



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

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Father James Flach

PASTORAL STAFF

Office Manager: Halena Estep

Parish Outreach Volunteer: Eileen Hartrich Cooper

Director of Religious Education: Courtney Ferris

Custodial Care: Katrena Burton, 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.

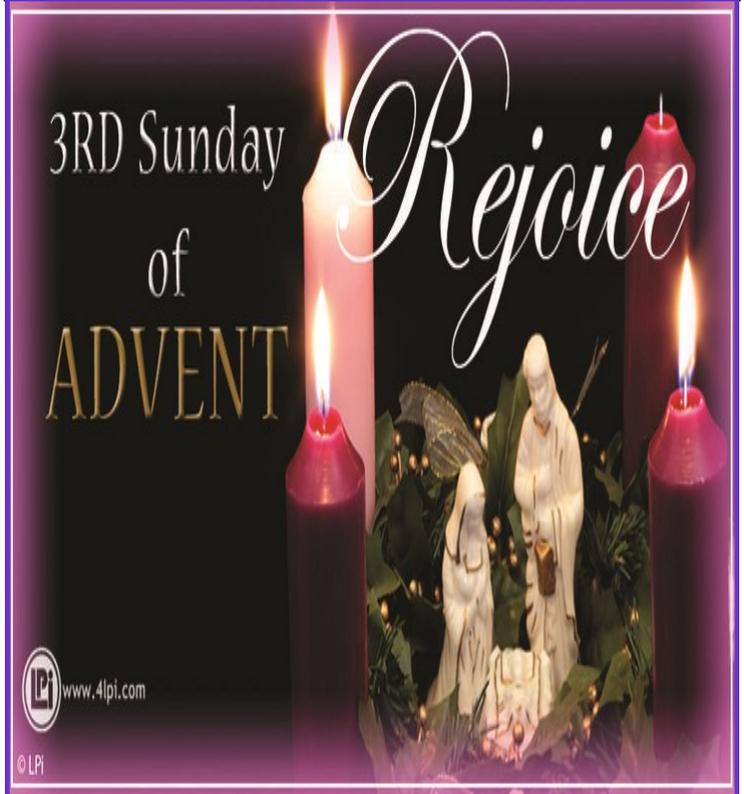
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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 3:45 pm or by appointment

Sunday, December 11, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent



**“Are you the One Who is
to come, or should we
expect someone else?”**

Matthew 11:2



Mass Intentions

Dec. 10	4:30 pm	Madonna Kirts by Jeff & Linda
Dec. 11	7:30 am	Rich
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30am	Mildred Hinterscher by
	7:30 am	Bill Hinterscher
Dec. 12		Special Intentions
	12:05 pm	Charles Parkhurst by
		Joe & Carol Hepner Family
Dec. 13	7:30 am	Greg Bohman by
		George & Jane Bohman
	7:30 am	Edna O'dell by
Dec. 14	7:30 am	George & Jane Bohman
		Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
	4:30 pm	Madonna Kirts by
Dec. 15	7:30 am	Lorraine & Romano Ochs
	9:00 am	Wagner Family by Carol Wong
Dec. 16	10:30am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
		Marie Bohman by
Dec.		George & Jane Bohman

Prayer Requests

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

PSR & Youth Events

12-11-16-the Youth Group will be wrapping Christmas presents in the Parish Center from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm.

PSR Advent Service on 12-14-16 in the "big room" of the Parish Center before class begins. Parents are encouraged to attend. This will begin at 6:30 pm.

12-18-16-Youth Christmas Party from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm at the Ferris House. On 12-21-16-NO PSR, but we are hosting the FCA Christmas Party at St. Elizabeth.

