



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH

PARISH DIRECTORY 2026

30 Schoolhouse Road
Whiting, NJ 08759
732.350.5001

THE CLERGY – OUR PASTOR



Reverend Evarist Kabagambe – Pastor

Parochial Vicar 7-01-18

Pastor 7-01-22

A Message from Father Evarist

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad” (Psalm 126:3)

Dear people of God: parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and everybody perusing through this directory, thank you for your interest!

Abridged though it is, this directory gives an inkling in the different ministries that comprise our parish. Our associate (helping) priests are reflected, including our former pastor, Fr. Pasquale (Pat) Papalia in addition to Msgr. Richard Rusconi, Fr. Vincent Euk and Fr. Philip Vadakkekera. Also our active (not yet retired) deacons: Deacon Peter Downing, Deacon Bob Scharen, Deacon Christopher Buono and Deacon Steven Griggs are featured on a separate page. Next are the parish staff members. After the members of the parish staff, you will meet members of many other ministries. Please delve in.

This directory is one of the important features of our Golden Jubilee celebration and is therefore, like other 50th anniversary related projects, a brain-child of the members of the parish pastoral council. Much as we are grateful to all the parish pastoral council members who contributed to the ideas for this directory, more gratitude goes to Beverly Linane and Amelia Hartman who were in charge of organizing everything before the directory went to print. Thanks also for the parish office staff who were involved in proofreading, editing and publishing of this directory. Debbie Milecki also did a wonderful job taking pictures of those who were available. Much as I would like to individually thank everybody who was involved in this project, I am unable to do so. So, all I can say is, “Good job everybody who contributed to the success of this directory!”

Let us continue to celebrate with gratitude the successes we have registered as a parish as we ask that God’s providence continue to propel us forward into the 51st year and beyond.

Fr. Evarist Kabagambe,
Pastor.

THE CLERGY – OUR PRIESTS



Rev. Pasquale Papalia
Retired Pastor
11/23/08 – 6/30/22



Msgr. Richard A Rusconi
Associate



Rev. Vincent Euk
Associate



Rev. Philip Vadakkekera
Associate

THE CLERGY – OUR DEACONS

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church who is called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and Charity. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As minister of Sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshalling the Church's resources to meet those needs.



Deacon Peter Downing



Deacon Bob Scharen



Deacon Christopher Buono



Deacon Steven Griggs

PARISH STAFF



Linda Quinn
Business Manager



Lindsay Pederson
Parish Office Manager



Kelly Amico
Youth Minister &
Bulletin Coordinator



Lynette Haemmerle
Parish Records &
Census Coordinator

PARISH STAFF



Frank Wagner
Funeral Coordinator



Peter DeCataldo
Funeral Coordinator



Rene Rancancoj
Facilities Maintenance



Danny Quinn
Facilities Maintenance

OUR MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Celebration of Mass - In addition to the ordained ministers present at Holy Mass (Bishops, Priests, and Deacons), there are numerous particular ministries in which the parishioners (People of God) can participate all of which are a major part of the celebration of Mass.

The following are key components in the celebration of Mass:

- **Sacristans** – make sure that all of the preparations are made for the celebration of the Eucharist. This ensures that the altar is properly dressed, the liturgical vessels, hosts and wine are ready, the Roman Missal and the Lectionary are in place, and any other required items for a particular Mass are ready.
- **Altar Servers** – both adults and young adults – help the Priest throughout the liturgy. They enter the Mass with the Priest, stand by him to receive the preparation of the gifts and at the conclusion of the liturgy, the altar servers proceed out of the Church with the Priest.
- **Readers/Lectors** – play an important role in the Liturgy of the Word as they proclaim and share the Word of God with the people gathered.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** – assist the Priest to distribute the bread and wine to the people during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They are required to receive special instruction before they perform this ministry.

Deacon Peter Downing is responsible for the supervision and scheduling of these particular events.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may also take the Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or disability.

Deacon Bob Scharen and Charlie Sposato are responsible for the supervision and scheduling of these Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who bring the Eucharist to the homebound.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church is always ready to welcome parishioners to share in these Liturgical Ministries.

MINISTERS OF SONG OUR CHOIR

Festival Chorale is open for those high school age to adults who love to sing and would like to be part of a choir, with a limited commitment. Rehearsals are held in the Parish Center in preparation to sing at Christmas Eve Mass, Holy Week services, Easter Vigil and various other special liturgical services that may arise throughout the year. *The Sunday Jubilee Choir* sings faithfully at 12:00 pm Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are held in St. Matthews Room in the Parish Center. Terry Kelly is the Director of Ministers of Song.



MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY OUR USHERS

Our Ushers, as Ministers of Hospitality, are often the first and last person a parishioner or visitor meets at church. It is, therefore, of prime importance that he or she reflects the welcoming nature of a parish centered around Jesus. This can be accomplished by greeting people with a warm smile and a few simple words of welcome, guiding the congregation to communion in an orderly fashion and at the end of Mass (or prayer service) the Ushers, again as Ministers of Hospitality, bid a friendly farewell to those leaving. The true reward of an Usher is in that fulfilling this role, he or she is performing a needed service to the people of God. Marilyn Wash served as Head Usher for many years and has recently retired; Peter Wadneck has taken her place as Head of our Ministers of Hospitality.



