



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

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Reverend Father James A. Flach, Pastor

PASTORAL STAFF

Office Manager: Halena Estep

Parish Outreach Volunteer: Eileen Cooper

Director of Religious Education: Courtney Ferris

Custodial Care: Jerry Pittman, St. Elizabeth

Custodial Care: Lori & Adam Davis, Our Lady of Lourdes

Music Director: Chris Jansen, St. Elizabeth

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Parish Office closed from 8:00 am~12:00 noon

Monday open from 1:00 pm~4:00 pm

Tuesday~Friday from 8:00 am~4:00 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~12:05 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 the Parish Center for registration and reservation.

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 23, 2017

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY (Second Sunday of Easter)



So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

John 20:25



Mass Intentions

Apr. 22	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Apr. 23	7:30 am	Donald Roche by Mike & Jona
	9:00 am	Uptmor
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
Apr. 24	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Apr. 25	12:00 pm	Joe Stein by George & Jane Bohman
Apr. 26	7:30 am	Geri Ezell by Celeste White
Apr. 27	7:30 am	Lorna Jane Brown by George Brown
		Henrietta Stein
Apr. 28	7:30 am	by George & Jane Bohman
Apr. 29	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Karen Sanders
		Sonny Mann & Kevin Murray
Apr. 30	7:30 am	By Monica Mann
		Roberta & Allan Helfgott
	9:00 am	by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
		Special Intentions
		Rees Family



PSR & Youth Events

PSR~April 19, 2017 6:30 pm ~7:30 pm.
 OLOL First Holy Communion Practice 6:00 pm April 28, 2017
 OLOL First Holy Communion 9:00 am April 30, 2017
 PSR~May 3, 2017 6:30 pm~7:30 pm
 St. Elizabeth First Holy Communion Practice
 6:30 pm 05-05-17
 St. Elizabeth First Holy Communion
 May 7, 2017 10:30 am
 PSR~Closing Mass May 10, 2017



First Holy Communion



HOLY COMMUNION Our parish families of ST. ELIZABETH and OUR LADY OF LOURDES are happy and pleased to be able to offer SINCERE PRAYERS and CONGRATULATIONS to our children who have been studying and preparing to receive their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. They have already received their FIRST RECONCILIATION on SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 and now they are all ready to receive their FIRST EUCHARIST, on SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 at OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH at the 9:00 am Sacred

Eucharist on the following children:

EMMA DAVIS, BEN PATCHETT, ISLA WIREY and on SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 at ST. ELIZABETH PARISH at the 10:30 A.M. Sacred Eucharist the following children: CASE BEISNER, HAYDEN BONNELL, ETHAN BOWDEN, KEELY BURTON, JAIME ESCOBEDO, EVAN FISCUS, JACK GRIMM, BRAYLON MURRAY, SICILY RAWLINGS, RAYLYNN RODGERS, & IAN SCHMIDT will be making their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and will be receiving and partaking of the BODY and BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST for the very first time into their hearts and we are happy for them to offer SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS to them on this most important spiritual step in their journey of faith. We promise them our love, and support & that they will be in our constant prayers, always remain close to the Lord Jesus in the celebration of the BANQUET OF GOD'S LOVE.



Ministry Schedule

Sat. Apr. 29~Sun. May 30, 2017

Sat. April 29, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Karen Sanders

USHERS: John Grimm, Mark Grimm

COMMUNION MIN: Lisa Baird, Ginger Osborne

SERVERS: Xavier Brown, Jeff Hermann

GIFTS: Terry Baird Family

Sun. May 30, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Mike Uptmor

USHERS: Steve & Janet Jenkins

COMMUNION MIN: Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher

SERVERS: David Jenkins

GIFTS: Kurt Holscher Family

Sun. May 30, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Stacie Matson

USHERS: Keith Matson, Ethan Matson

COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Rita Wirey

SERVERS: Ava Patchett

GIFTS: Wilson Family

Sun. May 30, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Courtney Ferris

USHERS: Geraldo Rios, Miguel Vega

COMMUNION MIN: Sean & April Sexton

SERVERS: Braden Hatfield, Kifer Stevens

GIFTS: Clark Myers Family

Collection Counters: *April 2017: Joshua & Roselene Quick, Chris Tylka*

Baptism News



Our Parish Family of St. Elizabeth is happy to welcome RUSSELL DAVID SMALLEY into the Catholic Church & Christian Community through the oils & waters of the Sacrament of Baptism. As you begin your Baptismal journey into eternal love & eternal life with GOD, we promise that we will be by your side to lead & guide you with our constant prayers, good example & God's Love. RUSSELL DAVID SMALLEY received the oils & waters of BAPTISM on Saturday, April 15, 2017. Russell David Smalley is the son of Kevin & Tracey (Burbank) Smalley and grandson of William & Patricia Burbank.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

First Friday of the Month Mass at OLOL

There will be the First Friday of the month Mass at OLOL on Friday, May 5, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for The Second Sunday of Easter

