



# 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 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

#### 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 8, 2017 The Epiphany of the Lord



Story found in Matthew 2:1-12

**“Where is the one who  
has been born king of the  
Jews? We saw his  
star when it rose & have  
come to worship him.”**

Matthew 2:2



## Mass Intentions

|         |          |   |
|---------|----------|---|
| Jan. 7  | 4:30 pm  | Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family          |
| Jan. 8  | 7:30 am  | For all parishioners by Fr. Flach         |
|         | 9:00 am  | Special Intentions                        |
|         | 10:30 am | Lorna Jane Brown by George Brown          |
| Jan. 9  | 7:30 am  | Madonna Kirts<br>by Charles & Judy Eckert |
| Jan. 10 | 12:05 pm | Dianna McGowen by Carol Wong              |
| Jan. 11 | 7:30 am  | Amy Togue by Ginger Osborne               |
| Jan. 12 | 7:30 am  | Lorna Jane Brown by Ginger Osborne        |
| Jan. 13 | 4:30 pm  | Arlene Schutte<br>by Randy & Ginny Wendt  |
|         | 7:30 am  | Linda Stewart by the Stewart Family       |
|         | 9:00 am  | For all parishioners by Fr. Flach         |
| Jan. 14 | 10:30 am | Jamie & Perry Ping by Ping Family         |
| Jan. 15 |          | Special Intentions                        |



## Ministry Schedule

*Sat. Jan. 14, ~ Sun. Jan. 15, 2017*

Sat. Jan. 14, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Celeste White

USHERS: Jack & Marylin Stanley

COMMUNION MIN: Kitty Platt

Karen Sanders

SERVERS: Abby Mullins, Lily Ann Mullins, Ty Mullins

GIFTS: Ed Reis Family

Sun. Jan. 15, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Steve & Janet Jenkins

COMMUNION MIN: Mike & Jona Uptmor

SERVERS: Matthew Jenkins

GIFTS: Randy Schutte Family

Sun. Jan. 15, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Lori Davis

USHERS: Ron & Ethel Dhom

COMMUNION MIN: Jim & Nancy Ping

SERVERS: J. Hermann

GIFTS: Adam Davis Family

Sun. Jan. 15 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: April Sexton

USHERS: Ken Deters, Chris Weber

COMMUNION MIN: Jane Bohman, Carol Wong

SERVERS: Owen Schmidt, Joe Quick

GIFTS: Josh Quick 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, 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. 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.  
01-07-17-5th Grade Social Movie Night 6:00 pm-7:30 pm  
01-08-17-Junior High Youth 7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
01-11-2017 PSR 6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
01-18-2017-PSR 6:30 pm -7:30 pm  
01-22-2017 Senior High Youth 7:00 pm-9:00 pm  
01-25-2017 PSR 6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
02-01-2017-PSR 6:30 pm-7:30 pm ACRE TEST 5 & 8

## 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:

Mon. Feb. 20, 2017—6:00 pm St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Mon. Feb. 27, 2017—6:00 pm St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Mon. Mar. 6, 2017—6:00 pm St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Mon. Mar. 13, 2017—6:00 pm St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Mon. Mar. 20, 2017—6:00 pm St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Mon. Mar. 27, 2017—6:00 pm St. Elizabeth Parish Center

The session will last ONE HOUR. It is important for you to register before Wed. Feb. 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.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU



Our Parish Family of St. Elizabeth would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the 2016 MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE for their generous donation to provide for the new flooring in the vestibule and offices of the Parish Center.

This donation came from the proceeds of the 2016 Mardi Gras. We are grateful to each of you who helped on the Mardi Gras last year as we are preparing for our 2017 Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance on Saturday,

February 25, 2017. We hope to sell all 1000 of the Raffle Tickets and hope to see you at the

dinner and dance.  
God bless you.



