



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: Lori 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 Flach.

BAPTISMS

Please contact Fr. Flach 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 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, December 29, 2019 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Story found in Matthew 2:13~15, 19~23 ~ The Flight to Egypt

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream & said, "Rise, take the child & his mother, flee to Egypt, & stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose & took the child & his mother by night & departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my Son."

Matthew 2:13~15



Mass Intentions

Dec. 28	4:30 pm	Special Intentions	
Dec. 29	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach	
	9:00 am	Donnal Fitzmaurice by Fitzmaurice Family	
	10:30 am	Francis Medina by Virginia Hall	
Dec. 30	7:30 am	Ron Dhom	
Dec. 31	4:00 pm	Holy Day of Obligation-LOLOL Special Intentions	
Holy Day of Obligation St. Elizabeth	6:00 pm	Holy Day of Obligation St. Elizabeth-John Dittrich by Mike & Jona Uptmor	
New Year's Day	Jan. 1	9:00 am	Val Pescatore by Carol Ryan
	Jan. 2	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
	Jan. 3	7:30 am	Special Intentions
First Friday Mass OLOL		5:00 pm	Duane & Jeanie Baker by Adam & Lori Davis Family
	Jan. 4	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
	Jan. 5	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
		9:00 am	Stephen & Francis Begley by Frank & Ann Schalasky
		10:30 am	Special Intentions



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 4, 2020 ~ Sunday, January 5, 2020

Sat. January 4, 2020 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Celeste White

USHERS: Randy Mullins, Ty Mullins

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Abby Mullins, Clara Mullins

GIFTS: Jack Watts Family

Sun. January 5, 2020 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Brad Schutte, Randy Schutte

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Nathaniel Arkenberg

GIFTS: Garrett Rich Family

Sun. January 5, 2020 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Keith Wirey

USHERS: Don Schmidt, Taylor Blank

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Cameron Davis

GIFTS: Don Schmidt & Taylor Blank

Sun. January 5, 2020 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Roselene Quick

USHERS: Evan Ferris, Joe Quick

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Emily Ferris, Owen Ferris

GIFTS: Chris Weber Family

January, 2020 Collection Counters: Marge Boatman, Josh & Roselene Quick



Parish School of Religion

JANUARY DATES: WED. JANUARY 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2020 from 6:30~7:30 pm.



Confirmation Class Dates

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES: JANUARY 12, 26, 2020 from 5:30~7:00 pm.

Scriptural Reflections For The Feast Of The Holy Family

The feast of the Holy Family inspires us to have confidence that God himself takes an interest in the generation of human life, and blesses the loving union of man and woman. "The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life.... The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom" (CCC 2207). The grace of the Incarnate Word sanctifies and protects family life, making it a true path to holiness. "The family of Nazareth is holy because it was centered on Jesus" (Pope Francis).

Scriptural Reflections for the Feast Of The Holy Family

I cannot separate Mary and Joseph from Jesus. That would be opposed to Jesus' example, who, after the Father, loved Joseph and Mary the most. And in heaven, he loves them eternally. No one ever reflected Jesus' life more perfectly than Mary and Joseph. If Jesus could say to Philip, He who sees me sees the Father, then I can say, "The one who sees Mary and Joseph sees Jesus." Mary and Joseph form the most faithful image of Jesus; and for this reason I can formulate the shortest path to holiness: "For me, to live is Christ, it is Mary and Joseph." Mary, my mother, Joseph my father, give me your eyes to contemplate Jesus; give me your hearts and spirits to understand him, and to be impassioned for him. Give me your will so that I may work for him with my whole heart and mind without growing weary. Give me your soul that I may endlessly proclaim: Jesus, my Lord and my all!

First Friday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes

The JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be celebrated on FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Scriptural Reflections for the Solemnity Of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Holy Mother Of God



The Blessed Virgin Mary is born to be Mother, and her vocation as Mother of Christ extends to every Christian. We "receive adoption" and enjoy the new life of grace because of her fruitful virginity, for she gave birth to the Savior. The Lord wills to "let his face shine upon" us through the Mother of God. On the cross the Lord commands the world, "Behold, your mother" (Jn 19:27), as "proof that we are sons." Beginning the year with this solemnity reveals that "devotion to this sweet Mother is not something superficial or intermittent, consisting of isolated practices with a special place and hour in our day, but constant and essential, reaching to the very depths of our hearts and filling our whole beings and our lives like a heavenly perfume" (L. Martinez).

