



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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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

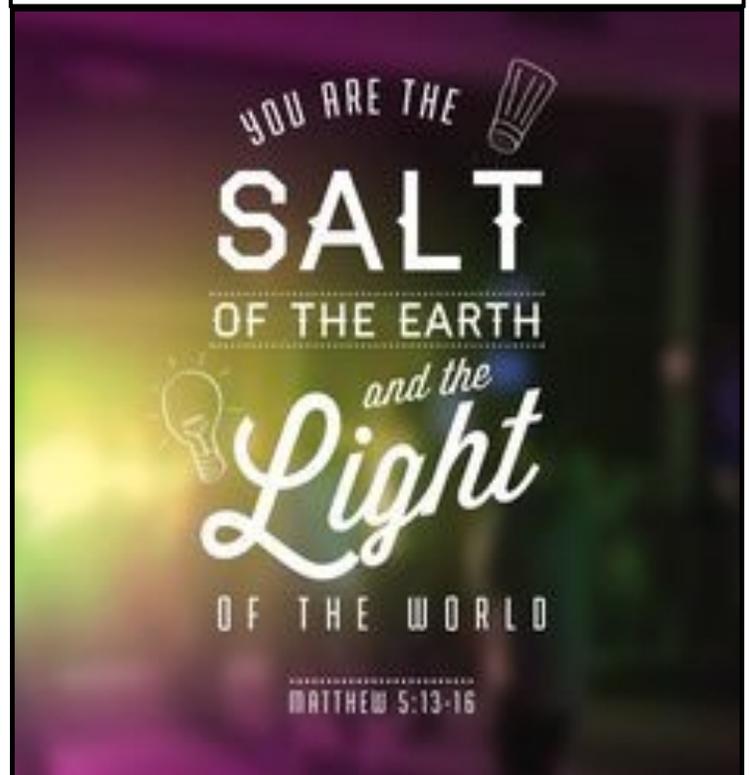
If you are considering marriage, please contact Father Flach no later than 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date and the diocesan and parish guidelines will be explained.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

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

Sunday, February 5, 2017

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**You are the salt of the earth:
but if the salt loses its flavor,
how shall it be seasoned? It
is then good for nothing but
to be thrown out &
trampled underfoot by men.**

Matthew 5:13



Mass Intentions

Feb. 4	4:30 pm	Howard Rio by Terry & Lynne Roche
Feb. 5	7:30 am 9:00 am	Special Intentions Iouzapo Aidt by Francis & Anne Schalasky
Feb. 6	10:30 am 7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Madonna Kirts by CCW
Feb. 7	12:05 pm	Arlene Schutte by Karen Sanders
Feb. 8	7:30 am	Madonna Kirts by Larry Kirts
Feb. 9	7:30 am	Clarence "Sonny" Mann by CCW
Feb. 10	7:30 am	Lorna Jane Brown by CCW
Feb. 11	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Feb. 12	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family Special Intentions For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

PSR & Youth Events

02-05-2017 Senior High Ice Skating & Sky Zone
02-08-2017 PSR 6:30 pm—7:30 pm
02-12-2017-Jr. High Youth 6:30 pm-8:00 pm



Happy Mardi Gras 2017

HAPPY MARDI GRAS ~ Join us for the 16th Annual Crawford County Catholics Mardi Gras Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 6:00 pm – 12:00 am Quail Creek Country Club
Party tickets are \$25.00 & include dinner.
Dinner Menu
Barbeque Chicken Sliders, Shrimp Po Boys, Jambalaya, Peel & Eat Shrimp, Cornbread, Black Eyed Peas, Fruit, King Cake
Tea/Water/Coffee.
Big Divvy & Raffle drawings will be announced at 9:00 pm. Big Divvy tickets are \$25.00. Big Divvy winners need not be present at Mardi Gras to claim their prize.



