



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

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Reverend Father James A. Flach, Pastor

PASTORAL STAFF

Office Manager: Halena Estep

Director of Religious Education: Courtney Ferris

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

Victim Assistance

THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AGENCIES TO PREVENT ANY CHILD FROM BEING ABUSED OR NEGLECTED. WE ALSO SEEK TO BRING ABOUT HEALING WHERE ABUSE HAS OCCURRED. IF YOU SUSPECT THAT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED OR NEGLECTED BY A MEMBER OF THE PARISH OR PARISH STAFF, PLEASE CONTACT PAT KORNFELD AT 217-698-8500.

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Story found in John 11:20~27



**Jesus told her, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.
John 11:25~26**



Mass Intentions

Apr. 6	4:30 pm	Gladys Rooney (Birth) by Anne Loy
Apr. 7	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Apr. 8	7:30 am	Eufala Bigard by Mike & Jona Uptmor
Apr. 9	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
Apr. 10	7:30 am	Francis Medina by Mark & Cindy Grimm
Apr. 11	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
Apr. 12	7:30 am	William Loy (Death) by Anne Loy
Apr. 13	4:30 pm	Tom Bachelor by Patty Dunlap
Apr. 14	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Ruth Kinchen by Keith & Rita Wirey
	10:30 am	Special Intentions



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, April 13 ~ Sunday, April 14, 2019

Sat. Apr. 13, 2019 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Terry Roche, Geri Ezell

USHERS: Mark & Cindy Grimm

COMMUNION MIN: Janet Hill, Chris Tylka

SERVERS: Liam Wirey

GIFTS: Steve Ezell Family

Sun. Apr. 14, 2019 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski, Shari Eckert

USHERS: Brad Schutte, Randy Schutte

COMMUNION MIN: Mike & Jona Uptmor

SERVERS: Matthew Jenkins

GIFTS: Eric Mosbey Family

Sun. Apr. 14, 2019 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Keith Wirey

USHERS: Rich & Anita Kocher

COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Rita Wirey

SERVERS: Jared Hermann

GIFTS: Rich & Anita Kocher

Sun. Apr. 14, 2019 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Cydnee Weber, Evan Ferris

USHERS: John Birkofer, Jaime Escobedo

COMMUNION MIN: Phyllis Inboden, Roselene Quick

SERVERS: Ian Schmidt, Owen Schmidt

GIFTS: Andrew Ferris Family

April Collection Counters: Kaye Holscher, Karen Reinoehl, Linda Rich



Parish School of Religion

PSR News: April Dates: Wednesday, April 10, 17, & 24

April Meetings

St. Elizabeth & OLOL's PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on TUES. APR. 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm in St. Elizabeth Parish Center. OLOL's FINANCE COUNCIL will meet on TUES. APR. 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Scriptural Reflections for the FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

On this final Sunday before Holy Week, Christ looks at us as he looks at the woman caught in adultery, for we need the forgiveness of our sins. The question is: How do we look back at Christ? With the self-righteous yet guilty eyes of the scribes and the Pharisees? Or like the woman who remains alone before Jesus and who accepts with humble confidence the sentence of Christ: "Neither do I condemn you"? Because she did not run away, she gained "the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus" as her Lord. We accept the loss of all things, "considering them so much rubbish," especially our false self-sufficiency, meanness, malice, and pride. We "remember not the events of the past," we have a new life with Christ, we have "been taken possession of by Christ Jesus," who says to us, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

SPIRITUAL READING for the FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

"Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live" I had long been haunted by the Russian conception of the humiliated Christ, the lame Christ limping through Russia, begging his bread; the Christ who, all through the ages, might return to the earth and come even to sinners to win their compassion by his need. Now, in the flash of a second, I knew that this dream is a fact; not a dream, not the fantasy or legend of a devout people, not the prerogative of the Russians, but Christ in man. It belongs therefore to the Catholic Church; Christ in his perfect human nature, Christ in his risen glory and Christ in his need and his suffering on earth, are reconciled. We have the whole Christ. The "vision" lasted with that intensity for several days, and each of them revealed the mystery and its implications for me a little more clearly. Although it did not prevent me from ever sinning again, it showed me what sin is...it was to spit on him, perhaps to crucify him. I saw too the reverence that everyone must have for a sinner; instead of condoning his sin, which is in reality his utmost sorrow, one must comfort Christ who is suffering in him. And this reverence must be paid even to those sinners whose souls seem to be dead, because it is Christ, who is the life of the soul, who is dead in them; they are his tombs, and Christ in the tomb is potentially the risen Christ. For the same reason, no one of us who has fallen into mortal sin himself must ever lose hope.



