



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

Phone Number: (618) 544-7526

Fax Number: (618) 544-9327

E-mail: crawford_catholics@rocketmail.com

Web Site: www.crawfordcountycatholics.com

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



Church
Office Hours

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 25, 2016 Christmas Day



**And she shall bring forth
a son, and thou shalt call
His name Jesus: for He
shall save His people from
their sins.**

Matthew 1:21



Mass Intentions

Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Anna Lucille Hawkins by Ginger Osborne Family
	7:00 pm	Twila Hoover by Wirey Family
	9:00 pm	Clarence & Jean Loy by Beverly Mullins Family
Dec. 25	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 26	7:30 am	NO MASS
Dec. 27	12:05 pm	Ed Halter by Holscher Family
Dec. 28	7:30 am	Madonna Kirts by Larry Kirts
Dec. 29	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
Dec. 30	7:30 am	Juozapo Aidt & Gerry Davis By Francis & Ann Schalasky
Dec. 31	4:30 pm	Special Intentions by Keith & Patti Buercklin
	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Jan. 1	9:00 am	Edith Smith by Jerry Smith
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

NO MASS

There will be no Mass on Monday, December 26, 2016 at 7:30 am.



Ministry Schedule

Sat. Dec. 31, 2016~ Sun. Jan. 1, 2017

Sat. Dec. 31, 2016 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth ~ New Year's Eve

LECTOR: Karen Sanders

USHERS: Jack & Marylin Stanley

COMMUNION MIN: Joe Hepner

Linda Reis

SERVERS: Keagen Tuel, Anthony Tran

GIFTS: Jack Stanley Family

Sun. Jan. 1, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth ~ New Year's Day

LECTOR: Mike Uptmor

USHERS: Steve & Janet Jenkins

COMMUNION MIN: Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher

SERVERS: Matthew Jenkins

GIFTS: Randy Schutte Family

Sun. Jan. 1, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes ~ New Year's Eve

LECTOR: Kourtney Coffman

USHERS: Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson

COMMUNION MIN: Jim & Nancy Ping

SERVERS: J. Hermann

GIFTS: Richard Kocher Family

Sun. Jan. 1, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth ~ New Year's Day

LECTOR: Patti Buercklin

USHERS: Karen Free, Roselene Quick

COMMUNION MIN: Sean & April Sexton

SERVERS: Madalyn Myers, Lauren Staller

GIFTS: Matthew Hartrich Family

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


Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:
Anthony O'dell, Lori Brown, Maxine Cook, Renee Craig, Mike Dorn, Susan Hills, Logan Inboden, Laurie Jenkins, Bill Meirink, Jay Ping, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Jeannie Veach, Vickie Wilson, Joel York & and all the men & women in the armed forces.

PSR & Youth Events

There will be PSR on Wed. Jan. 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

A BLESSED & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

 I am pleased & happy to offer you & your loved ones my sincere & prayerful wishes for a BLESSED & HOLY CHRISTMAS. This special feast brings families together. It reveals sentiments of friendship, loyalty, affection, & generosity. This outpouring of love within us is a true reflection of the love of God the Father who through the Holy Spirit gave His Divine Son to us at the very First Christmas. CHRISTMAS without Christ, without a deep & religious meaning loses its importance in our spiritual lives. This is why we gather in prayer on this solemn & joyful day to allow God's Love to come ever more deeply into our hearts. As we gather around the crib of the Infant Jesus remembering that first Christmas morning, we celebrate the miracle of the mystery of God coming among us as we realize the depth of that love as we contemplate this saving & redeeming love. Through the birth of the CHRIST CHILD, OUR SAVIOR, we perceive the many outpourings of God's Love & we accept the invitation of our faith to live in the spirit of cooperation & good will each day.

In Sincere Gratitude

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in our hearts through the incarnation of LOVE, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all of your Christmas greetings & gifts. Your expression of love at this most holy season blesses my heart with gratitude to God for allowing me to serve as your priest at St. Elizabeth Parish & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. I am also sincerely grateful to all those parishioners who have expressed & revealed God's Love through their expressed faithful & dedicated service. For fear that I might overlook someone in naming everyone, please know of my gratitude for all that you do for St. Elizabeth Parish & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Your service in any way is deeply appreciated. May God bless each of you with a Holy & Blessed Christmas & a peaceful & healthy New Year of 2017!



