



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 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

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Parish Office closed from 8:00 am~12:00 noon

Monday open from 1:00 pm~4:00 pm

Tuesday~Thursday 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 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm or by appointment

Sunday, January 1, 2017 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God New Year's Day

**Holy Mary,
Mother
of God,
and
our Mother,
please pray
for us!**



And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, & the babe lying in a manger.
And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2: 16 - 21



Mass Intentions

Dec. 31 New Year's Day	4:30 pm	Special Intentions By Keith & Patti Buercklin
Jan. 1	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	Edith Smith by Jerry Smith
Jan. 2	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	7:30 am	L. Jane Brown by George Brown
	12:05 pm	Anthony O'dell by George & Jane Bohman
Jan. 3	7:30 am	Kevin Seitzinger by Mike & Jona Uptmor
Jan. 4	7:30 am	Mary Hartrich by Eileen & Dave Cooper
Jan. 5	7:30 am	Mary Beth Huss-Culler by Tom Huss
Jan. 6 First Friday of the Month Mass OLOL	5:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Jan. 7	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Jan. 8	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	L. Jane Brown by George Brown



Ministry Schedule

Sat. Jan. 7, ~ Sun. Jan. 8, 2017

Sat. Jan. 7, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Ian Quick

USHERS: John Grimm, Mark Grimm

COMMUNION MIN: Jack Stanley

Marilyn Stanley

SERVERS: Xavier Brown, Jeff Hermann

GIFTS: Don Biernbaum Family

Sun. Jan. 8, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Mike Uptmor

USHERS: David Holscher, Tom Huss

COMMUNION MIN: Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher

SERVERS: Greyson Holscher, Mallory Mosbey

GIFTS: David Holscher Family

Sun. Jan. 8, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Keith Wirey

USHERS: Don & Sharon Fitzmaurice

COMMUNION MIN: Bob & Kourtney Coffman

SERVERS: J. Hermann

GIFTS: Keith Wirey Family

Sun. Jan. 8, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Patti Buercklin

USHERS: Geraldo Rios, Miguel Vega

COMMUNION MIN: Susan Goodwine, Matt Hartrich

SERVERS: Emily Ferris, Evan Ferris

GIFTS: Clark Myers Family

Collection Counters: *January, 2017: Don Brown, Kaye Holscher, Alan Maddox*

Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:
Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, 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

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

Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Liturgy

The Solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God, celebrated on Jan. 1, is the celebration of the doctrine solemnity taught at the Council of Ephesus in 431 that the Word "united flesh to himself from his mother's womb and is said to have undergone begetting in the flesh in order to take to himself flesh of his own" (Denzinger H, No. 251). Mary, therefore, is truly, the Theotokos, the Mother of God, "not certainly because the nature of the Word or his divinity had the origin of its being from the holy Virgin, but because from her was generated his holy body, animated by a rational soul, a body hypostatically united to the Word; and thus it is said that (the Word) was begotten according to the flesh" (Denzinger-H, No., 251). The Solemnity of Mary as Mother of God highlights her "close and indissoluble bond" with Jesus in the history of salvation. After the solemn definition of Mary as Theotokos or birth-giver of God at Ephesus in 431, a solemn feast celebrating Mary as Mother of God began in the East. In the Byzantine Church, it was (and still is) celebrated on Dec. 26, the day after Christmas as the "Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos." (Synaxis is a liturgical gathering or assembly). By the fifth century, the West celebrated the feast in Rome on the Sunday before Christmas, though it was celebrated in Spain on Dec. 18 and in France on Jan. 18. In the Middle Ages, Jan. 1 became the feast of Jesus' circumcision. In 1751, Pope Benedict XIV established the feast of Mary's divine maternity for the first Sunday of May for Portugal and other countries. IN 1914, the feast was moved to Oct. 11. In 1931, to commemorate the 15th centenary of the Council of Ephesus of 431, the feast was extended to the entire Latin rite. In the liturgical reform of 1970, Pope Paul VI moved the feast back to the Octave of Christmas as it was originally celebrated in Rome. Its date was fixed for Jan. 1, and it was elevated to the highest liturgical rank of a solemnity. The decision of Pope Paul VI to move the celebration of Mary's divine maternity to the Octave of Christmas was a way to emphasize "the essential, vital, providential bond" that united Mary to Jesus. The solemnity of Mary as Mother of God reminds us that we cannot understand Jesus without His Mother. The Incarnation took place through Mary's free cooperation with God's providential plan, which is why Mary is united to Christ "by a close and indissoluble bond" (Lumen Gentium, No. 53). In his "Treatise on True Devotion to Mary," St. Louis de Montfort (d. 1716) exclaims: "Lord you are always with Mary, and Mary is always with You" (No. 63). Mary, though, is not only united to Jesus, she is also united to us as our "most beloved mother" (Lumen Gentium, No. 53) and "our Mother in the order of grace" (No. 61).
In honoring Mary as the Mother of God, we give glory to God who humbled himself to share our humanity, becoming incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for the Sacred Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary-the Mother of God

