



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

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Reverend Father James A. Flash, Pastor

PASTORAL STAFF

Office Manager: Halena Estep

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 Thursday from 8:00 am~5:00 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~12:00 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 Flash.

BAPTISMS

Please contact Fr. Flash for registration and information.

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 Flash 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, December 10, 2017 Second Sunday of Advent



Story found in Mark 1:1~8 ~John the Baptist Prepares the Way

“After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[e] water, but He will baptize you with^[f] the Holy Spirit.” Mark 1:7~8



Mass Intentions

Dec. 9	4:30 pm	Charles Parkhurst by Joe & Carole Hepner
Dec. 10	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Helen & Roger Fabris by Val & Kay Pescatore Special Intentions
Dec. 11	7:30 am	Florence Huss by Tom Huss
Dec. 12	12:00 pm	Charles Parkhurst by Joe & Carole Hepner
Dec. 13	7:30 am	NO MASS-PRIEST MEETING
Dec. 14	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 15	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Dec. 16	4:30 pm	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 17	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Loretta Holscher by Dave & Kaye Holscher Loretta & Augustine Pescatore by Val & Kaye Pescatore Special Intentions



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 16, 2017 ~ Sunday, December 17, 2017

Sat. Dec. 16, 2017 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Karen Sanders
USHERS: Mark & Cindy Grimm
COMMUNION MIN: Ginger Osborne, Celeste White
SERVERS: Ella Buntun, Ella Jenkins
GIFTS: Dennis Jenkins Family

Sun. Dec. 17, 2017 7:30 am St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Linda Sikorski
USHERS: Steve & Janet Jenkins
COMMUNION MIN: Jim & Shari Eckert
SERVERS: Jacob Eckert
GIFTS: Ross Holscher Family

Sun. Dec. 17, 2017 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR: Bob Coffman
USHERS: Rich & Anita Kocher
COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Rita Wirey
SERVERS: Cameron Davis
GIFTS: Rich & Anita Kocher

Sun. Dec. 17, 2017 10:30 am St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Ian Quick
USHERS: Ed & Linda Reis
COMMUNION MIN: Phyllis Inboden, Roselene Quick
SERVERS: David Staller, Lauren Staller
GIFTS: Ted Staller Family

Collection Counters:

December, 2017: Carol Bergbower, Don Brown, Ed Reis

Please remember to attend weekly Mass



PSR Upcoming Classes

6:30 pm~ 7:30 pm Dec. 13, 2017 NO PSR Dec. 20 & 27

Scriptural 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 act 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 quotation 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, 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 our hopes & desires. In 1985, 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.

Scriptural Reflections for the Second Sunday of Advent



"The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" is not a book, but a presence: the presence of the Son of God in human flesh. The beginning of the Gospel promises a new beginning for those aching to hear someone "speak tenderly". Comfort will come; truth that is meaning which never decays will "spring out of the earth"-out of what we see & touch every day. We hasten that day by awaiting this presence eagerly. "Repentance" means changing to please the one who loves us into happiness.



Christmas Flower Fund

If you would like to donate to the CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND IN LOVING MEMORY, please have your donation & the name for whom you are donating into the Parish Office by Thurs. Dec. 14, 2017. Thank you & God bless you.



Sun. Dec. 10, 2017 ~ Second Sunday of Advent
From the Pastor ~ 'Prepare The Way Of The Lord'

