



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 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 23, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Story found in: Luke 1:39~45



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, & Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice & said, "most blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Lk. 1:41~43



Mass Intentions

Dec. 22	4:30 pm	Sonny Mann & Kevin Murray by Sherri Murray Thomas
Dec. 23	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	Don Davis by Chuck & Karen, Mike, Nai, & Kyle Bailey
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass <u>St. Elizabeth-</u> <u>Karlene Frese by Pete Frese</u>
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass- <u>LOLO-</u> <u>Don Davis by Chuck & Karen,</u> <u>Mike, Nai & Kyle Bailey</u>
Dec. 25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Mass- <u>St. Elizabeth</u> <u>Jean & Clarence Loy by Ann Loy</u>
Dec. 26	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
Dec. 27	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 28	7:30 am	Betty Moore by Mark & Cindy Grimm
Dec. 29	4:30 pm	Karlene Frese by Pete Frese
Dec. 30	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Ron Dhom by Family Member Of Our Lady of Lourdes
	10:30 am	Special Intentions



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 29 ~ Sunday, December 30, 2018

Sat. Dec. 29, 2018 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Terry Roche

USHERS: Ken & Carol Bergbower

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Abby Mullins, Lily Ann Mullins

GIFTS: Steve Ezell Family

Sun. Dec. 30, 2018 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Mike Uptmor

USHERS: Garrett Rich, Travis Rich

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Jeff Hermann

GIFTS: Joe Hepner Family

Sun. Dec. 30, 2018 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Anita Kocher

USHERS: Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Taylor Blank, Emma Davis

GIFTS: Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson

Sun. Dec. 30, 2018 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Cydnee Weber

USHERS: John Grimm, Jack Grimm

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Maddy Myers, Lauren Staller

GIFTS: Ted Staller Family

December Collection Counters: Scott & Valerie Chapman, Karen Reinoehl

Please remember to attend weekly Mass



Parish School of Religion

PSR News: Due to the fact that our FIRST CLASS for the New Year of 2019 falls so close to the Holiday of January 1, 2019, the scheduled CLASS for Wednesday, January 2, 2019 will be postponed & made up on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. NO CLASS ON JANUARY 2, 2019. MAKE UP CLASS ON MAY 15, 2019. JANUARY PSR CLASSES: Wed. Jan. 9, 16, 23, & 30.

Christmas Schedule for St. Elizabeth & OLOL



Our Lady of Lourdes

Mon. Dec. 24, 2018 ~

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior

~ Sacred Eucharist ~ 6:00 pm

Mon. Dec. 31, 2018 ~

Holy Day Mass ~ Feast of Mary,
the Mother of God ~

Sacred Eucharist ~ 4:00 pm.

St. Elizabeth

Mon. Dec. 24, 2018 ~ Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior ~
Sacred Eucharist ~ 4:00 pm

Mon. Dec. 25, 2018 ~ Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior ~
Sacred Eucharist ~ 9:00 am

Mon. Dec. 31, 2018 ~ Holy Day ~ Feast of Mary, the MOTHER OF GOD ~ Sacred Eucharist ~ 6:00 pm

Tues. Jan. 1, 2019 ~ Holy Day ~ Feast of Mary, the MOTHER OF GOD ~ Sacred Eucharist ~ 9:00 am

CHRISTMAS MASSES



Please note that before the 4:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE MASS, the ADULT CHOIR will be singing Christmas Carols at 3:40 P.M. on CHRISTMAS DAY, before the 9:00 A.M. MASS, the CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be singing Christmas Carols at 8:40 A.M. Both of these choirs have spent a great deal of time preparing for our Christmas Masses, so as a sign of our gratitude to them & respect for their sincere dedication & devotion, please be so kind as to be seated in your pew before the singing begins. This is also a perfect opportunity to say THANK YOU from our hearts to all of our CHRISTMAS CHOIR MEMBERS for helping us to praise God in the Birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

First Friday Mass

The First Friday Mass for OLOL's Parish will be celebrated on Fri. Jan. 4, 2019 at 5:00 pm in OLOL's Church.

