



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~12:00 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 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.

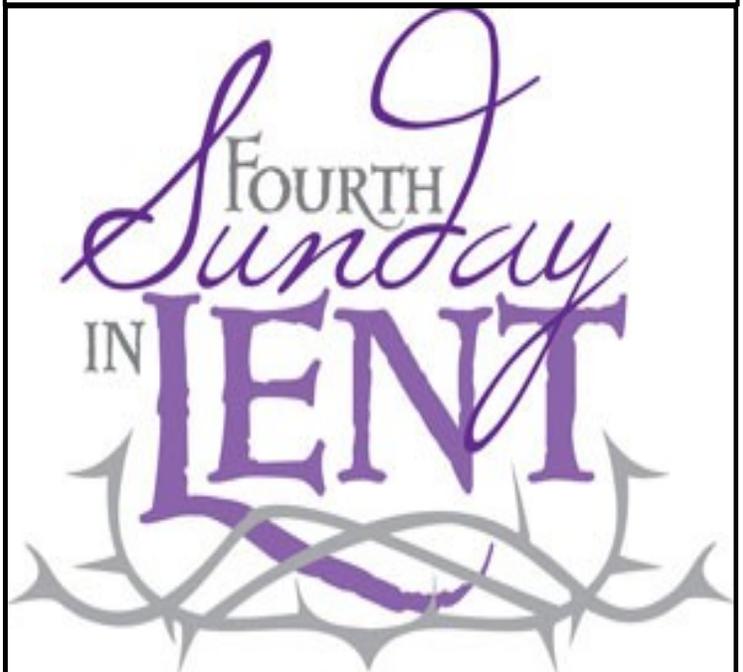
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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,
March 26th, 2017
4th Sunday of Lent



**“He answered and said,
Whether he be a
sinner *or no*, I know
not: one thing I know,
that, whereas I was
blind, now I see.”**

John 9:25



Mass Intentions

Mar. 25	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Mar. 26	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	Edith Smith by Chas. & Judy
	10:30 am	Eckert
Mar. 27	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Joe Stein by
Mar. 28	12:00 pm	George & Jane Bohman
Mar. 29	7:30 am	Jean Loy by Anne Loy
	6:30 pm	Madonna Kirts by Larry Kirts Bill Meirink by Rod & Linda Stewart
Mar. 30	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
Mar. 31	7:30 am	Carl Trump by Mike & Fran
Apr. 1	4:30 pm	Dorn
Apr. 2	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
	9:00 am	Madonna Kirts by Larry Kirts
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Special Intentions



PSR & Youth Events

PSR on Wed. Mar. 29, 2017 6:30~7:30 pm



LENTEN EVENTS

Monday, March 27, 2017 6:00 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, March 29, 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 4

Friday, March 31, 2017

7:30 am Sacred Eucharist
4:00 pm—7:00 pm Fish Fry
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross ~Our Lady Of Lourdes



Ministry Schedule

Sat. Apr. 1~ Sun. Apr. 2, 2017

Sat. April 1, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Celeste White
USHERS: Gene & Teresa Gower
COMMUNION MIN: Lisa Baird, Mike Dorn
SERVERS: Breanna Briggs, Halle Gower
GIFTS: Gerod Briggs Family

Sun. April 2, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Janet Jenkins
USHERS: Clarence Schutte, Randy Schutte
COMMUNION MIN: Joe Hepner, Linda Reis
SERVERS: Sarah Rynke
GIFTS: Ed Reis Family

Sun. April 2, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR: Keith Wirey
USHERS: Jerry & Sarah Ping
COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Stacie Matson
SERVERS: J. Hermann
GIFTS: Davis Family

Sun. April 2, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Roselene Quick
USHERS: Ken Deters, Chris Weber
COMMUNION MIN: Sean & April Sexton
SERVERS: Emily Heidorn, Isabel Heidorn
GIFTS: Doug Heidorn Family

Collection Counters: *March, 2017:*

Kaye Pescatore, Ellen Rees, Karen Reinoehl

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Fish Fry Dates

The last St. Elizabeth Fish Fry for 2017 will be on Friday, March 31, 2017 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the St. Elizabeth Parish Hall.