A HEARTFELT & SINCERE THANK YOU

Special & Sincere Thanks to all those who helped in any way on our festive CHRISTMAS DINNER held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 in St. Elizabeth Parish Center. There are so many parishioners who helped & I would like to name all of you, but I am fearful that I might forget someone. I just want you to know that your sincere efforts are truly appreciated and we can't thank you enough for putting all of us into the Holiday Spirit. May God bless you for all of your hospitality ways and a SINCERE THANK YOU from our hearts.

The Tradition of the Christmas Crib

Following a beautiful & firmly-rooted tradition, many families set up their crib immediately after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, as if to relive with Mary those days full of trepidation that preceded the birth of Jesus. Putting up the crib at home can be a simple but effective way of presenting faith, to pass it on to one's children. The crib helps us to contemplate the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto. Saint Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in the living nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelization today. Indeed, the crib can help us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who "though He was rich He made Himself poor" for us (2 Cor. 8:9). His poverty enriches those who embrace it, and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the angel's words: "Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes" (Luke 2:12). This is still the sign for us too, men and women of the third millennium. There is no other Christmas. Pope Benedict XVI

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Ministry Schedule

Sat. Dec. 17 ~ Sun. Dec. 18, 2016

Sat. Dec. 17, 2016 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR:

USHERS: John Grimm, Mark Grimm

COMMUNION MIN: Mike Dorn

Celeste White

SERVERS: Halle Gower, Anthony Tran

GIFTS: Gene Gower Family

Sun. Dec. 18, 2016 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Garrett Rich, Travis Rich, Jeff Rich

COMMUNION MIN: Jim & Shari Eckert

SERVERS: Jacob Eckert

GIFTS: Mike Uptmor Family

Sun. Dec. 18, 2016 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Jim Ping

USHERS: Don & Sharon Fitzmaurice

COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Rita Wirey

SERVERS: Ethan Matson

GIFTS: Dan Schalasky Family

Sun. Dec. 18 2016 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Eileen Cooper

USHERS: Ian Quick, Sam Quick

COMMUNION MIN: Mark Ghering, Missy York

SERVERS: Keagan Tuel, Cody York, Kifer Stevens

GIFTS: Justin Tuel Family

Collection Counters: December, 2016~Ellen Rees, Ed & Linda Reis

Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for the Third Sunday of Advent

What do we sigh for? What sorrows bring us to tears? What holds us in bondage? What kind of changes do we seek in Advent?

Rev. Dr. John Killinger, who taught at Vanderbilt Divinity School for 15 years, told the story in a sermon of a lady who cleaned his office. A Staunch supporter of her black Baptist Church, she worked tirelessly on the church's projects. Dr. Killinger had gotten to know her well. He knew that she worked long hours at Vanderbilt University and for her church and that she had enough sorrow in her life to destroy any number of people. Despite all this, Dr. Killinger noted that, whether working at Vanderbilt or for her church, the woman was perpetually cheerful, often singing hymns as she swept hallways, dusted, and emptied trash cans. One day he commented on her singing, and she replied, "Oh Doctor, if I couldn't sing, I would just bust!"

The Babylonian Exile lasted from about 597 to 539 BC. Not everyone was taken into exile, but Jerusalem was utterly destroyed, and those left behind were scattered. The years created a longing for what had been. Our passage from Isaiah today was probably written toward the end of the Exile. The people had grown weary of captivity, and hope for a return to what they had known was waning. They did not know whether to give up on God or to continue to believe that one day He would rescue them.

The writer of this section of Isaiah believed deeply that God's relief would come; but instead of offering hope for returning to what had been, he offered an image of something better, something unexpected. The prophet convinced the Jews to keep fighting through their suffering and daily grind, focusing on what was to come, on what they must prepare for.

The vision of the blind seeing, the deaf hearing and the lame once again walking was not a prophecy about the handicapped being cured. It was a vision of peace. The Jews were captives of war. They had been wounded and maimed. Many were intentionally blinded as was King Zedekiah when Jerusalem fell to Babylon. This was a vision wherein the sufferings of war would be overcome and the people made new and whole.