St. Elizabeth Finance Council Meeting

St. Elizabeth Finance Council will meet on TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Center.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Erica Adams (Patti Buercklin), Kevin Bennett (Oblong, OLOL) Sara Casburn (Linda Allen), Scott Chapman, Todd Drake, Eileen Fabris, (Kathleen Pescatore), Greg Hill, Nancy Ping, Layton Roy (Sean Sexton), Charlita Wilson, Darrell Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.

Sun. Dec. 25, 2018 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ From the Pastor:

George Bailey, the main character from the film "It's a Wonderful Life," felt he was a nobody in his town. Everyone else seemed better. Yet George looked after the townsfolk compassionately. He assisted them when in trouble without counting the cost. George always came to their aid when troubles happened. By the movie's conclusion, George was overwhelmed by the townspeople thanking him for his many kindnesses. One person remarked, "George is the richest man in town." George learned that putting others first was his real treasure. The readings today show how individuals who also seemed to be "nobodies" put faith & trust in God, making them the richest people in the world even to this day. The prophet Micah sets a positive tone for Advent's final Sunday readings. After listing the sinful practices of the Israelites, Micah announces that changes are coming. He tells of a Davidic descendant signaling a new covenant with Yahweh. Born in David's hometown-tiny Bethlehem-this future king is the promised Messiah & will bring the People of God home. Jesus' death on the cross is the sole sacrifice of the new covenant. St. Paul affirms this, saying, "By this 'will' we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once & for all" (Heb 10:10). Luke introduces his readers to the important individuals of this New Covenant: Mary, the mother of Jesus; Joseph, her husband; John the Baptizer; & Elizabeth, his mother. Elizabeth's words recognize Mary's blessedness as flowing from her belief & trust in God's revelation. Suddenly John leaps for joy in his mother's womb, anticipating his future mission proclaiming his cousin the Messiah. Believers today celebrate Jesus' birth, because these individuals believed God's word, making Christians everywhere the richest people in the world. Jesus' followers still are invited to accept this same belief & to let God lift them from lowliness to greatness.

Dec. 25, 2018 ~ The Nativity of Our Lord & Savior ~ From the Pastor

With the arrival of Christmas, the liturgy vibrates with joy & hope. Everyone wants the positive attitude this feast evokes to remain after Dec. 25. For many, it's the most loved holiday on the Church calendar. Jesus' birth brings salvation, conquers sin & brings Christ the Messiah astonishing to live with us — truths to believe. Christmas also provides creation a rare opportunity to pause & show its gratefulness to God. Despite creation's sometimes tepid response to God's attempts to love them, God remains persistent. The good news the shepherds heard that Christmas night still is comforting to believers' hearts & ears this Christmas: "For behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy. ... For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah & Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). The amazed shepherds rushed to see this good news for themselves. Yet today Jesus the son of David & son of God still is called Messiah. Christmas still celebrates God's bonding with his creation. Creches still create a scene of Jesus simply clothed lying on his bed of straw. It is a gift long awaited, & the magnificent story of this special day reveals it all. Creation is lifted up & embraced the Creator. No wonder believers everywhere want the spirit of this day to remain. The Christmas message has a deeper message than simply welcoming Jesus as Savior on Christmas morning. Christians need to be open about what & who needs saving in their lives. Charles Dickens, in his famous story "A Christmas Carol," demonstrates this point with Scrooge. During the night, three ghosts of Christmas — past, present & future — visit Scrooge. Together they saved Ebenezer Scrooge from his selfishness, stubbornness & arrogance. Jesus comes to save his followers in a similar way. From his teaching & by his reaching, Jesus gives his disciples all they need to prepare themselves for judgment. They will learn how to love God, their neighbors &, above all, themselves. This love will save them. Jesus will provide

The Nativity of Our Lord & Savior ~ From the Pastor continued.

everything they need by grace, sacraments & example. As long as they listen & follow Jesus, they will not hear any words of condemnation on that final day. Jesus' coming on that first Christmas illustrates how real God's desire is to save us. Giving Jesus a vigorous response is an excellent return gift.

