



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.

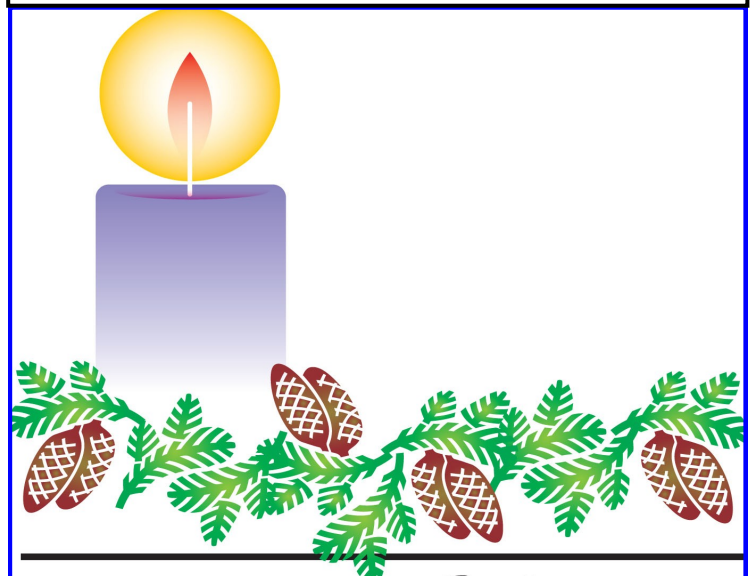
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at St. Elizabeth 3:45 pm or by appointment

Sunday , November 27 2016 First Sunday of Advent



These students participated in the Christmas Parade Sat. Nov. 19, 2016.



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*



Mass Intentions

Sat. Nov. 26	4:30 pm	Special Intentions by Keith & Patti Buercklin
Sun. Nov. 27	7:30 am	Charles Parkhurst by Donna Parkhurst & Family
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Mon. Nov. 28	7:30 am	Ed Halter by Holscher Family
Tues. Nov. 29	12:05 pm	Vera Kirts by Maymie Ikemire
Wed. Nov. 30	7:30 am	Michael Kirts by Kirts Family
Thurs. Dec. 1	7:30 am	Harry Bohman by George & Jane Bohman
	7:30 am	Anthony O'dell by George & Jane Bohman
Fri. Dec. 2	5:30 pm	Lloyd Shook by Karen Sanders
<u>First Friday of the Month Mass OLOL</u>	4:30 pm	Jane Brown by Hugh & Celeste White
Sat. Dec. 3	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Sun. Dec. 4	10:30 am	Ira Inboden by Phyllis Inboden

Prayer Requests

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



Ministry Schedule

Sat. Dec. 3 ~ Sun. Dec. 4, 2016

Sat. Dec. 3, 2016 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Geri Ezell

USHERS: Mike & Susan Emmerich

COMMUNION MIN: Patti Buercklin

Kitty Platt

SERVERS: Eva Hermann, Jared Hermann

GIFTS: Mark Hermann Family

Sun. Dec. 4, 2016 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Janet Jenkins

USHERS: Clarence Schutte, Randy Schutte

COMMUNION MIN: Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher

SERVERS: Sarah Rynke

GIFTS: Kurt Holscher Family

Sun. Dec. 4, 2016 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Lori Davis

USHERS: Ron & Ethel Dhom

COMMUNION MIN: Mary Patchett, Wilmer Wilson

SERVERS: J. Hermann

GIFTS: Keith Wirey Family

Sun. Dec. 4, 2016 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Roselene Quick

USHERS: Ed & Linda Reis

COMMUNION MIN: Sean & April Sexton

SERVERS: David Staller, Sarah Staller

GIFTS: Clark Myers Family

Collection Counters: November, 2016-Ione Lopicollo, Carol Wong, Karen Reinoehl

Please remember to attend weekly Mass



PSR & Youth Events

On 11/30, 12/7 and 12/14, Father Flach will be having an Advent Service in the "big room" of the Parish Center for ALL PSR classes and teachers. Parents are encouraged to attend. This will begin at 6:30 pm on each of these evenings.

The Advent Season

The Advent Season is recognized as a season of preparation in a spirit of JOYFUL HOPE which begins on Sunday, November 27, 2016. We joyfully anticipate the BIRTH of CHRIST JESUS by not only preparing our souls & hearts to be a more worthy place for God's Presence, but we also decorate our Churches. During this special & holy season of grace, you notice that the color of purple is used to help us in the spirit of renewal, repentance & conversion. We will once again decorate our sanctuary with the Advent Wreath which reaffirms our belief that Jesus is the Light of the World. Wreaths normally consist of a circle of evergreens. The circular shape symbolizes the everlasting nature of God & His Love. The evergreens represent the continuing & everlasting life that comes from God through Jesus Christ. The four large candles (three purple & one pink) mark the four weeks of Advent & help us to turn away from sin & toward God. The pink candle reminds us that we can rejoice because we are drawing near to the feast of Christmas. May we use these special days of the Advent Season to help us prepare for the BIRTH OF LOVE in our lives & our hearts & souls on Christmas Day. ~PRAYER FOR ADVENT~ God of Life, We rejoice in the promise of Your coming. You have sent Your Son, born in Bethlehem. He is the Prince of Peace, & The One in whose name all oppression shall cease. May we welcome His coming each day and prepare for his coming at the end of time. May we build a culture that welcomes Him by welcoming every child, born & unborn. We pray through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen. Advent Prayer Come, O Lord! "For they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord's return to Zion." Isaiah 52:8. Lord, help us to wait with patience & anticipation, not caught up in the rush of the season, but resting in your ever-present love.