Another aspect of the vision speaks of the marginalized and outcast being welcomed back into the community. A handicap was believed to have been punishment from God for a person's sin or the sin of an ancestor. A handicap therefore rendered a person unclean and thus made that person an outcast. The vision is more

about the spiritual than the physical. This is a joyful proclamation of a community in which not only is the suffering of war gone, but in which everyone has a place in the community of faith. The joy that will come will be so powerful that it would drive evil from Zion, the hill on which Jerusalem is built.

The Christians for whom James wrote had experienced the coming of the Messiah. Christ had brought hope to a hurting people, but there was disappointment, too. Jesus had promised that He would return, but the years were wearing on and He was not back. James had to get Christians past the disappointment that they were not getting everything they had hoped for in the present. James, like Isaiah, had to change disappointment into hope-filled expectation. He says clearly, "Be patient." Even if Jesus had not yet returned, He was still expected, and this expectation is the source of Hope.

This Third Sunday of Advent marks the halfway point in our journey to our spiritual celebration of the Incarnation. Before Advent slips away from us, we must focus on our spiritual preparation for the events to come by asking, "What is Advent really supposed to be about?"

Advent gets us ready to celebrate Christmas, but Christmas does not have much meaning if we do not understand why we need it. Our readings today offer something only to people who are aware of their suffering, who are still outcasts, who are still victims of the wars of families, friends, and the workplace. While Isaiah spoke of the wounds of war, many other things handicap us. Where in our lives do we need hope? What holds us in bondage and keeps us from being joyful?

If we can find these things within our hearts and souls, then Christmas can make a difference for us. While there is good in the world, at times it might not seem so. The promise is that the Lord is going to return and bring us to the place of no more suffering, no more tears, no more pain. So, how can Advent help us sing when there are still times when there seems no reason to do so?

Spiritual Reading during the Advent Season

The season of Advent is meant to give us that time to help us slow things down & remember. Each year, we can begin anew, remembering once again the hope that was promised to us. As we follow the readings during Advent, we hear the development of hope. The First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded not to live in a place of settling but to live in a place of being awake & aware. If we are living in anticipation of something more, we don't need to know the time nor the hour, because we are living in the place of hope. We are reminded to live in hope, not in complacency.

The Second Sunday, John the Baptist reminds the Jews not to presume or rely on the fact that they are ancestors of Abraham but to repent from their ways so they will be prepared for Christ who will come to baptize in the Spirit, the reality of hope. The

Third Sunday, Jesus gives an answer to John the Baptist's question of, "Are you the One who is to come?" Jesus tells the disciples to let John the Baptist know who He is by what He brings: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise and, most important,

The poor have the Good news brought to them. The Fourth Sunday reveals to us the message that has been revealed through Joseph: the message that Mary is to bring the promised one into the world to save us from our sins. These readings are given to us to remember what God has promised. The hope that comes to us from Advent is a hope that is beyond all other hopes. It is not just an anticipation of something to come but one that goes beyond all our hopes & desires. In 1985, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (who later became Pope Benedict XVI) wrote that hope is built on memory: "Advent is concerned with the very connection between memory and hope." This is not just hope, but it is an Advent hope. It is the truth and expectation that God is working in our life now, in our present moment. It is a promise that what we hope for in His Name is obtainable. It is a time to remember that the salvation God promised throughout all of history has already come, and we live in the hope of that salvation. We cannot settle for just the way things are, but must live in the awe and wonder of the memory of God's promise.

Christmas Choir

We will be practicing on Sunday mornings during Advent from 9:00 am-10:00 am. Next practice Sun. Dec. 18, 2016.

