



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, February 26, 2017 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**“Look at the birds of the air,
for they neither sow nor reap
nor gather into barns; yet your
heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not of more value than
they?
Matthew 6:26**



Mass Intentions

Feb. 25	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Feb. 26	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Donald Roche
		by Terry & Lynne Roche
Feb. 27	7:30 am	Don Calvert by CCW
Feb. 28	12:05 pm	Donald Roche by
		The Schutte Family
Mar. 1	7:30 am	Zita Reis by Ed & Linda Reis
Mar. 2	7:30 am	Jean Sikorski by CCW
Mar. 3	7:30 am	Eugene Reis by Ed & Linda Reis
First Friday Mass OLOL	5:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Mar. 4	4:30 pm	Jane Brown by Ginger Osborne
Mar. 5	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions

First Friday of the Lenten Season—Fri. Mar. 3, 2017

7:30 am Sacred Eucharist, 5:30 pm Sacred Eucharist-OLOL
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

First Friday of the Month Mass at OLOL



There will be the First Friday of the Month Mass at Our Lady Of Lourdes on Friday, March 3, 2017 at



Ministry Schedule

Sat. Mar. 4~ Sun. Mar. 5, 2017

<u>Sat. March 4, 2017 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Celeste White
USHERS:	Mike & Susan Emmerich
COMMUNION MIN:	Susan Goodwine, Joe Hepner
SERVERS:	Xavier Brown, Jeff Hermann
GIFTS:	Don Biernbaum Family
<u>Sun. March 5, 2017 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	David Holscher
USHERS:	Clarence Schutte, Randy Schutte
COMMUNION MIN:	Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher
SERVERS:	Greyson Holscher, Mallory Mosbey
GIFTS:	Ross Holscher Family
<u>Sun. March 5, 2017 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Anita Kocher
USHERS:	Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson
COMMUNION MIN:	Keith & Stacie Matson
SERVERS:	Kayla Matson
GIFTS:	Jerry Ping Family
<u>Sun. March 5, 2017 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Courtney Ferris
USHERS:	Ed & Linda Reis
COMMUNION MIN:	Mark Ghering, Linda Reis
SERVERS:	Emily Ferris, Evan Ferris
GIFTS:	Brad Beisner Family

Collection Counters: February, 2017: Joshua & Roselene Quick, Janet Mitchell



PSR & Youth Events

Senior High Youth from 7~9:00 pm on 02-26-2017
PSR on Wed. Mar. 1, 2017 6:30~7:30 pm
Sat. Mar. 4th Lego palooza 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Robert Birkofer, 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.

Lenten Prayer for Conversion of Heart:



Sovereign Maker of all things, God of covenant & grace, Every creature knows Your Power, Quakes with fear before Your Face. But Your Mercy far exceeds. What our minds can comprehend; Deep compassion stays Your Hand, chastening not, though we offend. You have promised to forgive contrite sinners who repent; so I come with humbled heart, By Your Word made confident. I have sinned, Lord, I have sinned, Well, I know my wickedness. Yet, I make this prayer to You; Lord, forgive me, heal, & bless. Let me not be lost in sin, Banished to eternal night; God, who hears the penitent, Let Your Goodness show Your Might. Though, I be unworthy, Lord. Your Great Mercy, I will claim, till I join the hosts above, who forever praise Your Name.

Lent Practices ~ Almsgiving



Cultivating a spirituality of abundance might seem contrary to Lent. Yet, it is helpful to remember that everything is a gift from God—our lives, relationships, talents, possessions—& our deepest identity is that we are beloved by God. When we believe this, we are freed from trying to measure our worth by any other means. We come to realize the beauty of enough: we have enough, & we are enough with all our imperfections. As a result, we can let go & give away. This is almsgiving. “Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which He looks. Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, You are the hands, with which He blesses the world. St. Teresa of Avila.

St. Elizabeth Building Project



Recently, St. Elizabeth Parish purchased the vacant property behind the present Parish Center noted as 204 So. Lincoln St. from the City of Robinson for the amount of \$600.00. Plans are presently underway for the construction for a Youth Center. All of the proceeds from the 2017 Mardi Gras will benefit this construction. When I have in hand the architectural drawing, I will present it for your observation. Please watch the bulletin for further details. St. Elizabeth has a Building Committee which members are: Fr. Flach, Steve Jenkins-Chairperson, George Bohman, Larry Dix, Courtney Ferris, & Josh Quick.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

