



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

Phone Number: (618) 544-7526

Fax Number: (618) 544-9327

E-mail: crawford_catholics@rocketmail.com

Web Site: www.crawfordcountycatholics.com

Join us on Facebook! Search for "Crawford County Catholics"

Reverend Father James A. Flach, Pastor

PASTORAL STAFF

Office Manager: Halena Estep

Director of Religious Education: Courtney Ferris

Custodial Care: Jerry Pittman, St. Elizabeth

Custodial Care: Lori Davis,

Our Lady of Lourdes

Music Director: Chris Jansen, St. Elizabeth

OFFICE HOURS

Monday Thursday from 8:00 am~5:00 pm

Closed for lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass at St. Elizabeth:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday~7:30 am

Tuesday~12:00 pm

Saturday Vigil at St. Elizabeth 4:30 pm

Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at St. Elizabeth 7:30 and 10:30 am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Parishioners who are seriously or critically ill or having surgery, please contact Father Flach.

BAPTISMS

Please contact Fr. Flach for registration and information.

R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an ongoing formation process for adults who are interested in becoming a Catholic and would like to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and/or First Eucharist. Call the Parish Center for additional information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

If you are considering marriage, please contact Father Flach no later than 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date and the diocesan and parish guidelines will be explained.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at St. Elizabeth 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm or by appointment

Sunday, April 8, 2018
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)



Story found in John 20:19~31

So Jesus said to them again,
“Peace to you! As the Father has
sent Me, I also send you.” And
when He had said this, He
breathed on them, and said to
them, “Receive the
Holy Spirit. John 20:21~22

Apr. 7	4:30 pm	Earl Mullins, Ben & Dortha Worthey by June Mullins
Apr. 8	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Special Intentions Grover Michl by Lona Richardson For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Apr. 9	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Apr. 10	12:00 pm	Madonna Kirts by Charles & Judy Eckert
Apr. 11	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Grimm
Apr. 12	7:30 am	William Loy by Anne Loy
Apr. 13	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Apr. 14	4:30 pm	Martha Tebbe by Ken & Carol Bergbower
Apr. 15	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Special Intentions For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Harry Bohman Birthday (Deceased) by George & Jane Bohman

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, April 14, 2018 ~ Sunday, April 15, 2018

Sat. April 14, 2018 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Karen Sanders

USHERS: Logan Baird, Lukas Baird

COMMUNION MIN: Lisa Baird, Karen Sanders

SERVERS: Ella Bunten, Ella Jenkins

GIFTS: Terry Baird Family

Sun. April 15, 2018 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Kurt & Anne Holscher

COMMUNION MIN: Mike & Jona Uptmor

SERVERS: Mallory Mosbey

GIFTS: Chad Arkenberg Family

Sun. April 15, 2018 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Keith Wirey

USHERS: Jerry & Sarah Ping

COMMUNION MIN: Bob & Kourtney Coffman

SERVERS: Eva Hermann

GIFTS: Jerry & Sarah Ping

Sun. April 15, 2018 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Ian Quick

USHERS: Ken Deters, Chris Weber

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Emily Ferris, Evan Ferris

GIFTS: Ted Staller Family

Collection Counters:

April, 2018: Scott & Valerie Chapman, Karen Reinoehl

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Parish School of Religion Classes will be on April 11, 18 & 25
From 6:30 pm ~ 7:30 pm.

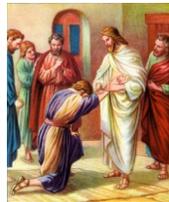
First Communion Banner/Youth Group

First Communion Banner Workshop will take place on 4/08/2018 at 4 p.m. in the Parish Center. Banners are \$15.00. The Crawford County Catholics Youth Group is doing the ground prep work to install our first "Little Lending Library" on the south end of the Parish Center. You may have seen little flags in the ground in that area that mark the utilities. When the library has been installed we will ask that you all join us for a dedication and book gifting.

Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday of Easter

Mercy

On this Divine Mercy Sunday we recall the words of Saint Thomas Aquinas: "Mercy consists in bringing a thing out of nonbeing into being." We see this transpire concretely in the life of the early Church. The community of believers "was of one heart & mind" & "they had everything in common." They were filled with awe; they were witnesses of wondrous signs; they dedicated themselves to the good of the other; they were selfless & generous. They lived with the faith that "conquers the world." That is what the Apostle Thomas is looking for in the Lord's open side. "The secret of Christ's heart is revealed to us through the clefts of his



First Reconciliation



Left to Right: Bottom Row: Jude Wirey, Brady York, Aleigha Mullins, Noah Myers, Nathaniel Arkenberg, Brylee Krick, Isabella Escobedo. Second Row: Carly Holscher, Roselene Quick, Clara Mullins, Miles Holscher, Owen Ferris, Anthony Escobedo, Elieana Escobedo, Addison Stewart, Fr. Flach & Geri Ezell.

Our Parish Family of ST. ELIZABETH is pleased & honored to be able to offer SINCERE & HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS to our SECOND GRADE PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CLASS who received their FIRST RECONCILIATION on SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018. They were ALL so well prepared & ready to receive the beautiful gift of God's Forgiveness & Love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are preparing now for their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION on SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018 at 10:30 AM Eucharist. We love you & are praying for you. God bless you.

Sun. Apr. 8, 2018 ~ Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday ~ From the Pastor



Jesuit Father Gerald Fagin, the late theology professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, once observed, "Thomas the Apostle needs a publicist." After all, when Jesus wanted to return to Judea after having nearly been stoned to death there, it was Thomas who reacted with courage & loyalty, saying, "Let us also go to die with him." Yet Thomas - solely

on the basis of today's Gospel — is usually remembered only as "doubting Thomas." It seems a bit unfair. Jesus did not reproach "doubting" Thomas. Rather he says, in effect: "Here, Thomas. If touching will help, by all means, go ahead. I just want to rescue you from your doubt & despair." And Thomas, without needing to touch, makes a powerful confession of faith: "My Lord & my God!" Thomas is human. He doubts at times. But he does love Jesus passionately, & he comes through when it counts. If we overcome our own doubts as Thomas did, it will be due to the compassionate acceptance & mercy of the Risen Christ, which still has power to heal and transform. St. Maria Goretti was only 9 years old when her father died. She had to assume responsibility for raising five younger siblings so that her mother could work in the fields. She also had to cook & clean for two farmhands, including 20-year-old Alessandro Serenelli. Over time, Alessandro began to make sexual advances to Maria. At last, he tried to force himself on her; and because she safeguarded her virtue, he stabbed her multiple times. She died the next day, July 6, 1902, at the age of 11. Her dying words were, "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... & I want him with me in heaven forever." Those words would haunt Alessandro in his prison cell, until Maria finally appeared to him & forgave him. He found peace & began to live a holy life. On his release from prison, he became the gardener (& a lay brother) at a Capuchin monastery. When he died in 1970, he left a testimonial saying, "Maria Goretti, now a saint, was my good angel, sent to me through providence to guide & save me."

Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday of Easter



O greatly merciful God, Infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from the abyss of its misery to your mercy, to your compassion, O God; & it is with a mighty voice of misery that it cries out. Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles! O Lord, goodness beyond our understanding, who are

acquainted with our misery through and through & know that by our own power we cannot ascend to you, we implore you: fill us with your grace & keep on increasing your mercy in us, that we may faithfully do your holy will all through our lives & at the hour of death. Let the omnipotence of your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as your children, await your final coming... O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into your mercy & to be your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart & soul to my neighbor. Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors' souls & come to their rescue. Help me, O Lord, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbors' needs & not be indifferent to their pains & moanings. Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful; so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor, but have a word of comfort & forgiveness for all. Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful & filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbors & take upon myself the most difficult & toilsome tasks. Help me, O Lord, that my feet may be merciful, so

hurry to assist my neighbor, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness... Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor. May your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me. O Jesus, I want to live in the present moment, to live as if this were the last day of my life. I want to use every moment scrupulously for the greater glorify of God, to use every circumstance for the benefit of my soul. I want to look upon everything from the point of view that nothing happens without the will of God. God of unfathomable mercy, embrace the whole world & pour yourself out upon us through the merciful Heart of Jesus.