Menu is: Fish, Shrimp, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Corn Bread and a Drink.
Adult meal-\$10.00



Kids meal (Ages 10 and under)-\$5.00
Drive-up Available For Carry Outs

Daily Mass Readings 03/27/17~03/31/17



Mon. Mar. 27, 2017 Reading 1~ IS 65:17-21
Gospel ~ JN 4:43-54
Tues. Mar. 28, 2017 Reading 1~ EZ 47:1-9,12
Gospel ~ JN 5:1-16
Wed. Mar. 29, 2017 Reading 1~ IS 49:8-15
Gospel ~ JN 5:17-30
Thurs. Mar. 30 2017 Reading 1~ EZ 32:7-14
Gospel ~ JN 5:31-47
Fri. Mar. 31, 2017 Reading 1~ WIS 2:1A, 12-22
Gospel ~ JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Youth Center News



As you are able to see, the three trees that were on the recently purchased property from the City of Robinson have been removed. Hopefully, in the near future, I will be able to present a drawing of the addition when I explain the present need for the addition & how you may be able to help us financially. Thank you & God bless you.

Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Loving others is a spiritual force drawing us to union with God; indeed, one who does not love others 'walks in the darkness' (1 Jn. 2:11) and 'does not know God' (1 Jn. 4:8). Benedict XVI has said that

'closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God,' and that love is, in the end, the only light which 'can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working'...whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge the other, we grow in the light of faith and knowledge of God. If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then, we must constantly be missionaries. — Pope Francis, "The Joy of the Gospel"

In the opening words of his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis writes of encountering Christ: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus...I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy." The story of the man born blind is one of an encounter with Christ and conversion. It is a story of coming to understand who Christ is. It is a story that helps us see a person before and then after an encounter with Christ. It is not like the conversion of Paul who got knocked off of a horse. This is much more a story of our own conversions. It is subtle, and it takes time. There are dynamics in this story which may be familiar. We all know people who have had something dramatic or traumatic occur in their lives that became lifechanging, or people who have met a person that they say changed their lives. When we notice the change, we ask, "What happened that led you to make this change in your life?" Often the response is, "I really cannot say. I really cannot put what happened into words. I don't know that I fully understand it yet." Later, the very same person, when speaking of the event, will make an obvious connection between the event and God. They might well say, "I had an encounter with God. This is the story of a man born blind. To be born blind means that the man never could see, and this is far different from those Jesus cured from ailments of the eyes. To have never seen and then to see changes everything rather than merely restoring a person to something he had been previously. Important to note too is that the blind man never asked to see. Jesus simply acted. Such chance encounters are often life-changers in our own lives. Like the woman at the well we read

about last Sunday, the blind man did not know who Jesus was, nor did he come to a quick understanding of who Jesus was. It is insightful that Pope Francis writes, "If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then, we must constantly be missionaries." This is how the man came to understand who Jesus was; he had to teach others. We can see in the interrogation by the Pharisees how the man grew in his understanding. At first, the one who gave the man sight was "the man called Jesus." Upon further interrogation, the man said, "He is a prophet." Further on, exasperated by the constant questions, the man says that "this man" was from God. Through constantly explaining Jesus to others, he found his own understanding of who Jesus was and in so doing, he came to faith.

Precisely as Pope Francis wrote, through his witness to his encounter with Jesus (evangelizing), the man who could now see grew in understanding and faith. Our readings about light and seeing are about changing our human perspective to God's perspective. We read of a man born blind at birth being given sight, but one of the biggest concerns the Pharisee interrogators had was not about what had never before happened. The Pharisees, not really commenting on the miracle, were concerned that Jesus did this on a Sabbath! In one sentence we see not only how petty the Pharisees were, but also how petty we can be. We would never blame handicapped people for all their handicaps, but the people of Jesus' time did. So Jesus cured a blind man to make us examine the nature of sin and how we do the same that the Pharisees did. We don't blame the handicapped for their plight although many of us do blame the poor for their plight, saying, "If they just got a job they would not be poor." What blindness keeps us from seeing with the compassionate eyes of God? The miracle for the blind man was not that he could now see; it was that he could now see the presence of God standing before him in the person of Christ. He could see truth. This is a sign that encountering Christ is an occasion of truth and joy.

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.

A Special Thank You for Our Lady of Lourdes

Sincere & heartfelt THANKS to all those parishioners who worked so hard to put on the PARISH BREAKFAST on Sunday, March 19th. Your hard work, sincere effort, & faithful dedication are all truly APPRECIATED & we pray that God will continue to bless all you do for Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish.

Special Thanks



Many sincere THANKS to all those individuals who helped out on the first FISH FRY for this year, the 17th of March. It was a very successful evening thanks to all of your devoted help & assistance as we served 907 dinners. This is the TOP NUMBER we have ever served and so a SPECIAL THANKS to all who helped in any way. Your service is deeply appreciated. God bless you. Also, SPECIAL THANKS to St. Elizabeth Youth Group for cleaning up the landscape around the rectory & for replenishing the mulch. We appreciate your helping in this project. God bless you.