MANY SINCERE THANKS: A special THANK YOU at this time of Thanksgiving for all of those parishioners who donated to the N.O.W. (Nutrition On Weekends) on behalf of St. Elizabeth Parish. Many thanks to all of our Parish School Of Religion students, parishioners, & the Crawford County Men's Group who assembled 130 bags for the children throughout the community. THANK YOU for your generosity & concern.



Our Sympathies

Our sympathies to the Terry Roche family at the loss of Terry's father ~Donald Roche who passed away on Mon. Nov. 21, 2016. He was 94 years young.

Advent Nursing Home Project

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

A child was taken to a Christmas tree lot for the first time by his father, He asked, "Daddy, what do people do with these trees?" The father responded, "These are Christmas trees. We're going to pick one and take it home and decorate it." "But, Daddy," said the son, "Christmas trees aren't real trees; they're plastic, and they already have lights on them."

There was a time when great effort was spent on going to a Christmas tree lot, picking out a tree, getting it home and into a stand, and finally getting lights and decorations on it. Eventually the cost of a real Christmas tree and the amount of time it took to get it in a stand and decorate it made it popular to purchase artificial pre-lit trees. Quite a few even hire professional Christmas tree decorators!

There was a time, too, & in recent memory, when there was no such thing as pre-tied bows & stretchy ribbon that does not require cutting & tying. Choices in paper were few. You do not have to be too old to remember when we had to actually wrap a present, cut & tie the ribbon & make the bow ourselves. Now many people grab a stack of decorated sacks, throw them in some Christmas colored tissue, and "Behold, a present!" Children can surprise us with their observations of the world as they see it. Without the memories of how things used to be, they live a life of fast food, impatience, & not much discipline when it comes to anything requiring the investment of time. Even as adults we can be so anxious to celebrate Christmas that we begin celebrating even before the day arrives. There is little chance to anticipate & savor. Not only children beg to open presents early! The truth is that most of us very much look forward to Christmas, but many of us also very much dread the stress of Christmas. Advent is a wonderful time in our church year, yet all too often it is overwhelmed by the race to Christmas. We should see Advent as a very precious gift to us—a gift that gives an opportunity to focus on what lies ahead, keeping us from racing to Christmas then failing to enjoy it because at our breakneck speed we rushed through Christmas & hardly noticed it. Advent enables us to put on the brakes. It is a gift that teaches us to wait. It is a gift that teaches us patience. It is a gift that gives us the opportunity to remember Christmases long ago & lets us make new memories while savoring the old. The stories of Advent are stories of thrilling expectation, stories of hope, stories of joy.

Christmas Choir

The Choir will be singing at the 4:00 pm mass on Christmas Eve. We will be practicing on Sunday mornings during Advent from 9:00 am-10:00 am. Next practice on Sun. Dec. 4, 2016.



Christmas Parish Dinner

The Pastoral Council of St. Elizabeth & Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish is coordinating the Christmas Dinner & the members are happy to invite you to be present. The menu for our Christmas Dinner will be turkey, pork roast, mashed potatoes, dressing, green beans. Please bring a salad or dessert. The entertainment for our dinner will be the Oblong High School Chorus under the direction of Sara Boehl & they will be singing both religious & festive seasonal songs. Santa will be making an appearance with a special gift for each child. There will be an ornament exchange. If you are interested in participating in this, please bring a Christmas ornament to exchange. It is the hope & prayer of all the members of the Pastoral Council that all of the members of our Parishes will feel warmly welcomed & that you will be present. If you are unable to come, you will be missed. Please check your calendars for SUN. DEC. 4, 2016 AT 4:00 PM.

The word advent means "coming." What is coming? What is coming is the completion of the Kingdom of God when Christ returns. As is the case today, in the beginning of Advent we are not called to look directly at Christmas but to look beyond it. Our readings, especially the first reading from Isaiah, offer us a vision of what Christmas made possible. The Preface for Mass today refers to Christ's first coming, then continues by saying that the first coming "opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when He comes again in glory & majesty & all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise." The promise is the first reading: On that day we will live on the "mountain of the Lord's house."

Isaiah was dealing with the fact that Jerusalem had faced attack by former allies & had ended up a vassal of Assyria. People were living in the pain & fear of a violent world of uprisings & conquests, not entirely unlike what is happening in the Holy Land today. Isaiah's point was that, despite appearances to the contrary, God is still in charge. Jerusalem is build on top of a hill which Isaiah refers to as the "mountain of the Lord's house." After the years of war, fighting & bloodshed, God's power will eventually cause people to learn to live together & forget the ways of war.