Christmas Blessings

May all the day of all the years that God has still in store be filled with every joy & grace to bless you more & more; May hope of heart & peace of mind beside you ever stay and that's the golden wish I have for YOU, this CHRISTMAS DAY! May all the BLESSINGS of the CHRIST CHILD be yours this Holy Christmas & may His Divine Presence enrich your life in the New Year.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for The Sacred Feast of the Birth of Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ

What we celebrate today is so incredible it is hard to grasp what has happened. What God has done is almost incomprehensible ~ the mystery so big & so deep that at times its meaning & significance is lost on us. We see Christmas trees & decorative lights, we see presents, we hear the familiar carols, & we see Santa everywhere. We watch television specials from Rudolph to the Grinch. We make room for the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present & Future, & we imagine outdoing the generosity of the redeemed Scrooge. We relish our memories of childhoods past: meeting Santa, riding in the car with the family to see outdoor decorations, wondering how Santa got to everyone's house in the same night. Because we can lose the significance of Christmas, the sometimes frustrating, sometimes stressful & always frenetic sights & sounds of Christmas are important. We even bring this frenzy into our churches. Each year we make pilgrimages to our parishes for parties, to assemble Christmas food baskets & to help with other charities. Parents go to our "Children's Liturgy," & go to the magnificent Midnight Mass. The trees, the lights, the gifts, the parties, the television specials, the Christian services, & our Masses each have their role-the Mass definitely more important than the others-but each helps us fathom that what has happened is so incredible that it is almost beyond our ability to comprehend. Yet, if we've done these things properly, they help us remember that God has entered our lives. However, there is a limit to the power of our Christmas traditions & symbols. While they can be powerful & evocative outwardly, they do not always take us to that deep place in the heart where we ask, "What does it mean?" What does it mean that "God is with us"? Although we celebrate that God has done something, we often have a problem understanding its meaning because we ask the wrong question. At Christmas, we should not ask, "What does Christmas mean?" We should ask instead, "What does Christmas do?" Eventually we have to move past our colorful & exciting images & memories & return to Bethlehem. Here the images are very different. Here we see only a weary couple far from home, a husband & wife struggling to find comfort as they share the joy of a new child, a joy shared only by a few shepherds huddles together with their flocks near the manger.

In this image, everything is quiet, still & stark in its simplicity. We feel drawn & attached to this incredible & amazing silence that stands in startling contrast to the more public, noisy sights & sounds of Christmas. There is comfort in this silence. The Scriptures speak of salvation, & theologians the in-breaking of the Divine. But as intellectually satisfying as this talk can be, it never really speaks to the heart of those who long for the warm silence of Christmas Eve. Here we do not want words. We want only the silence. We need the silence that descends upon the home after the kids are in bed & after Santa has come. We want that tired & still moment of a mother & father sitting together before their tree, lost together in silent thoughts of their children. In this comfortable, cozy silence we understand that couple at the manger. We see what Christmas does. Not all of us are privileged to rejoice in the gift of marriage or children on Christmas Eve, but we know the image. We can see it in Mary & Joseph who stared at their child in a manger & pondered these things in their hearts. The silence of Christmas not only tells us of love, it lets us be in love. Our God has entered this world to whisper to us that He loves us, & in the same silence we realize how much we love Him. The dream that is given to us is that in the silence we have come to know that we can love each other. None of us wants the silence to end because then we will wake & know that the dream of the night is not yet fully upon us. But each Christmas reminds us that the gift is here if we wish to unwrap it & use it. We cannot contain our joy so we can celebrate in crazy ways, but we still rush to our "Silent Night," hoping that it will never end, longing for the day that the gift of God's powerful, unexplainable love is shared among us all.



CHRISTMAS GRACES



A great light shines forth (Isaiah 9:1); the light of Jesus' birth shines all about us...Our heart was already joyful in awaiting this moment; now that joy abounds & overflows, for the promise has been at least fulfilled.

Joy & gladness are a true sign that the message contained in the mystery of this

night is truly from God. There is no room for doubt; let us leave that to the skeptics who, by looking to reason alone, never find the truth. There is no room for the indifference which reigns in the hearts of those unable to love for fear of losing something. All sadness has been banished, for the Christ Jesus brings true comfort to every heart.