Upcoming Parish Meetings



Pastoral Council Meeting-The Pastoral Council Meeting will be at Our Lady of Lourdes at 6:00 pm on Tues. April 4, 2017.

Finance Council Meeting-The Finance Council Meeting will be at St. Elizabeth at 6:00 pm on Tues. April 11, 2017.

Finance Council Meeting-The Finance Council Meeting for Our Lady Of Lourdes will be at 6:00 pm on Tues. April 18, 2017.

First Friday of the Month Mass at OLOL

The First Friday of the Month Mass for Our Lady Of Lourdes will be on Friday, April 7, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

**The Holy & Sacred Season of Lent:
Receiving Our Inheritance:
The Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent.**



Just before he sent Joshua and the Israelites into the Promised Land, God commanded them to be strong and brave (Joshua 1:6). He wanted them to know that while he did promise them a home for themselves, the Israelites had to cooperate with

him in order to receive this inheritance. In a similar way, God calls each of us to be strong and courageous so that we can experience the freedom that Jesus won for us on the cross. He has already defeated sin and now He calls us to stand firm in faith. He calls us to trust that as we stay close to Him in obedience, all the grace of our redemption will flow into our hearts like a rushing river. This is why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is so important. Whenever we turn to God and confess our sins, he washes us clean so that we can continue to move forward into the "Promised Land" He has given us. The following examination of conscience, while not exhaustive, is meant to help you identify those areas in your life where you may have put aside the call to be strong in the Lord. Prayerfully consider the questions below and ask the Holy Spirit to point out where you need repentance. As you do, know that God loves to forgive us and empower us to take hold of all the promises He has given us. Love for God (Mark 12:28-30; John 14:23-24). In what ways do I put God first, above all else? Are there areas in my life where I need to seek His will for me, even when the calling is difficult? Do I carve out time in the day to be with Him in prayer? Do I look upon God's church and His laws with respect and gratitude? Love for Others (Luke 10:25-37; John 13:12-15). Can I recall any situations in which I failed to care for the people the Lord has put in my life? Were there times when I was slow to put their needs before my own? Can I remember any situations in which I failed to treat someone with the respect and dignity of a child of God? Mercy (Matthew 18:21-35; John 8:1-11). Are there situations in which I am finding it hard to forgive someone who hurt me? Are there groups of people whom I have judged too quickly based upon their social status, their race, or their appearance? Are there situations in which I am reluctant to receive God's mercy, and so find it hard to show others mercy? Humility (Mark 10:13-16; Philippians 2:6-11). How often do I recall that my talents and gifts come from God? Have I treated the people I regularly encounter as children of God, regardless of their state or position in life? To what extent do I rely on the Lord and His grace and power during my days? Generosity (Mark 6:30-34; Luke 6:38). How easy do I find it to share my time and gifts with others? Am I generous when it comes to supporting charitable organizations that care for the poor and needy? How much do I rely on the Lord for fulfillment. compared with the security I find from my material possessions? Courage (Joshua 1:7-9; Matthew 23:37-39). Can I recall situations when I should have spoken the truth in love, but didn't? Am I doing all I should to stand up against injustice and to protect the unborn, the poor, and the defenseless? Are there recent situations in which I failed to persevere through a difficulty that confronted me?

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 February 23, 2017, the St. Elizabeth parish goal is \$26,747.00 with the amount of \$17,515.00 being pledged & the amount of \$16,715.00. being secured. As of February 23, 2017, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish goal is \$6,556.00 with the amount of \$2,460.00 being pledged & the amount of \$2,260.00 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: Robert Birkofer, Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Geri Ezell, Susan Hills, Leona Kocher, Logan Inboden, Jay Ping, Dorla Shook, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Vickie Wilson, & and all the men & women in the armed forces.

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, March 19, 2017
Envelopes: \$2,566.00 Loose: \$371.00
Caritas \$35.00 Give Central 2 @\$80.00
Easter Flowers \$45.00
Building Fund \$15.00
Deposit \$ 3,112.00
Our Lady Of Lourdes Church
Week ending Sunday, March 12, 2017
Envelopes \$730.00 Loose \$130.00 Caritas \$5.00
Operation Rice Bowl \$40.00 Easter Flowers \$10.00
Church in Central & Eastern Europe \$10.00
Building Fund \$60.00 Ash Wednesday \$10.00
Deposit \$995.00