Could you lend a HELPING HAND?

Fr. Flach has been asked to inquire if a parishioner would be able to accompany someone to her chemotherapy treatments. Transportation will be provided. This would be for 5 days a week until the process is completed. Perhaps a couple of parishioners would be able to volunteer & be able to split up the week. Hopefully, someone will be able to accompany this person so that she does not have to be alone during her treatments. If you are able to be of any assistance, please contact Fr. Flach. Thank you & God bless you.

A Blessed & Joyous Christmas

I am pleased & happy to offer you & your loved ones my sincere & prayerful wishes for a BLESSED & HOLY CHRISTMAS. This special feast brings families together. It reveals sentiments of friendship, loyalty, affection, & generosity. This outpouring of love within us is a true reflection of the love of God the Father Who through the Holy Spirit gave His Divine Son to us at the very First Christmas. CHRISTMAS without Christ, without a deep & religious meaning loses its importance in our spiritual lives. This is why we gather in prayer on this solemn & joyful day to allow God's Love to come ever more deeply into our hearts. As we gather around the crib of the Infant Jesus remembering the first Christmas morning, we celebrate the miracle of the mystery of God coming among us as we realize the depth of that love as we contemplate this saving & redeeming love. Through the birth of the CHRIST CHILD, OUR SAVIOR, we perceive the many outpourings of God's Love & we accept the invitation of our faith to live in the spirit of cooperation & good will each day.

In Sincere Gratitude

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in our hearts through the incarnation of LOVE, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all of your Christmas greetings & gifts. My expression of love at this most holy season blesses my heart with gratitude to God for allowing me to serve as your priest. I am also sincerely grateful to all those parishioners who have expressed God's Love through their expressed faithful & dedicated service. May God bless each of you with a Holy & Blessed Christmas & a peaceful & healthy New Year of 2019!



Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, December 16, 2018

Envelopes \$2,702.00 Loose \$345.00 Building Fund \$5.00

Christmas Offering \$5.00 Solemnity of Mary \$5.00

Retired Priest \$170.00 Immaculate Conception \$30.00

Spiritual Kiosk \$8.00 Dependent Children \$15.00

3 online @ \$185.00 Deposit: \$ 3,470.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Week Ending December 9, 2018

Envelopes \$745.00 Loose \$127.00

Ron Dhom Mass \$10.00 Retirement Fund \$165.00

Immaculate Conception \$170.00 Deposit: \$1217.00

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~\$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 & many others. The prizes will be the same as last year. First prize is \$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 Stoney Ridge on March 2, 2019. The Seller of the winning ticket will win \$100.00 & the individual selling the most tickets will win \$100.00. Tickets are \$25.00 each & 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 & help our Parishes in the process. In advance. **THANK YOU!** Terry Roche, Big Divvy Chair

Spiritual Reading ~ The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Savior

Honor & praise to the Love made flesh, Who came to give himself to us! Honor Him, O my soul, for he comes to save you. Come, hasten to greet him! He does not hold back—all of himself he gives. In his desire to be one with you. Will you not give all of yourself to him? Will you not hasten to embrace him? Think of what he gives you, & what he demands— That you be as generous as he. Leaving heaven behind, all alone. Without the trappings of wealth or glory. No servants to minister to him, no palace to house him. He manifested himself on earth in a stable. 'Why did you leave the golden throne resplendent with gems? Why did you put aside the dazzling crown? Why did you leave the order of cherubim? The seraphim, that joyous court of ardent love. The honored servants & courtiers you loved as brothers— Why did you leave them all, O Lord? "In place of your glorious throne. A manger & a little straw; In place of a starry crown. Poor swaddling clothes & the warm breath of an ox & an ass; In place of a glorious court, Mary & Joseph. Were these the actions of someone drunk, or out of his senses? How could you abdicate kingdom & riches. A renunciation that verges on madness? Did someone promise you other & greater treasure? O measureless love that would cede. Such glory as yours for such humble estate!"



Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Dec. 24, 2018—First Reading-2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A,16
Gospel Lk. 1:67-79

Tues. Dec. 25, 2018 -At the Vigil Mass-Is.62:1-5, Reading 2-Acts. 13:16-17, 22-25, Gospel Mt. 1:1-25, 22-25. Mass at Night-Is. 9:1-6, Reading 2-Ti.2:11-14, Gospel Lk. 2:1-14. Mass at Dawn-Is.62:11-12, Reading 2-Ti.3:4-7, Gospel Lk. 2:15-20, Mass Day-Is.52:7-10, Reading 2-Heb. 1:1-6, Gospel Jn. 1:1-18

Wed. Dec. 26, 2018—Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Gospel Mt. 10:17-22

Thurs. Dec. 27, 2018-1 Jn. 1:1-4, Gospel Jn. 20:1A&2-8

Fri. Dec. 28, 2018-1 Jn. 1:5-2:2, Gospel Mt. 2:13-18

Advent Nursing Home Project



The gifts for the nursing home residents have been wrapped & delivered. Thanks to all who bought gifts or made a monetary donation. I would also express my sincere gratitude to our wrappers: Patti Buercklin, Carol Connor, Susan Emmerich, Lynne Roche, April Sexton, & Jona Uptmor. Special thanks to Kayla Blank & Harmon's Drug Store for their donation of large tote sacks. Thanks to all who supported the Advent Project in any way. Our Parishes could not supply these gifts without your generous help. May God bless you during the Christmas Season & in the coming year. Geri Ezell.



Scriptural Reflections for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

From a barren, elderly woman John the Baptist will be born. From a place 'too small' our Ruler shall come forth & "when she who is to give birth has borne"—she, a mere girl & Virgin then God's "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth." We need the humble paradox of this divine design. For when we see God use nothingness in such a glorious way, "then we will no more withdraw" from him. Our inadequacy, our deficiency would conspire to keep us apart from him. But the closeness of the expectant Mary makes us leap like John the Baptist in his mother's womb. As we beg, "Give us new life?" we know that in Mary's maternal presence our prayer is already being answered.



Spiritual Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

This truth is well known, but there is a consequence of it that is not sufficiently pondered. Divine Wisdom having once resolved to give us Jesus through the Blessed Virgin, the decree is now unchanging. Her maternal charity having contributed so much to our salvation in the mystery of the Incarnation, the universal source of grace, it will now contribute eternally in all its other operations, which are so many dependent parts of it. To understand this, we must note the three chief operations of the grace of Christ. God calls us, justifies us, & enables us to persevere. Vocation is the first step; justification is the progress we make; perseverance is the journey's end. In these three stages, the work of Christ is required. Yet we see in the Scriptures that the charity of the Blessed Virgin is joined to them as well. With respect to vocation, consider what happened to Saint John the Baptist while he was in his mother's womb, & you will see an image of sinners called by grace. John is in darkness: he can neither see nor hear. Jesus comes to him without his knowing it. Jesus approaches; he speaks to his heart; he awakens & draws to himself this sleeping & insensible heart. This is how the Son of God treats the sinners whom he calls, but he shows us in Saint John's case that the Virgin's charity worked together with him. What made Jesus come to John if not the charity of the Blessed Virgin? If Jesus acted in John's heart, was it not at the sound of his Mother's voice? In the case of Saint John the Baptist, then, we see Mary as the Mother of those whom Jesus calls.