



# Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



## CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

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**Reverend Father James A. Flach, 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

### ANOIDING 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 17, 2017**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



**<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

**John 1:6-8**

Dec. 16	4:30 pm	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 17	7:30 am	Loretta Holscher by Dave & Kaye Holscher
	9:00 am	Loretta & Augustine Pescatore by Val & Kaye Pescatore
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 18	7:30 am	Mary Angela Flach by Fr. Flach
Dec. 19	12:00 pm	Marie Bohman by George & Jane Bohman
Dec. 20	7:30 am	Norb Wagner by Carol Wong
Dec. 21	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 22	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 23	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Dec. 24	7:30 am	Gene Uptmor by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Masses-St.Elizabeth Anna Lucille Hawkins by Ginger Osborne Family
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass-OLOL Irene & Wayne Boldrey by Karen & Chuck Bailey

Saturday, December 23, 2017 ~ Sunday, December 24, 2017

<b>Sat. Dec. 23, 2017 4:30 pm</b>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Geri Ezell
USHERS:	Jack & Carol Watts
COMMUNION MIN:	Patti Buercklin, Kitty Platt
SERVERS:	Xavier Brown, Jeff Hermann
GIFTS:	Jeff Mueller Family
<b>Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 7:30 am</b>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Shari Eckert
USHERS:	Mike & Jona Uptmor
COMMUNION MIN:	Chad Arkenberg, Joe Hepner
SERVERS:	Greyson Holscher
GIFTS:	Mike Uptmor Family
<b>Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 9:00 am</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Kourtney Coffman
USHERS:	Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson
COMMUNION MIN:	None
SERVERS:	Ava Patchett
GIFTS:	Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson
<b>Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 10:30 am</b>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Roselene Quick
USHERS:	Ken Deters, Chris Weber
COMMUNION MIN:	Sean & April Sexton
SERVERS:	Levi Dickerson, Joe Quick
GIFTS:	Gerod Briggs Family

Collection Counters: December, 2017:

Carol Bergbower, Don Brown, Ed Reis

**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**

## Christmas Mass Schedule



Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 ~ 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
 Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 ~ 4:00 pm Christmas Eve at  
 St. Elizabeth  
 6:00 pm Christmas Eve at  
 Our Lady Of Lourdes  
 Mon. Dec. 25, 2017 ~ 9:00 am Christmas Day at  
 St. Elizabeth

## Scriptural Reflections for the Third Sunday of Advent



As John announced Christ even before his birth, so he was the forerunner of his public life. Now, after the desert, came the culminating moment of his life, while he was preparing the way of Christ: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. This man came for a witness to give testimony to the Light, that all men might believe through him. He was not the Light, but was to give testimony of the Light. John the Baptist essential work, then, was to give testimony of the Light, to show Christ. He had a most important part to play in the preparation for Christ's coming, & Christ's work itself. He it was who laid the ground for our Lord's public life, and for his teaching, by making people's souls ready for it. He was to some extent educating souls, taking the first steps towards laying them more open to receive what Christ was to tell them. Christ's words would have been too much for souls not prepared for them. They had to have some previous education. Their interests had to be given a new twist away from their earthly concerns & customs; they must be made to feel that all was not well.

That was John the Baptist's task. Among people totally unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency, & arouse in them enough good will to understand Christ when he came.

In this he was in the same position as all who had earlier shared in the work of preparing for the Lord's coming; they, too, were separated from earthly things by God, and mysteriously given to see his plans, so that they might trace his ways to people. Saint John came in his turn to trace his ways to people, to make the rough ways plain, to bring the mountains low. But in order to do this he must first be completely caught up by his inward vision, he must belong to the Lord utterly, for the ground he had to break was hard: he was coming amongst the people of his day, who were mainly engaged, like those of our own, as Saint Luke tells us, the soldiers in doing violence & spreading calumny, the publicans in taking more than their due (3:2-14). Human beings are like that—they were then, and they are now. They are busy about earthly affairs. They are completely heedless of God, and our chief feeling as we move among them is one of anguish at seeing the world's utter indifference to anything higher.