Sunday, December 29, 2019 ~ The Sacred Feast Of
The Holy Family ~ From The Pastor ~ All In One Family

The Scripture readings this Sunday have no illusions about either human nature or the family. It is a real education to look at the way ideal representations of the family have evolved over the years in popular culture, particularly network television went from "Leave it to Beaver" in the 1950s (dad solved all the problems by the end of the show) to "All in the Family" in the 1970s (where dad was a racist and mom was confused but well-meaning) to "The Simpsons" in our own day (where everyone has problems, especially dad). We tend to see ourselves in a mirror over the decades as a family — ideal, funny, broken — but as a people trying to make it work. The Book of Sirach has some wise advice for us as we carry on the best we can, much of which is informed by God's command to "Honor your father and mother." I guess we might be tempted to view our family relationships in extremes — either all perfect or all imperfect. But there is a magic word that shows up that will probably never make it on a hit TV program: kindness. That is the middle term Wisdom literature, which bridges our relationships in the family and the Christian community at large. It is not only "kindness to a father" that will not be forgotten, but that quality mushrooms in the context of community, partnering with "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." These virtues Paul names in the Letter to the Colossians because we are all called to be one body. How do we get there? When I first entered religious life, I used to think (naively) that I could solve any community problem I had in the external forum. Just be nice and he will be nice in return, right? But what if someone would resist my outreach? Would I remain steadfast in my charity in this difficult relationship, like a son taking care of a senile, stubborn father? The only way that fidelity can remain strong is if I let the kindness of Christ dwell in me first. The point of departure for charity has to be the experience of deep interior prayer, which is the first and wisest teacher when it comes to familial or community relationships. Undoubtedly, I am helped even further to live out the world of charity by community prayer, "singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," together with a Eucharist of thanksgiving to God. But I am convinced that the way to a "holy family" — with relations, friends, co-workers, parishioners — is putting on Christ first and foremost at the center of the human family — whatever its condition. And "giving thanks to God the Father through him." Only then are we linked to everyone in the body by blood.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Bill Birkofer (Birkofer Family), Phil Burger (Ellen Rees) Bob Callier (Jona Uptmor), Sara Casburn & Ared Allen (Linda Allen), Scott Chapman, Eileen Fabris, Terry Free (Ruth Beckes), Monica Mann (Sherri Murray-Thomas), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Dec. 30, 2019 1 Jn. 2:12-17 Gospel Lk. 2:36-40
Tues. Dec. 31
, 2019 1 Jn. 2:18-21 Gospel Jn. 1:1-18
Wed. Jan. 1, 2020 Nm. 6:22-27 Gal. 4:4-7
Gospel Lk. 2:16-21
Thurs. Jan. 2, 2020 1 Jn. 2:22-28 Gospel Jn. 1:19-28

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

St. Elizabeth Church ~ December Schedule

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019 AT 6:00 PM SACRED
FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
THE MOTHER OF GOD ~ ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION SACRED EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020 AT 9:00 AM ~ SACRED
FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER
OF GOD

Our Lady of Lourdes Church December Schedule

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION SACRED EUCHARIST
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019 AT 4:00 PM
SACRED FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE
MOTHER OF GOD

Scriptural Reading for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
The Holy Mother Of God



The divine maternity is the foundation, source, and root of all Mary's graces and privileges, both those that preceded it as preparation, and those that accompanied it or followed from it as its consequence. It was by way of preparation for the divine maternity that Mary was the Immaculate Conception, presented from the stain of original sin by the future merits of her Son. He redeemed her as perfectly as was possible; not by healing her, but by preserving her from the original stain before it touched her soul for even an instant. It was because of her maternity that Mary received the initial fullness of grace which ceased not to increase till it reached its consummated plenitude. And because of the same maternity she was exempt from all personal fault, even venial, and from all imperfection, for she never failed in promptitude to obey the divine inspirations.... The dignity of Mary surpasses therefore that of all the saints combined. Recall, too, that Mary had a mother's authority over the Word of God made flesh. The Word made flesh was subject to Mary in most profound sentiments of respect and love. How, then, could we fail to have the same sentiments in regard to the Mother of our God? In one of the most beautiful books written about Mary, the Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, Saint Louis de Montfort says: "God made Man found liberty in being enclosed in her womb; he showed his power by allowing himself to be carried by her, young maiden though she was; he found glory, and his Father found glory too, in hiding his splendor from all creatures of earth, so as to reveal them to Mary alone; he glorified his majesty and his independence by depending on the Virgin in his conception, his birth, his presentation in the temple, his hidden life of thirty years—and even up to the time of his death, for she was present then, and he offered one only sacrifice in union with her, and was immolated to the eternal Father with her consent as once Isaac was immolated to the divine will by the consent of Abraham. It is she who nourished and supported him, who brought him up and then sacrificed him for us. Finally, Our Lord remains as much the Son of Mary in heaven as he was on earth."



Have a Happy
& Safe New
Year 2020.