Ministry Schedule

Sat.. Feb. 11~ Sun. Feb. 12, 2017

<u>Sat. Feb. 11, 2017 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Celeste White
USHERS:	Ken & Carol Bergbower
COMMUNION MIN:	Lisa Baird, Ginger Osborne
SERVERS:	Kifer Stevens, Liam Wirey
GIFTS:	Randy Mullins Family
<u>Sun. Feb. 12, 2017 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Shari Eckert
USHERS:	Kurt & Anne Holscher
COMMUNION MIN:	Mike & Jona Uptmor
SERVERS:	Greyson Holscher, Mallory Mosbey
GIFTS:	Eric Mosbey Family
<u>Sun. Feb. 12, 2017 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Kourtney Coffman
USHERS:	Ron & Ethel Dhom
COMMUNION MIN:	Jim & Nancy Ping
SERVERS:	Taylor Blank
GIFTS:	Bob Coffman Family
<u>Sun. Feb. 12, 2017 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Sam Quick
USHERS:	Karen Free, Roselene Quick
COMMUNION MIN:	Susan Goodwine, Matt Hartrich
SERVERS:	David Staller, Sarah Staller
GIFTS:	David Oswalt Family
Collection Counters: <i>February, 2017: Joshua & Roselene Quick, Janet Mitchell</i>	

MARDI GRAS NEWS

As of February 5, 2017, out of 1,000 Raffle Tickets, 776 have been sold. We are striving to sell all 1,000 tickets before Feb. 25, 2017. The first early bird drawing took place on Sun. Jan. 29, 2017. The lucky winner was Jessica Parrott for \$100.00. That ticket was placed back into the spinner. The second early bird drawing is on Sun. Feb. 12, 2017 at 11:30 am in the vestibule of the Church. Many sincere thanks to all those who have sold tickets. We are sincerely grateful to you for all of your help.



A Valentine Thank You

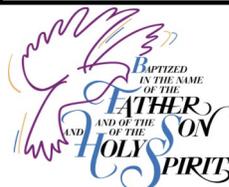
Since Valentine's Day is so close, the residents of Heritage Health, Ridgeview Care Center, & the Hutsonville Heritage want to express their sincere THANKS for all of the gifts that were brought to the residents of these three homes at Christmas. Your response to the Advent Giving Tree was outstanding & we can assure you that all of the residents are enjoying their special gifts from each of you. You have taken us into your HEARTS & we return our love & appreciation for being so kind & thoughtful to us. Again, THANK YOU & God bless you!

A LENTEN MORNING OFFERING

Lord Jesus, You lived & died for me. Help me to keep that thought before me today so that whatever life brings, whether it be success or failure, satisfaction or disappointment, happiness or sorrow, I may offer it to You. Through me, may everyone I meet this day see You, Lord, feel your presence & experience Your Love. May I serve you by serving others in Your Name, making all that I do a gift of love and thanksgiving for all You have done for me. Amen.

Baptisms

Eliciana & Jaime Escobedo, JR. were both recently baptized on Sun. Jan. 29, 2017 at St. Elizabeth. They are the children of Jaime Escobedo & Jessica Tischer.



Please remember to attend weekly Mass

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

Life depends on salt. We cannot function without it. The people of Jesus' day would not have known it, but even the proper functioning of our nervous system depends on salt-sodium-although too much salt can hurt us-ask any heart patient! Salt is good for many things. It was once used as currency, thus giving rise to the expression, "He is not worth his salt." Salt gives flavor to food. Salt is still used as a preservative, and its use as a preservative has given us a taste for various foods, especially our morning bacon or for country ham. Because the people of Jesus' day were every bit as dependent on salt as we are, salt made a good image for Him to use. However, the image might not work as well for us today since we are used to salt being crystalline granules in a salt shaker, that is, well, always salty. How, then, could salt lose its taste? The sea is a major source of salt, either the present-day seas or ancient sea beds that are now dry. For the people of Jesus' day, there were two primary sources of salt. One was seaweed. People simply put some seaweed in the pot and cooked the salt out of it. Once the food tasted right, the seaweed was removed. The seaweed could be used several times, but eventually all the salt would be cooked out and thus "lose its taste." The second and more common source of salt was from the Dead Sea, the saltiest sea on earth, but this salt had other minerals and compounds mixed with it. When Dead Sea salt deposits were dissolved from their salt, the remaining minerals would leave a useless, bad-tasting compound. The remains were good for nothing "but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." Both of these sources for salt gave the experience of having the flavor of the salt go flat. This can be like our experience of certain people. We meet someone and are immediately taken with the person. He or she truly "adds spice to life." But, sometimes such people prove to be shallow. After a great start with them, we find ourselves being disappointed. They are not worth their salt. This can also be an experience of our faith. We are drawn to church services that are beautiful and have good music and preaching, but too many times this is our only expectation. We

