



# Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



## CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

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### Father James Flach

#### 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 2, 2017 5th Sunday of Lent

### First Reconciliation



Front Row: Isla Wirey, Case Beisner, Evan Fiscus, Emma David  
Middle Row: Braylon Murray, Ben Patchett, Keely Burton, Ian Schmidt  
Back Row: Patty Bunten, RayLynn Rodgers, Sicily Rawlings,



Jaime Escobedo, Father James Flach, Ethan Bowden



## Mass Intentions

Apr. 1	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Apr. 2	7:30 am	Madonna Kirts by Larry Kirts
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
Apr. 3	7:30 am	Edith Smith by Chas. & Judy
Apr. 4	12:00 pm	Eckert
Apr. 5	7:30 am	Carolyn Gullett by Friends
	6:30 pm	Geri Ezell by Carol Wong
Apr. 6	7:30 am	Nancy Kleinman by Carol Wong
Apr. 7	7:30 am	Special Intentions
OLOL	5:30 pm	Gladys Rooney by Anne Loy
Apr. 8	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
		Sonny Mann & Kevin Murray
Apr. 9	7:30 am	By Monica Mann
	9:00 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
		For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

### First Friday of the Month Mass at OLOL

The First Friday of the Month Mass for OLOL Fri. Apr. 7th 5:30



## Ministry Schedule

Sat. Apr. 8 ~ Sun. Apr. 9, 2017

Sat. April 8, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Patti Buercklin

USHERS: Ed & Linda Reis

COMMUNION MIN: Susan Goodwine, Ginger Osborne

SERVERS: Keagen Tuel, Liam Wirey

GIFTS: Chad Wirey Family

Sun. April 9, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: David Holscher, Tom Huss

COMMUNION MIN: Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher

SERVERS: Greyson Holscher, Mallory Mosbey

GIFTS: Eric Mosbey Family

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

LECTOR: Lori Davis

USHERS: Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson

COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Rita Wirey

SERVERS: J. Hermann

GIFTS: Jerry Ping Family

Sun. April 9, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: April Sexton

USHERS: Karen Free, Roselene Quick

COMMUNION MIN: Phyllis Inboden, Matt Hartrich

SERVERS: David Staller, Sarah Staller

GIFTS: Matt Hartrich Family

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



## PSR & Youth Events

PSR~April 5, 2017 6:30 pm ~7:30 pm.



### Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will held on Sat. Apr. 8, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Our Lady Of Lourdes. Children in preschool through 4th grade are welcome to attend.

## LENTEN EVENTS

Monday, April 3, 2017 6:00 pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE ST. ELIZABETH

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

7:30 am Sacred Eucharist

8:00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11:15 am Stations of the Cross

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

6:30 pm Sacred Eucharist

7:00 pm PSR Confessions Grade 3

Friday, April 7, 2017

7:30 am Sacred Eucharist

5:30 pm Sacred Eucharist Our Lady Of Lourdes

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross Our Lady Of Lourdes

6:30 pm LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE OUR LADY OF LOURDES

## Congrats to Steve Jenkins on Award



Congratulations to Steve Jenkins on winning WTHI's Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence. In his 12th year at Robinson High School, Steve teaches building trades for all schools in Crawford County and volunteers many hours of service to the community and St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. The segment will air on the WTHI news station during the first week in May.



## Calling All Lectors

If you are a LECTOR for St. Elizabeth Parish & Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish, please check with Fr. Flach before Mass the next time you lector so he may explain to you the change in the Prayers of the Faithful. Thank you for your dedicated & faithful service & may God bless you.



## Daily Mass Readings 04/03/17~04/07/17

Mon. Apr. 3, 2017 Reading 1~ DN. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or DN. 13:41C-62 Gospel ~ JN 8:1-11

Tues. Apr. 4, 2017 Reading 1~ NUMB. 21:4-9  
Gospel ~ JN. 8:21-30

Wed. Apr. 5, 2017 Reading 1~ DN. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95  
Gospel ~ JN. 8:31-42

Thurs. Apr. 6, 30 2017 Reading 1~GN. 17:3-9  
Gospel ~ JN. 8:51-59

Fri. Apr. 7, 2017 Reading 1~ JER. 20:10-13  
Gospel ~ JN. 10:31-42

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

## Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for The Fifth Sunday of Lent