Spiritual Reading for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, 2018

St. Faustina: A Model Of Trust
Christ Calls Us To Have
Unending Faith In His Divine Mercy

When contemplating St. Maria Faustina Kowalska's classic, "Diary: Divine Mercy in my Soul," the reader is struck by the overwhelming emphasis on the virtue of trust. Simply put, to experience God's divine mercy we each need a trusting relationship with our Creator. This has been made known to St. Faustina during a series of visions with Our Lord from 1920-1938. He once told her: "The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, & that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it receives" (Diary, No. 1578). **Defining Trust.** Trust is one of those words that can be used as both a noun & a verb. In fact, it is an action verb: "Jesus, I trust in You," which, of course, is the inscription at the bottom of that beautiful Divine Mercy image that adorns many Catholic parishes. Trust encompasses confidence, faith, hope, love — words often used interchangeably. In its document "Understanding Divine Mercy Sunday" (2003), the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy writes that trust "is merely a precondition for the formation, by divine grace, of perfect love in the soul: the pure selfless love of God for His own sake. Trust is the opening of the soul by faith, hope, humility & repentance, to receive all the most eminent graces — from the heart of the Savior." St. Faustina exemplified trust in God not only through the pious reflections she chronicled but in the way she lived. God picked her to promote his divine mercy to the world largely because she trusted in him. This trust, bond and complete abandonment to her Savior are identified throughout her diary — for example: "O my Lord! I always remain in holy amazement when I sense that you are approaching me. You, the Lord of the awesome throne; that you descend to this miserable exile & visit this poor beggar who has nothing but misery! I do not know how to entertain you, my Royal Prince, but you know that I love you with every beat of my heart. I see how you lower yourself, but nevertheless your majesty does not diminish in my eyes. I know that you love me with the love of a bridegroom, and that is enough for me. Although we are separated by a great chasm, for you are the Creator and I am your creature, love alone explains our union" (No. 885). These thoughts are evidence of a humble person united with their God. **Confidence in God.** St. Faustina was born Helen Kowalska on Aug. 25, 1905, in the village of Glogowiec Mercy, Poland, 170 miles from Warsaw. From age 7, Helen recognized the Holy Spirit, the nearness of Jesus in her life, which was cut short by tuberculosis at age 33. This awareness of Jesus grew into a special trust with the Divine Master. It was her goal to become a saint & to serve God in a religious order. Beginning when she was 16, she worked as a housekeeper for different families, sometimes away from her home in Glogowiec. In 1924 she heard a voice telling her to



