



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

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Join us on Facebook! Search for "Crawford County Catholics"

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

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.

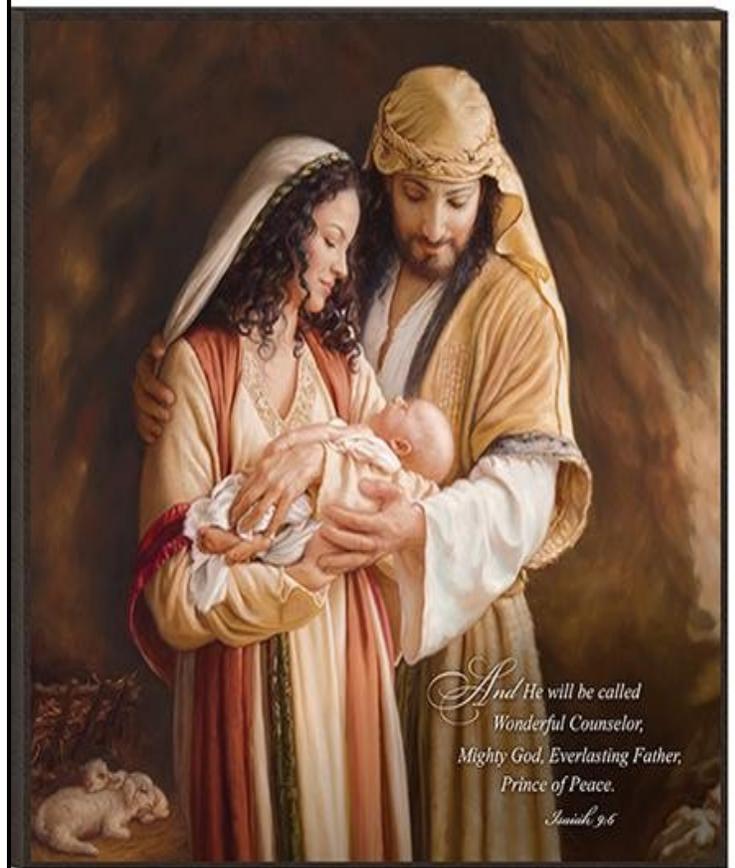
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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 31, 2017 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Story found in Luke 2:22~40 Jesus Presented in the Temple

And the child grew and became strong in the spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Luke 2:40

Dec. 30	4:30 pm	Mary Longnecker by Chris Tylka
Dec. 31	7:30 am	Charles Parkhurst by Donna Parkhurst Family
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
Jan. 1	7:30 am	Successful Surgery by James & Donna Voss
Jan. 2	12:00 pm	Jane Brown by George Brown
Jan. 3	7:30 am	Deloros Bercham by Maxine Zwermann
Jan. 4	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Jan. 5	7:30 am	Vern Varenhorst by Ellen Rees
First Friday Mass OLOL	5:00 pm	Special Intentions
Jan. 6	4:30 pm	Martha Tebbe by Ken & Carol Bergbower
Jan. 7	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	William & Louetta Wirey by Keith & Rita Wirey
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

First Friday of the Month Mass at OLOL's

There will be the First Friday of the Month Mass at Our Lady Of Lourdes on Friday, January 5, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 6 ~ Sunday, January 7, 2018

<u>Sat. Jan. 6, 2018 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Patti Buercklin
USHERS:	Gavin Bayne, Ken Bergbower
COMMUNION MIN:	Mike Dorn, Susan Goodwine
SERVERS:	Abby Mullins, Lily Ann Mullins
GIFTS:	Kristen Mullins Family
<u>Sun. Jan. 7, 2018 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Shari Eckert
USHERS:	Kurt & Anne Holscher
COMMUNION MIN:	Chad Arkenberg, Anne Holscher
SERVERS:	Greyson Holscher
GIFTS:	David Holscher Family
<u>Sun. Jan. 7, 2018 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Lori Davis
USHERS:	Jerry & Sarah Ping
COMMUNION MIN:	Wilmer Wilson, Jim Ping
SERVERS:	Cameron Davis
GIFTS:	Ron & Ethel Dhom
<u>Sun. Jan. 7, 2018 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Sam Quick
USHERS:	Karen Free, Roselene Quick
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Levi Dickerson, Korbin Rawlings
GIFTS:	Scott Rawlings Family

