



The Nuncio

Serving St. Elizabeth & Our Lady of Lourdes



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER
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Pastor: Reverend Aloysius Okey Ndeanaefo

PASTORAL STAFF

Secretary: Halena Estep

Youth and Religious Education Coordinator: Courtney Ferris

Parish Outreach Volunteer: Eileen Hartrich

Custodial Care: Lori & Adam Davis, Our Lady of Lourdes

Custodial Care: Katrena Burton, St. Elizabeth

Music Director: Chris Jansen, St. Elizabeth

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Parish Office

Closed for lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass at St. Elizabeth:

Tuesday - 12:05 pm

Wednesday—Friday 7:30 am

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

PARISH REGISTRATION

New parishioners are always welcome!

You may register in person or by calling the Parish Center.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at St. Elizabeth 3:45 pm

Or by appointment

BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Center for registration and reservation.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Parishioners who are seriously or critically ill or having surgery, please contact Father Aloy.

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.

Sunday December 20, 2015



Fourth Sunday of Advent



Mass Intentions

Dec.19	4:30 pm	Marie Bohman by George & Jane Bohman
Dec.20	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Aloy Nancy Huber by Sharon Skaggs Special Intentions the Rees Family NO MASS
Dec.21	12 :05pm	Jeanette Kraemer by Anne Loy
Dec.22	7:30 am	Harry Wong by Larry & Debbie Dix
Dec. 23	Christmas Eve Vigil OLOL	OLOL Vigil Mass Howard Perrine
Dec. 24	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass St.Elizabeth	by Adam Davis Family St.Elizabeth Anna Lucille Byrne Hawkins by Ginger & Chadd Osborne, Jennifer Marshall & Families
Dec. 25	10:00pm Christmas Day St. Elizabeth	St. Elizabeth Clarence & Jean Loy by Anne Loy
Dec. 26	9:00 am	Harry Wong by anonymous
Dec. 27	4:30 pm 7:30am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Aloy Norman Kocher by Adam Davis Family Judy Smolinski by Mike & Jona Uptmor Family



Ministry Schedule

December 26,27 2015

<u>4:30 pm</u>	LECTOR: Celeste White USHERS: Mark Grimm, Dennis Carroll COMMUNION MIN: Ginger Osborne, & Jack & Marilyn Stanley SERVERS: Ty Mullins, Abby Mullins, +Braden Hatfield GIFTS: Mullins Family
<u>7:30 am</u>	LECTOR: Shari Eckert USHERS: Mike Uptmor, Carol Zellars COMMUNION MIN: Jona Uptmor, Jack & Marilyn Stanley SERVERS: Samuel Eckert, Jacob Eckert GIFTS: Eckert Family
<u>9:00 am</u>	LECTOR: Kourtney Coffman USHERS: Ron & Ethel Dhom COMMUNION MIN: Jim & Nancy Ping SERVERS: Ethan Matson GIFTS: Coffman Family
<u>10:30 am</u>	LECTOR: Josh Quick USHERS: John Grimm, Ed Reis COMMUNION MIN: Sean & April Sexton Carol Wong SERVERS: Joe Quick, Isabel Heidorn GIFTS: Ed & Linda Reis

Collection Counters: *December, 2015*

Ellen Rees, Kaye Pescatore, Don Brown



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Patti Ackerman, Roberta Bowman, Susan Bills, Theresa Bowen, Kevin Boyd, Jane Brown, Lori Brown, Roger Burton, Bobbie Cheesman, Ben Curtis, Ron Dhom, Pastor Sheila Ducommon, Linda Dudine, Charles Ferguson, Daniel Ferguson, Jason Genta, Debbie Goodwin, Jeanie H., Pat Hanson, Debbie Henry, Judy Hester, Betty Boyd Hippler, Jared Holmes, Charlie Hryniewicz, MaDonna Kirts, Kimberly Knapp, Jordyn Koester, Donna McIntire, Rick McKinley, Grover Michl, Bill Meirink, Danny Miller, Sam Mitchell, Val Pescatore, Brice Reed & family, Angie Rhoten, Mary Rogers, Pete Rosenski, Arlene Schutte, Marian Scott, Billy Skaggs, John Skaggs, Linda Sparks, John Stedelin, Linda Wedge-Stephens, Mike & Isabella & Nolan Stephens, Pamela Stephenson, Terry Stevens, Nolan (Butch) Stewart, Linda Stewart, Cherie Stewart, Bertha Taylor, James Tyler, Mark Wagner, Becky VanSchoyck, Ginny Varner, Zachariah Waxler, Shari Weber, Bill Wilson and all the men & women in the armed forces.

