. Please join us at our Holy Day Mass at 9:00AM. All are welcome!

## The Winner!

Congratulations to Caitlyn Poethig for winning the holiday basket at the Christmas Library display of books and DVDs! If you didn't get an opportunity to attend the display there are many great books and DVDs for adults and children at the Parish Library. The library is located in the main lobby and is available to you before or after Mass. Check out is on the honor system. Books may be checked out for three weeks and DVDs for two weeks. Take advantage of this free resource for all parishioners.

## Cookie Sale Thank You

Thank you to the bakers and buyers. We had over 150 lbs. of cookies donated and will publish the final total in a future bulletin. Thank you to the cookie committee members: Christine, Nancy and Rosina. We've worked on this for 12 years. Thanks to Heather and Peyton for all of the back office work. And thank you to the cookie packers: Lloyd, Jim, Sherri, Ann and Deb.

## Schedule a Mass Intention

Consider donating a Mass Intention in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special event or anniversary. Masses Intentions are \$20 each. Contact Heather Goeden in the Parish Office. To schedule.

## Time to Update Our Prayer List

It's time to update our prayer list. It is our privilege to pray for others, especially those who are going through a difficult time, are sick and suffering, or who have a special need. If you have submitted a name and would like it **to remain** on the prayer list, please contact Heather Goeden in the Parish Office by December 30 by phone, email, or US mail. Thank you!

## Year End CSA Gift

During this season of the year, we hope you will consider making a year-end gift to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal and help us reach our goal. The CSA puts our faith into action, helping thousands in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Online gifts can be made at [www.catholicappeal.org](http://www.catholicappeal.org).



## Monthly Maintenance Collection

Next weekend, January 5, we have our separate Monthly Collection to replenish our parish Maintenance Fund. Please consider dropping your donation in the collection basket, donate online using the QR code, or mail your donation to the Parish Office. This separate collection provides critical monetary resources for repairing and improving our parish's buildings and grounds. If you can't contribute to this important program next weekend, you can make a donation any of the ways listed above at any time. Thank you for your continuing support.



## Wanted: Cookie Sale Chairperson

The current cookie committee has been working on this for 12 years and it is time to retire. It's time for someone with a new vision. So get your friends together and think about how much fun it would be to work this fundraiser and make it grow. Please call Heather in the Parish Office to volunteer.

## Snow and Weather Closings

In the event of snow or weather closings for the parish, please check Channel 12 WISN-TV or WISN.com (WISN website) for closures. Please also note to look for "St. Therese-Milwaukee" in Milwaukee County. (Sometimes there is confusion with "St. Theresa" and "St. Therese" in other cities and counties of the archdiocese.)



## Flower/Candle Memorial Donations for the Christmas Season

In this season of giving, please consider remembering a loved one or honoring a special intention by donating a memorial toward the cost of flowers and candles for our church environment that enhance our worship during the Christmas Season. Please complete the form below, include your donation of any amount, and return both in the collection basket at any Mass or send it to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!



### Candle and Flower Donations—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Select one:  In Memory  In Honor  In Thanksgiving  
 Intention \_\_\_\_\_  
 Publish in bulletin?  Yes  No  Print intention, not donor



## CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection Totals will be reported on the second weekend of the month.

Please remember St. Therese in your will!

9:00AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed on our Facebook page. It is also posted on our website after Mass.

Looking to donate online? Use the QR Code on the right to make a contribution to St. Therese Parish on our online giving website. Thank you for your generosity.







Thank you to everyone, for the beautiful Christmas celebration.

Thank you to the Musicians, Singers, Liturgical ministers, and all those responsible for a beautifully decorated church. Thank you for your presence and for whatever way you contributed to make our celebration a success.

Many thanks to those who gave special greetings or gifts. Your love and support means a lot to me and the parish.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

♥ Fr. Tom PC



# Did You Know???

## **GOD LIKES BEING WITH YOU !!!**

*(Importance of personal prayer)*

My spirit is crushed. I feel defeated and neglected. Our family is journeying through some really rocky territory and, honestly, I just don't like it at all. Who likes going through the storm? All you need is to learn to be with God personally, sharing your heart. Here are a few reasons why you should make sure it is on your to-do list every day.

### **Prayer draws us Near to God**

It's impossible to know someone if you don't spend time with them. Prayer is an opportunity to spend time with God. To really understand the heart of God, you need to pray. In John 15:15, Jesus says He no longer calls us his servants, but calls us His friends. Talking with God develops a deeper relationship with Him. The deeper the relationship becomes, the more time you want to spend with Him.

### **Prayer Brings Light to Darkness**

Our prayers are fighting against spiritual battles that linger in dark places. The power of prayer is so great it has the power to defeat the devil and his power over us. He wants to destroy us, but God wants to bring us closer to Him. Prayer is our tool to win that battle. Prayer gives us the strength and the faith to finish the race victorious.