To shake the world out of this indifference we need prophets, that is to say, people whose souls are captured by the divine vision of things and who can shake the mass of people out of their inertia, and be, in truth, "witnesses." Now a witness is someone to whom it is granted to see things as God does, and who has this inner vision himself in such a way that he can hand it on to mankind. Such a man was John the Baptist.



Sun. Dec. 17, 2017 ~ Third Sunday of Advent  
From the Pastor ~ Rejoice! Salvation is Coming!

This Third Sunday of Advent traditionally has been known as "Gaudete" Sunday — that is, "Rejoice" Sunday. It is one of two Sundays a year (along with the Fourth Sunday of Lent, "Laetare" Sunday) when we wear rose vestments to mark having passed the halfway point in a penitential season. So today's good news is that Christmas is drawing near! As a result, we rejoice. This explicitly is reflected in the first reading, the canticle and the second reading. It is also implicit in the Baptist's message from John's Gospel, in which he tells of the coming of the Messiah. Joy is not the same as pleasure, which is a momentary feeling of satisfaction that comes from something external (a great meal, an unexpected gift, a romantic encounter). Joy is deeper, more spiritual, and it bubbles up from within. I have known dying people undergoing great pain who nevertheless remained remarkably joyful in the midst of their suffering. The story is told of a Russian countess who accepted the Lord Jesus as her savior and testified about it openly. The czar was displeased and threw her into prison. After 24 hours, the czar ordered her brought into his presence. He smiled sardonically and said, "Well, are you ready now to renounce your silly faith and come back to the pleasures of the court?" To his surprise, the countess smiled serenely and said, "I have known more real joy and more real happiness in one day in prison with Jesus than I have known in a lifetime in the courts of the czar." Joy, while hard to define, is impossible to miss when you feel it, or even when you see it in others. And it is contagious. When people see it in us, they want some for themselves. The two living popes, Benedict XM and Francis, have both reminded us that a joyful and authentic witness to Christ Jesus is what lead others to come to know, love and serve Our Lord. How many people might recapture the true, original meaning of Christmas — and might even "come home" to the Church for the holidays this year — if they saw Christians around them on all sides radiating authentic Advent joy?

### Daily Mass Readings Dec. 18 ~ 22, 2017



Dec. 18-Reading 1 ~ Jer. 23:5-8 Gospel Mt. 1:18-25  
Dec. 19-Reading 1 ~ Jgs. 13:2-7,24-25A  
Gospel: Lk. 1:5-25  
Dec. 20~ Is.7:10-14 Gospel Lk. 1:26-38  
Dec. 21~Sg.2:8-14 or Zep. 3:14-18A Gospel Lk. 1:39-45  
Dec.22~1 Sm. 1:24-28 Gospel Lk. 1:46-56

### 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.

### Special Thanks for Our Christmas Dinner

Sincere and heartfelt THANKS to all those who helped to prepare for the CHRISTMAS DINNER held on Sunday, December 10, 2017 in St. Elizabeth Parish Center. Your assistance and help in any way is deeply appreciated. May God bestow His grace upon you and your loved ones during the Christmas Season and throughout the New Year of



### The Tradition of the Christmas Crib

Following beautiful & firmly-rooted tradition, many families put up their crib immediately after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, as if to relive with those days full of tradition preceded the birth of Jesus. Putting up the crib at home can be simple but an effective way of presenting faith, to pass it on to our children. The crib helps us to contemplate the mystery of love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Beth lehem Grotto. Saint Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in a living nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelization today. Indeed, the crib helps us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who 'though He was rich He made Himself poor for us (2 Cor. 8:9). His poverty enriches those who embrace it, and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the angel's words: Let this be a sign to you: in a manger will find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths (Luke 2:17) & it is still the sign for us too. There is no other Christmas. Pope Benedict XVI.

### SINCERE CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Sincere & heartfelt CHRISTMAS PRAYERS & BLESSINGS to the COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN & OLOL's PARISH for their kind and most generous gifts that were presented to me at our Christmas Dinner on Sun. Dec. 10th. Your generous gifts will be fondly cherished. May God bless you in the New Year of 2018 with good health and peace.



### Rest In Peace

Please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Norris Gene Maddox, the Grandfather of Joel & Missy York, Great-Grandfather of Cody & Brady York, that God will grant him a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of God and that his family will receive comfort and peace in their sorrow and loss.