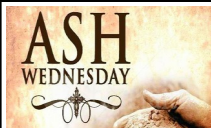
Every year on the Friday after Thanksgiving-Black Friday shoppers wait for the annual door buster sales. Some stores did not even wait; some began their sales Thanksgiving afternoon. On Black Friday, shoppers lose their minds-& often their religion! The irony is that research shows that the best bargains are not on Black Friday at all; the best sales & bargains are over the Labor Day weekend! Jesus calls for a different world than this. Our Gospel is a continuation of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, & it should be heard in that context. What Matthew the writer has done for us is incredible. He had taken Jesus' words & created what we might call a "Literary Sermon on the Mount." Matthew condensed & rearranged the teachings & words of Jesus that were spread throughout His ministry & connected them for us so we might forever experience firsthand the theme of His ministry. Jesus' original words were addressed to the disciples & to the crowds, but Matthew did not want the power of the Lord's teaching to be limited to only the original hearers. The way Matthew writes puts everything together in such a way that all his readers become the audience for Jesus' words! Sometimes we must begin with the end. At the end of his Gospel, Matthew gives us Jesus' commission: "Go, therefore, & make disciples of all nations." Why? What is the discipleship that Jesus, through Matthew, is calling us to do? In one word, we are called to build God's kingdom. Matthew's Gospel shows an intense awareness of the Roman Empire & its injustice, the huge divide between rich & poor. There are truly "insiders" & "outsiders" in society. Through Matthew, Jesus is calling on disciples to create a new world order in which everything people had known will be turned on its ear so that God's order will prevail. There should be no outsiders in God's Kingdom. Jesus was well aware of the plight of ordinary people. Almost no one in that day had the luxury of thinking about the future. For most, day-to-day survival was all-consuming. Given rampant poverty, people worried about how they would find enough food, how they would keep their children clothed, & how they would manage to stay in their homes. They were preyed on by corrupt leaders & worn out by taxes. These all-consuming-worries-& we understand them today-took up time that could have been devoted to serving God. The ability to put

God first had been co-opted by worry. Jesus thus taught that misplaced priorities created the worst of our worries. We must put our faith in God first. We might recall the words of Jesus on the cross given to us by Matthew, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" We hear these words in our passage from Isaiah. It is a lamentation on behalf of the people in exile in Babylon. (Lamentations begin with saying how bad things are & how hopeless the people feel; however, a lamentation always ends with reasons to have hope.) When Jesus uttered a cry from the cross, He did not really feel abandoned. As a religious Jew, He was praying with a Psalm, in this case Psalm 22. It is a Psalm that reminds us that God is always present. At the end of Psalm 22, there is rejoicing that "God...did not turn away from me, but heard me when I cried out." Any Jew who heard Jesus' words on that day would have known that Jesus had absolute trust that God was present despite appearances to the contrary. Isaiah tells us that, even if a mother could forget her child, God will never forget us.

Pope Francis, in his exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," echoes every sentiment we hear from Jesus today. As the Gospel teaches & as Pope Francis reminds us, we are called to create a different world order. We are called to value the things Jesus values, not what the world values. Trusting God's desire to care for us does not prevent bad things from happening, but trust in God dispels worry. We cannot let worry co-opt our faith in God. Take a dollar bill, Printed on the bill are the words, "In God We Trust." Is it God we trust-or the bill itself? "Mammon is far more than money though. Mammon can be a master of our lives that takes away our energy, our love & our hope.

Only one Master can give hope!

Lenten Reflections Ash Wednesday, March 1st



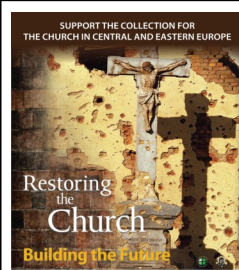
Marked for Salvation:

At the beginning of Dante's Purgatori, the Pilgrims discover seven Ps scratched across his brow-one for each of the seven deadly sins

(peccati). Through his laborious climb up the seven-storied mountain, one by one, the Ps are wiped away. It is the image of a soul saved, but still struggling free of sin's sevenfold lack of love.

Lent charts us on a laborious course up a similar Mount Purgatory. And, at the base today, we too find our faced begrimed. Our ashes make public confession that we stand stained by our wicked deeds. We have earned the dusty death wage of sin. Yet, like the guilty Cain, who received a mysterious mark from the hand of the Lord, this sign we wear is also God's seal of protection (cf. Gn 4:15). We are branded today with the sign of the cross, as sheep of the Lord's own pasture, so that the devil (who would make on us his own mark of the beast) will know to keep his thieving hands off. The sign of the death due for our sins thus becomes the emblem of hope-if we believe in the cross & repent in dust & ashes. Ezekiel foresaw this mystery in vision when he saw the saved, who grieve over the sins of Jerusalem, having an X written upon their brow. (Ez. 9:4)

Church in Central & Eastern Europe



Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully

2017 Fish Fry/Sign-Up Sheet to Volunteer



The dates for the St. Elizabeth Fish Fry are Friday, March 17, Friday, March 24 & Friday, March 31, 2017 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We are in need of HELPERS for this project. If you are able & willing to be of help, please pick up the SIGN-UP SHEET on the counter in the vestibule of the Church. We need as many helpers as possible. Please return the form either in the collection basket or to the Parish Office. Thank you & God bless you.