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

Daily Mass Readings from



Jan. 1-Reading 1-Nm. 6:22-27, Reading 2-Gal.4:4-7 Gospel Lk. 2:16-21
Jan.2-Reading 1-1 Jn.2:22-28
Gospel Jn.1:19-28 Jan. 3-1 Jn.2:29-3:6
Gospel Jn.1:29:34 Jan.4-1 Jn. 3:7-10
Gospel Jn.1:35-42 Jan.5-1 Jn. 3:11-21
Gospel Jn. 1:43-51

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 individuals 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).

Rest In Peace



Please remember to pray for the repose of the souls of Leona Kocher & Kathy Smithhenry that God will grant them a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of God and that their families will receive comfort and peace in their sorrow and loss.

Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Karen Heap, 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.

Prayer for Acceptance of God's Will

Oh, Lord, I do not know what to ask You. You alone know my real needs, and You love me more than I even know how to love. Enable me to discern my true needs which are hidden from me. I ask for neither a cross nor a consolation but simply wait in patience for You.

For Your great mercy's sake, come to me and help me. Put Your mark on me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up. I silently adore Your holy will and Your inscrutable ways. I offer myself in sacrifice to You and put all my trust in You. I desire only to do Your will. Teach me how to pray.

2018
Happy New Year!



Sun. Jan. 1, 2018 ~ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
The Mother of God-From the Pastor ~ Mary, Our Mother

Three-year-old Alexa was saying her prayers with her mother: "Mommy, did Jesus say his prayers with his mommy every night?" Her mother responded, "I suppose so." Alexa quickly added, "What did he pray for?" Her mother whispered, "He probably said thanks like you do!" Alexa said, "Did he thank God for his mommy?" Her mother replied, "Oh I think so. If his mommy didn't say 'yes' to the angel, Jesus would not be here." Then Alexa, satisfied with her mother's answer, said, "Then I want to pray for Jesus' mommy too, for bringing me Jesus." And so, she prayed. Alexa learned quickly that Mary played a major role in salvation history. After God made the universe and fashioned humankind in his image and likeness, God decided to become flesh. The angel Gabriel asked Mary if she would be willing to help God. Giving Mary this choice placed the all-powerful God at the mercy of Mary, a human being!

Mary had the opportunity to refuse the angel by saying "no." Instead, Mary, a humble peasant girl from a little-known place in the world, heard the angel's words in her heart, and she heard another voice whispering, "Mary, will you let my will be done?" Mary uttered her reply with words God longs to hear from all his creatures, including us: "Here is your servant, Lord, may your kingdom be born through me."

With Mary's fervent response, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus became man! With her simple and powerful "yes," Mary gave her body to be a place for God's son. Mary became the Mother of God, and our mother too!

Alexa is correct! Christians owe Mary an enthusiastic thank you for bringing Jesus into our world, our hearts and our lives. Through time, God recalls Mary's enthusiastic reply and longs to hear every baptized Christian utter Mary's tender consent: "Oh my God also take my body to do your will." Today, Mary longs to hear these same words from us as well.



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 water 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.



Parish Meetings

St. Elizabeth ~ Our Lady Of Lourdes Pastoral Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

St. Elizabeth Finance Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.



Dec. 31, 2017-Sacred Feast of the Holy Family Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Like most great mysteries of our faith, the Incarnation is too momentous and profound to comprehend all at once. That is why the Church calendar offers us a series of feasts, beginning with Christmas and carrying on through the Baptism of the Lord, to allow us to appreciate different aspects of the mystery one at a time.

Today's feast of the Holy Family focuses on Jesus being born into a human family. By humbling himself to be cared for and nurtured within a human family, Jesus consecrated family life and made it holy.

In "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul," Paula McDonald recalls a winter when her kids were bickering, teasing and fighting over their toys. She decided to suggest a new family Christmas project. "Let's make a soft bed for Jesus," she proposed. "We'll build a little crib for him and fill it with straw to make it comfortable. But each piece of straw we put in the manger will represent one kind thing we do for someone secretly between now and Christmas.