Today, the Son of God is born, & everything changes. The Savior of the world comes to partake of our human nature; no longer are we alone & forsaken. The Virgin offers us her Son as the beginning of a new life. The true light has come to illumine our lives so often beset by the darkness of sin. Today, we once more discover who we are! Tonight we have been shown the way to reach the journey's end. Now must we put away all fear & dread, for the light shows us the path to Bethlehem. We must not be laggards; we are not permitted to stand idle. We must set out to see our Savior lying in a

Manger. This is the reason for our joy & gladness: this Child has been born to us; he was given to us, as Isaiah proclaims (cf. 9:5)...

If we take him in our arms & let ourselves be embraced by Him, He will bring us unending peace of heart...From now on, the way of authentic liberation & perennial redemption is open to every man & woman who is simple of heart...In a society so often intoxicated by consumerism & hedonism, wealth & extravagance, appearances & Narcissism, this Child calls us to act soberly, in other words, in a way that is simple, balances, consistent, capable of seeing & doing what is essential. In a world which all too often is merciless to the sinner & lenient to the sin, we need to cultivate a strong sense of justice, to discern & to do God's will. Amid a culture of indifference which not infrequently turns ruthless, our style of life should instead be devout, filled with empathy, compassion, & mercy, drawn daily from the wellspring of prayer. Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too, with eyes full of amazement & wonder, gaze upon the Child Jesus, the Son of God. And in His presence may our hearts burst forth in prayer:

**Show us, Lord,
your mercy,
& grant us your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)**

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.

The Big Divvy

It's once again that time of year...time for the *Big Divvy* Mega Raffle. The Big Divvy has the potential to generate between \$13,000 and \$14,000 for our parishes. Funds generated from the Mega Raffle have helped our Parishes in many ways; religious education, audio / video system in the hall, our carillon, church insulation and many others. This year's funds will go to help our youth programs and youth center.

The prizes will be the same as last year.

First Prize	\$7000
2 nd Prize	\$1500
3 rd Prize	\$ 500
4 th Prize	\$ 400
5 th Prize	\$ 300
6 th Prize	\$ 200
7 th Prize	\$ 100

We will also have two \$100 early bird drawings after 10:30 Mass on January 29th and February 12th. Those tickets will go back into the Spinner for the Grand prize drawings.

Grand Prize winners will be drawn at 9:00 PM at the Mardi Gras Party held at QCCC on February 25th. If the First Prize Winner is present at the Mardi Gras, they will win an additional \$500...If present 2nd Prize will win an additional \$250. The Seller of the winning ticket will win \$100 and the individual selling the most tickets will also win \$100.

Tickets are \$25 each and we will sell only 1000 tickets so your odds of winning are 1 out of 1000.....much better than the lottery!

You may pick up tickets to sell from either Terry Roche or from the parish office. Our committee needs to be our entire parish, so we hope that you will all help in this endeavor. Tickets will also be on sale at all masses.

WE NEED NEW SELLERS!

Let's make this a great project, have fun and help our parishes in the process.

In advance THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Terry Roche
Big Divvy Chair

Merry Christmas



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
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. 18, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 3,167.00 Loose: \$ 164.00 Building Fund \$ 15.00
Online Thru Give Central \$80.00 Christmas Flowers \$50.00
Christmas Offering \$ 20.00 Caritas \$ 40.00
Religious Fund \$ 520.00 Immaculate Conception \$50.00
Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 4,106.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week Ending Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016
Envelopes \$ 660.00 Loose \$100.00 Caritas \$10.00
Christmas Offering \$10.00 Youth \$25.00 Retirement Fund
\$10.00 Total Church Offerings Deposit: \$815.00

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 12-26-16/12-30-16

Mon. Dec. 26, 2016 Reading 1 Acts 6:8-10 7:54-59

Gospel Mt. 10:17-22

Tues. Dec. 27, 2016 Reading 1 1 John 1:1-4

Gospel Jn.20:1-A & 2-8

Wed. Dec. 28, 2016 Reading 1 1 Jn. 1:5 2:2

Gospel Mt. 2:13-18

Thurs. Dec. 29, 2016 Reading 1 1 Jn. 2:3-11

Gospel Luke 2:22-35

Fri. Dec. 30, 2016 Reading 1 Sirs 3:2-6, 12,14 or Col 3:12
-21 or Col. 3:12-17

Gospel Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23

