



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



## CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

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Join us on Facebook! Search for "Crawford County Catholics"

### 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, March 5th, 2017 1st Sunday of Lent



## Leah Genevieve Davis was baptized Sunday, February 26, 2017 at Our Lady Of Lourdes

Parents: Lori and Adam Davis and  
Godparents are Alex Hermann  
& Louise Schalasky/Knauf.



## Mass Intentions

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
Mar. 6	7:30 am	Jasmine Howard & Julie Maloy By George & Jane Bohman
Mar. 7	12:05 pm	Bill Meirink by Mike & Jona Uptmor
Mar. 8	7:30 am	William Loy by Anne Loy
Mar. 9	7:30 am	Bill Meirink by Rod & Linda Stewart
Mar. 10	7:30 am	Madonna Kirts by CCW
	4:30 pm	Paul Wagner by Carol Wong
Mar. 11	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Terry & Lynne Roche
Mar. 12	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach



## PSR & Youth Events

PSR on Wed. Mar. 8, 2017 6:30~7:30 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.

### Fish Fry News



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



## LENTEN EVENTS

Lenten Events for March 5 to March 12, 2017.

Monday, March 6, 2017—6:00 p m—7:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, March 8, 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 Grades 6-7-8

Friday, March 10, 2017

7:30 am Sacred Eucharist

5:30 pm Sacred Eucharist-Our Lady Of Lourdes

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross



## Ministry Schedule

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

Sat. March 11, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Patti Buercklin

USHERS: Jack & Marilyn Stanley

COMMUNION MIN: Kitty Platt, Karen Sanders

SERVERS: Abby Mullins, Ty Mullins, Lily Ann Mullins

GIFTS: Randy Mullins Family

Sun. March 12, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Dave Holscher, Tom Huss

COMMUNION MIN: Mike & Jona Uptmor

SERVERS: Matthew Jenkins

GIFTS: Christopher Bonnell Family

Sun. March 12, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Jim Ping

USHERS: Don & Sharon Fitzmaurice

COMMUNION MIN: Bob & Kourtney Coffman

SERVERS: Cameron Davis

GIFTS: Richard Kocher Family

Sun. March 12, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: April Sexton

USHERS: Ken Deters, Chris Weber

COMMUNION MIN: Jane Bohman, Carol Wong

SERVERS: Owen Schmidt, Joe Quick

GIFTS: Eric Schmidt Family

Collection Counters: *March, 2017: Kaye Pescatore, Ellen Rees, Karen Reinoehl*

**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**

## 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.

## Baptismal News

Our Parish Family of OLOL's is happy to welcome Leah Genevieve Davis 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. Leah Genevieve Davis received the oils & waters of BAPTISM on Sun. Feb. 26, 2017.

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

The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts & lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness & loneliness. I invite all Christians to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfaithfully each day. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways, I have shunned Your Love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with You. I need You. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into Your redeeming embrace." God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His Mercy." Pope Francis, "The Joy of The Gospel:" "I have let myself be deceived." The most important word in this sentence is "I." I have let it happen. As we begin Lent, we might recall these three phrases of the Confiteor. "through my fault, through my most grievous fault." In the Scriptures, numbers can function as an adverb answering how many, or they can function as adjectives by relating the quality of a thing. The number three in the Scriptures can mean something is absolute. For example: How many times did Peter deny Jesus? Three. Peter absolutely denied Jesus. Our three-fold adverbial clause is a recognition that my own fault is absolute. I have no one else to blame for my sin but myself. A temptation is a test of loyalty, & our Gospel relates the three temptations of Jesus. Although the temptation occurs three different ways, there is really one temptation. At the core of each temptation is the question: Will Jesus be loyal to God? Will Jesus trust God? Matthew teaches us that Jesus absolutely trusted God. Important to us at the beginning of Lent is the contrast we find in the first reading. Adam & Eve were tempted as well. They were given a loyal test by the serpent. They failed. Today we pray that God will "lead us not into temptation," & God does not; however, we manage to find temptation all on our own. Genesis wants us to see ourselves in Adam & Eve. Have we done any better than they did? The problem that stands between us & a successful Lent is that we think we have done better. At the core, what is the sin of Adam & Eve? Was it merely disobedience? If that were so, their sin would not have been as grievous. What is the point of Genesis? On the one hand, it teaches us who made us; on the other hand, it teaches us why God made us. Genesis 2:15 says, "The Lord God took the