“Easter matters!” is perhaps the theme that best summarizes the message of our Scripture readings this Sunday. Each reading highlights the transformations, blessings and, in some cases, difficulties that must characterize those who are believers in the Risen Christ. These readings are particularly significant in giving content to the theme of Divine Mercy, which the Church celebrates this Sunday. The first reading highlights the immediate impact of the Easter and Pentecost events. In this portrayal of Christian community, St. Luke gives us a beautiful glimpse into the life-styles of the earliest Christians. They lived a shared life devoted to the Lord and each other. It was this Christ-inspired lifestyle that served as an appealing revelation of God's goodness, inspiring others to devote themselves to the Lord. Those early Christians were transformed into the joyful witnesses of the teaching and example of the Risen Christ. Our second reading is likely written to early Christian communities so committed to the Lord and his teachings that they were in some ways out of step with the wider civic culture. Peter reassures them that they have truly chosen the better path and that remaining faithful will bring them eternal benefits. The letter praises God for the great blessings He has brought to His people through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They have been offered “an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading”. (1 Pet. 1:4). They are assured that their persistence in faith will keep them close to God and will lead them ultimately to salvation. They are encouraged to rejoice in this assurance, but they also are warned that they “may have to suffer through various trials” (1 Pt 1:6). Peter explains these trials as further opportunities for the purification and development of their faith. By remaining stalwart, they contribute to the praise, glory and honor of Jesus Christ. The writer commends them for the intensity of their love for Jesus even though they have not known Him.

These readings lead us to St. John's telling of the events of Easter night and those of the following Sunday. Jesus appears among the disciples in the locked room, allays their fear and breathes the gift of the Holy Spirit upon them. Thomas was not present for this. The other disciples excitedly recounted Jesus' appearance when he returned, but he would not believe. Thomas demanded proof, and such proof was afforded him when Jesus appeared again. Jesus beckoned Thomas to come forward, to assure himself that Jesus was truly the risen Lord of life, and to believe. Thomas signals his conversion by recognizing Jesus as “my Lord and my God” (Jn. 20:28). Each of these readings presents both the joy and the commitment that accompany the Christian life-style. Being an adherent of the Risen Christ must matter not just verbally or intellectually but really and concretely in one's daily life. These readings indicate elements of the required transformation: deep devotion to Jesus, the sharing of lives (koinonia) and a compassionate concern for others. These elements must be lived well enough to make genuine disciples different than those without faith. Awash in the joy and purpose that flows from the Resurrection, Christians are called to make the most of every opportunity to live transformed lives centered on Christ. Each of these readings encourages us, one week out from Easter Sunday, to ensure that we are living such transformed lives that we are allowing Easter to matter in us. We do so buoyed by our belief that the Christian lifestyle is the true path to blessedness both in this life and in the next, and especially by the ongoing presence of the risen Lord who makes all this possible.



Many Heartfelt Thanks

The joyous season of EASTER should help us to recognize the many blessings and gifts that surround our spiritual lives. In that spirit of gratitude, we would like to express our **SINCERE THANKS** to all those parishioners who helped for the special celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. We offer **SINCERE THANKS** to all those who decorated the church for Easter. The decorations are beautiful and the serenity in which you surround us during the Easter Season helps us to truly rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. While we are passing out **SINCERE THANKS**, we also are happy to acknowledge our **MUSIC MINISTERS** and all those who spent a great deal of time preparing and practicing for all the liturgies reading the Passion on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Each celebration was certainly enhanced by your sincere preparation, practice, and singing. **THANK YOU** for all that you did to help us to commemorate the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week with reverence and sacredness. Because of your sincere dedication



Many Heartfelt Thanks cont.

to help us pray, each liturgy was a spiritual moment and we are grateful to God for your willingness to share your God-given talents. We also want to say **THANK YOU** to those who coordinated the Washing of the Feet Ceremony on Holy Thursday evening. Thank you for your participation and assistance. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR ALL YOUR SINCERE EFFORTS!**

Prayer Requests



Please remember the following in your prayers: Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Maxine Cook, Renee Craig, Geri Ezell, Susan Hills, Leona Kocher, Logan Inboden, Jay Ping, Dorla Shook, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Jeannie Veach, Rich Welp, Vickie Wilson, & all the men & women in the armed forces.