What is the purpose of Lent? Ninety-nine percent of us will say it is to help us prepare for Easter, and this would be partially correct. More so, however, the purpose of Lent is to prepare us for Good Friday. Lent is a sacrificial time designated to help us enter into the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If we do not enter into the sacrifice and death of Jesus, we cannot be part of Easter. Even in the baptisms that will be celebrated at Easter we will speak of going into the waters of death so that we can rise with Jesus on the last day. The story of the death of Lazarus points us directly to death, but again even more, the Gospel today points us toward life. The message is the same. We cannot appreciate life, especially eternal life, if we do not face death. "And Jesus wept." This simple but profound sentence is too often misunderstood and misused. Why did Jesus weep? Was He really sad about the death of His friend? How can we say He was sad when we've already been told by Jesus himself that Lazarus's death was to serve a larger purpose? The implication of Jesus' words is that He knew what He was going to do. How could He be sad? He knew that Lazarus was going to live. "He became perturbed and deeply troubled." This will be said a second time: "Jesus was perturbed again." Why did Jesus weep? He was angry! The first verb for "perturbed" in the Greek connotes anger and indignation, not compassion. The primary connotation of the verb translated as troubled is the -type of troubled that means "agitated." Both verbs underscore the intensity of Jesus' emotion, but it is not an emotion of compassion or sadness. Why is Jesus so angry that the Gospel says He wept? He is angry that, after all He has done, those, around Him still do not understand Him. Both Martha and Mary say to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." These were statements of faith and belief in Jesus' ability to heal but their faith never moved beyond Jesus' ability to heal. The Gospel tells us that Lazarus was dead for four days. In that day, the Jews believed that the soul hovered around the body for three days, so by four days, the Gospel is telling us, Lazarus is really, really dead. Lazarus could not be merely healed; he had to be raised to life! It did not

occur to those gathered at the tomb that Jesus could do such a thing. John's Gospel never speaks of miracles; it tells us of signs, and the raising of Lazarus is the seventh and last sign before Jesus' passion and death. The first sign was at the wedding in Cana, turning the water in the ritual purification jars into wine. Then Jesus healed the son of a royal official. The third sign is the healing of a man born lame at the pool of Bethesda. Next the Gospel tells of the feeding 5,000 and, then, of Jesus walking on water. We heard the sixth sign last week: healing a man born blind. Today is the seventh and final sign, and the number seven often carries the significance of something being perfect. These signs are far greater than the miracles in the other Gospels. These signs are things that had never before happened, things that no one was able to believe could happen. The purpose of these signs is to point us toward new creation, a greater creation. These signs are more than miracles; they are signs that a new creation was not only coming, but that in fact it was already beginning. The number seven was used to indicate that something was perfect, the number eight was the exclamation point that something was beyond what we can imagine as perfect. Although today's sign is the seventh, it is not the last. The eighth sign is Easter morning - the eighth sign on the eighth day, the first day of the new week, the first day of New Creation. These signs were to help those who had followed Jesus to understand His purpose. They are signs that signal our entry into the New Creation, signs to help us be faithful to the life to come. Why was Jesus angry and troubled? It seemed that the first six signs had been wasted or at least that their profound meaning had not been grasped. Martha and Mary's faith in what Jesus could do among the living was absolute, but they had not yet made the jump to believing that not only could Jesus heal, He could give life and was in fact the source of life. Jesus' command to Lazarus to "come out" is command to all of us. We must come out of whatever grave it is that keeps us from understanding who Jesus is. We can pass with Jesus from death to a new life. We must let go of whatever binds us and keeps us from

### SPIRITUAL READING 5th SUNDAY OF

From time immemorial, God has promised, "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." But this will not happen before Jesus weeps. He weeps in front of doubt: "You want to go back there? He weeps in front of nihilism • "Could he not have done something?" He weeps in front of fatalism: "Lord, by now there will be a stench." This is the optimum moment for God to have Lazarus rise from his grave, for then the event "will teach us just how far we must go in trusting the power of Jesus' love for us. Although "dead because of sin, the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your immortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you." Let us go to him (Jn 11:15). Here it is the mercifulness of God that we are shown. People, living in sin and as it were dead, unable by any power of their own to come to him, he mercifully draws, anticipating their desire and need. Jeremiah speaks of this when he says, Thus says the Lord, I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore have I drawn you, taking pity on you (Jer 31:3). Jesus therefore came and found that he had been four days already in the grave (Jn 11:17). Saint Augustine sees in the four-days-dead Lazarus a figure of the fourfold spiritual death of the sinner. He dies in fact through original sin, through actual sin, against the natural law, through actual sin against the written law, through actual sin against the law of the Gospel and of grace. Another interpretation is that the first day represents the sin of the heart: Take away the evil of your thoughts, says Isaiah (1:16); the second day represents sins of the tongue: Let no evil speech proceed from your