expect to be entertained by our worship. We look for the "Feel Good about Yourself Gospel." Eventually life will become difficult, and no amount of entertainment will serve us. Our faith has to be based on something deeper or it will go flat and will be good for nothing. Jesus also used the image of the lamp. A lamp is meant to be used. A hidden lamp is useless. Such is the gift of faith. It is meant to be used. Faith must be shared. It must be seen. Our faith must not be left in the church where it is hidden. It must be put on the lampstand of the world so it aids everyone. The context of our passage from Isaiah concerns the proper use of fasting. Fasting had long been a spiritual practice of the Jews. Physical comfort and need were sacrificed so that spiritual life and spiritual needs would come to the fore, but Isaiah saw fasting become a source of bragging. Isaiah meant to return fasting to its intended purpose, that is to make a difference in the lives of the poor. When a person fasted, he or she did not merely give up food. They either gave away the food they would have eaten or its equivalent value in alms.

Isaiah put faith on a lampstand. "Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed, clothe the naked." These are outward expressions of faith. Isaiah says we must participate in these expressions of our faith, but we are not to do these things for our own glory. Outward expressions of faith reveal the glory of the Lord. If we do these things intending to serve God, His light will shine. People will see God's light like a city on a mountain, and they will want to go to that city. It is like the words in the folk hymn, "They will know we are Christians by our love." Properly putting our faith on a lampstand can become the means of conversion. If we go to Mass just to get something, then Mass will go flat for us, and this is the biggest complaint, "I don't get anything out of it!" The mistake is that we go not to get something, we go to give something. We go to express something. We actually do go to Mass in part to be seen. If my friends see me there, they will gain support from my presence. Certain kinds of faith, like a certain source of salt, can go flat. We can't let that happen.

The Lenten Season

The Holy & Sacred Season of Lent begins on March 1, 2017- Ash Wednesday. Below are some simple Lenten Reflections to help us prepare our hearts for the Lenten Season. LENT is an amazing, & in its own way, delightful spiritual season. It begins with Ash Wednesday & leads us on a forty-day pilgrimage towards the feast of EASTER. Along the way, LENT invites us to cultivate a spirit of unselfishness based on faith, hope & charity. That's pretty much LENT in a nutshell. This holy & sacred season invites us to remember that what it's all about is the love of God & neighbor, the only source of ultimate meaning & purpose. The SPIRIT OF LENT invites us to "UNSELF OURSELVES" & that is the purpose of the traditional Lenten discipline of FASTING & ABSTINENCE. That is, to UNSELF OURSELVES, & to become more oriented to the LOVE OF GOD & NEIGHBOR. That is, what we want to help each other to do during the season of LENT- to help each other cultivate the SPIRIT OF LENT in our hearts & souls.

Prayer Requests



Please remember the following in your prayers: Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Maxine Cook, Renee Craig, Karen Free, Susan Hills, Logan Inboden, Jay Ping, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Jeannie Veach, Vickie Wilson, & and all the men & women in the armed forces.



Chili—Cookoff

Our Parishes, St. Elizabeth's & Our Lady Of Lourdes' have planned the "2017 Chili Cook-Off" to take place on Sun. Feb. 12, 2017 between 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish Hall, Oblong, Illinois. Competitors are invited to register with Jeff Mueller. Telephone Number: 713-264-1601 or email: jmueller28@yahoo.com. Registration fee of \$10.00 with 4 quarts of chili from competitors & a free will donation from the "hungry" would be appreciated. Come & enjoy!

Pastoral Council & Finance Council Meetings

There will be a Pastoral Council Meeting on Tues. Feb. 7, 2017 at 6:00 pm. We will be meeting at OLOL this month. There will be a Finance Council meeting at St. Elizabeth Parish Hall on Tues. Feb. 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm. There will be a Finance Council Meeting at Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish Hall on Tues. Feb. 21 at 6:00 pm.



Bible Study News

As you know, our first session for our Bible Study is on Mon. Feb. 20 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Fr. Flach will give you the resource Jesus' Journey to the Cross-A Love Unto Death, at the first class. At the first session, Fr. Flach will explain the resource. If you have not already provided payment for the resource, you may do it that evening. I am sincerely grateful for your interest. God bless you!