PSR

No PSR on Wed. Dec. 23, 2015



Advent Nursing Home Project

The generosity & kindness of our parishioners is overwhelming. Thanks to all who participated in our Advent Nursing Home Project in any way. Thanks to all of you who purchased gifts & supplies, or donated cash for that purpose. Special thanks to our wrappers, Patti Buercklin, April Sexton, Lynn Knoblett, Roselene Quick, Carol Wong & Geri Ezell & Lori Davis from OLOL. Also thanks to Robb Sparks for donating the use of his skinny tree. Over 100 hundred gifts were delivered to the Crawford County Nursing Homes. Residents of these nursing homes will have a brighter Christmas, because of your love & generosity.

Souper Bowl of Caring



The Souper Bowl of Caring will begin on **Wed. Jan. 13, 2016** See Courtney Ferris for details.

Youth Christmas Party



There will be a Youth Christmas Party at the Parish Center on **Sun. Dec. 20, 2015 12:00- 2:00**

Church Decorating Help Needed



We are in need of young men to help with decorating the Church on **Mon. Dec. 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm**. Please meet at Church. Thank you..

Robinson Food Pantry Thank You

The Robinson Area Food Pantry would like to thank you for your recent donation to them. During the 2014 year, the Food Pantry fed 12,407 people. Thank you so much for your donations as they are helping our community's needy.

Shepherd News

Scriptural Reflections

Micah's oracles unfold as a series of charges brought by God against the people of Israel. In a nutshell, God's complaint is that the people have not been sincere in their relationship with the Lord. Their history is filled with disobedience to the word of God—all this in spite of the many gifts God bestowed upon them. But this reading comes from a portion in the book in which God looks ahead to brighter days.

The kings of old allowed pride to interfere in their service to God. But one day God will raise up for the people a king worthy of the title. This ideal ruler will come from Bethlehem just as David did. David's birthplace may have seemed insignificant to some. But God's plan is not influenced by such limited thinking. By God's design, this new king will accomplish what others could not. Their misguided choices led to divisions and separation. Under the direction of this new good king, the people will return to their homeland. The kingdom will once again be unified under one monarch.

The former occupants of David's throne proved to be bad shepherds. Their misguided policies harmed the very people they were supposed to care for. The flock of Israel grew weaker, both spiritually and physically, under the rule of such kings. But this new king will feed his flock. At last, the nation will be secure, no longer

vulnerable to all the injuries of sin and ignorance. The renown of this new ruler will be universal.

This passage serves to connect the annunciations of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus with the birth stories of both. In every instance, Lk shows that whatever happens to John the Baptist is superseded by what happens with Jesus. This story of the visitation of Mary to her relative Elizabeth continues that theme. Mary had learned from the angel Gabriel that Elizabeth was pregnant in her old age (Lk 1:36). Therefore, Mary set out with haste to visit Elizabeth. Upon arrival, Mary offers Elizabeth a greeting and, up to this point, everything seems normal. That quickly changes.

No sooner does Elizabeth hear the greeting of Mary than Elizabeth's unborn child leaps in her womb. This can be understood as the very first prophetic action performed by John the Baptist, and it happens while he is still in the womb. This leaping in the womb is an action of recognition. While still in the womb, John the Baptist recognizes the superiority of Jesus, who is also still in the womb. Because Elizabeth is now filled with the Holy Spirit, she correctly understands what is happening, and she responds accordingly. She recognizes that Mary is carrying the Lord in her womb, and that makes Mary the mother of the Lord. Elizabeth thus imparts to Mary a twofold blessing.



Parish Christmas Thank You

A big thanks to Kaye Holscher on catering our Christmas Parish meal this past **Sat. Dec. 12, 2015**, CCW for their help in the kitchen, Robb Sparks for his floral decorations, Halena Estep, Courtney Ferris & Katrena Burton in organizing this event. Also, a big thanks for Ron Mitchell for playing Santa & the youth band members for the entertainment.. Thank you to all that brought in food & helped with clean up after.



Parish Office Closings

The Parish Office will be closing at 12 noon on **Thurs. Dec. 24** to celebrate the Christmas Day Holiday on **Fri. Dec. 25**. Also, will be closing on **Thurs. Dec. 31st** at 12 noon to celebrate the New Year's Day Holiday-**Fri. Jan. 1, 2016**.

Our Sympathies



Our sympathies to Kim Weber & her family at the passing of her father, Stanley Richardson who passed away on **Sun. Dec.13. 2015**. Stanley was 70 years young. Please keep this family in your prayers.



