



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



## CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

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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 4, 2016 Second Sunday of Advent



**"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."**

**Matthew 3:11**



## Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec. 3	4:30 pm	Jane Brown by Hugh & Celeste White
Sun. Dec. 4	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Mon. Dec. 5	10:30am	Ira Inboden by Phyllis Inboden
	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Tues. Dec. 6	12:05 pm	Faith Laski by Sarah Laski
<u>Holy Day OLOL</u>	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Wed. Dec. 7	5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception
<u>Holy Day St. Elizabeth</u>	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Thurs. Dec. 8	6:00 pm	Immaculate Conception
Fri. Dec. 9	7:30 am	Madonna Kirts by Karen Sanders
	4:30 pm	Madonna Kirts by Jeff & Linda
Sat. Dec. 10	7:30 am	Rich
Sun. Dec. 11	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Mildred Hinterscher by Bill Hinterscher Special Intentions



## PSR & Youth Events

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 on each of these evenings.

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

## Spiritual Reading for the Sacred Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary The Praise of His



## Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:  
Lori Brown, Renee Craig, Logan Inboden, Bill Meirink, Jay Ping, Sharon Skaggs, Charlie Stegall, Vickie Wilson & and all the men & women in the armed forces.



## Ministry Schedule

Sat. Dec. 10 ~ Sun. Dec. 11, 2016

Sat. Dec. 10, 2016 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Celeste White

USHERS: Ken & Carol Bergbower

COMMUNION MIN: Lisa Baird

Ginger Osborne

SERVERS: Ella Jenkins, Braden Hatfield

GIFTS: Steve Jenkins Family

Sun. Dec. 11, 2016 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Eileen Cooper

USHERS: Kurt & Anne Holscher

COMMUNION MIN: Mike & Jona Uptmor

SERVERS: Greyson Holscher, Mallory Mosbey

GIFTS: Eric Mosbey Family

Sun. Dec. 11, 2016 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Anita Kocher

USHERS: Keith Matson, Ethan Matson

COMMUNION MIN: Bob & Kourtney Coffman

SERVERS: Taylor Blank

GIFTS: Blank Family

Sun. Dec. 11 2016 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Courtney Ferris

USHERS: Karen Free, Roselene Quick

COMMUNION MIN: Teresa Gower, Roselene Quick

SERVERS: Breanna Briggs, Joe Quick

GIFTS: Gerod Briggs Family

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



Our first parents made a big mistake. When Adam ate of the tree, he disobeyed a divine command. Behind this primordial rebellion stands a man who wanted to be like God, but without God. It does not require faith to see that sinful Adam’s pride continues to display itself in the world. The forbidden fruit represents the many ways that human beings try to live without God. Adam & Eve, we are told, promptly discovered the punishment for their sin. The God whom they once loved, they began to fear. From the God whose company they once enjoyed, they began to hide. Our generation has grown callous. A thousand different things persuade us that the human creature can prosper without the Creator. And so we continue to make mistakes, even big mistakes, about what brings human beings happiness. We, however, may not quickly realize our errors. In order to rejoice in the Immaculate Conception, one must accept that sinful humanity still presses toward living without God & not in accord with divine wisdom. This admission should not depress the Christian believer, however. For today we behold the only member of our race preserved from every stain of sin. In Mary Immaculate, we can “exist for the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:12). But for this change to happen, we can’t hide from her. Hail, Mary! Reflection based on Luke 1:26-38

Father Romanus Cessario. O.P.  
Blessed Mother Mary! Receive me as your child. Help me to discover in your Immaculate Conception the assurance that one day I will enter into the presence of God’s glory.

## Pastoral Council Meeting

Dec. 6, 2016 at 6:00 pm at OLOL’s Pastoral Council Meeting.

## Christmas Choir



We will be practicing on Sunday mornings during Advent from 9:00 am-10:00 am. Next practice Sun. Dec. 11, 2016.

## Advent Nursing Home Project

All tags & unwrapped gifts must be returned by Wed. Dec. 14th.

## Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for the Second Sunday of Advent

Today's passage from Isaiah is a reminder of the Jesse Tree, a symbol used in Advent. Today it serves many purposes, but its origin is in Isaiah's prophecy. The real Jesse Tree is the genealogical family tree of Jesus. In art, the earliest known depiction of the Tree of Jesse is found in an illuminated Gospel Book created in 1086 to honor the anniversary of the coronation of Czech King Vratislav II. The most famous depiction of the Tree of Jesse is the Jesse Tree Window in Chartres Cathedral made between 1140 and 1150.

The usual depiction of the Jesse Tree shows Jesse, the father of David, asleep with a tree or vine growing from his side or navel (reminiscent of the taking of the rib from Adam). Various people from Scripture (particularly those listed in the genealogies of Matthew and Luke, and always Mary) are depicted in the branches from the base of the tree until, finally, at the top is Jesus. Isaiah's passage today is one of the most beautiful in Scripture. It describes a leader sent from God who would bring peace to the world. This was an intensely important image of hope. The Kingdom of Judah had had a succession of kings, one worse than the last. At this point in Isaiah, King Ahaz was on the throne.

