



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

Phone Number: (618) 544-7526

Fax Number: (618) 544-9327

E-mail: crawford_catholics@rocketmail.com

Web Site: www.crawfordcountycatholics.com

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

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 3, 2017 First Sunday of Advent



Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:33~37

Dec. 2	4:30 pm	Anthony O'Dell by George & Jane Bohman
Dec. 3	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 4	7:30 am	Mette Family by Jane Howard
Dec. 5	12:00 pm	Millie Buescher by Carol Wong
Dec. 6	7:30 am	Appreciation & Thanksgiving For Daily Masses
Dec. 7	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
	5:00 pm	Special Intentions
Dec. 8	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
St. Elizabeth Holy Day	6:00 pm	Special Intentions
Dec. 9	4:30 pm	Charles Parkhurst By Joe & Carole Hepner
Dec. 10	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Helen & Roger Fabris by Val & Kay Pescatore
	10:30 am	Special Intentions



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 9, 2017 ~ Sunday, December 10, 2017

<u>Sat. Dec. 9, 2017 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Terry Roche
USHERS:	Ken & Carol Bergbower
COMMUNION MIN:	Lisa Baird, Karen Sanders
SERVERS:	Ty Mullins, Liam Wirey
GIFTS:	Terry Baird Family
<u>Sun. Dec. 10, 2017 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	David Holscher
USHERS:	
COMMUNION MIN:	Mike & Jona Uptmor
SERVERS:	Greyson Holscher, Mallory Mosbey
GIFTS:	Eric Mosbey Family
<u>Sun. Dec. 10, 2017 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Anita Kocher
USHERS:	Ron & Ethel Dhom
COMMUNION MIN:	Jim Ping, Kourtney Coffman
SERVERS:	Eva Hermann
GIFTS:	Bob & Kourtney Coffman
<u>Sun. Dec. 10, 2017 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	April Sexton
USHERS:	Levi Dickerson, Anthony O'Dell
COMMUNION MIN:	Jane Bohman, Mark Ghering
SERVERS:	Emily Heidorn, Isabel Heidorn
GIFTS:	Eric Schmidt Family

Collection Counters:

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

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

6:30 pm~ 7:30 pm Dec. 6 & 13, 2017

Scriptural Reflections for the First Sunday of Advent



1ST SUNDAY OF Advent

At a certain point in life, the deep desires and cravings of our heart reach a point of eruption in us. Yet at the same time comes the awareness that we cannot bring about what we want—we do not have inside us what is needed to fulfill and satisfy our longings. And so, with our infinite yearnings we turn to the Infinite and cry, "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down." Our experience of helplessness before. The fact of our boundless human need moves us to ask for fellowship with God's Son, Jesus Christ the Lord. The nature of our desire assures us as we enter into Advent that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. "The Lord of the house is coming."

CHRISTMAS DINNER



The Pastoral Council of ST. ELIZABETH & OUR LADY OF LOURDES is coordinating the Christmas Dinner and they are happy to invite you to be present. The menu for our Christmas Dinner will be: turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, carrots. Please bring a salad or dessert. It is the hope and prayer for all of the members of the Pastoral Council that all of the members both of our Parishes will feel warmly welcomed.

The date of the CHRISTMAS DINNER is SUN. DEC. 10, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

Spiritual Reading for the First Sunday of Advent



Let me tell you something strange: even the most beautiful souls, who burn to be in the Heart of Jesus, do not want to believe that confidence is the key which will open the door for them, because this door is a wound made by love. They look for other ways, as if this way were too beautiful to be reliable. How many times people have said to me, "It is too beautiful to be true." And I answer, "Jesus bought at a dear enough price, at the price of all his blood, the right to bring to earth something 'too beautiful.'"

So what then? He calls me just as I am? I can go to him with all my miseries, all my weaknesses? He will repair what I have done badly? He will supply for all my indigence? Yes, provided that you go to him, that you count on him, that you expect everything of him, that you say with Saint Paul, Omnia possum (Phil 4:13): I can do all things in him who is my only Strength and my only virtue. A beautiful prayer to pour forth from your heart throughout the day is, "Jesus, repair what I have done badly, supply for what I have left undone."

Or an even more beautiful way to pray is: "Jesus, I know that you make reparation in me, that you supply for me, I know that you will draw the good from the bad that I do, and even, as Saint Augustine said, a greater good than if there had been no evil in it." Is this not worthy of adoration? I have a Jesus who does all that in me and for me & I am very sure—oh, yes indeed!—that he will never say to me, "You hoped too much of me."

Sun. Dec. 3, 2017 ~ First Sunday of Advent
From the Pastor ~ 'Rouse Your Power & Come to Save Us!'