Spiritual Reading for the Sacred Feast Honoring the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Our Lord spent three hours in redeeming, three years in teaching, and thirty years in obeying, in order that a rebellious, proud, and diabolically independent world might learn the value of obedience. Home life is the God-appointed training ground of human character, for from the home life of the child springs the maturity of manhood, either for good or for evil. The only recorded acts of our Blessed Lord's childhood are acts of obedience—to God, his heavenly Father, and also to Mary and Joseph. He thus shows the special duty of childhood and of youth: to obey parents as the vice-regents of God. He, the great God whom the heavens and earth could not contain, submitted himself to his parents. If he was sent on a message to a neighbor, it was the great Sender of the Apostles who delivered the message. If Joseph ever bade him search for a tool that was lost, it was the Wisdom of God and the Shepherd in search of lost souls who was actually doing the seeking. If Joseph taught him carpentry, he who was taught was one who had carpentered the universe and who would one day be put to death by the members of his own profession. If he made a yoke for the oxen of a neighbor, it was he who would call himself a yoke for men—and yet a burden that would be light. If they bade him work in a little plot of garden ground, to train the creepers or the flowers, it was he who was the great Dresser of the vineyard of his Church, who took in hand the water pot and the gardening tools. All men may ponder well the hint of a Child subject to his parents, that no heavenly call is ever to be trusted that bids one neglect the obvious duties that lie near to hand.

Scriptural Reflections for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

"The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love. ... The family' is an intermediate institution between individual and society, and nothing can completely take its place.... The family is a necessary good for peoples an indispensable foundation for society, and a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love of the total and generous self-giving of their parents.... The family is also a school that enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity.... O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us to be examples of faith and love for your commandments" (Pope Benedict XVI).

The Motherhood of Mary

That which stands out in the divine infancy is how completely dependent the infant Jesus was on his Mother for his life & for everything. Born as he was far from home, in a strange town, in a rough stable, he had not even those comforts most babies have, even the poorest, & which in fact his Mother had prepared for him: his cradle, for example, waiting for him in the little home in Nazareth & destined to wait there, empty, until he had outgrown it. In Bethlehem, in the desert, what had Christ to sustain his life but his Mother? She was so much more to him than one who wrapped him in swaddling bands, one who rocked his cradle & prepared his food. She was herself his warmth, his cradle, his food. The Mother is the trustee of God's love to her baby. Yes, but she is even more than that—she is God's love to him. Giving her to him, God gives himself. What a mystery it is, as unimaginable as the Blessed Sacrament, that Christ as man was first given God in this world by a woman! Motherhood is an intimate contemplation of God. How could anyone learn more of him than she does who teams, not from books & sermons & meditations, not from the

January 1, 2020 ~ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God ~ From the Pastor: God's Plan For the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Scriptures have little to say about Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is seen, plain & simple, as his mother. She is highly honored as the person who made God's presence as a human being possible, allowing God the Father to complete his plan for his creation's redemption with Jesus, his Son, the Messiah. Mary demonstrates through her role, for all to believe, that Jesus is definitely born of a woman & born under the law. Paul makes it clear that Mary's humble "yes" to do God's will meant she put aside all personal dreams & planned expectations. Mary became by her humility a human bridge connecting God's divinity with human flesh, making all flesh eligible to be raised to new life. This great act alone shows to all disciples past, present or yet to come — the extent of Mary's deep faith & inner beauty. If it wasn't for Mary, creation may never have regained their original destiny: to live with Jesus forever. However, Scripture presents Mary as a reflective, meditative and ever-faithful loving mother who remained close to her son throughout his ministry. She stayed with Jesus even at the foot of the cross, giving him the courage & strength needed until he uttered the words, "It is finished." Mary was a sensitive, caring mother at Jesus' side while he slept in the manger & while he painfully hung on the cross. During those hidden years when Jesus & Mary had much private time together must have been a time when Mary, his wise mother, taught Jesus how to be messiah. She did this by helping him to be human. Mary's kindness, compassion, tenderness & love are the qualities that became her son's signature virtues & it was her merciful nature & openness to forgiveness that helped Jesus when he met the woman at the well, or gave him the words to heal the woman caught in adultery. Mary gave Jesus many words that helped him meet these challenges with just the right amount of love, mercy & humanity. Scholars will never discover them, but Jesus and Mary know. Mary may have said little that is recorded in the Scriptures, but it is Mary who is seen in many of the sermons, miracles & parables of Jesus. Mary is the strength that came to Jesus in his prayerful reflections when he felt frustrated, alone or even abandoned. Mary was always there to give what he needed to go another distance & complete his mission of creation's salvation.

The Motherhood of Mary continued

secret manifestations or from the blindness & uncertainty of human thought, but from the secret manifestations or God's love in her own being? Many people think that in order to be contemplative we must be unnatural. Those who think in this way have not yet pondered the showing forth of God in all that is closest at hand in everything that is around us, above all in human nature. Human nature is made in God's image. That image burns in its dark heart as the distant star burns in a deep well far below it. In so far as human beings retain or recover the purity of their human nature they learn the secrets of God from their own hearts.

Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending Sunday, December 22, 2019

Envelopes \$2,347.00 Loose \$378.00 Dependent Children \$125.00
4 online @ \$275.00 Deposit: \$3,125.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, December 15, 2019

Envelopes \$632.00 Loose \$135.00 Christmas Flowers \$10.00
Building Fund \$30.00 Retirement Fund \$25.00
Immaculate Conception \$5.00 Deposit: \$837.00