



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

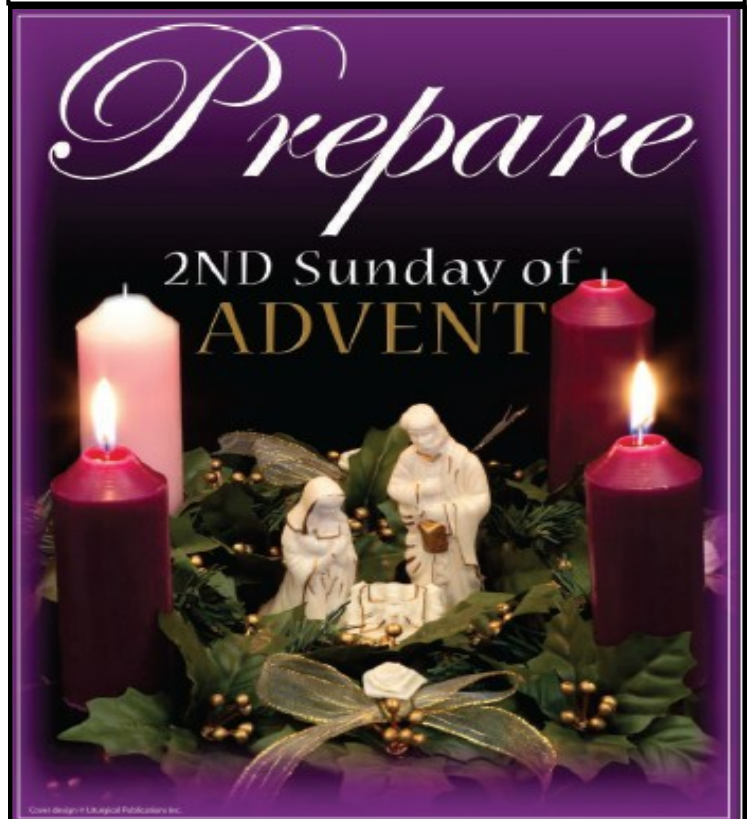
If you are considering marriage, please contact Father Flach no later than 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date and the diocesan and parish guidelines will be explained.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at St. Elizabeth 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm or by appointment

Sunday, December 9, 2018 Second Sunday of Advent

Story found in: Luke 3:1-6



“A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled & every mountain & hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, & the rough ways made smooth, & all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Luke 3:4~6



Mass Intentions

Dec. 8	4:30 pm	Holy Day ~ Special Intentions
Dec. 9	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	Roger & Helen Fabris by Val & Kaye Pescatore
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Dec. 10	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 11	12:00 pm	NO MASS ~ PRIEST MEETING
Dec. 12	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 13	7:30 am	Greg Bohman & Edna O'Dell- Death-by George & Jane Bohman
Dec. 14	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Steve & Geri Ezell
Dec. 15	4:30 pm	Karlene Frese by Pete Frese
Dec. 16	7:30 am	Charles Parkhurst by Joe & Carol Hepner
	9:00 am	Augusta & Loretta Pescatore by Val & Kaye Pescatore
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

CATHOLIC BURIAL RITE MEETING

Fr. Flach will be attending a Priest's Meeting in Effingham on TUES. DEC. 11, 2018 from 11 am to 2 pm. There will be NO NOON MASS. Thank you for your consideration.



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 15 ~ Sunday, December 16, 2018

Sat. Dec. 15, 2018 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Patti Buercklin

USHERS: Jack & Carol Watts

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Liam Wirey

GIFTS: Terry Roche Family

Sun. Dec. 16, 2018 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Clarence Schutte, Randy Schutte

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Eva Hermann

GIFTS: Eric Mosbey Family

Sun. Dec. 16, 2018 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Keith Wirey

USHERS: Don Schmidt, Janel Hoke

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Jeff Hermann

GIFTS: Bob & Kourtney Coffman

Sun. Dec. 16, 2018 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Courtney Ferris

USHERS: Levi Dickerson, Anthony O'Dell

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Kifer Stevens, Anthony Tran

GIFTS: Chris Weber Family

December Collection Counters: Scott & Valerie Chapman, Karen Reinoehl



Parish School of Religion

PSR: Wednesday, December 12, 19, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

December 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

Sun. Dec. 9, 2018 ~ Advent Confessions ~ 2:00 pm

Sun. Dec. 9, 2018 ~ Christmas Dinner ~ 4:00 pm

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

Crawford County Pictorial Directory



The new PICTORIAL DIRECTORY is currently being published. When it is prepared, each parishioner who had their picture taken will receive a copy of it. When the Directories arrive, they will be distributed after the Masses. Sincere & heartfelt THANKS to those parishioners who made the PICTORIAL DIRECTORY possible & we are so grateful for their dedicated & helpful service. We are pleased to say THANK YOU to: CAROL BERGBOWER, BOB COFFMAN, COURTNEY FERRIS, ANITA KOCHER, JOSH QUICK, MARY BETH REILLY, LYNNE ROCHE, KATHY STALLER, & JONA UPTMOR. There are other parishioners who may have helped as Hosts & Hostesses & we are GRATEFUL to you as well. As the Holiday Season approaches, may God bless you & your loved ones with good