Please remember to attend weekly Mass

## Fr. Flach Scriptural Reflections for The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Like all ancient feasts, Epiphany has gone through some changes. The Greek word for epiphany could mean either a visible manifestation of a god or the visit of a ruler who was venerated as a god. In the third century, a group called Gnostics celebrated the baptism of the Lord in the belief that it was at that moment the Son of God was really born into the world. It is thought that Epiphany was introduced in reaction to this to celebrate the birth of Jesus, especially in the Eastern churches. As happens over time, the purpose of the feast changed. Following the West, the Eastern churches began celebrating the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi on Dec. 25, and the Baptism of the Lord on Epiphany. In the West, we separated the two events, and now we celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas and the coming of the Magi on Epiphany. In 1857, when John Henry Hopkins wrote, "We Three Kings," Epiphany was the day gifts were exchanged to represent the giving of gifts by the magi. During the 1800's, Christmas trees were taken down on Epiphany. In those days, all the gifts and treats were hung on the tree, unlike the contemporary custom of wrapping gifts and placing them under the tree. Only when the Christmas tree was taken down did children receive their gifts. John Henry Hopkins realized that children no longer connected the gifts on the tree with the gifts brought by the Magi. He wrote his hymn as a gift for his nieces and nephews to help them reconnect gift-giving with the spirit of the giving of gifts by the Magi. Our three readings are about God's gifts. From Isaiah we call to mind the wonderful promise of God to restore Jerusalem (meaning both the city and the people), which had suffered exile in Babylon, to something even greater than its former glory. This was a gift of hope. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, tells of the gift of unity that God has given, a gift of peace and understanding for all people as they stand before God. We have no idea how many Magi there were or where they came from. There are certainly reasons for Matthew presenting these strange "astrologers" as coming from the East, but the more important issue is the gifts themselves. Matthew is teaching us about what God has given us in the

person of Christ; therefore, the gifts of the magi are highly symbolic. Gold was a gift given to a king. Incense was given to a priest for making offerings to God; therefore incense was associated with the divine. Myrrh was used to perfume the body of a person who had died. Originally intended to help hide the smell of death, it became a symbol of suffering and death. All three gifts reveal something of the person and purpose of Jesus, and although today is about celebrating what God has given to us, it is a good occasion to look to the Magi and ask ourselves, "What do I bring to give to God?" The gifts we give-or don't give-reveal something about us and our faith in Jesus as the Son of God. After our "gifts" have been placed on the altar, the priest says, "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father." Are our gifts acceptable? Have we given easy gifts like the gift cards we give when we are not sure what to give or don't have the time to select a gift? While gift cards might assure that the recipients can go buy whatever they want, do gift cards really speak about our affection? Are the gifts we give on the altar to God merely superficial? Are they gifts given because that is what we are supposed to do? Before Christmas, many shoppers buy many things and only later decide who gets what. Do we buy gifts based on what we like or on what the people receiving them like? Do we give God what seems sufficient, or do we give a loving sacrifice? Some people save all year to be able to afford one special gift. Others just buy gifts because they look good or are affordable. What gifts do parents treasure the most? What gifts are saved for years and years? The gifts they keep are the ones handmade by their children. From one point of view, the gifts must be considered ugly, just so much paste, glitter and magic marker; but from a parent's of view, they are the most beautiful gifts they've ever received. We know what God has given to us: the life of His Son. How have our gifts to God matched up? Are they precious in the eyes of the Lord? Do we make the connection between what God has given us and what we give in return?

### CONGRATS TO OUR ENGINEERS & PROBLEM-SOLVERS



In the December 28, 2016 Robinson Newspaper, there appeared several pictures of Robinson High School students. In the top picture, those students recently participated in the Marshall Engineering Contest. Seven students were in the picture and FIVE of them are members of St. Elizabeth Parish. We are happy to offer CONGRATULATIONS to ALEX HERMANN, JEFF HERMANN, DAVID JENKINS, IAN QUICK, and SAM QUICK. The second picture involved Robinson High School Team Quest. The Team Quest is a friendly, competition structured, academic atmosphere filled with creative thinking and problem-solving exercises. In the competition there are an array of hands-on activities, questions and challenges across the curriculums of math, science, social studies, language arts and the fine arts. Four students from the High School were in this picture and THREE OF them are from St. Elizabeth Parish. We congratulate ALEX HERMANN, DAVID JENKINS, and IAN QUICK!



### 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 to a family in our Parish who would not have had any gifts under the Christmas 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 & he will place you in contact with Anne.

## SPIRITUAL READING for the SACRED FEAST OF THE

**HOPE REVEALED:** Far too many Christians get bogged down trying to solve the curiosities of our passage from St. Matthew. They obsess over questions such as, "What was the star? Was it a comet or a conjunction of planets? Who were the Magi? Were they astronomers, astrologers, or perhaps princes or kings? How many magi were there since the Gospel really doesn't say? How did a star lead the Magi to Bethlehem since stars don't move?"

