



# 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 ~ 4:00 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 8, 2019 Second Sunday of Advent



The Preaching of John The Baptist ~ Story found in Matthew 3:1-12

Now in those days John the Baptist <sup>[a]</sup>came, <sup>[b]</sup>preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven <sup>[c]</sup>is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is the one referred to <sup>[d]</sup>by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His Paths straight!’” <sup>4</sup>Now John himself had <sup>[e]</sup>a garment of camel’s hair & a leather belt around his waist; & his food was locusts & wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem was going out to him, & all Judea & all the district around the Jordan; <sup>6</sup>& they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees & Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; <sup>9</sup>& do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down & thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“As for me, I baptize you <sup>[f]</sup>with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you <sup>[g]</sup>with the Holy Spirit & fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; & He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”



## Mass Intentions

Dec. 7	4:30 pm	Kevin Murray by Larry Dix
Dec. 8	7:30 am	Charles Parkhurst by Parkhurst Family
	9:00 am	Roger & Helen Fabris by Kaye Pesatore
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 9	7:30 am	The repose of the soul of Lillie Rose Myers
Dec. 10	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
Dec. 11	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 12	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 13	7:30 am	Greg Bohman & Edna O'Dell (Death) by George & Jane Bohman
Dec. 14	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Dec. 15	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Val Pescatore by Bob & Kourtney Coffman Family
	10:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 14 ~ Sunday, December 15, 2019

Sat. December 14, 2019 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

**LECTOR:** Patti Buercklin

**USHERS:** Ken & Carol Bergbower

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:** Lily Ann Mullins, Aleigha Mullins

**GIFTS:** Terry Roche Family

Sun. December 15, 2019 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

**LECTOR:** Linda Sikorski

**USHERS:** Garrett Rich, Travis Rich

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:** Mallory Mosbey

**GIFTS:** James Eckert Family

Sun. December 15, 2019 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

**LECTOR:** Bob Coffman

**USHERS:** Rich & Anita Kocher

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:** Eva Hermann

**GIFTS:** Rich & Anita Kocher

Sun. December 15, 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

**LECTOR:** Cydnee Weber

**USHERS:** Korbin Rawlings, Scott Rawlings

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:** Emily Ferris, Maddy Myers

**GIFTS:** Andrew Ferris Family

December Collection Counters: Scott & Valerie Chapman, Karen Reinoehl



## Parish School of Religion

DECEMBER DATES: WED. DEC. 11, 18, 2019 6:30-7:30 pm.  
JANUARY DATES: WED. JAN. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020 6:30-7:30 pm.



## Confirmation Class Dates

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES: DECEMBER 8, 15, 2019.  
JANUARY DATES: JANUARY 12, 26, 2020.

Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent

Advent is a strange word. It means "coming." An advent is something that is "arriving soon." When we have something coming, when we expect an event, an advent, we are usually alert inside. We are listening. My family is coming for Christmas & I am in the county, & I am listening for the sound of a car. It is a special car, & I am filled with a special listening. Advent is such a beautiful season. It is a time for renewal; it is especially a time for forgiveness because God brings his forgiveness to us in the shape of his Son. The Church year begins with Advent & every time it comes around, my heart thrills anew. The word "advent" has a double connotation. It means the arrival of a new liturgical season, the preparatory time for Christmas, for "the coming of Our Lord" as a Child on earth, for his Incarnation in time. But it also means that other advent—the Parousia, the second coming of Christ, in glory, at the end of the world. That is an advent which Russian hearts long for & expect. They hope it will happen in their lifetime, but, even if it doesn't, they rejoice that it will happen in someone else's lifetime. These two Advents blend in my soul, mind, & heart. They bring a hunger & a longing that beggars words, for they are the seasons of expectation. Expectation of what? Of whom? To me, of the Tremendous Lover, of the Lord, Christ.

Scriptural Reflections for the Second Sunday of Advent

John's preaching of repentance is not meant to be a fire-&-brimstone ultimatum by which he attempts to scare us into holiness. Rather, he preaches to prepare us for the One our heart has always been waiting for: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." "The Kingdom of God means Christ himself" (CCC 2816). Thus, John preaches that "we might have hope" in the One who will come "with the Holy Spirit & fire," who will tame what is savage in wild beasts, who will put a halt to harm & ruin, who will decide aright for the land's afflicted. With the sure hope of all this, there is nothing more reasonable than repentance — that is, changing in us whatever keeps us from saying yes to it all.