Spiritual Reading for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, 2018

**St. Faustina: A Model of Trust
Christ Calls Us To Have
Unending Faith
In His Divine Mercy**

go to Warsaw where, according to the voice, she would enter a convent. She went on her own, knowing no one there & little about the city. She would continue as a housekeeper near Warsaw for the next year until she was accepted into the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. It seems providential that the precursor of the feast of Divine Mercy would enter a congregation named the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Faustina was 20 years old when she was accepted into the convent. She spent much of her life with strangers & away from home. In what would have been uncertain times for most, she believed & trusted in God. Her acceptance of his will and her attitude toward his trust are not unlike God-fearing, holy people found throughout the sacred Scriptures. Faustina lived everyday in the manner Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount; that we ought to have confidence in God & not worry about what to eat or what to drink or what to wear. St. Faustina believed she was perfectly loved by God and therefore did not worry herself with the future or earthly things; for her, worry would be the antithesis of trust. Not Trusting in Self. The decade of the 1930's was a confusing & chaotic period in much of the world. World War I was only 15 years in the past, and the devastation of that war was still being felt. Combined with economic calamities — the stock market crashed in 1929 — there were many homeless, starving people, no jobs & little hope of near-term improvement. This was an ideal time for the rising of evil, a time for tyrants like Hitler, Mussolini & Stalin. Pope St. John Paul II wrote about this era in "Memory & Identity" (2005), saying: "This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, Nazism & communism [and fascism] were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of offsetting the evil of those ideologies, the fact that God is mercy — the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter. I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church." People in the 1930's began to turn away from God & toward those who promised to feed them, give them a job, give them an artificial kind of hope. Ignoring God, their world digressed into a moral disaster. God saw how people placed their trust in others, or in themselves, rather than in him. He saw how little they knew about or sought his divine mercy. He called on St. Faustina to be his apostle of divine mercy, & in a visitation he told her that his children's love "is lukewarm, & my heart cannot bear it; these souls force me to reject them. Others distrust my goodness and have no desire to experience that sweet intimacy in their own hearts, but go in search of me, off in the distance, & do not find me. This distrust of my goodness hurts me very much. If my death has not convinced you of my love, what will?" (Diary, No. 580). Jesus asked St. Faustina to promote his divine mercy to the world, to renew in people the love of God & to recognize the need for his mercy. She, like the Blessed Mother, said "yes." This was a challenging task, but, as detailed in her diary, God saw his child through every step, & today we celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after

Easter. What sustained St. Faustina in this holy mission & throughout her life was her uncompromising

trust in Jesus.



Our Lady of Lourdes Finance Council



Our Lady of Lourdes Finance Council Meeting
will be on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm** in
OLOL's Church.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Jennifer Pierce, Marissa Rees, Charlie Steagall, Katie Stovall, Rich Welp, Janis Wickland, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, April 1, 2018

Envelopes \$3,822.00 Loose \$736.00

Easter Offering \$100.00

Holy Thursday \$95.00 Holy Land \$170.00

Operation Rice Bowl \$50.00 Seminarians \$295.00

Building Fund \$160.00 5 online @ \$385.00

Deposit \$5,813.00

Our Lady of Lourdes

Week ending Sunday, March 25, 2018

Envelopes \$780.00 Loose \$114.00

Operation Rice Bowl \$216.00

Holy Thursday \$10.00 Good Friday Holy Land \$10.00

Building Fund \$50.00

Deposit \$1,180.00



Give Central

Give Central can be accessed on the Church Website. Click on **Donate** button and you can donate to whatever collection you would like to. Thank you for using this service.

Daily Mass Readings



April 9, 2018 ~ Reading 1 ~ Is. 7:10-14; 8:10

Reading 2 ~ Heb. 10:4-10

Gospel ~ Lk. 1:26-38

April 10, 2018 ~ Reading 1 ~ Acts. 4:32-37

Gospel ~ Jn. 3:7B-15

April 11, 2018 ~ Reading 1 ~ Acts 5:17-26

Gospel ~ Jn. 3:16-21

April 12, 2018 ~ Reading 1 ~ Acts 5:27-33

Gospel ~ Jn. 3:31-36

April 13, 2018 ~ Reading 1 ~ Acts 5:34-42

Gospel ~ Jn. 6:1-15

Fish Fry Congratulations



Sincere CONGRATULATIONS & a SPECIAL THANK YOU to all those who helped on the recent successful FISH FRIES. All of your hard work in serving 2,719 DINNERS as well as prepping & cleaning up certainly paid off because we were able to secure a profit of \$15,644.96. The profit for 2017 was \$14,325.00.

MANY THANKS to all who helped! This year is the most successful year we have had. CONGRATULATIONS & GOD BLESS YOU!