### **Prayer Changes Us**

We often think prayer changes God. This simply isn't the case. Prayer changes us. When we spend time with God, He is working to change our heart to be more like His. The more time we spend with Him, the more we are like Him. Our habits and lifestyles change. We no longer live a self-centered life, but one that is focused on others with a pure and sincere heart. Prayer changes us inside out.

### **Prayer Brings Breakthroughs in our Life**

One of the most important aspects of prayer in our life is the breakthroughs that come. Sometimes we are faced with devastating circumstance-es and feel we have nowhere to turn. It's at that point we should pray (although there should have been plenty of prayer beforehand, too). Fasting and praying are powerful tools. Sometimes you need a message from God and you need to be solely focused on Him to get it. **Do you need a breakthrough today?**



There are weekday and weekend Masses available for your **Mass Intentions in 2025**. Kindly call the Parish Office for assistance at 414-453-5344



### **IMPORTANT!**

All final 2024 Contributions must be placed in the collection basket this weekend or be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31, 2024 to be recognized as a 2024 contribution. If you are contributing online using WE-Share, donations made after December 27 will be applied to 2025.



For an on-line copy of our weekly combined bulletin, please refer to our website at: [www.stvincentpallotti.org](http://www.stvincentpallotti.org)

### **10:30AM Sunday Mass Live-Streamed and Recorded**

Find the link under "Mass Times"  
Also available on YouTube.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to the holidays & timing of the bulletin deadlines, the data needed for the **Stewardship Parish Support** table was not available at the time of printing.

Please look for an updated Stewardship Parish Support table in a 2025 bulletin.

Thank you.

*Thank you for your contributions!*



### From the Earth Ministry: Recycling of Christmas Lights



As the holiday season concludes, attention turns to undecorating our homes. As you put away your decorations and check your strings of lights, you might find that some lights no longer work. Strings of lights cannot be recycled in the usual manner, as they cause entangling in the recycling machines. However, the Milwaukee Zoo will accept and recycle strings of lights through December 31. Lights can be put in the big yellow box in the Gathering Place. Alternatively, lights can be left with the gate attendants if you are not planning to spend the day at the Zoo. The large hardware stores in town are not accepting strings of lights this year. Thank you for all of your recycling efforts.

### Everyday Missionary Stories

Capuchin priests were the associate pastors of the grade school and church I went to growing up on the northwest side of Milwaukee. Several of those priests would distinctly say at the end of the mass petitions... “and let us pray for those who will die alone and forgotten.” I always thought that was such a profound and shocking statement. Always thinking “Who would die alone and forgotten? How could that happen?” I belong to a large family and people are never forgotten and never really alone (never spiritually and most of the time never physically alone) at the time of death.

Today I was on a zoom call at work to assist with a difficult case situation and got to see a work peer that I haven't seen in over 17 years. He is a corporate guardian, mostly for adults with developmental disabilities, and a super dedicated professional. When I was case managing in the community, he was guardian for several of my clients.

Seeing him today reminded me of a shared client that we worked with. This person had been abandoned by his family. He had only one friend, who ended up being his paid caregiver. He had met that friend during the days when he was living on the street and in flop houses. When this shared client of ours died, we both went to his funeral. The guardian, the caregiver and I were the only ones at his funeral. We were asked by the funeral home to go out to the cemetery and be pall bearers for him. I was honored to do so but I remember thinking that we were all “paid” people in his life.

That moment gave me some perspective of someone who those Capuchin priests were asking us to pray for.

In this time of hustle and bustle of the holidays, let us not forget that the greatest gift you can give someone is being present in their life and letting them know you are there for them in some capacity without it being conditional.

Angie Moran - St. Vincent Pallotti Parish

Do you have an everyday missionary story to share? How have you been a missionary to others or how has someone been a missionary to you? Please share your stories with the Eucharistic Revival Committee. Your stories (we will keep them anonymous if you'd prefer) may be used in future bulletins or other communications. Send them to Heather Goeden in the St. Therese Parish Office at [heather@sttheresemke.org](mailto:heather@sttheresemke.org).