LENTEN EVENTS

Sun. Apr. 7, 2019 ~ 11:30 am ~ Stations of the Cross

1:00 pm ~ Lenten Confessions

Mon. Apr. 8, 2019 ~ 6:00 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Lenten Bible Study

Wed. Apr. 10, 2019 ~ 7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist

8:00 am ~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10:00 am ~ Stations of the Cross

6:45 pm ~ PSR Confessions ~ Grades 3 & 4

Fri. Apr. 12, 2019 ~ 7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist

5:30 pm ~ Our Lady of Lourdes ~ Stations of the Cross

Sun. Apr. 14, 2019 ~ PALM SUNDAY ~

11:30 am ~ Stations of the Cross

Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Sara Casburn (Linda Allen), Gerald Bierman (Clarence Schutte), Scott Chapman, Eileen Fabris & Valentine Pescatore, (Kathleen Pescatore), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Charlita Wilson, Darrell Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Sixteen-year-old Pedro Arroyo, a talented soccer player, was interviewed after his team won its high school championship. He said: "Our team won because we pulled together; everyone gives what he has. In the end it made us champions. When we respect what each can do, we show our greatest skill." Pedro knew the best team uses the unique talents of every member. Jesus uses the same rule. The theme of power in today's Scriptures highlights the various aspects, shapes and forms of God's power. Second Isaiah begins with a show of the enormity of God's creative power and how it works to the advantage of his Chosen People. Paul adds his own take to this dialogue about God's power. Paul sees God's power through his knowledge of Jesus Christ. For Paul, Jesus is his absolute greatest happening. To know and love Jesus tops any and all other accomplishments he can have in life. Jesus helps Paul understand the depth of his personal suffering, and Jesus' resurrection empowers Paul "to live in Christ." The Gospel story highlights Jesus' power to forgive sins, which causes the most controversy for him. At first glance this scene of Jesus with the **w o m a n c a u g h t** in adultery seems like a simple act of compassion. While Jesus' compassion is authentic, his words demonstrate his real power over sin. Jesus knows sin's control and its destructive force on holiness and perseverance. Forgiveness brings grace, which fills in the needed strength. Jesus forgives rather than punishes. Forgiveness opens the way for the forgiven to use their gifts to build Jesus' kingdom. Another aspect that displays God's power is God's ability to move away from betrayal and rebuild relationships. He forgave Paul for his killing of early Christians, Peter for his denial and Adam and Eve for their hurtful sin when they choose the serpent and not God. In all these situations, the power of God is his choice to love rather than punish. For all the significant power that God has, God shows his greatness best when he forgives sins. Pedro did not take credit for his team's championship win. Rather, he gave the credit to his team, just as God's greatest power is in his love and his humility.

A Lenten Exam of Conscience Based Upon
The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me. Do I seek to love God with my whole heart & soul? Does He truly hold the first place in my life? Have I been involved with the occult or superstitious practices? Have I ever received Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin? Have I told a lie in confession or deliberately withheld confession a mortal sin? **2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.** Have I insulted God's Holy Name or used it lightly or carelessly? Have I wished evil on anyone? **3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.** Have I missed Mass deliberately on Sunday, the Lord's Day, or on Holy Days of obligation? Do I try to keep Sunday as a day of rest? **4. Honor your father and your mother.** Do I honor & obey my parents? Do I care for them in their old age? Have I neglected my family responsibilities to my spouse & children? Is my family life centered around Christ & his teaching? **5. You shall not kill.** Have I murdered or physically harmed anyone? Have I had an abortion? Have I encouraged an abortion? Have I abused drugs or alcohol? Have I mutilated myself through any form of sterilization? Have I encouraged others to have themselves sterilized? Have I harbored hatred, anger or resentment in my heart towards anyone? Have I given scandal to anyone by my sins, thereby leading them to sin? **6. You shall not commit adultery.** Have I been unfaithful to my marriage vows in action or thought? Have I practiced any form of contraception in my marriage? Have I used fertility treatments condemned by the Church? Have I been engaged in sexual activity with a member of the opposite sex or the same sex. Have I masturbated? Have I indulged in pornographic material? Am I pure in my

