

Seton MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

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~ *La Mamá is the
Best Teacher Ever!* ~
The Rodriguez Family Pg 14



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Seton
Educational Media

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Throughout the Seasons**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Seton Home Study School, an international Catholic institution, is to ensure that all of its students thrive intellectually and spiritually using a Christ-centered, educational program that empowers them to live the Catholic Faith while embracing the academic and vocational challenges of the twenty-first century.

**LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR**

Dear Readers,

I hope this issue helps you have a fruitful Advent.

This time of year can present special challenges: the desire to fully immerse yourself in the observance of Advent, the children's excitement about Christmas coming, and the academic work that often gets neglected amid all the celebrations.

Veteran mom Betsy Shanley has some wonderful advice on keeping a flexible schedule so that you are fully present to the joy while getting the academics accomplished in every season.

Speaking of moms with some great advice, I was a little choked up when I read how Mr. Rodriguez approached the marriage conversation with Mrs. Rodriguez while they were dating. What he said about how he saw their family and her response really touched me.

It's truly a lovely story.

Have you a high school junior or senior? If so, please look at the many Newman Guide colleges and universities that Seton has partnered with to ensure your student's faith formation will continue. Seton graduate Dr. Maura Adams Wenzel, Associate Professor at the Catholic University of America, our newest College Partner, writes about her journey to nursing and the importance her faith plays in her profession and family life.

On the lighter side, we have included some fun seasonal things in this issue, and I hope you will look at the ***Seton Educational Media*** insert to start your shopping. Free shipping is a gift in itself!

On behalf of the staff here at Seton Home Study School, please know we are immensely grateful to all the families who choose to homeschool with Seton, and we wish you a joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Felix Nativitas!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Barrett". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Mary Ellen Barrett

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COVER PHOTO:
The Rodriguez Family

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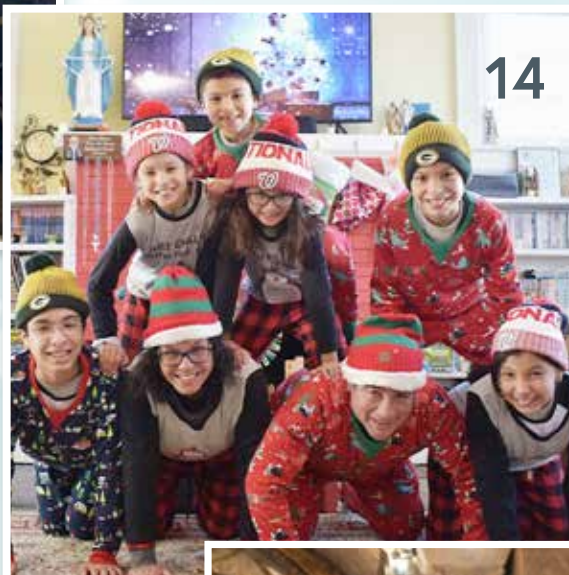


**Seton is proud to welcome
The Catholic University of America,
our newest Seton College Partner.**

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your Questions ANSWERED

FOR HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

How can I stay on track with school over the holidays?

It's easy to view the extra holiday activities, outings, and traditions as crowding out school time. However, many of these activities can count as school work.

Are you going to see the Nutcracker or a Christmas concert, cut down a tree, or visit a nursing home? These are all school field trips. Use the experience as material for a writing assignment. Teach your children to spell Merry Christmas and other holiday words and how to write and address cards: they're doing spelling, handwriting, and English.

Baking cookies can be both a math lesson in measurements and an art lesson in decorating.

Determine the days you'll take off school. Relax on those days and work on school days. It can be tempting to play catch-up on off days and difficult to jump back into school days. Plan the school days, and make the plan realistic.

Check MySeton to learn what the Seton-required assignments are and focus on completing those. Set reasonable goals, communicate them to your students, and follow up with them.

If the day is going to be busy, pick a few doable subjects rather than trying to do them all. Spend less busy days on more difficult tasks, like writing assignments. Upload the completed jobs to prevent them from getting lost and to give yourself the satisfaction of seeing a goal met.