mouth, says Saint Paul (Eph 4:29); the third day represents the sins of evil action: Cease to do perversely (Is 1:16); the fourth day stands for the sins of wicked habit. Whatever explanation we give, our Lord at times does heal those who are four days' dead, that is, those who have broken the law of the Gospel and are bound fast by habits of sin. The Bible often correlates sin and death, seeing the latter as a symbol of the former. The dead whom Jesus confronts in the Gospels, therefore, are evocative of those who have entered into spiritual death. The young daughter of Jairus—to whom the Lord said, Little girl, get up—represents those who have just entered into the state of alienation from God. The son of the widow of Nain, who is being carried to his grave, stands for those whose sin is deeper and more abiding. Lazarus, four days in his tomb, signals those who are sunk in the most profound dysfunction, those who have placed themselves at the furthest remove from the love of God. This is why, Saint Augustine tells us, Jesus wonders where Lazarus is: Where have you laid him? This puzzlement is meant to remind us of God's search for the sinful Adam in the Garden of Eden. Precisely because Lazarus is so far from God, Jesus has to shout: He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Sin makes us wander into the far country and, at the end of the day, it kills us spiritually and buries us. But nothing is impossible for God. Even those who are dead and in the ground, even those for whom, it seems, no hope remains, can be summoned back to life. Perhaps this Lent you feel like the daughter of Jairus, the son of the widow of Nain, or even like Lazarus. **Don't give up!**  
**Respond to the voice of the one who calls himself**  
**the**

## THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS. AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR LENT

We all have philosophies, or approaches to life that guide how we use our time, how we make decisions and how we interact with those around us. You can probably see yours reflected in how you try to raise your children, what you spend your money on, and how you treat others. Our philosophies form over time through personal experiences, and they're often influenced - for better or worse - by the world around us. Perhaps we never even deliberately stated our philosophies; we simply picked them up as we went along. In his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul presents an inspired philosophy of life. He urges us to fill our minds and hearts only with things that are holy, true and pure—things that will build up our faith. He urges us to act like a holding on to the ways of God and letting go of everything that's opposed to Him. In other words, Paul calls to take the spiritual lessons that Jesus taught and put them into practice so that we can shape our philosophies around Jesus. This Lent, as you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God is inviting you to reflect on your philosophy of life. Are there areas in your life where you haven't held on to the way Jesus lived? Maybe in the way you treat your family members or co-workers, or maybe like how much time you set aside for daily prayer. Are there any areas where worldly thinking guides your decisions more than the call to holiness does? Using this passage from Philippians 4, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your examination. Ask him to show you how you can become more like Jesus. As you bring these areas into the light of Christ, you will come to experience more and more of God's lasting, perfect peace. A LENTEN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE Whatever is true... Are there areas in which I'm not being honest with myself and the Lord? Are there ways in which I have been dishonest with those closest to me? Am I trying to hide some sin from the Lord? Am I avoiding my need to deal with a relationship that has been wounded? Whatever is honorable... Am I using my gifts and talents for God's glory? Do my goals in life, especially my goals for my relationships, reflect gospel values? Or are they based more on life-centered, worldly ambitions? Do I speak to other people, and about them, in a way that is respectful and straightforward? Whatever is just... Have I treated anyone unfairly? Have I engaged in improper deals at work or been untrue to a friend or family. Have I focused more on the flaws of the people around than on their gifts and blessings? Am I trying my best to care for the poor and the unfortunate? Whatever is pure... have I guarded my mind and my eyes against lust? Have I acted impurely, either with someone else/myself? - Am I treating my husband or wife with honor and respect? Whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious. Are there ways in which my witness to the gospel is tarnished. whether by my speech or my actions? - Am I modest in my dress and appearance? Or am I overly concerned with how I look before others? - Have I become caught up in grudges or resentments against someone else? Is there someone I need to forgive? Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. Philippians :8-9)



## Pastoral Council Meeting

**Pastoral Council Meeting**-The Pastoral Council Meeting will be at OLOL at 6:00 pm on Tues. April 4, 2017.

## 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.



## 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, Vickie Wilson, & and all the men & women in the armed forces.



## FISH FRY NEWS

Again, heartfelt & sincere THANKS to all of those parishioners who have helped in any way for the SUCCESS of our FISH FRY. On the evening of the first fish fry-March 17th, 907 dinners were served. On the 2nd dinner on March 24th, 850 dinners were served. CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE & THANK YOU.

## Liturgical Ministry Contacts

St. Elizabeth Parish  
Readers: Eileen Hartrich 544-8251  
Servers: Father Flach 544-7526  
Art & Environment: Robb Sparks 546-5606  
Ushers: Ron Mitchell 618-553-1587  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers: Keith Wirey 592-4179  
Music & Liturgy: Dorla Shook 592-3893



## Weekly Collection

**St. Elizabeth Church**  
Week Ending Sunday, March 26, 2017  
Envelopes: \$2,787.00 Loose: \$271.50  
Caritas \$50.00 Catholic Relief Services \$750.00  
Give Central 2 @\$80.00  
Easter Flowers \$35.50 Harry Wong Memorial \$62.00  
Deposit \$4,036.00

**Our Lady Of Lourdes Church**  
Week ending Sunday, March 19, 2017  
Envelopes \$525.00 Loose \$81.00  
Operation Rice Bowl \$30.00  
Deposit \$636.00