man & settled him in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate & care for it." This verse teaches us our purpose: We are to cultivate & keep God's garden. Our human purpose is the focus of the story & the context for the sin of Adam & Eve, & it is revealing of our own sinfulness. It is God who gives purpose & meaning to life. We are made & called to be caretakers of His creation. We are to be mindful that we are stewards of a world we did not create. We received it only as a gift, & we are to hold it in trust. The power of the Genesis story is its uniqueness. Genesis teaches us that we were intentionally created by God & that God gave us a purpose for our existence. Other ancient creation stories do not teach this. In many ancient stories, humanity is treated as a by-product of something the gods had really intended, or as an accident or even a blatant mistake. The power, the beauty & the joy of Genesis is that because humanity was intentionally created & for the purpose of serving our God, humanity therefore had dignity. We humans have a purpose. We were not created for ourselves. We were created by God & for God! What did the serpent do? What was the temptation the serpent created for Adam & Eve? The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil represents far more than the ability to know what is good or evil. The power of the fruit was to make a person the decider of what is good & what is evil. This is God's role. This is why the serpent could say to Adam & Eve that if they ate the fruit they "will be like gods." More than mere disobedience, the sin of Adam & Eve was to assume for themselves the role of God. This Lent we must face our capacity for self-centeredness. We must face our selfish desire to make our own decisions about what is right & what is wrong. We must remember the purpose we were given in the act of creation, that is, to serve God & care for what He has created. How do we do these things? We must allow ourselves to encounter Jesus, the One who stayed true to His purpose in life.

### A Nice Round of Applause for a Job Well Done

Many sincere & heartfelt thanks to all those who helped in any way to make our 2017 MARDI GRAS event the success it was. So many parishioners helped in countless ways. All of the preparations involving planning & coordinating from advertising, to selling raffle tickets, to decorating the Country Club, to donating beautiful items for the Silent Auction to cleaning up. All of these activities are so important & necessary & we want everyone to know that every single effort on your part is deeply appreciated. We hope that you will always know of our gratitude & appreciations. This important fundraiser for our future Parish Youth Center simply could not take place without all of you & so we say THANK YOU a thousand times over. God bless you.

### Breakfast at Our Lady Of Lourdes

There will be a Breakfast at OLOL's on Sunday, March 19, 2017 after the 9:00 am Mass. The menu will be: pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy along with cookies & drinks. You are welcome to join us in prayer, good food & fellowship.

### SINCERE CONGRATS TO RAFFLE TICKET SELLERS &

Many heartfelt THANKS to all those who sold RAFFLE TICKETS for the 2017 Mardi Gras. Thanks to your hard work, dedicated effort & assistance, all ONE THOUSAND TICKETS were sold. What a fantastic job! You should be proud of yourselves & give yourselves a nice pat on the back. Also, we are pleased & happy to

CONGRATULATE our Raffle Ticket WINNERS.

First Early Bird Winner ~ \$100.00 Jessica Parrott  
Second Early Bird Winner ~ \$200.00 Jennifer Newman  
Seventh Prize ~ \$100.00 Christopher Fryson  
Sixth Prize ~ \$200.00 Carla Midgett  
Fifth Prize ~ \$300.00 Kenzi Deckard  
Fourth Prize ~ \$400.00 Nora Leone  
Third Prize ~ \$500.00 Steven Zellers  
Second Prize ~ \$1,500.00 Jeff Tuttle  
First Prize ~ \$7,000.00 Christopher Fryson

Again, thanks for a job well done & CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