While the merchants of the secular "happy holidays" keep urging us to celebrate an undifferentiated monthlong orgy of overspending and overeating, John the Baptist reminds us that we should prepare for the coming Messiah with sober reflection and quiet hope. The prophecy of Isaiah in today's first reading — made famous by Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah" — stresses the joy and the promise of the compassionate Christ who will feed his flock like a shepherd and tenderly will cradle the lambs in his arms. But in order to be ready to receive him, we must remove the obstacles of fear and self-indulgence within ourselves and clear a straight path into our souls, eliminating the twists and turns of sin. He will, after all, come back one day "like a thief ... and the earth and everything done on it will be found out" (2 Pt. 3:10). We must be ready and alert — and open to surprises. An uncomfortable forerunner and herald like the Baptist also portends a surprising kind of savior. Gian Carlo Menotti's beautiful Christmas opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" tells the story of a poor crippled shepherd boy who lives with his single mother. They are asked to offer hospitality one night to the three Magi who are following the miraculous star. When the household falls asleep, Amahl's mother, consumed with worry for her son's future, tries to steal the gold the magi have brought as a gift for the newborn king. She is, of course, caught in the act; but one of the Magi then tells her: "Woman, you may keep the gold. The child we seek doesn't need our gold. On love, love alone, he will build his kingdom. His pierced hand will hold no scepter. His haloed head will wear no crown.... He will soon walk among us. He will bring us new life and receive our death, and the keys to his city belong to the poor." And the poor mother, deeply moved, cries out: "Wait.... Take back your gold! For such a king I've waited all my life." We know, as the Baptist may not have, that we, too, are waiting for such a king.

Daily Mass Readings Dec. 11 ~ 15, 2017



Reading 1-Mon. Dec. 11-Is. 35:1-10 Gospel Lk. 5:17-26
Reading 1-Tues. Dec. 12-Zec. 2:14-17 or Rev. 11:19A, 12:1-6A, 10AB Gospel Lk. 1:26-38
Reading 1-Wed. Dec.13-Is. 40:25:31 Gospel Mt. 11:28-30
Reading 1-Thurs. Dec. 14-Is. 41:13-20 Gospel Mt. 11:11-15
Reading 1-Fri. Dec. 15-Is. 48:17-19 Gospel Mt. 11:16-19

Annual Catholic Services Appeal

The theme of the 2017—2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal is **GO THEREFORE** and **MAKE DISCIPLES**. This is an invitation from God to provide out of our financial resources & blessings a gesture of generosity to assist with the needs of the entire Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Your gift to help us secure the different goals for both of our parishes is a sign of your deep faith & trust that God will bless you. Through our Baptismal calling, we are all invited to **EVANGELIZE** and we do so by sacrificing so that the necessary services throughout the diocese are fulfilled. As of November 22, 2017, the goal for St. Elizabeth Parish is \$31,455.00 with the amount of \$15,775.00 being pledged and the amount of \$14,625.00 being secured. As of November 22, 2017, the goal for OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH is \$3,671.00 with the amount of \$2, 765.00 being pledged and the amount of \$1,875.00 being secure. As always, your generosity is deeply appreciated and may God bless you abundantly with good health & peace.

An Introduction to St. John The Baptist

John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah, and Zechariah was a Temple priest. Since the priesthood was passed from father to son, we must assume that whatever John was doing in the desert (where we meet him every Advent), it had something to do with Temple and sacrifice. When people came to the Jerusalem Temple, they were seeking the remission of their sins through the sacrificial mediation of the priests, but before they could enter the precincts of the Temple, they were obliged to undergo a ritual washing called a mikvah. Can we appreciate both of these features in John's characteristic activity of baptizing? He was drawing his followers through a purifying bath and then promising them forgiveness.

But how would the forgiveness happen? In Mark's Gospel, John says, One mightier than I is coming after me... I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (1:7-8). And in John's Gospel, the Baptist cries, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (1:29). These two statements are functionally equivalent. John the Baptist was preparing Israel for the arrival of the definitive priest, who would perform the final sacrifice by which sins would be wiped away. His water-baptism was in anticipation of a fiery immersion by which Israel would be eschatologically purified.

It is worth noting that all four Gospels compel us to approach Jesus through John the Baptist. All four Evangelists realize that we won't understand what Jesus is doing and what he means without the interpretive key provided by this strange desert prophet.

Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday in Advent

Advent is the time for rousing. Humanity is shaken to the very depths, so that we may wake up to the truth of ourselves. The primary condition for a fruitful & rewarding Advent is renunciation, surrender. Humans must let go of all their mistaken dreams, their conceited poses & arrogant gestures, all the pretenses with which they hope to deceive themselves & others. If they fail to do this stark reality may take hold of them & rouse them forcibly in a way that will entail both anxiety & suffering. The kind of awakening that literally shocks a person's whole being is part & parcel of the Advent idea. A deep emotional experience like this is necessary to kindle the inner light which confirms the blessing & the promise of the Lord. A shattering awakening ; that is the necessary preliminary. Life only begins when the whole framework is shaken. There can be no proper preparation without this. It is precise in the shock of rousing while he is still deep in the helpless, semi-conscious state, in the pitiable weakness of that borderland between sleep & waking, that a person finds the golden thread which binds earth to heaven & gives the benighted soul some inkling of the fullness it is capable of realizing & is called upon to realize.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:
Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Sandy Ellis, Karen Heap, Leona Kocher, Trent Matthews, Teresa Mullins, Lisa Schaefer, Robb Sparks, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Rich Welp, Janis Wickland, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces .

Advent Nursing Home Project

All unwrapped gifts along with tags must be returned before Wed. Dec.13, 2017.

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. The prizes will be the same as last year.

First Prize ~ \$7,000.00

2nd Prize ~ \$1,500.00

3rd Prize ~ \$500.00

4th Prize ~ \$400.00

5th Prize ~ \$300.00

6th Prize ~ \$200.00

7th Prize ~ \$100.00.

Grand Prize winners will be drawn at 9:00 pm at the Mardi Gras Party held at Stoney Ridge on February 10th.

The Seller of the winning ticket will win \$100.00 and the individual selling the most tickets will also win \$100.00.

Tickets are \$25.00 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 the endeavor.

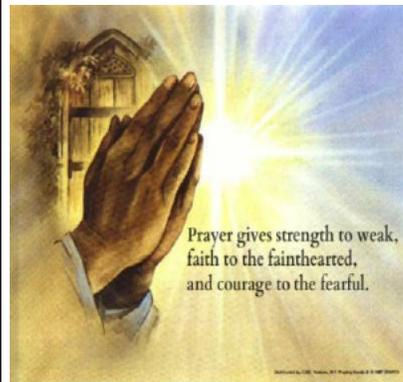
WE NEED NEW SELLERS!

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

In advance,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Terre Roche, Big Divvy Chair

Prayer for Acceptance of God's Holy Will



Prayer gives strength to weak,
faith to the fainthearted,
and courage to the fearful.

Dear God, I know that You love me because You died on the Cross for me. I know that You want nothing for me but the best in the light of eternity. So I trust in Your infinite wisdom and goodness and ask You to grant my request if is according to Your Holy Will. I accept whatever You decide. I leave everything up to Your divine goodness and loving care. You are my

Mardi Gras 2018



The CRAWFORDCOUNTY MARDI GRAS event will be held on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018 at Stoney Ridge. The Committee of BOB and KOURTNEY COFFMAN, STEWART and EMILY SCHUTTE, and JIM and BROOK STEWART have had a number of meetings and plans are well underway. The Buffet Dinner will be catered by Kaye Holscher's Catering and will be served from 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. There will be music and dancing. The Silent Auction will be taking place during the event. Dinner Tickets are priced at \$30.00 each and are available in the Parish Center. Table Reservations are accepted. We are excited about the 2018 MARDI GRAS and we look forward to seeing you there.

St. Elizabeth & OLOL Parishes December Schedule

Our Lady Of Lourdes

Sacred Eucharist-Feast of the Nativity Of Our Lord & Savior
Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm-Christmas Eve-

St. Elizabeth

Advent Confessions ~ Sun. Dec. 10, 2017 at 2:00 pm-
Sun. Dec. 10, 2017-4:00 pm-Christmas Dinner at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.
Sun. Dec. 24, 2017—Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm-Sacred Eucharist – Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior
Mon. Dec. 25, 2017—Christmas Day at 9:00 am-St. Elizabeth Parish-Sacred Eucharist-Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior~
Sat. Dec. 30, 2017 & Sun. Dec. 31, 2017—Regular Schedule of Weekend Masses for St. Elizabeth Parish & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, December 3, 2017

Envelopes \$ 3,782.00 Loose \$ 241.25

3 @ Online @ \$80.00 Immaculate Conception \$50.00

Christmas Flowers \$120.00 Building Fund \$150.00

Deposit \$4,423.25

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sun. November 26, 2017

Envelopes \$720.00 Christmas Flowers \$190.00

Campaign for Human Development \$125.00 Loose \$78.00

Deposit \$1,113.00



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. 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 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.