Lenten Spiritual Reading: The Fasting Track

3. Fasting can help you move from a negative to a positive spiritual outlook. Too often in times past, fasting was attached to a negative inheritance that of mortifying the flesh or atoning for sins committed. While this can be legitimate spiritual concerns, fasting can also be utilized in a positive way. Some contemporary Christians describe fasting as a positive means to “shake the spirit to “refocus priorities,; to “connect ourselves to Jesus.”

4. Fasting is encouraged by the spiritual servants of the faith. From the second through the fifth centuries, many important church leaders & mystics recommended fasting. Often they linked fasting to acts of kindness & love as an important spiritual discipline. Included in that group are: Clement of Rome, John Chrysosto, Peter Chrysologus, Jerome & Augustine. In fact, Augustine offered this spiritual advice: “Do you wish our prayer to fly toward God? Give it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.

5. Fasting benefits others. There is a practice opportunity connected with fasting. The money saved by not eating can be shared with others. Consider the expectance of Ron, a Midwest attorney. “most workdays, I eat lunch out at a restaurant, usually with clients or colleagues. Last year, during Lent, I decided to skip lunch once a week. I remained in my office reading devotional materials & offering prayers. Each week, I set aside the money I would have spent on lunch. When Lent was over, I mailed a check off to a homeless shelter in the community.

6. Fasting creates more time for additional spiritual disciples. “Beware of saying, ‘I haven’t time to read the Bible or to pray’; say rather, ‘I haven’t disciplined myself to do these things,’” noted Oswald Chamber. Busy people in various professions are often forced to skip meals in order to meet emergencies & assist others. Likewise, Christians can find good use of the additional time created by not having to prepare & eat a meal.

7. Fasting is good for the soul. “Irrational feeding darkens the soul & makes it unfit for spiritual experiences,” observed St. Thomas Aquinas. Those who fasted report the practice leads to spiritual renewal, increased insight, deeper commitment, clarity of life purpose an greater intimacy with God.

8. Fasting is a reminder we do not live by bread alone. Although food provides physical strength & energy for the body, the discipline of fasting provided the soul for the body, the discipline of fasting provide the soul with stamina & vitality. In the New Testament, Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3: “Man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord:” (New International Version). Behind that statement is the truth that people experience a hunger which cannot be filled merely by food & other material things. Ultimately, meaning, satisfaction & fulfillment in life result from a healthy relationship to God. Fasting is one way of nurturing that relationship. Good for Self-Discipline.

9. Fasting is a positive response against materialism. “We are constantly bombarded by advertising telling us that we must have this or that to healthy, happy, popular or wise,” says Allen S. Maller, Rabbi of Temple Akiba in Culver City, Co. “By fasting we assert that we need not be totally dependent on external things even such essentials as food. If our most basic need for food & drink can be suspended for 24 hours, how much more our needs for all the nonessentials.” To be cont.

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 January 31, 2017, the St. Elizabeth parish goal is \$26,747.00 with the amount of \$17,515.00 being pledged & the amount of \$15,690.00 being secured. As of January 31, 2017, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish goal is \$6,556.00 with the amount of \$2,290.00 being pledged & the amount of \$1,910.00 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 and faithful generosity.



BIBLE STUDY

Mon. Feb. 27, 2017 6:00 pm-7:00 pm Please remember to bring your Bibles so that we might have an opportunity to examine some of the passages in the second chapter from the Sacred



Eucharistic Ministers

Our Lady Of Lourdes News



LECTORS

Calling all Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors. Please be so kind as to note that there is an important meeting to be held on Tues. Feb. 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm in OLOL’s Church for directives regarding serving as a Eucharistic Minister & Lector. Please make every effort to be in



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, February 19, 2017
Envelopes: \$2,336.00 Loose: \$307.00 Caritas \$90.00
Give Central 2 @\$80.00 Easter Flowers \$35.00
Deposit \$2,848.00 CCW \$10.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Sunday, February 19, 2017
Deposit \$611.00



The Church has an online service called, Give Central. You are able to go there to make donations, if you would like to. If you would like to donate, you can click on DONATE on the church website. You can donate to what donation you like. All monies go directly to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. Thank you to all who use this service. God bless you.

Daily Mass Readings 02/27/17~03/03/17



Mon. Feb. 27, 2017 Reading 1~Sir. 17:20-24
Gospel~ Mk 10:17-27

Tues. Feb. 28, 2017 Reading 1~ Sir. 35: 1-12
Gospel~ Mk. 10:28-31

Wed. Mar. 1, 2017 Reading 1~Jl. 2:12-18,

Reading 2-2 Cor. 5:20, 6:2,

Gospel Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Gospel~ Thurs. Mar. 2, 2017 Reading 1~ Dt. 30:15-20

Gospel~ Luke 9:22-25

Fri. Mar. 3, 2017 Reading 1~Is. 58:1-9A,

Gospel~Mt. 9:14-15