We begin a new Church year (Cycle B), turning now to the Gospel of Mark. As always, the First Sunday of Advent carries echoes of the "end of the world." Thus, as we enter into the hopeful waiting of the Advent season, we focus this week on the second and final coming of Christ — his "coming in glory."

Having spent many years in secondary and higher-ed contexts, I often have likened this aspect of Advent to the waiting of students (and faculty) for the coming end of the fall semester (with its exams and papers due).

Is this waiting expectant and hopeful, or is it scary? That depends on how someone has been living out her or his vocation as a student (going to class, keeping up on reading, etc.) or as a faculty member (planning ahead, budgeting time to correct exams, etc.)

If the "servants" have been conscientious about their "own work" all along and can tough it out through the final push, then they can look forward with joyful longing to academic or professional success and to the well-earned relaxation of the holidays. But if the servants have been lazy and inattentive, then the "final reckoning" can look pretty grim and painful.

Yet Christian hope — the kind we seek in Advent — does not ultimately depend on us & our own "performance." As Paul reminds the Corinthians, we, the baptized, can find our hope by trusting that we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 1:7).

A hospital volunteer tutor was asked to visit a fifth-grader, and she went to see the boy that afternoon. But no one had warned her that the boy had been badly burned and was in great pain. Upset at the sight of his scars, she stammered as she told him, "I've been sent by your school to help you with nouns and adverbs." She left after the lesson feeling that she hadn't accomplished much.

But the next day, a nurse asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" The teacher, stricken, began to apologize. "No, no," said the nurse. "You don't understand. We've been very worried about him, but ever since yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment. It's as though he's decided to live."

Two weeks later the boy explained that he had completely given up hope until the teacher arrived. Then, everything changed when he came to a simple realization. He said simply: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

Daily Mass Readings



Reading 1-Mon. Dec.4—Is.2:1-5 Gospel Mt.8:5-11
Reading 1-Tues. Dec. 5-Is.11:1-10 Gospel Lk. 10:21-24
Reading 1-Wed. Dec.6-Is.25:6-10A
Gospel Mt.15:29-37
Reading 1-Thurs. Dec. 7-Is.26:1-6
Gospel Mt.7:21, 24-27
Reading 1-Fri. Dec. 8-Gn.3:9-15, 20 Reading2-Eph.1:3-6 11-12
Gospel Lk.1:26-38



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, Robb Sparks, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Rich Welp, Janis Wickland, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Spiritual Meditation: Mystery of the Immaculate Conception



God finished his creations ad extra and perfected them when he formed humans in his likeness as rulers over the entire world. The creatures created on this day (the animals of the earth and humans) rendered obedience to the one who the Lord predestined and distinguished as Mother of his Son as an act of justice rather than grace.

When Adam was created in original justice and grace, it was his nature to be ruler over all that was created on the earth, and so all the lesser creatures rendered him obedience. When he sinned and transgressed against God he was rejected by his inferiors. The elements and the rest of the creatures rebelled against him. Therefore, if Mary most holy was preserved from this original poison, in justice she would be owed all the privileges due her because of being conceived in grace. Therefore, as a matter of original justice all creatures would be subject to her, because she did not participate in that sin which caused their rebellion against Adam and all of his children.

This benefit is not to be considered as a new gift but a manifestation of the benefit that her Son and our Lord gave to her by preserving her from Original Sin. And all the homage rendered her by the creatures of the earth resulted from the grace of her conception, like the grace of the original creation of Adam, and is a testimony to her being immaculately conceived. She alone was the one in whom the image and likeness of God, erased by the sin of our first father, the perfection of all the universe, was restored. Holy Scripture calls Adam the perfection and ornament fall creation either because the final creature is the crown of the entire work or because the rest of the creatures were created for his sake. All the other creatures were left imperfect through the sin of Adam. Divine Omnipotence is to be credited not only with restoring human nature, by redeeming it, but by making use of human nature, by predestining and preserving in his eternal mind a pure creature adorned with sanctifying grace from the first instant of her being. Through her the image and likeness of God was restored, perfecting the rest of his work and restoring it to its rightful order. For this reason it is not only human beings who are in Mary's debt but all the other creatures as well because she gives them perfection and nobility. They all owe her their service for this, if for no other reason. On this day, therefore, all the brute beasts render her obedience.

Advent Nursing Home Project

It is not too late to participate in the Advent Nursing Home Project. All unwrapped gifts along with tags must be returned by Wed. Dec.13, 2017. Any questions, please call Geri Ezell at 544-7910 or Patti Buercklin at 544-8704.



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.

Thank You from Marilyn Michl & Family



Marilyn Michl & family wants to say "thank you" to Our Lady Of Lourdes & The Bend for the kindness shown at a time when it was greatly appreciated & the wonderful meal in honor of Grover Michl.