## Baptism of Madison Rose Stumborg



Our Parish Family of St. Elizabeth is happy to welcome MADISON ROSE STUMBORG into the Catholic Church & Christian Community through the oils & waters of the Sacrament of Baptism. As you begin your Baptismal journey into eternal love & eternal life with GOD, we promise that we will be by your side to lead & guide you with our constant prayers, good examples, & God's Love. Madison received the oils & waters of BAPTISM on Sunday, December 1, 2019. She is the daughter of Joshua & Angela Stumborg.

## In Loving Memory ~ Christmas Flowers

If you would like to remember your loved one for the fund of CHRISTMAS FLOWERS, please submit your request & donation by MON. DEC. 16, 2019. You & your loved one's name will be printed in the IN LOVING MEMORY bulletin for Sunday, December 22, 2019. Thank you.

Sunday, December 8, 2019 ~ Second Sunday of Advent ~  
From The Pastor ~ The Hope Before Our Eyes

With the revitalization of the inner cities in our country over the last decade or so, the poor & the marginalized find themselves more & more displaced & dispossessed. In our society, sometimes the local parish is the only net spread wide enough to catch the needy poor. A priest ministers in a Church to street people, together with the help of several dedicated volunteers at the parish. On a summer's day you can see these homeless lining up for some sandwiches & water. One man's head is partially covered with a red handkerchief & secured by a camo hat; he wears a sports jersey & torn jeans. Not exactly tourist attractions for building up business. Fancy hotels wish the unsightly & the smelly would disappear. But that is what happens when we get too close to the messianic promise, accomplishing before our eyes what humanity has failed to do. The Hebrew prophets bring us eyeball to eyeball with the one virtue that continues to elude us — hope. It is certainly true that faith, hope & love work in concert with one another, but I think hope is prey to all the things that pull us down: discouragement, cynicism, despair. To these ills of our 21st century, Isaiah has an answer; it will be God's messianic promise to make all things new that will win out in the end. What that will look like is sketched out in striking detail in the most impossible relationships — stumps break into bloom; lambs hosting wolves; justice enveloping the poor & presiding over it all will not be the powerful & the rich, but "a little child to guide them." As we turn to Isaiah for the announcement of God's future, we might take note that the word of God serves us as a profound consolation in the midst of what may be the poverty of our desolation. We don't have to be in a long line in the inner city waiting for a taste of our only meal of the day in order to experience hopelessness. Rather, the bread of Scripture brings our own eyes into God's promise of hope minute by minute. As Paul reminds the Romans, "Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance & by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Turning to these prophetic oracles is a way of hearing a voice crying in the wilderness, an announcement of repentance for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. How near will we allow that word of the kingdom to come as we stand together this Advent on God's holy mountain awaiting divine justice for nations?



### Daily Mass Readings

**Mon. Dec. 9, 2019** First Reading Gn. 3:9-15, 20 Reading 2-Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12 ~ Gospel Lk. 1:26-38 **Tues. Dec. 10, 2019** First Reading Is. 40:1-11 Gospel Mt. 18:12-14 **Wed. Dec. 11, 2019** First Reading Is. 40: 25-31 Gospel Mt. 11:28-30 **Thurs. Dec. 12, 2019** First Reading Zec. 2:14-17 or Rv. 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB ~ Gospel Lk. 1:26-38 **Fri. Dec. 13, 2019** First Reading Is. 48:17-19 ~ Gospel Mt. 11:16-19



### 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), Fred Kirts, Carole Marshall (Anita Kocher), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.



### Advent Giving Tree

This is the LAST weekend we will be accepting gifts for the Nursing Home Project. If you have not returned your unwrapped gift & tag, please do so before Thurs. Dec. 12, 2019 to the Parish Center. Thank you.

## St. Elizabeth Church ~ December Schedule

### ADVENT CONFESSIONS ~ ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 ~ 1:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DINNER ST. ELIZABETH PARISH CENTER ~SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 ~ 4:00 PM**

### CHRISTMAS EVE SACRED EUCHARIST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 ~ 6:00 PM

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

& SAVIOR ~ ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

### CHRISTMAS DAY ~ ST. ELIZABETH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019 ~ 9:00 AM

### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

### SACRED EUCHARIST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER. 31, 2019 ~ 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 ~ 9:00 AM ~ SACRED

FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

THE MOTHER OF GOD



## Our Lady of Lourdes Church December Schedule



### CHRISTMAS DINNER ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

CTR. ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 ~ 4:00 PM

### CHRISTMAS EVE SACRED EUCHARIST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 ~ 4:00 PM

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

& SAVIOR ~ OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

### SACRED EUCHARIST ~ TUESDAY, DECEMBER

31, 2019 ~ 4:00 PM

SACRED FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE

MOTHER OF GOD



## Annual Catholic Services Appeal

The ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL supports our parishes & diocese in carrying out the GOSPEL MISSION of the Catholic Church in forming disciples of JESUS CHRIST. The theme of the 2019 appeal is "TOGETHER IN MISSION". Each of us by our common Baptism into Christ Jesus is called to be active participants in working to form ourselves into DISCIPLES who are willing with the grace of God to labor TOGETHER IN MISSION". As we strive to be able to serve with one another in the spirit of MISSION may we continue to receive the gift of God's Grace by generously supporting this year's appeal. As always, your deep & sincere generosity is greatly appreciated as we strive together to fulfill the goal for: ST. ELIZABETH PARISH \$33,773.00 & OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH - \$7,153.00.