Dear Abby: recently a friend of mine went to a ritzy gala. When dinner was served, she closed her eyes and said a brief and quiet prayer. When she opened them, the people at her table were appalled. One guest admonished her, telling her that, out of respect for others, she shouldn't pray. Was she wrong? What's the proper etiquette? Should she stop saying grace? Published in the Tennessean, Oct. 9, 2014.

Our annual ritual of making New Year's resolutions is an interesting one. According to Wikipedia, the Romans began January by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month is named. Beginning in 1312, knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry. Many Christians prepare for the new year at special services, praying and making New Year's resolutions. Most of our resolutions are really beneficial for us: lose weight, get in shape, quit smoking, fix up the house, make better grades. But we never seem to be able to make the necessary commitment to do what we know we should do. What goes wrong? Why can we not seem to muster the commitment to do what we know we should do? One reason is that our resolutions are made in isolation. We think about things that will be good for me and not about how personal improvements would be good for others. I might not personally be worried about my weight, but if I realize that my spouse worries about my high blood pressure, and that I might not be around to see my children get married, then I might be more motivated to lose weight. If I cannot quit smoking, it might improve my motivation to realize that emphysema might rob my grandchildren of having a grandparent be an active part of their lives. What defines us is our relationships, how deeply we care about those relationships and how committed we are to improving them. Important changes can be made when we see how changes can improve our human relationships-changes that bring happiness-involves improving the most important relationship of all: our relationship with the Lord. Real change comes from an investment in our relationship with God. We are given today the most tender verse in the Scriptures. A new mother in a precious moment of quiet after the storm of delivery cradles her baby. We are told, "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart." As a first step toward improving our relationship with the Lord we, like Mary, must

Spiritual Reflections for the Sacred Feast of the
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
& the NEED FOR PEACE

Close to eighteen million people died as a result of World War I. Whether they were military or civilian, whether they died directly in battle or afterwards due to disease, their lives were lost as a result of warfare. When our Lady appeared in Fatima first on May 13, 1917, the end of the war was still a year and a half away. Her messages, though, during the subsequent monthly visitations were about peace and the need for reparation for sin, especially by praying the rosary. Every January 1, we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and, at the same time, celebrate the World Day of Peace. The Blessed Mother remains at the heart of our peace, for she alone was the instrument chosen to bring the Son of God into this world. She alone is the one who best teaches us how to draw closer to Christ, the Prince of Peace. A famous quote from Saint Augustine reminds us: "Peace is not the absence of war, but the tranquility of order." This "tranquility of order" is not simply nation to nation but the "tranquility of order" within myself: my heart, my mind, my body, my soul. Mary helps each one of us to be ordered to Christ, who alone is our lasting peace, even in times of great warfare, whether it be international or internal. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

reflect on what we have seen and heard. Two of the most disturbing things we hear about are the slow decline of Christianity and the increase in radical, religiously motivated terrorism. We are witnessing grave and dangerous trends in our world. Mary did not know exactly what it would mean to the world to say yes to God and bring God's Son into the world, but she knew that somehow saying yes to God would improve the life of the world. She believed her commitment to God would make a difference. In our efforts to make New Year's resolutions, we should include in our thinking how our resolutions might change the course of not only our own lives but also the lives of those whom we love. Mary's act of taking on the role of being the Mother of Jesus involved trust in God and humility. Mary's choice was deeper than merely being a choice for her personal benefit. It was a choice based on her spirituality. Mary's humility was based in her selfless concern about how her choice would affect others. You and I probably cannot change the course of the world, but among our resolutions, we might include some that can change the course of the lives closest to us. We might even improve others' relationship with God if we resolve to live our faith only slightly more publicly. We might resolve not to surrender our faith and the practice of our faith by doing something as simple as saying our prayer before meals. Perhaps we should risk upsetting people by daring to improve our relationship with Our Lord. Who knows what a change seeing more people pray would make? Maybe it would make more people think about God. A braver faith would certainly improve our relationships with our spouses, children and friends. A braver faith might also reverse the decline in Christianity.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The Blessed Virgin Mary is born to be Mother. The supreme consolation that our Lady receives at the cross of her Son is the assurance that her vocation as Mother does not end with Christ's death. The Lord commands the world, "Behold, your Mother." The Resurrection begins for Mary-and for us-with these words. The Blessed Virgin's womb remains for ever fruitful. Mary leads us to Christ, but Christ leads us back to His Mother, for without Mary's maternity, Jesus would become a mere abstraction to us. The Lord wills to "let his face shine upon" us through the face of the Mother of God. We "serve a Mother who seems to grow more beautiful as new generations rise up and call her blessed" (G.K. Chesterton).