Theresa O'Connor, Academic Counselor

Can we extend our half-year enrollment to a full-year?

Our Admissions department can help upgrade your half-year enrollment to a full-year enrollment which gives access to grading for the last two Quarters of



the year. The number to call Admissions is 540-636-2039, or you can email them at admissions@setonhome.org.

Christina Nutt, Academic Counselor

Can we add labs for a High School science course?

Students can add labs for any of Seton's HS science courses at any time while the student is taking the course or added later after the course is finished.

Labs do not receive credit but have the designation "with Lab" added to the course title. Labs are not required to complete the Academic Diploma but are for the Advanced Academic Diploma.

The course text includes lab experiments for Physical Science and Chemistry. For Biology and Physics, separate lab manuals are available through our Seton online bookstore.

You are also free to use lab manuals not sold by Seton. The important thing is to make sure the labs are HS-level labs. Lab supplies can be ordered from Seton's bookstore or outside companies.

To find a list of lab supply companies, click on "Course Resources" under the Resources tab of your MySeton page (or if you're taking Biology, the "Course Resources" tab of the SetonOnline page).

For instructions on how to fulfill Seton's lab requirements, please read "Science Lab Guidelines" and the "Additional Instructions for Submitting Science Labs" found under the "Course Resources" section. These forms explain everything needed to complete the lab reports properly.

To have the labs recorded on your transcript, fill out the "Request to Record Lab on Transcript" form under the "Course Resources" section and turn in the completed lab reports by email or mail.

If you have any questions during this process, contact our Counseling Department for assistance: counselors@setonhome.org.

Amy Nutt, Academic Counselor

Can You Tell Me About SetonOnline?

SetonOnline is a robust online course manual for Seton high school courses.

You'll also find features not found in your physical course manual, including:

- weekly introduction videos
- lecture videos
- sample essays
- interactive quizzes

All students enrolled in courses with SetonOnline components have automatic access with no additional fee.

These are "aligned" courses, meaning all the assignments and instructions correspond identically between the physical course manual and SetonOnline for each day and week.

To access SetonOnline, you can go directly to <https://setononline.com/>, or if you are navigating from MySeton, click the "SetonOnline" icon when viewing the course from the Courses tab (see example image below).

To see all courses with a Seton Online component, log into SetonOnline.com with your MySeton username/password.

You will find helpful instructional videos about how to use SetonOnline at setonhome.org/setononline-support/


























For other questions, please call Seton at 540-636-9990 Ext. 108 or submit a Support Form at www.setonhome.org/setononline-support.

- SetonOnline is not a traditional online education platform that includes live instruction or discussion boards. It is primarily a resource to help students and parents navigate and complete the course.

- Some SetonOnline components do not include the required Seton-graded tests. However, you will always find those tests in your physical course manual.

- Required Seton-graded assignments on SetonOnline are submitted on the older MySeton website MySeton. setonhome.org.

Sean O'Connor, Academic Counselor

Course	Rev	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final	Resources
Algebra I	09A	view	view	view	view		    
Catholic Doctrine	18A	view	view	view	view		    
Literature and Composition	21A	view	view	view	view		    
Physical Science	20A	view	view	view	view		    
World Geography	19A	view	view	view	view		    



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UNIVERSITY



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



MAGDALEN COLLEGE
OF THE LIBERAL ARTS



THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON



UNIVERSITY
OF DALLAS



Encouraging students to continue their Catholic education by attending solidly Catholic Colleges after high school.

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a brown knit hat and a red jacket, is looking up at a string of warm white lights. The scene is set in the snow, with snowflakes falling around her. The background is dark, and the lights are glowing, creating a cozy and festive atmosphere.

BY BETSY SHANLEY

THE FLEXIBILITY OF HOMESCHOOLING THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS

Have you ever been frustrated with your child not finishing his math lesson by the end of the day? Are you stressed out when their drama rehearsal or sporting event takes precedence over their school?

Maybe these are opportunities to rethink your homeschooling schedule! After all, the uniqueness of each family goes hand in hand with homeschooling. And the flexibility of homeschooling provides us with unique scheduling solutions to fit our distinctive family's needs.