THE MORAL VIRTUE OF FAITH

FAITH is God's first gift to us. Faith has many facets & definitions, but, it is, above all, our response to the revelation of God. God has revealed Himself to us in many ways, but the fullness of His revelation is in JESUS CHRIST. (Hebrews 1:1-3) Everything about Jesus reveals God to us: his words & works, his signs, & miracles, His death & his glorious Resurrection. Perhaps, to deepen your faith, you might try the following. Set aside time to grow your knowledge of God's revelation. This could include a planned time for reading Scriptures or studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Next, open yourself up in prayer to the Holy Spirit. St. Alphonsus says: "let us never cease speaking with the apostles, 'Lord, increase our faith.'" Finally, examine how you are living the faith. In the words of St. Alphonsus, "it is not enough only to believe all that our holy faith teaches us; we must also direct our lives in accordance with our faith."

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 December 20, 2016, the St. Elizabeth Parish Goal is \$26,747.00 with the amount of \$16,415.00 being pledged and the amount of \$14,315.00 being secured. As of December 20, 2016, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Goal is \$6,556.00 with the amount of \$2,190.00 being pledged and the amount of \$1,680.00 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.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY OF HEALING



LENTEN JOURNEY

Each year, the Church, in her wisdom, offers us Lent, a season for healing & renewal. Our spiritual ancestors, the Israelites, struggled through the desert for forty years. On this difficult

journey, they gained new insights about themselves & the God who journeyed with them. When they reached the Promised Land, their hearts were full of both painful & joyful memories. Some Christians have long been praying variations of the Way of the Cross in Jesus' memory during Lent. By embracing your memories you are opening your heart to healing. There will be memories of feeling alive, loved, safe & cared for, successful, excited, hopeful, noble & good. There will be painful memories of feeling neglected, ridiculed, unloved, misunderstood, ignored, rejected. You will remember moments of failure, sinfulness, ignorance, confusion. All of these memories are part of your own life history. Your willingness to receive your wounds is a way of owning a truth that can become an instrument of healing for you. Sometimes we grumble about past wounds & choose to remain victims. It is easy to blame our present unhappiness on others.

Our Hebrew ancestors had similar problems. In the book of Numbers we see the people losing patience with Yahweh & Moses. They forgot about the blessings of the past. Fiery serpents came upon the people & bit them. When Moses interceded for them, Yahweh told him to make a replica of a serpent & raise it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten was to look upon it & be healed. (Numbers 21:6). To experience healing they were to look upon that which was the cause of their wounding. During this season of renewal, you, too, are being asked to look upon what has wounded you & receive healing. You are to raise the banner of life, honoring both the wounds & the blessings. In using your memories for your prayer, you are trying to integrate them into your life. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so, too, Jesus has been raised upon on the Cross that, through your belief in Him, you may know eternal life. As you pray with your memories, you, too, will be lifted upon the cross of your own life. The other side of that cross, however, is Easter glory. May you be filled with the hope of that glory as you walk the way of the cross of your life to the promised land of your true self.

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
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, January 29, 2017
Envelopes: \$2,533.00 Loose: \$230.00 Caritas \$10.00
Give Central \$80.00

Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 2,853.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Envelopes week ending Sunday, January 29, 2017
Envelopes \$520.00 Loose \$112.00
Edith Smith Food Pantry \$40.00
Total Church Offerings Deposit \$672.00

Daily Mass Readings 02/06/17~02/10/17

Mon. Feb. 6, 2017 Reading 1 Gen.1:1-19, Gospel Mk.6:53-56
Tues. Feb. 7, 2017 Reading 1 Gen. 1:20-2:4A Gospel Mk.7:1-13
Wed. Feb. 8, 2017 Reading 1 Gen 2:4B-9, 15-17,
Gospel Mk.7:14-23
Thurs. Feb. 9, 2017 Reading 1 Gen. 2:18-25 Gospel Mk. 7:24-30
Fri. Feb. 10, 2017 Reading 1 Gen. 3:1-8, Gospel Mk. 7:31-37

WHY DO WE FAST DURING LENT?

FASTING is a traditional form of penance & helps us to develop willpower & temperance. Limiting the quantity of food or drink is sometimes recommended as a way of cleansing the body &, when penitential, helps cleanse our souls. By creating hunger & a desire for that which is denied, we are reminded of the reason why we are fasting. We also fast to sympathize with those who are hungry or poor. Fasting helps to make us more loving & compassionate.