Unfortunately, these questions deflect us from the reasons Matthew wrote this passage for his readers, and it destroys the message of the Epiphany. These questions were never really meant to be asked. They are superficial and off point. We must leave such questions aside so that the story will help us enter into the experience of the mystery the early Christians are trying to share with us. During Jesus' final days among his followers, they were witnesses to events they could not even begin to understand. The early Christians themselves so awed by the events of the life of

Christ that they were only beginning to comprehend what it meant. Our story today is part of Matthew's effort to tell us that the Christians had experienced God, so today we must let this story awe us as it did them. The first followers of Jesus did not have an easy life. They lived in a country that was occupied and governed by a foreign power. Taxation was close to 90 percent. Order was maintained by force, violence and terrorism. Even worship was controlled by the Roman occupiers. The high priest had to go to the army garrison to ask for his vestments in the morning and had to return them in the evening. The heart of Judaism itself was up for grabs among the Pharisees, the Sadducees and other groups.

The average lifespan was only 35 years. Infant mortality was painfully high. By the time surviving children reached 17 years, both parents would have died. Malnutrition was the norm. These people lived a hard, hard life. Into this environment came the One believed to be the Messiah, and they struggled to understand the meaning of His life and teaching. What they knew for sure was that with Jesus hope came into their lives. God had acted. The early Christians had to put into words their experience of God, and Matthew's story helped them understand just who Jesus was. When you entered the presence of a king you always gave a gift, and gold was the gift for a king. When you asked the priests to pray for you, you gave a gift of frankincense so that the priest could offer sacrifice for you. Myrrh was a balm to anoint the dead. These symbolic offerings tell deep truths. Isaiah had

spoken in a time when Israel had also suffered. To introduce hope he told of the expectation that the greatness of Jerusalem would be restored and that it would become more glorious than it had ever been. Aware of that prophecy, the people were coming to understand that Jesus was the king of the hoped for new

Jerusalem. Jesus was a man that the heavens and Magi bowed to, but he as also a man willing to be sacrificed for the sake of hope.

The early Christians did not fully understand this mystery, but they experienced it and were awed by it, and their awe enabled them to look at the world in which they lived in a different way. Mysteries lead to revelation. God is bigger than any of us, and His ways are beyond our comprehension. Yet Paul lets us know that God wants us to understand Him. He wants us in the mystery of His existence. The very fact that God entered the world in the person of Jesus reveals to us that He wants us to see, to hear and to understand. Our world is fraught with troubles too. The

Christian faith is being assailed like no time in modern history. Terrorism is the rule in too much of the world. Epidemics scare us. We are cynical about our government. We fear losing our freedom. Epiphany reminds us to have hope. Epiphany reminds us that God has revealed himself in the person of Christ. Despite all the bad, God is in our world. There are bad people in our world, but counting up the kings, the good outweigh the bad three to one. Epiphany invites us to enter into the mystery & have hope.

## 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, January 1, 2017  
Envelopes: \$1,602.00 Loose: \$228.00 Caritas \$40.00  
Give Central \$80.00 Christmas Offering \$45.00  
Dependent Children \$ 25.00 Catholic Times \$75.00  
Building Fund \$140.00 Solemnity of Mary \$605.00  
First Offering \$280.00  
Total Church Offerings Deposit \$ 3,120.00  
**Our Lady Of Lourdes Church**  
Envelopes will be posted next week for week ending Jan. 1, 2017  
Total Deposit: \$817.25

## Daily Mass Readings 01/09/17~01/13/17

Mon. Jan. 9, 2017 Reading 1 Is. 42:1-4,6-7 or Acts 10:34-38  
Gospel Mt. 3:13-17 Tues. Jan. 10, 2017 Reading 1 Heb. 2:5-12  
Gospel Mk. 1:21-28 Wed. Jan. 11, 2017 Reading 1 Heb. 2:14-18  
Gospel Mk. 1:29-39 Thurs. Jan. 12, 2017 Reading 1 Heb. 3:7-14  
Gospel Mk. 1:40-45 Fri. Jan. 13, 2017 Reading 1 Heb. 4:1-5,11  
Gospel Mk. 2:1-12