Merry Christmas



Happy Birthday Jesus **Fri. Dec. 25, 2015**. Merry Christmas from Fr. Aloy & the Parish Staff.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

[Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20 December 2015] **God's mercy is full of grace. God's mercy is grace. This is God's very life.** Let us, then, turn to face God all this week. We do it when we turn to those who are near, to those in our home, to those at work or school, to those in the street – and behave like Gabriel (announce God's favor), behave like Mary (ask "How?" then say "Yes!"). How will I find ways this week to say "yes" to God's good mercy? Who needs the

Catholic Children's Home Collection



The Catholic Children's Home Collection will be on **Fri. Dec. 25, 2015**. Thank you in advance for your donations to this very important collection. God bless.

First Friday of the Month Mass OLOL



The First Friday of the Month Mass will be at OLOL Fri. Jan. 1, 2016 at 5:30 pm.



Divorced?

The Catholic's DIVORCE SURVIVAL Guide 12-week group begins **Wed. Jan. 6th, 2016 at 7 pm** in the St. James Parish Center, (112 North 6th St., Riverton, IL. 62561). There is no cost. Free will offerings will be accepted to defray the cost of the program materials & light refreshments each week. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teachings. Sorry, no child care available. For more information, email marruffojohn@gmail.com or call John at 217-494-3366.

New Book Study



We will begin a new book study on "Everybody Needs To Forgive Somebody" on **Wed. Jan. 6, 2016** at 6:00 pm. We will meet for 7 wks. so that we will be done by Ash Wed.

Dance of the Spirit

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, are inviting persons of all faith traditions to join them for "Dance of the Spirit: Women's Spirituality," from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 9. The workshop will take place in the Providence Hall Conference Room. Participants will explore the steps of the dance and then reflect and explore the practices to center and focus steps while moving to their truest selves. Cost to attend is \$40, which includes lunch. The registration deadline is Jan. 4. For more information or to register, call 812-535-2952, email jfrost@spsmw.org or log on to



Retrouvaille of St. Louis

For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. The next program begins the weekend of **Jan. 29-31, 2016**. Kevin & Stacy Minden



Living in Love—Retreat Weekend

Provides an opportunity for couples to reconnect. Designed to energize romance. **Jan. 30-31, 2016** at the Villa Maria Catholic Life Retreat Center, Springfield, Illinois. The cost is \$150.00 per couple. Scholarships are available. The retreat includes Sunday Mass and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday night. RSVP or 217-321-1139. For more information or to register online, please go to www.dio.org/familylife/events.

Dishes left from past funeral dinners



Please pick up dishes from the Parish Hall kitchen that have been left from the last funeral dinner, etc. Thank you very much for your help to us on this.

Annual Catholic Services Appeal

The 2015 ACSA Parish Goals for **St. Elizabeth**
The goal for St. Elizabeth is \$19,666.00
\$13770.00 paid out of \$16,770.00 pledged amount.
Balance \$3,000.00 of the pledged amt.
The 2015 ACSA Parish Goals for **Our Lady of Lourdes**
The goal for Our Lady of Lourdes is \$2,873.00
\$1,305.00 paid out of \$1,945.00 pledged amount.
\$640.00 balance of the pledged amt.
Updated 11-23-2015

Liturgical Ministry Contacts

St. Elizabeth Parish

Readers: Eileen Hartrich 544-8251

Servers: Father Aloy 544-7526

Art & Environment: Robb Sparks 546-5606

Usher: Ron Mitchell

Our Lady of Lourdes

Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers: Keith Wirey 592-4179

Music & Liturgy: Dorla Shook 592-3893

Servers: Father Aloy 544-7526

Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending December 13, 2015

Envelopes \$1,869.00 Loose \$245.25

Online 1@\$50.00 Christmas Flowers \$20.00

Immaculate Conception \$201.00

Retirement Fund for Religious \$1,472.00

Caritas \$40.00 Building Fund \$20.00

Total Deposit \$3,917.25

Our Lady of Lourdes

Week ending December 13, 2015

Envelopes \$ 635.00 Loose \$18.00

Caritas \$40.00

Immaculate Conception \$221.68

Retirement Fund For Religious \$211.32

Total Deposit: \$1,126.00

Thank You. May God bless you.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Advent Mass Schedule Special Services



St. Elizabeth

Thurs. Dec. 24, 2015-Christmas Eve Mass 10:00 pm

Fri. Dec. 25, 2015-Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 am

Fri. Jan. 1, 2015-New Year's Day Mass at 9:00 am

Our Lady of Lourdes

Thurs. Dec. 24, 2015-Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm

Thurs. Dec. 31, 2015-Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm