

January 2, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2022!!

The priests and staff of St. Luke's wish everyone a Blessed and Peace-filled New Year 2022. The last 2 years have been filled with unexpected challenges, but we have faced them with faith-filled hearts. This new year will have blessings and challenges, I'm sure. With God accompanying us it will be a good year.

As we celebrate the New Year, the Church asks us to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This is the oldest title of Mary, and such an important part of our faith. Mary is not only the mother of the child Jesus, but also the Mother of God. This celebration reminds us to stay close to Mary and have faith in God's presence and unfolding plan.

Sunday, this weekend, is the Church's celebration of the Epiphany – those 3 Magi, 3 Kings, 3 Wise Men who come with their gifts and express their faith in the child-king in Bethlehem. We are all called to share our gifts with those we encounter every day.

These opening days of the New Year also give us some important American saints to celebrate. Tuesday, January 4 we celebrate St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1803) who founded the first community of Religious women (the Sisters of Charity) for the education of children. Established in Emmitsburg, MD, the community spread especially along the East Coast. Wednesday, January 5, we celebrate St. John Neumann, Bishop of Philadelphia 1852-1860. He was important for establishing Catholic schools in every parish and promoting devotion to the Holy Eucharist, especially 40 Hours. Two important models for us in living out our faith.

Hopefully, you have all enjoyed these Christmas days. This week everyone is back to work, school, and regular routines. Christmas decorations will be put away, trees out at the curb, and the darkness of winter will be more obvious. Be patient with yourself and others this week as we adjust.

Thank you for all your kindness always, and your Christmas wishes and gifts. Be assured of my prayers, as I depend on yours.

St. Luke, pray for us.

Father Joe Brandt

N.B. With 2 priests we will have 6:30 am Mass on Fridays beginning this week. I hope

many will take advantage of all our daily Masses: 6:30 am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and 8:30 am Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.