SPIRITUAL READING for the 2ND SUN. OF

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY On this Divine Mercy Sunday we recall the words of- Saint Thomas Aquinas: "mercy consists in bringing a thing out of non-being into being." We see this transpire concretely in the life of the early Church. The believers "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to prayers." They were filled with awe; they were witnesses of wondrous signs; they lived for the good of the other; they were selfless and generous; they overflowed with "exultation and sincerity of heart." God "in His Great Mercy" gave them—and us—"a new birth to a living hope" through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is what the Apostle Thomas is looking for in the Lord's open side. Living the Mystery of Divine Mercy every year in celebrating Easter we relive the experience of the first disciples of Jesus, the experience of the encounter with Him Risen: the Gospel of John tells that they saw Him appear in their midst in the Upper Room on the evening of the very day of the Resurrection, the first day of the week, and subsequently eight days later (Jn 20:19, 26). That day, later called the Lord's Day, was the day of the assembly of the Christian community which gathered for its own devotion, that is, to the Eucharist, a new form of worship which from the outset differed from the Judaic worship of the Sabbath. Indeed, the celebration of the Lord's Day is a very strong proof of Christ's Resurrection, for only an extraordinary and overwhelming event could have induced the first Christians to begin a form of worship that differed with regard to the Jewish Sabbath. Then, as today, Christian worship is not only a commemoration of past events nor even a specific, inner mystical experience; rather, it is essentially an encounter with the Risen Lord who lives in the dimension of God beyond time and space, and yet becomes really present amidst the community, speaks to us in the Sacred Scriptures and breaks the bread of eternal life for us. It is through these signs that we relive what the disciples experienced, that is, the event of seeing Jesus and at the same time of not recognizing Him; of touching His body, a real body and yet free from earthly bonds. What the Gospel says is very important: namely, that Jesus, in His two appearances to the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room, repeats several times the greeting: Peace be with you (Jn. 20:19, 21, 26). Here, the traditional greeting with which people wish one another shalom, peace, becomes something new: it becomes the gift of the peace that Jesus alone can give because it is the fruit of His radical victory over evil. The "peace" that Jesus gives to His friends is the fruit of the love of God which led Him to die on the cross, to pour out all His Blood, as a meek and humble Lamb full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14). For this reason, Blessed John Paul II chose to call this Sunday after Easter Divine Mercy, with a very specific image: that of Jesus' pierced side from which blood and water flowed, according to the account of an eyewitness, the Apostle John (cf. Jn 19:34-37). However, Jesus is now Risen and the Paschal sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist flow from Him, who is alive: those who receive them with faith receive the gift of eternal life. Dear brothers and sisters, let us accept the gift of peace which the Risen Jesus offers us; let us allow our hearts to be filled with His mercy! In this way, with the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead, we too can bring these Easter gifts to others. May; Mary most holy obtain this for us.



CCW Garage Sale

The indoor garage sale hosted by CCW WILL NOT BE HELD this year. Thank you for your past gifts of saleable treasures which enhanced our account & provided for the needs of the altar & funeral dinners. Please donate your items to another source. Thank you. CCW.

Annual Catholic Services Appeal

The programs, services, & ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Services Appeal meet the larger Diocesan needs of Catholics & others in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. The theme this year for the ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL is "CONTINUING THE MISSION OF CHARITY." The Diocese serves each of us & our financial support is needed to continue God's work in Diocese. As of March 16, 2017, the St. Elizabeth parish goal is \$26,747.00 with the amount of \$17,515.00 being pledged & the amount of \$17,415.00 being secured. As of March 16, 2017, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish goal is \$6,556.00 with the amount of \$2,460.00 being pledged & the amount of \$2,400.00 being secured. Sincere thanks to all those parishioners who have already participated in this important and necessary fundraiser for the Diocese and may God bless you for your devoted & faithful generosity.



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, April 16, 2017

Envelopes: \$1,887.00 Loose: \$527.84

Caritas \$45.00 Give Central 2 @\$80.00

Building Fund \$10.00 Easter Flowers \$165.00

Seminarians \$400.00 Holy Thursday \$90.00

Good Friday \$345.00 Operation Rice Bowl Kids \$194.12

Easter Offering \$2,383.00 Catholic Home Missions Appeal \$5.00

Deposit \$6,131.96

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, April 9, 2017

Envelopes \$715.00 Loose \$77.00 Operation Rice Bowl \$65.00

Building Fund \$30.00 Palm Sunday \$50.00

Deposit \$937.00

Week ending Sunday, April 16, 2017

Envelopes \$620.00 Loose \$70.00 Building Fund \$10.00

Holy Thursday \$80.00, Holy Land-Good Friday \$140.00

Caritas \$20.00 \$120.00 Seminarians

\$5.00 Operation Rice Bowl Deposit \$1,065.00

Daily Mass Readings 04/24/17~04/28/17

Mon. Apr. 24, 2017 Reading 1~ Acts 4:23-31

Gospel~JN. 3:1-8

Tues. Apr. 25, 2017 Reading 1~1 Pt. 5:5 B-14

Gospel ~ Mk. 16:15-20

Wed. Apr. 26, 2017 Reading 1~Acts 5:17-26

Gospel ~ JN. 3:16-21 Thurs. Apr. 27, 30 2017

Reading 1~Acts 5:27-33

Gospel ~ JN. 3:31-36 Fri. Apr. 28, 2017 Reading 1~

Acts 5:34-42 Gospel~JN. 6:1-15