The family drew names each week for whom they would do random acts of kindness. Suddenly, the children weren't teasing or fighting as much. Even Eric and Kelly, the two closest in age who fought the most, seemed to be getting along better. But when Eric drew his final name, he seemed about to cry. "What is it, Eric?" Paula said. "Mom, I got Kelly's name all four weeks! I can't do one more nice thing for her or I'll die!" After a few quiet moments, Paula said: "Eric, I'm so proud of you. You gave your love when it wasn't easy to give. Maybe that's what the spirit of Christmas is really all about." And she quietly traded names with her much-relieved son.

But on Christmas Eve when she tiptoed quietly to Kelly's room to lay out her nightgown and turn down the bed, someone had already been there. The nightgown was laid neatly across the bed, and a small red race car rested next to it on the pillow. The last straw was Eric's after all.



Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

We have forgotten that poverty of spirit, our fundamental condition before God, the very condition for inheriting the Kingdom, runs the grave risk of becoming a myth if it is not accompanied by a spirit of sharing whatever the particular actions may be that this spirit demands of each of us. We have forgotten that unless we have this spirit of sharing—a sharing of life, a sharing of goods—we cannot be witnesses to Christ who was sent first and foremost to the poor; and we cannot announce the Gospel, the Good News, of poverty of heart.

This Good News is what the hearts of the poor are waiting for.... The human heart is made for human brotherhood. Christ said: You are all brothers; he left it for us to make these words come alive. He didn't leave us an ideology or a system of brotherhood. We are still the real brothers and the real sisters of everyone. We can't do anything to change this fact. God has made us such. But we have lived like false brothers and sisters; brothers and sisters who have been untrue, brothers and sisters who have been wicked. Yet brotherly love is the real visible expression of the love of the invisible Father. It is the sign and witness of this love and cannot be separated from it.

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! Terry Roche, Big Divvy Chair

Scriptural Reflections for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin 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 forever 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).



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, December 24, 2017

Envelopes \$ 1,847.00 Loose \$ 413.50

3 @ Online @ \$180.00 Christmas Flowers \$40.00

Retirement for Religious \$50.00 Dependent Children

\$95.00 First Offering \$10.00 Christmas Offering \$177.00

Solemnity of Mary \$50.00 Catholic Time \$15.00

Deposit \$2,877.50

Week ending Monday, December 25, 2017

Envelopes \$510.00 Loose \$352.00 Dependent Children

\$245.00 Christmas Offering Envelopes \$1,955.00

Retirement Fund \$20.00 Immaculate Conception \$10.00

Deposit \$3,092.00

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sun. December 24, 2017 Envelopes \$705.00

Loose \$82.00, Christmas Offering \$50.00

Dependent Children \$60.00

Deposit \$897.00

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

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 and for everything. Born as he was far from home, in a strange town, in a cold rough stable, he had not even those comforts which most babies have, even the poorest, and which in fact his Mother had prepared for him: his cradle, for example, waiting for him in the little home in Nazareth and 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 and 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 and sermons and meditations, not from the secret manifestations or from the blindness and uncertainty of human thought, but from the secret manifestations of 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 primitive purity of their human nature they learn the secrets of God from their own hearts.

Mardi Gras 2018

17TH ANNUAL

CRAWFORD COUNTY CATHOLICS
SATURDAY, FEB. 10, 2018 6:00PM-MIDNIGHT
STONEY RIDGE EVENT CENTER \$30/TICKET

Tickets available at St. Elizabeth Parish Office,
First National Bank, or Silverthorne Ford Store.

MENU

Grilled Smoked Sausage Kabobs

BBQ Pork Sliders on a Homemade Onion Bun

Mini Crab Stuffed White Fish

Mini Ham Loaf with Pineapple

Cajun Red Beans & Rice

Peel-n-Eat Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce

Variety of Cheese Balls

Crudités with Chipotle Ranch Dip

Fresh Fruit Kabobs Dessert Tasting Bar

Tea/Lemonade/Cucumber Lime Water/Coffee

Kaye Holscher Catering

King Cake by Debbie Dix

BIG DIVVY TICKETS-\$25.00

Big Divvy Drawings announced at 9:00 p.m.

Big Divvy winners need not be present to win.

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT CRAWFORD COUNTY CATHOLICS.