## Rest in Peace



Please remember to pray for the soul of ANNETTE M. "ANITA" BERGBOWER. She was the mother of Ralph & Marge Boatman. In God's Love, we pray that He will grant her a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of Heaven & that her family will receive comfort & peace in their sorrow & loss.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

## Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent



John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert. (Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths)" (3:1-3).

In those days: Saint Matthew is not telling a "once upon a time" fairy tale but a true story'. The desert: repentance brings hope to the dry and seemingly barren areas of our life. We easily become discouraged by our sins and weaknesses, yet those are precisely the places we must ask the Lord to enter. "Wait there for the One who will save you. However much the storm of battles may assail you, however much you may feel the lack even of sustenance in the desert (he will feed you more abundantly with manna, that is, the bread of angels" (Blessed Guerric of Igny). We prepare the way of the Lord not by trying to prove our worthiness but through humility and prayer; we make straight his paths by saying "You must increase, I must decrease." John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins (3:4-6). John's penitential life reveals his sincerity; he practices what he preaches. The virtue of penance (or penitence) leads us to detest sin and desire to please God, who is worthy of all our love. It is how we make satisfaction and reparation, "filling up" the sufferings of Christ in our own life (Col 1:24). "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship" (Rom 12:1). Acknowledged their sins: Knowing and confessing our sins is a grace. "God's greatest pleasure is to pardon us. The good Lord is more eager to pardon a repentant sinner than a mother to rescue her child from a fire" (Saint John Vianney). When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire" (3:7-10). Why be so harsh if the Pharisees and Sadducees are coming to John's baptism? Isn't this a good thing? They do not come in a true spirit of repentance, but in a public show of self-righteousness. How do we, for our part, ensure that we receive the sacraments—especially the Eucharist—with the right disposition? The Church herself supplies the words: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.' Our confidence in every sacrament arises from faith in Christ's power. Every tree that does not bear good fruit: a tree will bear good fruit as long as its roots remain in rich soil. Consider Luke 13:6-9: the gardener himself declares he will do the work of cultivating and fertilizing to make the tree bear fruit. Even if we fall, Jesus does not abandon us: humility and contrition keep us firm in God's love. "Much more pleasing to God is a fervent life after sin than innocence sluggish in its security" (Saint Gregory the Great). "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire" (3:11-12). John's baptism inspired repentance and merely pointed to Christ's baptism—the Church's baptism—which, by the power of the Holy Spirit, forgives sins and fills us with divine life. Winnowing fan: an instrument for removing

## Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent cont.

impurities so that only pure wheat remains. Jesus frees us from sin, purifying our hearts so we can become like the pure wheat consecrated on the altar. He "bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world" (2 Pt 1:4). We "become the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor 5:21). A prayer before Mass by Archbishop Fulton Sheen: "Here is my body. Take it. Here is my blood. Take it. Here is my soul, my will, my energy, my strength, my property, my wealth—all that I have. It is yours. Take it! Consecrate it! Offer it with yourself to the heavenly Father.... Consecrate these trials of my life which would go unrewarded unless united with you; transubstantiate me so that like bread which is now your Body, and wine which is now your Blood, I too may be wholly yours. ... My station in life, my routine duties, my work, my family—all these are but the species of my life which may remain unchanged; but the substance of my life, my soul, my mind, my will, my heart—transubstantiate them, transform them wholly into your service, so that through me all may know how sweet is the love of Christ. Amen."

## Weekly Offerings

### St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending Sunday, December 1, 2019

Envelopes \$1,677.00 Loose \$271.25 Building Fund \$65.00

Christmas Flowers \$150.00 All Souls Day \$20.00

Online thru Give Central 3 @ \$175.00

Deposit: \$2,358.25

Give Central 4 @ \$275.00 on 11-24-2019

### Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, November 24, 2019

Envelopes \$710.00 Loose \$218.00 Christmas Flower \$145.00

Building Fund \$45.00 Human Development \$125.00

Votive Candles \$91.00

Deposit: \$1,334.00

## Give Central On-Line Donations

Give Central can be accessed on the Church Website.

## Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday of 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 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 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.