The Conventional Schedule

Many Seton families follow the conventional schedule that the Seton lesson plans lay out: four quarters of nine weeks of school followed by a summer vacation. This schedule works well for many households. However, there are plenty of alternatives providing flexible schedules for families who would benefit from them.

Quarterly Breaks

One alternative is the 'nine weeks on, three weeks off' schedule. As it sounds, after each quarter, which takes nine weeks, the family takes a three-week break.

The Flexibility of Homeschooling Provides Us with Unique Scheduling Solutions

In this scenario, there is no summer break but four three-week breaks throughout the year. Timing these quarters around Christmas or Easter breaks, for instance, provides extra time for our holidays, family, and traditions. However, for some families who are used to a long summer break, this may be a more challenging approach.

Block Scheduling

Another timetable that works for some Seton families is a method known as 'block scheduling.' My son, John, used this in his senior year and found it worked well for him. This method consists of learning one course at a time. If a child has six subjects for the year and takes five weeks to complete each, he will get through all six subjects in thirty weeks, about eight months.

Block scheduling provides focus and continuity and can be an efficient use of time. This schedule allows a few weeks off throughout the year for holidays and a summer break. My daughter, Emma, has modified the approach to sometimes teach her elementary-grade children several days' worth of two or three subjects in one day.

Flexible of Flexibles

And finally, my favorite of all is the most flexible of flexibles. I'm talking about gearing the schedule for whatever the family needs at that time of their life.

For our family, when the kids were all young, my husband often had weeks of accumulated vacation time he needed to use before the end of the year. So, while Dad was home on his lovely extended Christmas holiday, the kids enjoyed a long holiday of their own and more Daddy time!

Family First

Now that many of our children are married with children of their own, we usually get together during the Thanksgiving holiday. Most of the family stays at our house, and we are ablaze with the excitement of siblings and little cousins getting together once again. Does this sound like the place for quality homeschooling? I think not! Generally, the kids break from school for two weeks at this time to enjoy the family reunion.

This flexible timing can also be used in times of illness or when there is an out-of-state family member who needs assistance. When my mother was near the end of her life, we took a month off to be with her. There are precious moments during this time I shall always treasure. In years such as these, we would inevitably homeschool into the summer, usually until the end of July.

I would like to emphasize that with so many children on the spectrum today, from ADHD to autism, as well as children with other special needs, a flexible schedule may be ideal for them as well. To quote John Paul II, "The human being is single, unique, and unrepeatable, someone thought of and chosen from eternity, someone called and identified by name." Our children with special needs are especially unique, and we must strive to find the homeschooling schedule that works best for them.

Fit the Program to the Child

(The individuality of every family demands flexibility in the schedules that each would choose from.) For some, a nine-month schedule and a long summer break work best. For others, breaks throughout the seasons are preferred.

There is no one way to do this, and as Seton families, we are privileged with a choice for our families to homeschool on a schedule that works best for us.



Betsy Shanley is the homeschooling mother of nine children, two still at home and grandmother of twelve. She and her husband, Jim live in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, and they have been using the Seton curriculum for over twenty-five years. Betsy enjoys learning about healing with nutrition. She is the author of *A Gut Feeling: A Mom's Discoveries in Search of a Cure for Autism*.



Ask the Experts:

How Do You Teach Your Children to be Charitable?

Three Veteran Homeschooling Moms Share Their Experience

A Life-Long Endeavor...



The first step in teaching children how to be charitable is to model charity in our own words and deeds.

For example, we can let our children overhear us speaking kindly about them and others. We can also make it our regular practice to serve others when a need arises.

Often, when my family attends a homeschool or church event, I will round up my children at the end of the activities and volunteer for clean-up duty. Though they may prefer to continue playing or just bid their farewells, I require them to participate with me in the clean-up.

Now that I have several adult children, I see the payoff to this plan as they exercise charity readily by lending a helping hand to others.

Of course, even parents have hard days such that we can find it challenging to maintain charity. However, those times can prove our most outstanding example. When we, as moms and dads, don't want to exercise charity we can acknowledge the struggle and choose to be patient, kind, and forgiving.