 CONGRATULATIONS

# Lenten Spiritual Reading: The Fasting Track

**10. Fasting creates more physical & mental energy.** Ironically, going without a meal often results in greater energy & vitality. German physician Dr. Hellmut Lutzner, author of Successful Fasting, observes: "Strength, speed, perseverance & concentration are by no means a function of your food intake. On the contrary, you think better & more quickly when your stomach is not full. What mountain climber would eat just before his climb? A runner will never reach her peak performance if she eats just before the start of the race." The same principles apply to the spiritual life. An overloaded stomach can interfere with prayer by making us feel sluggish & tired. **11. Fasting helps us appreciate things more.** One man who fasted over a weekend broke his fast with a simple meal of soup. "After not eating for two days, the soup tasted unbelievably delicious. Every spoonful was like eating from an entire banquet. Prior to my fasting experience, I would have merely eaten the soup without any awareness of its flavor, texture or taste. **12. Fasting strengthens virtues & weakens vices.** "All great virtues bear the imprint of self-denial," observed William Ellery Charming. Time in prayer combined with denial of food is effective in expanding the boundaries of the heart & soul. People who pray & fast regularly often experience greater compassion, kindness, sensitivity & love for others. They become less judgmental & more understanding. True humility is developed while false pride is reduced. **Good for Self-Discipline.** **13. Fasting is good for self-discipline.** Many people operate on the premise that a primary goal in life is to always be happy & free of pain or discomfort. Our culture makes it easy for us to become extremely self-indulgent. We are in danger of becoming less resilient than our pioneer ancestors. Fasting is an effective antidote to the increasing 'softness' in life. A life which reached out for every comfort & pleasure becomes weak, sluggish, flaccid & fragile. It is a life devoid of fulfillment & meaning. "No pain, no balm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown," noted William Penn. **14. Fasting improves physical health.** Increasing evidence indicates that people are healthier & live longer when calories are reduced. Health researchers state that caloric restriction extends health as well as life, dramatically lowering the risk of many age-related problems including most cancers, heart disease & diabetes. One example comes from residents of Okinawa where calorie consumption is 30 percent below Japanese norms. The island residents have an unusually high percentage of centenarians. **15. Fasting can enlighten others.** This use of fasting as a teaching tool & a moral imperative to change was exercised by Mahatma Gandhi. Early in the struggle against British Rule over India, Gandhi conducted a fast in prison for the violent excesses of his followers who did not practice his teaching of nonviolence against British authorities. Later, Gandhi fasted to persuade the government to remove discriminatory laws against people considered untouchable. **16. Fasting is a way of following the example of Christ & the Apostles.** Prior to His public ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in prayer & fasting (Matthew 4:1). Also, Jesus expected followers to fast. He said, "when you fast" not "if" you fast in Matthew 6:16. The missionary team of Paul & Barnabas are reported in Scripture as fasting frequently before important decisions concerning the early Church ministry. (Acts 13:203; Acts 14:23).

## Catholic Charities Second Collection

On March 12, 2017-Catholic Charities Collection on the Second Sunday of Lent.



## 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.



## Weekly Collection

### St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, February 26, 2017  
 Envelopes: \$2297.00 Loose: \$306.00 Caritas \$5.00  
 Give Central 2 @\$80.00 Easter Flowers \$619.00  
 Building Fund \$20.00 Deposit \$3,327.00  
 CCW Total Dues Paid \$301.00

### Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, February 19, 2017  
 Envelopes \$530.00 Loose Cash \$71.00 Caritas \$10.00 Deposit \$611.00  
 Week ending Sunday, February 26, 2017  
 Envelopes \$545.00 Loose Cash \$99.22  
 Easter Flowers \$175.00  
 Deposit \$819.22



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.



## Special Thanks

St. Elizabeth Parish is happy to offer SINCERE GRATITUDE to STEVE JENKINS & the Robinson High School BUILDING & TRADES CLASS for building the two crosses that will remain in the sanctuary during the Lenten Season. The crosses are made with skill & expertise & our Parish is appreciative of the efforts of the Building & Trades Class. Thank you & God bless you.

## Daily Mass Readings 03/06/17~03/10/17



**Mon. Mar. 6, 2017** Reading 1~Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18  
 Gospel~ Mk. 25:31-46  
**Tues. Mar. 7, 2017** Reading 1~Is. 55:10-11  
 Gospel~Mt. 6:7-15  
**Wed. Mar. 8, 2017** Reading 1~Jon. 3:1-10  
 Gospel Lk. 11:29:32  
 Gospel~ **Thurs. Mar. 9, 2017** Reading 1~Est. C:12, 14-16, 23,25  
 Gospel~Mt. 7:7-12  
**Fri. Mar. 10, 2017** Reading 1~Ez. 18:21-28  
 Gospel~Mt. 5:20-26