

Today is the memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

She was born in 1774, the daughter of a well-to-do Episcopalian family. Her grandfather was an Episcopalian priest.

She was married at 19 to a wealthy businessman; and when she was in her late 20s, her husband's business failed, followed by his physical health. The family relocated to Italy on the advice of his doctors; but he died before settling in Italy.

Elizabeth was exposed to the Catholic faith by several of her husband's former business partners. In 1805, back in the U.S., she was received into the Catholic Church.

She began a school for girls, and in 1809 she established a religious community based on the Daughters of Charity - the same order that established St. Mary's Hospital which is just across the street.

Our readings prepare us for the upcoming feast of the Epiphany - when the Light of Christ is first seen outside of Israel by the Magi.

May we receive the Light of Christ into our hearts as we continue in the Christmas Season, and let us pray that we might "behold the Lamb of God" in the Sacraments, in Scripture, and in the individuals we meet throughout our day.