Advent is a gift that allows us to look at our frightening world, yet still have confidence & hope. Isaiah speaks of a world without war & violence. We look past Christmas now so that when we do focus on Christmas, it will mean much, much more. The trees & wrapping are not bad things, but they must be used to help us build anticipation while living in patience, waiting for our God who has not only come once but will come again. If we race too fast through Advent, it too will be artificial.

The Advent Wreath Tradition

Advent is meant to be a preparation time for the coming of Jesus, a time of anticipating with joyful expectation that His birth will be commemorated at Christmas. The Advent Wreath is a very old tradition, probably originating in the time of the Renaissance in middle European countries. Now, many families create their own version & use it in their preparation for the coming of Jesus. It can be elaborate or simple, suiting one's own good taste. It can be suspended or placed on a table. Pine boughs, cedar holly or ribbon can be used & placed for four candles equidistant about the wreath must be created. The candles are normally three purple & one rose. Some families replace the candles at Christmas with red or white & add a dominate candle in the center. On Sat. before the first Sunday of Advent, the family gathers to bless the wreath. Prayer: O GOD, WHO SANCTIFIES ALL, BLESS THIS WREATH & GRANT THAT WE MAY USE IT TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE BABY JESUS & THAT WE MAY RECEIVE ABUNDANT GRACE. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN. 1st week, 1 candle lighted at mealtime. Prayer: O JESUS, COME, THAT BY YOUR PROTECTION WE MAY BE RESCUED FROM THE DANGER OF SIN & SAVED BY YOUR GRACE. 2nd week, 2 candles lighted at mealtime. Prayer: O LORD, EXCITE OUR MINDS THAT WE MAY PREPARE FOR YOUR SON & BE MADE WORTHY TO WELCOME HIM WITH LOVE. 3rd week, 3 candles lighted at mealtime, 1 rose color. Prayer: JESUS, WE AWAIT THEE, HELP US TO BE MORE LOVING WITH ALL YOUR PEOPLE. 4th week, 4 candles lighted at mealtime. Prayer: COME, JESUS, COME, COME & BRING PEACE & JOY WHICH CAN ONLY RESULT FROM LOVE OF YOU.

Holy Day of Obligation ~ The Sacred Feast Of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Why do we celebrate this Holy Day in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary? What does this special feast teach us? What are we to learn spiritually from this solemnity honoring the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God? Through this Solemnity, the Church reminds us of God's tremendous love for us in making it possible for Jesus to enter our humanity through the chosen vessel of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Christians reasoned that the Son of God could not enter the world through something or someone touched by Original Sin. A perfect nature cannot be born from someone touched by a sinful nature. Today, we do not so much celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary as we celebrate that God did something that made salvation possible. All of this, however, is about an act of God. What about today? When we received the Sacrament of Baptism, through the anointing with the oil of chrism & Baptism & the pouring of the Holy Water over our foreheads, we received the gift of Sanctifying Grace which brings to us the saving action of Christ thus freeing us from the effects of Original sin. Given to the Blessed Virgin Mary even prior to her conception, it allowed Mary to be born untouched by sin & left her open to constantly choose God's Will. On this Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we celebrate that receiving this grace ourselves through Baptism, we have a power within us to defeat evil & to usher in grace & blessings. This feast teaches us what Mary could do by grace. Today's celebration reminds us of our own potential to foster God's Love in our everyday lives. We can be channels of goodness & light.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Wed. Dec. 7, 2016 at 5:30 pm at Our Lady Of Lourdes Church & on Thurs. Dec. 8, 2016 at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm in St. Elizabeth Church.

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church RE-KEYED



OLOL's Church will soon be getting a new key. After Dec. 1, 2016, if you are in need of a key, please contact Fr. Flach at the Parish Office. Thank you & God bless 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, Nov. 20, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 2,325.76 Loose: \$ 318.00 Caritas \$85.00
Online Thru Give Central \$80.00 Christmas Flowers \$105.00

Campaign for Justice & Hope \$220.00
Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 3,133.76

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week Ending Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016
Total Deposit \$822.00 God Bless You.

Contractual Agreement for use of OLOL's Church

If you are interested in reserving OLOL's Church for a future event, please be aware that there is in effect as of Dec. 1, 2016, a contractual agreement for you to sign with a fee of \$50.00. The agreements will be at the Parish Center in Robinson.



Daily Mass Readings 11-28-16/12-02-16

Nov. 28, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 4:2-6 Gospel Mt. 8:5-11
Nov. 29, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 11:1-10 Gospel Luke 10:21-24
Nov. 30, 2016 Reading 1 Rom. 10:9-18 Gospel Mt. 4:18-22
Dec. 1, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 26:1-6 Gospel Mt. 7:21, 24-27
Dec. 2, 2016 Reading 1 Is. 29:17-24 Gospel Mt. 9:27-31

Liturgical Ministry Schedules 2017

The LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES for St. Elizabeth for the months of January & February, 2017 will be available in the vestibule of the Church on top of the counter on December 3 & 4, 2016. If there are any changes to be made in the schedule, please contact Fr. Flach when these changes occur. Thank you.