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH GROUPS

Perhaps you are aware that the Junior High Youth Group along with the Senior High Youth Group sponsored a Secret Santa Family for this Christmas. They purchased and wrapped all of the gifts that were given to a family in our parish who would not have had any gifts under the tree this Christmas. These are the thoughts from the family: Our family is grateful to you for helping us to have a joyous and happy Christmas for our children. Without your help, our three children would not have been able to open any gifts on Christmas morning. We just want to say THANK YOU for all you did for us this Christmas. God bless you. A nice round of applause for a job well done by our YOUTH GROUPS. We are all proud of you. God bless you!

DO YOU NEED A HELPING HAND:

One of our parishioners, Anne Holscher, has offered to provide simple light housekeeping for those in our parishes who may be suffering from infirmities.

If Anne could be of help or assistance to you in this regard, please contact Father Flach at 618-544-7526 and he will place you in contact with Anne. Thank you and God bless you.

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 2nd Prize \$1500 3rd Prize \$500

4th Prize \$ 400 5th Prize \$ 300 6th Prize \$200 7th 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

Bible Study

As the holy and sacred season of Lent approaches, you are being invited to accompany Jesus through the events of His Passion, Death and Resurrection in a spiritually enriching and inspiring BIBLE STUDY. In the resource, JESUS'S JOURNEY TO THE CROSS—A LOVE UNTO DEATH, you will be able to follow Jesus on His jubilant entry into Jerusalem, sit with Him during His Last Supper with His chosen apostles, pray beside Him during His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and stand at the foot of the Cross on Golgotha where—WITH A LOVE UNTO DEATH—He offered His life for our salvation. There will be 6 sessions which will include the full Scripture texts to be studied, a short commentary, questions for reflection, discussion, and personal application as well as featuring wisdom from the Saints. During the season of Lent, we are called to deeper conversion and with your participation in the Bible Study you will place yourself firmly on the path to holiness and help you to experience the best spiritual Lent you have ever had. The DATES and TIMES of the BIBLE STUDY are as follows:

Monday, February 20, 2017—6:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday, February 27, 2017—6:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday, March 6, 2017—6:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday, March 13, 2017—6:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday, March 20, 2017—6:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday, March 27, 2017—6:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Parish Center

The session will last ONE HOUR. It is important for you to register before Wednesday, February 1, 2017, by calling the Parish Office at 544-7526 so that a book entitled JESUS'S JOURNEY TO THE CROSS—A LOVE UNTO DEATH can be ordered for you. The cost is \$10.00 per book. Thank you and 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 December 20, 2016, the St. Elizabeth Parish Goal is \$26,747.00 with the amount of \$16,415.00 being pledged and the amount of \$14,315.00 being secured. As of December 20, 2016, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Goal is \$6,556.00 with the amount of \$2,190.00 being pledged and the amount of \$1,680.00 being secured.

Sincere thanks to all those parishioners who have already participated in this important and necessary fundraiser for the Diocese and may God bless you for your devoted and 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. 25, 2016

Envelopes: \$2,422.00 Loose: \$397.00 Caritas \$10.00

Give Central \$80.00 Christmas Flowers \$50.00

Christmas Offering \$1,810.00

Dependent Children \$ 490.00

Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 5,259.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Envelopes will be posted next week

Total Deposit: \$928.05

First Friday of the Month Mass

There will be the First Friday of the Month Mass at OLOL's on Fri. Jan. 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm. Mass is for:

Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family

Daily Mass Readings 01/02/17~01/06/17



Mon. Jan. 2, 2017 Reading 1 1 John 2:22-28

Gospel John 1:19-28

Tues. Jan. 3, 2017 Reading 1 1 John 2:29-3:6

Gospel John 1:29-34

Wed. Jan. 4, 2017 Reading 1 1 John 3:7-10

Gospel John 1:35-42

Thurs. Jan. 5, 2017 Reading 1 1 John 3:11-21

Gospel John 1:43-51

Fri. Jan. 6, 2017 Reading 1 1 John 5:5-13

Gospel Mark 1:7-11