### Mardi Gras 2018



The CRAWFORD COUNTY 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.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Prize ~ \$400.00  
5<sup>th</sup> 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! Terry Roche, Big Divvy

## Scriptural Reflections for the Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice in the Lord," for as miserable as life can seem at times, the reality is that God has clothed us "with a robe of salvation" that heals all our poverty, our broken hearts, our bondage. "He has mercy on those who fear him," that is, those who fear only one thing: losing their relationship with the Lord. Therefore, "be preserved blameless for the coming of Jesus." Even though in the troubles of life you may not recognize him, "the one who calls you is faithful."

## Liturgical Ministry Contacts

St. Elizabeth Parish  
Readers: Father Flach 544-7526  
Servers: Father Flach 544-7526  
Art & Environment:  
Robb Sparks 546-5606  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Scheduling of Liturgical Ministries  
Anita Kocher 592-3384



## Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:  
Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Karen Heap, Leona Kocher, Trent Matthews, Teresa Mullins, Lisa Schaefer, Dorla Shook, 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

The gifts have been wrapped and delivered. Thanks to all who supported the Advent Nursing Home Project by purchasing gifts, cash donations and wrapping gifts. Thanks for sharing your time and treasure to help others. May your holidays be blessed with peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.  
Geri Ezell & Patti Buercklin.



## Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, December 10, 2017

Envelopes \$ 2,887.00 Loose \$ 410.00

3 @ Online @ \$180.00 Immaculate Conception \$490.00

Christmas Flowers \$35.00 Building Fund \$10.00

Retirement for Religious \$760.00 Harry Wong Memorial \$20.00

Justice & Hope \$25.00

Deposit \$4,817.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sun. December 3, 2017 Envelopes \$846.00

Christmas Flowers \$20.00 Edith Smith Food Pantry \$27.00

Loose \$33.70 Building Fund \$50.00

Deposit \$976.70

## Spiritual Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent

The Gospel of St. Mark—Chapter 13: 33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come" (13:33). Be watchful: Jesus will urge this again during his agony in Gethsemane (Mk 14:34). Catena in Marcum (5th cent.): "If each person is ignorant of their own day of judgment and know that often the uninitiated will perish, they will contend to be baptized at their final breath, as a result of which they will enter into eternity bereft of good works—saved by faith, but unable to manifest its works: If the end were known, why would they not do this? For this reason Jesus adds (all but saying), The reason I did not tell you the day is so that, not knowing the day, you might watch and pray and keep awake.' And he said, 'you do not know,' wanting them to struggle continually, holding that day and the end of their lives as a mystery. This is why he said, 'Keep awake!' showing that if people knew when they were to die, all would be virtuous only at that hour. And wanting them always to look forward to this, and so that they might be virtuous always, he made the end of the life of each uncertain." "It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch" (13:34). Saint Bede the Venerable: 'The man who, taking a far journey, left his house is Christ who, ascending as a conqueror to his Father after the Resurrection, left his Church, as to his bodily presence, but has never deprived her of the safeguard of his divine presence.' Saint Gregory the Great: "When, by giving to his faithful ones the grace of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gave them the power of serving every good work." Catena in Marcum: 'Then Jesus openly names himself 'Lord,' having nowhere spoken plainly in this way. But here he seems to me also to shame those who are indifferent. 'For you do not care for your salvation,' he says, 'as much as those who think they might be robbed care for their money.' Therefore, the present time is for undertaking the Commandments. The work of each is the work of keeping the Commandments." May Healy: 'The man places his servants in charge (literally- gives his slaves authority). Jesus has already delegated authority to his Apostles (Mk 6:7; The gatekeeper, referring to Peter who has greatest responsibility for vigilance (see Mk 14:37), has an especially important duty: to perceive the master's return in time to prepare a suitable welcome.

Thank You from Oblong Christian Food Pantry

Dear Friends at OLOL's. The folks at the Food Pantry wish to express our appreciation for the food items given at your food drive & for those who participated in the pantry bake sale at the fall follies on Oct. 28. We made a total of \$337.50 that day. God bless you for your efforts on behalf of those in need. Thank you.