OUR MINISTRIES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The religious education program at SEAS provides sacrament preparation and ongoing formation in the Catholic faith. The program is built upon the foundation established in the Christian family and supports the parents as first teachers of the faith for their children.

Our catechists are dedicated, trained volunteers who have felt called to share their faith in religious education ministry. A relationship and encounter with Jesus is fostered and encouraged. We try to provide many fun and varied opportunities to grow in faith and build community.

Our First Sacrament and Confirmation Preparation Programs are both two years of formation. Classes are held in the Parish Center in late afternoon or early evening. Every fourth Wednesday of the month, we gather for a *Family Session* instead of meeting by grade with a catechist. All families are strongly encouraged to attend. These Family Sessions involve learning about our faith in a fun and interactive manner.

The Religious Education Program is led by Lori Downing, Coordinator of Religious Education, and instruction is provided by a group of qualified and committed volunteers.



Our Religious Education instructors created a reenactment of the Last Supper. The Disciples, our instructors, from left to right, include: Lisa Alarcon, Therese Alberto, Olivia Wilson, Kelly Amico, Erin Parks, Justin Pederson, Lindsay Pederson, Lori Downing, Deacon Peter Downing, Frank Wagner, Mae Alberto, Erick Alberto.



OUR LADY OF THE PINES COUNCIL #9852 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Are you looking for a way to deepen your faith, serve your community, and strengthen your family life?

The Knights of Columbus is more than a fraternity – it is a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to protecting and supporting their families through service, prayer, and unity. Our Lady of the Pines Council is very active at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and remains supportive of our parish and the community.

The Knights are always welcoming new members. Consider joining and discover how becoming a better man starts at home. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in St. Matthews room in the Parish Center. Chris Street is the Grand Knight of Our Lady of the Pines Council.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (or “Vincentians”) are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need. They are a varied group of individuals: young and old. Their members come from all walks of life, but all are blessed with an awareness that their blessings (**time, talent, or treasure**) are intended to be shared with their brothers and sisters in need.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need on a case-by-case basis. It is this personalized involvement that makes the work of the society unique.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Conference, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, can be reached at 732.350.9421. Callers are reminded to leave their name and telephone number (speak clearly and slowly). Phone calls are quickly returned; privacy is their priority.

MOTHER SETON'S CELLAR THRIFT SHOP

Located in the basement of the Chapel, the Cellar has been operating since 2011. It is led by Debbie Milecki and operated by volunteers; everything is \$1.00 each and all of the money goes to helping different ministries within the church and outside organizations that help people in crisis.



SEAS GIFT CORNER

SEAS Gift Corner is located in the Narthex of the Church. It carries a selection of religious articles, inspirational and seasonal items.

The Gift Corner is led by Tina Heffentrager and operated by volunteers. You will find the Gift Corner open after all weekend Masses and there are also some items available for sale in the Parish Office.



KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers that serve in the kitchen include those who prepare and serve food before and during our weekly bingo sessions and other parish events. They are led by Sandy Drake.



BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers that serve at our bingo sessions sell tickets and assist in the running of these weekly games. They are led by Dan La Monica.



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers working in the Food Pantry organize and package all the individual food donations that are contributed each week as part of our parish's weekly food drive. These packages are then distributed on Tuesday of each week to those in need.

Cathy Fraylar leads this team of Food Pantry volunteers.



ROSARY MAKERS

These volunteers are part of one of the oldest ministries at SEAS. They were established over 40 years ago by the Rosary Altar Society to make rosaries which are then sent, by request, to other churches, missions, schools, hospitals, prisons and individuals. It is known that their rosaries have found their way around the world. The volunteers meet each month to make rosaries and share their faith. Rosaries can also be made at home.

Margaret Garvin leads this team of volunteer rosary makers.



PARISH LIBRARY

Our Parish Library, the Msgr. Shenrock Library, was opened in February 1991 with 1500 volumes, including a special religious collection donated by Msgr. Shenrock. The library was set up by two parishioner-librarians and staffed by volunteers. Magazines and comfortable seating made it a popular place for reading and companionship.

Today, the library contains many thousand religious books and an extensive record of the Parish's history including past bulletins and documents reflecting Parish growth.

The library is open from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. It is managed by Eileen Glenn and staffed by various volunteers.



PARISH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

The reception desk in the Parish Office is staffed by a group of volunteers who handle a multitude of varied tasks, which include assisting parishioners with questions, selling event tickets, scheduling Mass requests, and fielding telephone calls.

From left to right: Mary Bové, Rosalie Callaham, Pat Guenot, Mary Hanley, Tina Heffentrager, Beverly Linane.





**This Parish Directory has
been compiled by the Parish
Pastoral Council as part of our
50th Anniversary Celebration**