Ahaz, who ascended the throne of his father, King Jotham, inherited a kingdom surrounded by powerful enemies & troubled by internal division. Eventually Ahaz found himself under siege by both the Kingdom of Israel to his north & the kingdom of Syria to his south. Isaiah's prior message to the King had been simple: If Ahaz would stay faithful to Yahweh & keep the Kingdom of Judah faithful, Judah would triumph. But, King Ahaz did not trust God. Instead, to save his throne, King Ahaz entered into an alliance with Assyria, a country feared by Israel & Syrian-an alliance that came with a cost.

Ahaz had to surrender the religion of Yahweh &, instead, worship the gods of Assyria. To worship Assyria's gods, Ahaz even went so far as to practice child sacrifice with his own son. Judah could hardly have been moved any further away from Yahweh. With the kingdom losing its soul, Isaiah turned his attention to the people to offer them hope. The stump of Jesse, meaning the royal line, was being cut down; however, he assured the people, the line of Jesse would not end.

John the Baptist's message, by contrast, is harsh. When the ancient Roman historian Josephus wrote, trying to explain the baptism of John, he said that a person has to earn "baptism" by practicing justice & purity. While not exactly true, it helps to explain John's harshness with the Sadducees & the Pharisees. John did not think they had made themselves ready for what was to come; therefore, baptizing them would be unacceptable. "Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down."

What of us? Must we reform anything about ourselves? We do not believe we have to earn baptism. It is freely offered; however, if we did have to measure up to John's standard, if we had to be practicing justice & purity, would we be able to earn baptism? If not, what must we reform?

We work at our faith to one degree or another. We try to give our checks to charity & other good causes. We think of ourselves as believers & followers of Christ. So then, reform into what? Isaiah gives us the vision. He describes the savior of Israel. He gives us something to look to and something to strive for. Perhaps this Advent is time for us to look at ourselves & see if we have this vision of ourselves.

We are part of the Tree of Jesus. Through Christ we have become part of the royal House of David. We have been offered a place in the House of God. It is said that a large inheritance from an ancestor lasts only three generations until it had been used by descendants. Have we squandered the inheritance of Jesse? Have we spent everything Jesus has given us? King Ahaz lost his inheritance because of his self-interest. He was more interested in preserving his throne than in preserving his faith & his country. Has our self interest caused us to choose ourselves over the Kingdom of God?

The tender stem of Jesse is our hope & our promise. Not only have we received this hope, this inheritance, it is ours to invest & pass on to our own descendants. We should ready ourselves for Christ's coming, making sure our tree is not one that needs to be cut down!

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### 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, ay, 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 &, 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 or hopes & desires. In 1985, portant the poor have the Good news brought to them.

The Fourth Sunday reveals to us the message 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.

## St. Elizabeth & OLOL's Parish Dec. Schedule

Sunday, December 4, 2016 Christmas Dinner 4:00 pm

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Holy Day Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass 5:30 pm OLOL

Thursday, December 8, 2016 Holy Day Feast of the Immaculate Conception Masses at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm St. Elizabeth

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

## Advent Penance Service



This holy & sacred season of ADVENT is a time of spiritual reflection & preparation as we ready our hearts through sacrifice, prayer, generosity, & contrition. This sacred season before the birth of Jesus is a perfect

opportunity to consider those choices & decisions that we have freely made in which we have turned away from God seeking our own desires & will. Even though confession or celebrating the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is not some action that most of us look forward to, it is of the utmost importance because in order to ask God for His faithful & merciful forgiveness within our hearts for the rebirth of the miracle of love, we need to begin anew in our relationship with God as well as strive to love & be merciful in the Spirit of God's Presence & Grace. St. Elizabeth Parish & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will celebrate ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE on Mon. Dec. 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm in St. Elizabeth Church. There will be 2 priests hearing confessions that evening. Father Ron Hilt from St. Mary's in Paris will be here to help Father Flach.

## Retirement For Religious Fund Collection



Retirement For Religious Fund Second Collection will be on Sunday, December 11, 2016.

## Catholic Children's Home Second Collections

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



## Special Thanks

Special Thanks to the women of our Parish for serving Thanksgiving dinner at Heritage Health Care Center. It was great that two teens, Abby Ferris & Cydnee Weber joined in the community service.

## 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, Nov. 27, 2016  
Envelopes: \$ 2,617.00 Loose: \$ 281.00 Building Fund \$20.00  
Online Thru Give Central \$80.00 Christmas Flowers \$568.00

Campaign for Justice & Hope \$25.00  
Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 3,591.00  
CCW for Arlene Schutte \$25.00 Total to date: \$8,210.00

### Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week Ending Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016  
Envelopes \$520.00 Loose \$86.00 Christmas Flowers \$240.00  
Catholic Campaign Collection \$40.00  
Edith Smith Food Pantry \$53.00 Total Deposit: \$939.00

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 12-05/12-09-16



Mon. Dec. 5, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 35:1-10  
Gospel Luke 5:17-26

Tues. Dec. 6, 2016 Reading 1 40:1-11  
Gospel Mt. 18:12-14

Wed. Dec. 7, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 40:25-31  
Gospel Mt. 11:28-30

Thurs. Dec. 8, 2016 Reading 1 Gen. 3:9-15, 20  
Reading 2 Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12 Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Fri. Dec. 9, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 48:17-19  
Gospel Mt. 11:16-19

Please remember to attend weekly Mass