Should we fail, we can own our mistakes by apologizing and discussing better ways to handle a difficult situation. On occasion, when one of my children has seriously violated the

“*The first step ...is to model charity in our own words and deeds.*”

demands of basic charity (e.g., teasing, insulting, disrespecting), I have assigned them the task of writing an apology letter.

Their letter must state what they did wrong, why it was wrong, and show a willingness to make up for the wrong in the future. Those assignments allow them to reflect on the need for charity and the hurt caused when we fail to practice it.

Being charitable and teaching children to be charitable is a lifelong endeavor. But with effort and practice, parents will discover it is a lesson they will see the fruits of.

Tara Brelinsky, North Carolina

Follow the Saints Examples...



Daily prayer, frequent sacraments, lots of modeling, lots of apologizing to each other when we mess it up, and LOTS of beginning each day in Him whose mercies are new every morning.

We talk about the stories of the saints and the heroic martyrs, and I tell my children how they were able to make such a courageous choice when it mattered because they spent a lifetime choosing to love in the small things.

“...pray the acts of faith, hope, and love.”

The saints teach us in their examples of answering wrath with gentleness, offering up small annoyances, and not snarking back to a bickering sibling.

It's like a muscle you must use to develop. I try to model it. I don't say everything I want to, especially in Northern Virginia traffic. I ask them to pray with me for people my kids know don't like me very much. I ask their forgiveness when I am not as patient or charitable as I should be.

Lastly, every night together after the examen, we pray the acts of faith, hope, and love.

Kristin Brown, Virginia

Quoting Through Scripture...



Encouraging children to be charitable is first something taught by example.

When a child grows up seeing parents being charitable to others, it gives them that foundation of what Christians do in their lives.

When my children were small, if I wanted to encourage an act of charity, especially if it was not something they wanted to do, they had to do it out of obedience.

“Something taught by example.”

Now that my kids are adults, teens, and one tween, I encourage charity by quoting Scripture. There is always a Bible passage to quote for any situation that may arise to encourage charity. It gives the kids something to reflect on, which carries more weight with them than Mom suggesting an act of charity.

Once I have offered the Scripture quote, I leave it up to the child to decide for themselves what they will do because charity is not charity if it is not truly from the heart.

Susan Brock, Virginia

THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



“

"What we love about Seton Home Study School is the staff's patience, that the curriculum incorporates self-study, and that our students are developing autonomy.

In every course, be it Science or Math, God and morality are deemed the priority — this gives our students the indelible notion that God is real and is here.

Seton Home Study School has shaped the minds and hearts of our students, and, as traditional Catholics, we are loving it!"

The DeLuna Family, Hamilton, NJ

”

in the *Schoolroom*

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT

A Child's Nativity



When I was a child my grandfather built the entire town of Bethlehem winding around the small living room of their apartment in Brooklyn. No one ever thought to take a photo of it. Film was pricey, and no one had extra money in December, but I have vivid memories of the shops he built and the little figures inhabiting them. I have the figures of the Holy Family from his set, a 1950 no-name brand that is not valuable except that it belonged to my Nana and Papa, whom I loved dearly.

Close Up and Personal

One thing I remember about that Nativity display is that, unlike the one at my house, I was allowed to touch it.

This had more to do with indulgent grandparents than anything else, but I remember being excited to be allowed to handle the baby sheep and the camels. The wise men were richly colored and so fascinating.

When I had my own children, those figures, chipped and glued up, were placed up high, but I always had a few Nativity sets that they could set up themselves, handle, and use to act out the story of Our Lord's birth.

The Power of Play

Connecting young children to their faith through storytelling and play is an important foundation for the deeper dive into Scripture they will do later in life.

Having a few Nativity sets ensured everyone had a chance to play, and it made the house more festive reminding us of why we were in the season we were in.



I've spent some money on the fancy sets made by Playmobil, Hasbro, and Fisher Price, but the ones the children enjoyed the most were the ones they made themselves.

The internet is full of ideas on how best to create your own Nativity sets, and I found keeping it as simple as possible to be the best plan. Now that my children are grown up, we don't craft anymore, but the last little set we made holds pride of place in the school area (high school area now), and it brings back such lovely memories of spending time creating and storytelling with my young ones.



Mary Ellen Barrett is mother of seven children and two in heaven, wife to David, and a lifelong New Yorker. She has homeschooled her children for eleven years using Seton and an enormous amount of books. She is editor of the *Seton Magazine* and also a contributor to *The Long Island Catholic*.

STAFF SERIES

*A chat with those
who serve you!*

Jake Wagner - Admissions Counselor

My wife Bernadette and I both grew up in Front Royal, VA. We met and got to know each other through Seton Home Study School where we both worked in Seton's Testing department as our first job after graduation from Christendom College. Bernadette and I and our two-and-a-half-year-old son, Henry, live nearby Seton in Front Royal, VA.

We enjoy spending time outdoors together as a family and spend most evenings in the summer playing sports in the yard. We also frequently take walks in our neighborhood and at local parks. When time allows, we enjoy hiking the many trails in the Front Royal area and kayaking on the Shenandoah River.



I have been an admissions counselor with Seton for almost two and a half years, assisting families into the Seton program.

My counseling can include a wide range of things, such as helping families fill out their applications, answering questions about the program,

or providing updates on the status of applications. I also help families coordinate with other Seton departments, such as Special Services or Academic Counseling to get answers and complete their enrollment process.

It's particularly gratifying to help new families who are unhappy with the educational environment in which they find themselves. Sometimes they are on the verge of despair. But together, we work through it and find their solution. Hearing the



relief and gratitude in a parent's voice is very fulfilling when they learn that Seton can provide a high-quality, authentically Catholic education at a very affordable cost.

More Than a Job

Helping families educate their children and pass on the Catholic faith makes my work at Seton more than a job. At the end of the day, I have peace of mind and motivation to press forward with the knowledge that what we do is helping the Church and improving the lives of so many families.





BY PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ

La Mamá is the Best Teacher Ever!

I had been an elementary teacher in Lima, Peru, for 13 years when I began dating Viviano. Ours was a long-distance relationship, and we communicated via webcam.

As our relationship developed, Viviano shared that if we were to marry, we must homeschool our kids and be open to life and a big family. Initially, I thought to be open to life and a big family? That's my dream come true, but homeschool? What is this? I didn't have any idea, and, at that time, the word homeschool didn't exist in my mind, my vocabulary, or the Spanish dictionary.

My good friend Gina told me it's a huge blessing if your future husband gives you those conditions. In Peru, most moms must work long hours to support their families and send their children to school. Gina told me, "You will be so blessed, and your children, too." But still, I wasn't 100% confident to say yes to Viviano.

Viviano saw my doubts via webcam and introduced me to his sister. She homeschools with Seton. We met by webcam, and she showed me her beautiful classroom with her two oldest kids, Ben and Bella. They were around seven years old.

I talked with them—very respectful kids, happy, innocent, and pure, like angels. When I saw that, I thought, I want this for my family. It's all that I have dreamt of since I was a child: to have a big family, have my own school, and be the teacher of my kids.

As Viviano says, "The mom, la mama, is the best teacher ever!"

I Said Yes to it All

So, I said yes to this new adventure of husband, family, language, culture, country, and homeschooling.

Now, after 15 years in the USA, I have no regrets. I am so blessed that I said yes to Viviano and the best Homeschool Program ever, Seton Home Study School.

Looking back, I can tell moms whose first language is English that Seton Home Study is a piece of cake. Read each assignment thoroughly, study, and persevere. You will succeed.





But, if you run into a problem or need help understanding an instruction, call or email the counselors. They are patient and helpful, encouraging me to contact them as needed.

Today, our oldest, Santiago, is 14 and in eighth grade. I started him in Seton's Pre-Kindergarten. Next is Maria de Jesus, she is 13 and our seventh grader. Francisco is 12 and in fifth grade. Maria Fe del Rosario is ten and in fourth grade. Maria Angelica is eight and in third, and our youngest, Antonio, is seven and in second grade. This is my sixth year teaching second grade, and I am kind of an expert in that grade.

Each of our kids is unique, with different personalities and ways of learning. Seton fits them all and can even adjust if there are special needs. Best of all, our Catholic Faith is integrated into all the subjects, which is wonderful as I am learning about our Faith with my kids.

Usually, our schedule is morning Mass, breakfast, homeschool, and sometimes noon Mass if we don't go that morning, and then lunch.

In the afternoon, homework, extra activities, dinner, reading about the saint of the day or another book about our Catholic Faith, and quizzing the kids about what they read. At the end of our day, we pray the Rosary.

Faith is the Center of Our life

Talking about praying the Rosary, through the *Seton Magazine* and catalog, I found the Children's Rosary DVD that I highly recommend. It helped us to pray the Rosary as a family. The Rosary is a beautiful devotion and has led us to other devotions, including Divine Mercy. Like Father Peyton used to say, "The family that prays together stays together." I love that phrase.

The flexibility of the Seton program gives us time for receiving our sacraments, participating in devotions, daily Mass, the Rosary, and making holy hours.

This flexibility also allows my kids to participate in our Parish, St John the Baptist. The girls are in Little Flowers, my two oldest boys are altar servers, and all my kids go to Junior Legion of Mary every Thursday.

*"The family that prays together,
stays together."*

I was asked what are the greatest benefits of homeschooling. I said I am blessed to be in control of our children's education and so thankful that we're enrolled in a remarkable program focused on the Faith, knowledge, and virtues.

I'm so glad I said yes all these years ago. Homeschooling our kids is an amazing grace.





BY DR. MAURA ADAMS WENZEL

Answering the Nursing Call to Duty

I can still remember the exact moment that I decided to become a nurse. The moment is frozen in time, as I recall being a 17-year-old senior with Seton Home Study School, on the phone with a neighbor who had called to ask me to babysit. The neighbor stopped midsentence and said, “Oh my gosh, turn on the news! A plane has flown into the World Trade Center in New York City!”

As my mom and I watched in horror that September 11th morning, a burning desire to help those in need kindled in my heart. Doctors, nurses, police officers, and firefighters ran into the fray when the rest of the world ran away. I knew that the passionate call to help others,

especially in times of chaos and panic, had become my new vocation in life.

Having been homeschooled from 3rd grade through high school, community service and acts of charity were part of the very DNA of my childhood.

I had always felt called to care for others, and growing up in my Catholic family, I knew that either teaching or nursing would be perfect professions for me. After September 11th, I felt called in a particular way to be a nurse and to serve my country.





See Christ in Every Patient

I became a Navy Nurse following my four years at Villanova University. I was fortunate to be stationed all over the world, including Europe and the Middle East.

Nursing is an excellent profession for those who wish to serve but in a spiritual way. It is an opportunity to love others as Christ loves and to see Christ in every patient.

As a young nurse, I found my deep faith in our Lord to be the framework in which I was able to process many challenging patients, situations, and long hours.

Still, in a much more substantial way, it helped me to persevere through new and challenging medical ethical dilemmas. The world has shifted since my early nursing days, and the challenges Catholic nurses face now are even more difficult to navigate.

Because of this changing culture, I selected a graduate school where I could continue my quest for truth and be able to deepen my faith, as well.

The Catholic University of America is where I found my academic and spiritual home for both of my graduate degrees.

As a university dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason and faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ, as handed on by the Church, Catholic University fed the hunger in my soul for how to deal with the new world I faced as a nurse.

After working as a nurse for well over a decade, Catholic University allowed me to pursue my other passion: teaching.

The transition from nurse to faculty member was an easy one: as a nurse, you are always learning from others and teaching those who come after you.



Gift of Teaching

To be able to teach undergraduate students is a gift I take very seriously. Additionally, it has afforded me the flexibility to spend time with, and be fully present to my husband and our small children.

While I hope the world never sees another September 11th, I do pray that those in high school who feel drawn to serve others will consider nursing as a profession.

And whatever moment that inspires you, from a sick relative who needed care or a nurse who was once kind to you, I hope you will be willing to answer the call to love others as the Lord loves you.



Dr. Maura Adams Wenzel is a Clinical Associate professor at the Catholic University of America's Conway School of Nursing. As a former US Navy nurse, Dr. Wenzel has experience in many fields of nursing, including surgical, emergency, and perioperative nursing. Dr. Wenzel is passionate about nursing, nursing education, and weaving the Catholic Faith throughout her courses. She and her husband and three young children live in southern Maryland.



Cherry Pies for St. Nick

24 vanilla wafers*

Two 8-ounce packages of
cream cheese, softened*

3/4 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 tsp. lemon juice

1 tsp. vanilla

1 can cherry pie filling (21 oz.)

Whipped cream, if desired.

*I use fat-free or low-fat.

*Cherry Pies for St. Nick Recipe contributed by
Christina Nutt, Seton Elementary Counselor.*

Directions:

1. Combine cream cheese and sugar; mix together well; add eggs, lemon juice, and vanilla and beat with a mixer till smooth and creamy.

2. Place liners in 24 muffin cups. Put one vanilla wafer in the bottom of each cup.

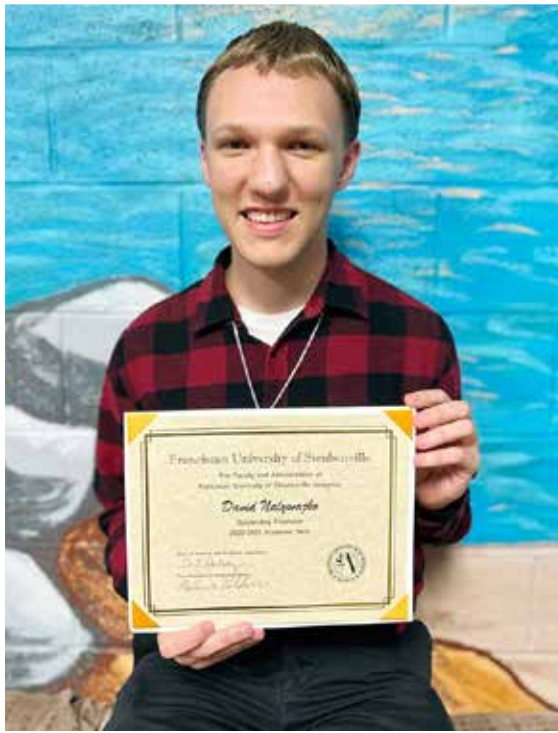
3. Pour cream mixture into each to 2/3 full.

4. Bake at 350° F for 15-20 minutes.

5. Before serving, you may wish to remove outside papers. Place in serving dish. Little indentations will have formed in the tops. Fill with pie filling and top with whipped cream if desired.

*This recipe is taken from the
Advent Activities:
See next page for more details.*





DAVID NALYWAIKO NAMED OUTSTANDING FRANCISCAN FRESHMAN

I received the Franciscan University of Steubenville Outstanding Freshman Award for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Only one male student and one female student receive this award each year.

What organization recognized the achievement?

The Faculty and Administration of the Franciscan University of Steubenville recognize students who merit academic recognition.

In the Fall, at the opening Convocation, the previous year's freshman, sophomore, and junior class awards are presented.

I received the Freshman Award due to outstanding academic achievement as well as student involvement, including joining a household (a faith-based brotherhood on campus), participating in Franciscan University's Center for Leadership, being on the Dean's list for both semesters, participating in a mission trip over spring break to Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation in North Dakota, and being asked to lead that mission trip for the 2023-2024 year.

How did homeschooling help you achieve your goal?

Homeschooling helped me achieve my goal by preparing me for the academic rigor of college in a way that nothing else could.

I have excelled in all my classes because of the excellent academic preparation I received and the self-motivation and sense of personal responsibility that I learned from homeschooling.

What are your interests?

I am a complete nerd who loves science, sci-fi, technology, and learning new things. I absolutely love hanging out with friends, whether playing video games or board games or just talking about life. Finally, I love my faith and have been so blessed to be able to cultivate it, not only through homeschooling but also through my time at Franciscan University.



What are you inspired to do with your life?