### Solemnity of Mary/World Day of Peace

- o Tuesday, December 31 at 4:00PM at St. Vincent Pallotti - West Adoration before Mass at 3:30PM
- o Wednesday, January 1
  - 6:25AM at St. Vincent Pallotti - East
  - 9:00AM at Saint Therese Parish



### A Christmas Journey

Stop at the back of church to pick up a complimentary Christmas Family Prayer, Epiphany House Blessing, and a copy of the Emmaus 90 Christmas Edition Guidebook provided by the Christian Formation and Eucharistic Revival Committees. The guidebook provides a Christmas Season encounter/pilgrimage with Jesus over 21 days from Christmas through January 19. Use all or part of the daily prompts, prayer, and journaling included in the guidebook. If you enjoy this form of prayer, consider ordering your copy of the Emmaus 90 guidebook that will guide you in prayer from New Year's through Easter as well as provide formation sessions from the Archdiocese and the opportunity to join a small discussion group within your parish. More information can be found at [www.archmil.org/evangelization/Eucharistic-Revival/Emmaus-90](http://www.archmil.org/evangelization/Eucharistic-Revival/Emmaus-90). If you are interested in joining a small group for Emmaus 90, contact either Parish Office.

### Catechesis Corner



- Have a safe and enjoyable New Year's celebration!
- We hope you can join us on Wednesday, January 1 at 9:00AM to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary/World Day of Peace, a Holy Day of Obligation.
- Classes resume next Sunday, January 5. Don't forget about the special presentation at Mass for the Feast of the Three Kings next Sunday (1/5) at the 9:00AM Mass.

### Upcoming Class Schedule:

- o CLOW: January 12
- o Sunday Morning Age 3–Grade 8: January 5
- o High School Program/Confirmation Prep: January 5





O God of ages past and present, you bring us comfort and bless our days, nights, months, and years with your goodness.

Bless us as we receive the gift of this new year. May we be open to your Spirit with the hope and promise each day brings.

Keep us holy, healthy, and safe so that each day we may praise you with joy.

Through Christ our Lord.

- Fr. John Thomas Lane, SSS

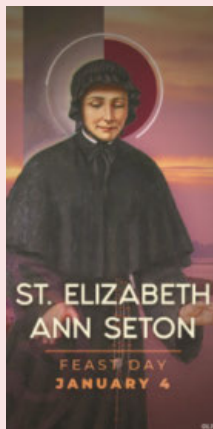
### Emmaus 90 – 2025

Emmaus 90 is a 90-day journey from New Year's to Easter 2025 that brings you closer to Jesus Christ through prayer and formation. It's a personal commitment to grow in holiness with the support of hundreds of fellow participants (pilgrims) and the leadership of nationally-recognized educators.

One of the features of Emmaus 90 are the formation sessions. This year we will again offer monthly formation sessions after the 9:00AM Mass at St. Therese Parish on the second Sunday of the month and will last about 30 minutes. **The first session will be on Sunday, January 12.** What a great way to start the new year with a deeper commitment grow in holiness and knowledge of the faith.

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4th

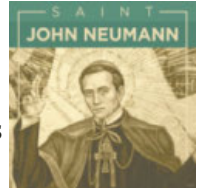
The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.



After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."©LPi

### St. John Neumann | January 5th



St. John Neumann is the patron saint of educators, immigrants, and, due to the miracles that secured his canonization, sick children. This is a fitting patronage as he was a lover of education and learning from a very young age. In fact, when he was a child, his mother called him "my little bibliomaniac" due to his preoccupation with reading. Born in 1811 Bohemia, in what is now the Czech Republic, he attended the university in Prague preparing for ordination. However, his local bishops were not ordaining new priests at the time because Bohemia was overstocked with priests. He inquired about ordination all over Europe but received the same answer everywhere. Not one to be deterred, John then applied to several United States dioceses. Receiving no immediate responses, the saint took a leap of faith and decided to just immigrate to the United States in 1836, during his 25th year, with only \$40 in his pocket. This risk paid off when he was ordained in New York a month later.

Early in his priesthood he worked primarily as a missionary to German immigrants in Buffalo. His missionary work also created an opportunity for him to spend time in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio. When he was 29, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. He was their first member to profess vows in the United States.

In 1852, at the age of 41, Neumann became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. During this time, he organized the individual parochial schools in his region into a diocesan system. This change allowed Catholic schools to quickly increase the number of pupils enrolled by almost twentyfold. Over the course of his ministry, St. John expanded the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from 2 to 100! His passion for education extended to immigrants, like himself, and his love for learning languages made it possible for him to hear confessions in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and Gaelic!

A man of the people, he could often be found outside the church walls visiting people who were sick, staying in taverns and public houses to teach, and celebrating Mass in people's homes at their kitchen tables. He was canonized on June 19, 1977, following three miracles, two of which regarded the healing of youth from grave illnesses. St. John Neumann was the first American man to be canonized a saint.

## WHEN YOU PRAY:

A clear path to a deeper relationship with God

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January 7 - February 18

The program is free for all who would like to join. A Study set is available to order for \$30.

To register, contact Heather Warner in the St. Jude Parish Office @ 414-258-8821 or hwarner@stjudetheapostle.net



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