**Spiritual Reading for the Sacred Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
The Praise of His Glory**

Our first parents made a big mistake. When Adam ate of the tree, he disobeyed a divine command. Behind this primordial rebellion stands a man who wanted to be like God, but without God. It does not require faith to see that sinful Adam's pride continues to display itself & the world. The forbidden fruit represents the many ways that human beings try to live without God. Adam & Eve, we are told, promptly discovered the punishment for their sin. The God who they once loved, they began to fear. From the God whose company they once enjoyed, they began to hide. Our generation has grown callous. A thousand different things persuade us that the human creature can prosper without the Creator. And so we continue to make mistakes, even big mistakes, about what brings human being happiness. We however, may not quickly realize our errors. In order to rejoice in the Immaculate Conception, one must accept that sinful humanity still presses toward living without God & not in accord with divine wisdom. This admission should not depress the Christian believer, however. For today, behold the only member of our race preserved from every stain and sin. In Mary Immaculate, we can "exist for the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:12). But for this change to happen we can't hide from her. Hail, Mary! Reflection based on Luke 1:26-38. Father Romanus Cessario, O.P. Blessed Mother Mary! Receive me as your child. Help me to discover in your Immaculate Conception the assurance that one day I will enter into the presence of God's glory.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION will be celebrated on THURS. DEC. 7 at 5:00 pm at OLOL'S & on FRI. DEC. 8, 2017 at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm in ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH.

Christmas Choir Practice

The choir will practice from 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the Church on Sundays during Advent to prepare for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. New choir members are welcome.

Dec. 8-Holy Day-Solemnity Of The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary~Hail Mary, Full Of Grace

Despite the Gospel reading, which tells of Jesus' conception by the power of the Holy Spirit, that is not the mystery of today's feast. The Immaculate Conception refers, rather, to the mystery of Mary's being preserved free from original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. While there is no account of this mystery in the Gospels, it was already a well-established and universally accepted Catholic belief well before the Middle Ages. And while it deals with a special privilege given to God by Mary, like all things Marian, it is closely tied to Jesus. It is precisely because God chose her to be the mother of his Son — and because she agreed — that she is given this unique gift of grace that is her Immaculate Conception. But why does the first reading from Genesis concern the Fall? Because of St. Paul's "new Adam" Christology. Now connect the dots to grasp the parallels. Since by a woman (Eve) came sin, so too by a woman's (Mary's) obedience came salvation. By God's special grace and the merits of her Son's death and resurrection, she is restored to the state of innocence (original grace) enjoyed by Adam and Eve before the Fall. Mary

St. Elizabeth & OLOL Parishes December Schedule

Our Lady Of Lourdes

Advent Confessions~ Thurs. Dec. 7, 2017 at 4:00-5:00 pm - Sacred Eucharist-Holy Day-Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary -Thurs. Dec. 7, 2017 at 5:00 pm Sacred Eucharist-Feast of the Nativity Of Our Lord & Savior Sun. Dec. 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm-Christmas Eve-

St. Elizabeth

Sacred Eucharist-Holy Day-Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Fri. Dec. 8, 2017 at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm. 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.

Advent Confessions

The holy & sacred season of ADVENT is a time of spiritual reflections & preparation as we ready our hearts through sacrifice, prayer, generosity, & contrition. This sacred season before the birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, is a perfect opportunity to consider those choices & decisions that we have made in which we have turned away from God seeking our own desires & wills. Through the Sacrament of RECONCILIATION, we are able to renew our relationship of love with God, our Father. ADVENT CONFESSIONS will be heard on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 4:00 pm in Our Lady Of Lourdes Church & on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 2:00 pm in St. Elizabeth Church. May we receive God's faithful & merciful forgiveness within our hearts for the rebirth of the miracle of His Love on the morning of Christmas. God bless you.

Dec. 8-Holy Day-Solemnity Of The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary~Hail Mary Full Of Grace continued

remains fully human. Like all of us, she can experience temptation & has freedom to sin (but, we believe, does not). Like all humans, she is subject to pain, sickness and death. But she doesn't have the same inclination to sin (concupiscence) as the rest of us do after the Fall. In her, God demonstrates his power over Satan & sin; in her, he breaks their hold over the human condition. Mary becomes what we all hope to be through our redemption in Christ & by cooperation with God's grace. Which is why this feast matters for us. In the second reading, Paul blesses "the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" because "he chose us in [Christ], before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him" (Eph 1:3-4). Mary is the "first fruits" for us. God graces Mary to show us the glorious destiny that awaits us all — if, like her, we can say, "Be it done to me according to your word."

Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, November 26, 2017

Envelopes \$ 2,483.00 Loose \$ 247.00

3 @ Online @ \$180.00 Justice & Hope \$20.00 Christmas

Flowers \$562.00 Votive Candles \$113.01

Deposit \$3,605.01

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sun. Nov. 26, 2017 will be in next week's bulletin