I am a Sophomore Software Engineering Major with a concentration in Cybersecurity and a minor in Mathematical Science. I love programming and working with technology, and I am very excited to be able to follow my vocation into this super cool field, even if I don't quite know where in the world of software God will take me.

What are your favorite subjects and why?

Science is my favorite subject because I love learning new things and challenging my mind. I also love solving puzzles, which makes math and programming very interesting to me.



The photo on the stage was taken at the Franciscan University Convocation ceremony, where I received my reward from President Fr. David Pivonka of Franciscan University.



Isabelle Recognized for Community Service

I was recognized by LeadersNow for completing 184 hours of community service this year. The organization provides young women with formation in character, leadership, professional presentation, and service to others.

The flexibility of homeschooling allowed me to sometimes volunteer during regular school hours instead of just the weekends and evenings.

Submit your photo, your achievement, and how homeschooling has helped you succeed!

setonmagazine.com/students

ST. BARBARA'S TOWER

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT

Saint Barbara's Day is not one usually celebrated in the season of Advent unless you happen to be in the military, where her feast day is celebrated wholeheartedly because of her patronage of artillerymen. However, I always thought that, in this season, it would be appropriate to celebrate this beautiful martyr on her feast day by making simple gingerbread-type houses.

Why? Well, since her father, a wealthy pagan named Dioscorus, had her shut up in a tower to protect her from unsuitable young men and then later locked her up there because of her Christian faith, Barbara is the patron saint of architects.

As the story goes, Dioscorus went away on business, and Barbara took the opportunity to have workmen put in a third window at the top of the tower. Her father's design had only two, but she changed it to three to honor the Holy Trinity. When he returned, he asked why she made the change. She confessed her new faith and was promptly imprisoned and then tortured.

The story of Barbara's faith and endurance is an important one.

Taking the opportunity to tell it (in an age-appropriate way) while enjoying a festive tradition that already accompanies the season is a great way to acknowledge her martyrdom and marry a new tradition with an older one.

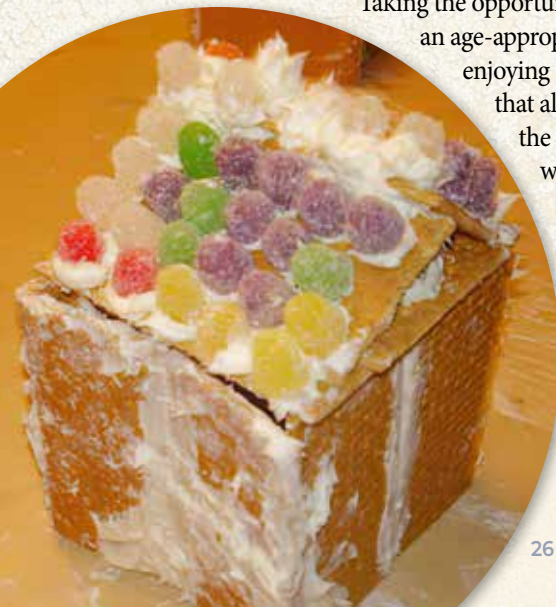
Baking a traditional gingerbread house takes a lot of work, even days' worth of



work, and homeschool moms are already pressed for time, but a little "hack" can create similar results and is simple enough for toddlers to join in the fun.

Use graham crackers, canned icing (always buy the store brand for these types of crafts, there is no point in spending a lot of money), and whatever candy you like and let the children construct their little houses, or if they are ambitious, a tower. The icing eventually dries, and the houses will last a few weeks if set aside in a dry area.

St. Barbara, pray for us.



SAINT BARBARA

FEAST DAY - DECEMBER 4

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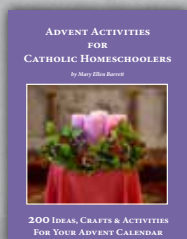
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The Right and Duty of Parents Regarding Education

The right and duty of parents to give education is essential, since it is connected with the transmission of human life; it is original and primary with regard to the educational role of others, on account of the uniqueness of the loving relationship between parents and children; and it is irreplaceable and inalienable, and therefore incapable of being entirely delegated to others or usurped by others.

Familiaris Consortio
Pope St. John Paul II
22 November 1981

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