St. Elizabeth & OLOL's Parish Dec. Schedule

Monday, December 12, 2016 Advent Penance Service
St. Elizabeth Parish 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 24, 2016 Christmas Eve Masses
4:00 pm St. Elizabeth

7:00 pm OLOL 9:00 pm St. Elizabeth

Sunday, December 25, 2016 Christmas Day Mass
9:00 am St. Elizabeth

December 31, 2016—January 1, 2017 Regular Weekend Schedule of masses for St. Elizabeth & OLOL

MARDI GRAS RAFFLE TICKETS

The MARDI GRAS will be held on Sat. Feb. 25, 2017. RAFFLE TICKETS are all prepared. We will begin to sell them after our weekend Masses. It is our hope that we will try to sell all 1,000 and we are so grateful to all those who help us in any way on this project. The proceeds for 2017 Mardi Gras are for the Youth Center. There will be 2 EARLY BIRD drawings, one on Sun. Jan. 29, the other on Feb. 12 after the 10:30 am Mass. The winning ticket will be placed back into the basket and the winnings are \$100.00 each. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Finance Council Meetings

There will be a Finance Council Meeting at St. Elizabeth on Tues. Dec. 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm. There will be a Finance Council Meeting at OLOL's on Tues. Dec. 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

SINCERE CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Sincere & heartfelt CHRISTMAS PRAYERS & BLESSINGS to the COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN & OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH for their most kind & generous gifts that were presented to me at our Christmas Dinner on Sun. Dec. 4th. Your generous gifts will be fondly remembered & cherished. My prayer for each of you is that God will continue to bless you & your loved ones with good health & peace in the New Year of 2017. Thank you again & God bless you.

Catholic Children's Home Second Collections

The Catholic Children's Home Collection will be Sun. Dec. 25th.

Christmas Flowers ~ Memorials 2016

If you are going to donate towards the Christmas Flowers in the sanctuary of our Churches IN LOVING MEMORY of a loved one, PLEASE make certain that the names & the donation is in the Parish Office by Mon. Dec. 19, 2016. Thank you & God bless

THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND TO BRING IN YOUR GIFTS FOR THE ADVENT NURSING HOME PROJECT. ALL GIFTS MUST BE HERE BEFORE WED. DEC. 14TH. THANK YOU.

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 November 9, 2016, the St. Elizabeth Parish goal is \$26,747.00 with the amount of \$12,460.00 being pledged & the amount of \$10,310.00 being secured. As of November 9, 2016, the Our Lady Of Lourdes parish goal is \$6,556.00 with the amount of \$1,730.00 being pledged & the amount of \$1,310.00 being secured. Sincere thanks to all those parishioners who have already participated in this important & necessary fundraiser for the Diocese & may God bless you for your devoted & faithful generosity.



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, Dec. 4, 2016

Envelopes: \$ 2,972.00 Loose: \$ 259.00 Building Fund \$70.00

Online Thru Give Central \$80.00 Christmas Flowers \$235.00

Campaign for Justice & Hope \$110.00 Caritas \$25.00

Religious Fund \$100.00 Immaculate Conception \$20.00

Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 3,871.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week Ending Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016

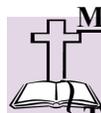
Envelopes \$930.00 Loose \$70.00 Christmas Flowers \$30.00

Immaculate Conception \$10.00 Building Fund \$40.00

Total Deposit: \$1,080.00

To give online, go to the Church website & click on DONATE. You can give to what donation you choose. All monies go directly to St. Elizabeth.

Daily Mass Readings 12-12-16/12-16-16



Mon. Dec. 12, 2016 Reading 1 Zec.2:14-17 or Rev. 11:19A, 12:1-6A, 10AB

Gospel Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

Tues. Dec. 13, 2016 Reading 1 Zep. 3:1-2, 9-13

Gospel Mt. 21:28-32

Wed. Dec. 14, 2016 Reading 1 Is.45:6C-8,18, 21C-25

Gospel Luke 7:18B-23

Thurs. Dec. 15, 2016 Reading 1 Is.54:1-10

Gospel Luke 7:24-30

Fri. Dec. 16, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 56:1-3A,6-8

Gospel John 5:33-36