thoughts, words, actions? Am I modest in dress? Am I engaged in any inappropriate relationships? **7. You shall not steal.** Have I taken what is not mine? Am I honest with my employer/employee? Do I gamble excessively, thereby robbing my family of their needs? Do I seek to share what I have with the poor & needy? **8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.** Have I lied, gossiped or spoken behind anyone's back? Have I ruined anyone's good name? Do I reveal information that should be confidential? Am I sincere in my dealings with others or am I two-faced?" **9. You shall not desire your neighbor's wife.** Am I envious of another's spouse or family? Have I consented to impure thoughts? Do I try to control my imagination? Am I reckless & irresponsible in the books I read & the movies I watch? **10. You shall not desire your neighbor's goods.** Am I envious of the possessions of others? Am I resentful or bitter over my possession in life? When you enter the place set aside for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest may greet you & together you will make the sign of the cross. He may then choose a brief reading from the Bible to help you feel the merciful presence of Christ. Next, you tell your sins simply & honestly to the priest. The simpler & the more honest the better! Don't make excuses! Don't try to disguise or minimize what you have done! Most importantly, think of Christ crucified dying out of love for you. Step on your pride & admit your guilt! Remember, God wills that you confess all mortal sins by name & number. For instance, "I committed adultery three times & helped a friend procure an abortion." "I missed Mass on Sunday." "I gambled away a whole week's paycheck." This sacrament is not only for the forgiveness of mortal sins. You may also confess your venial sins. The Church encourages devotional confession, that is, the frequent confession of venial sins as means of growing permit in the love of God & neighbor. After you confess your sins, listen to the advice the priest offers you. You may also seek his help & guidance. He will then give you a Penance. He will ask you to either pray, fast or perform an act of charity. Through the penance, you begin to make reparation for the harm your sins have caused you, others & the Church. The penance of the priest reminds us that we need to be one with Christ in his sufferings so as to share in his resurrection. Finally, the priest will ask you to express, in an act of contrition, your sorrow for the sins confessed, & then, exercising the power of Christ, he will give you absolution. As he prays over you, know with the certainty of faith that God is forgiving all your sins, healing you & preparing you for the Banquet of the Kingdom of Heaven! The priest will dismiss you saying: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." You respond: "His mercy endures forever. Or he may say, "The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace," to which you answer, "Thanks be to God. " Try to spend some time in prayer, thanking God for his forgiveness. Perform the penance the priest has given you as soon as possible after receiving absolution. If you make good use & frequent use of this sacrament, you will have peace of heart, purity of conscience & a deep union with Christ & his love for his Father & for all men & women. The grace of the sacrament will cause you to become like Jesus, our Lord, in all you say & do! It will make you a stronger & more committed member of his Church! Act of Contrition. My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong & failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help to, do penance, to sin no more, & to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered & died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Or Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Spiritual Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Lent John 8:1-11. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, & all the people started coming to him, & he sat down & taught them (8:1-2). Father Comelius a Lapide, S.J.: 'The Mount of Olives is the symbol of oil & of the mercy' which Christ manifest there. ... Pilgrims travel to the mountain of heavenly refreshment in order to draw down grace & glory from God by prayer.' What is the significance of the time of day? Early in the morning betokens something new, a beginning, renewal in mercy: 'The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness' (Lam 3:22-23). Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb early in the morning (Jn 20:1). Then the scribes & the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle (8:3). Jesus himself was "made to be sin" (2 Cor 5:21) & "stands in the middle" at the crucifixion (Jn 19:1 8) & after the Resurrection (20:19). Tragically, the action of the scribes & Pharisees is a parody of intercession. We should bring others before the Lord, but in prayer & supplication, for their good rather than condemnation. (Consider Jesus' teaching to love our enemies & pray for our persecutors: Mt 5:44; Lk 6:28.) The scribes & Pharisees have the precious opportunity to speak face to face with our Lord, to ask him anything—they could have spoken to him of his divine Sonship, his love for the Father & his love for them, the forgiveness he offers! Do we realize what a privilege it is to speak with the Lord? Do we cherish time with the Lord to praise, to intercede, to seek his good, holy, & saving will, to speak to him as a friend? They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him (8:4-6a). Jesus does not break or disregard the Law, he fulfills it. He suffered death on a cross so our sins would not lead to death. (Consider the "prophecy" of Caiaphas that it is better that one man should die rather than the people: Jn 1 1:50; 1 8:14.) In the end, the "charge" brought against Jesus serves his own purpose—our salvation (Jn 18:29-32; 19:11). Jesus bent down & began to write on the ground with his finger (8:6b). Saint Augustine: "Jesus seems to have delineated something that put the scribes to shame, or exposed their sins." Saint Jerome: "Jesus wrote all the mortal sins of those who accused her." Saint Ambrose: "Jesus wrote on the ground with the finger by which he had written the Ten Commandments & yet, "Jesus wrote on the earth to show the sweetness & the softness of the New Law that he gave to us" (Saint Thomas Aquinas). But when they continued asking him, he straightened up & said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (8:7). Jesus does not ignore sin; he forgives it. Saint Augustine: The Lord in his answer both observed justice & did not forego his gentleness." Jesus is aware of the woman's need for forgiveness, as she is herself; but the scribes & Pharisees do not recognize theirs. Jesus' perfect majesty of the situation punctures the false dilemma. He will forgive her sin, manifest their hypocrisy, & outwit their deceitfulness. Honesty, humility, simplicity, trust: This is how to approach the Lord. Again he bent down & wrote on the ground (8:8). Why keep writing? Why didn't he scold them? Aquinas: "Because he had disturbed them with this zeal for justice, he did not think it fit to look at them, but turned from their sight. He did this out of consideration for their embarrassment, to give them complete freedom" i.e., Jesus still loves them; they still have a chance & in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman

Spiritual Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent cont.

before him (8:9). The scribes & Pharisees, exposed in their guilt, become like Adam hiding from God in the Garden of Eden (Gn 3:8-10). Augustine: "Only two remained, the miserable one & Mercy himself." A Lapide: "Deep calling upon deep, the depth of the adulteress' misery called on the depth of Christ's mercy & so she fled not, since she had experienced the grace of Christ & hoped for more." Alone with Jesus, she has everything she could possibly need. Are we content with having "only Jesus"? Then Jesus straightened up & said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, & from now on do not sin any more" (8:10-11). Neither do I condemn you: The Savior's words overcome the devil's blackmail—that we can never truly be rid of our past, our sins will always be hanging over our head. Do not sin any more: This is not an ultimatum but a promise—Jesus endows the woman with a new identity & power. The effect of this encounter will remain with her; her love for Christ will exceed her desire for sin. Her life has changed—recall the significance of early in the morning from verse 1.

Rest In Peace

Please remember to pray for the soul of John W. Maddox. John was the FATHER OF ALAN MADDUX. In God's Love we pray that He will grant JOHN MADDUX a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of Heaven & that his family will receive comfort & peace in their sorrow & loss.

Fish Fry News ~ March 29, 2019

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
Many heartfelt & sincere THANKS to all those parishioners who helped in any way for the success of our 3 FISH FRIES. As has been stated in the past several bulletins. ALL of your hard work & sincere efforts to cooperate & pitch in wherever you are needed is truly appreciated. We simply could not have achieved this success we did without EACH OF YOU to help as much as you did. For all of you a GREAT BIG THANK YOU. Our count for each Fish Fry is as follows: March 15, 2019 ~ 959 dinners, March 23, 2019 ~ 906 dinners & March 29, 2019 ~ 711 dinners. We served a total of 2,576 for 3 evenings. When all of our expenses are accounted, I will publish the profit. THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU.

Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending Sunday, March 31, 2019

Envelopes \$ 1,952.00 Loose \$ 377.00 Easter Flowers \$25.00
4 online @ \$285.00 Catholic Relief Services \$395.00
Catholic Home Missions Appeal \$25.00 Votive Candles \$108.00
Deposit: \$ 3,167.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, March 24, 2019

Envelopes \$730.00 Loose \$101.00 Operation Rice Bowl \$50.00
Deposit \$881.00

Give Central Online Donations

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