Prayer Requests

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

Scriptural Reflections for the Second Sunday of Advent

All these names—Pontius Pilate, Herod, Annas & Caiaphas—belong in the Passion of Christ. So then why do we hear them now before his birth? To remind us of why the Lord was born: "Jesus Christ was born to die on the cross" (Saint Leo the Great). The winding road that Christ makes straight is the way to Calvary. With Christ we want to "advance secure in the glory of God, with his mercy & justice for company." We do that this Advent by living the memory that Christ is born to save us. The "affection of Christ Jesus" moves us to embrace every sacrifice that prepares in us the way of the cross. In Christ's flesh "all flesh sees the salvation of God."

The Christian life often is described as the People of God on a journey, moving ever closer to their creator. As they journey, they alternately travel through phases of darkness & Light, over mountains & through valleys; they meet surprises, face dangers, experience crises & enjoy peak experiences. An example is the Anglican clergyman John Newton. His journey moved from slave trader to composer of the famous hymn "Amazing Grace." His hymn describes the vibrant gift of grace Jesus brings to the journey of our lives. It still is an amazing gift for all. Like John Newton, the People of God all press forward, with the Holy Spirit showing them the faithfulness of the Father's love as Jesus taught. They journey with a compassionate God who loves his unpredictable creation, a people often oblivious of his bountiful love. However, with insights gained through their short-comings, they become convinced they need the promised Messiah to be "the way & the truth & the life" who shepherds them home (Jn 11:6). Advent is the season when God makes his generous response to the world he created in love. He announces his noble plan to give them another chance. It is time for the arrival of the promised Messiah. However, the Messiah comes with one unknown difference: He brings redemption for all. John's baptism heralded this: "Every valley shall be filled, & every mountain & hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made smooth, & the rough ways made smooth, & all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Lk 3:5-6). Luke's Gospel makes it clear that redemption & mercy no longer are solely a right of God's chosen people. It includes all creation. Salvation is a privilege for anyone accepting Jesus as the savior. Salvation is God's affirmation that he loves all equally. It is his primary motivation for creation. In gratitude, he asks all disciples to imitate this love with those they travel. "For God will show all the earth your splendor. You will be named by God forever: the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship" (Bar 5:3-4). Salvation still comes with the amazing gift
c a l l e d g r a c e !

Spiritual Reading during the Advent Season

The season of Advent is meant to give us that time to help us slow things down & remember. Each year, we can begin a new, remembering once again the hope that was promised to us. As we follow the readings during Advent, we hear the development of hope. The First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded not to live in a place of settling but to live in a place of being awake & aware. If we are living in anticipation of something more, we don't need to know the time nor the hour, because we are living in the place of hope. We are reminded to live in hope, not in complacency. The Second Sunday, John the Baptist reminds the-Jews not to presume or rely on the fact that they are ancestors of Abraham but to repent from their ways so they will be prepared for Christ who will come to baptize in the Spirit, the reality of hope. The Third Sunday, Jesus gives an answer to John the Baptist's question of, "Are you the One who is to come?" Jesus tells the disciples to let John the Baptist know who He is by what He brings: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise and, most important the poor have the Good news brought to them. The Fourth Sunday reveals to us the message that has been revealed through Joseph: the message that Mary is to bring the promised one into the world to save us from our sins. These readings are given to us to remember what God has promised. The hope that comes to us from Advent is a hope that is beyond all other hopes. It is not just an anticipation of something to come but one that goes beyond all our hopes & desires. In 1985, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (who later became Pope Benedict XVI) wrote that hope is built on memory: Advent is concerned with the very connection .

In accordance with our nature, nations & families have their times & seasons for days of special celebration. This specialness is sacramentalized in the Church's year. She too has red-letter days, seasons marked out in a special way to commemorate God's saving, life-giving love. Are we right in claiming that God offers himself more fully at these times? That the living water of grace is flowing even more abundantly? The wise answer is, I think, that as human beings we need to think so, & therefore it is so. The Church, in this manner, educates us in a more concentrated way, provides a more intense stimulation to faith so that, if we respond, we are better prepared for the Lord to give himself more fully to us. Advent is one of those special times as a season of preparation for the feast of Christmas.... But faith in his coming does not grow of itself. We have to nourish our faith, exercise it. We don't sit idly at home waiting for his arrival—we must run out to make him welcome. We must question him: "Are you He?" We must ponder the sacred texts, try to discover their meaning, receive their message. There has to be effort in our daily living. We must climb the mountain heights where the God of Jacob makes his home, for we want him to teach us how to love him; we want to follow where he leads. We must move into the shadowy mists of detachment. Far on the horizon, see—God appear, & his coming spreads a mist over all the earth. We should want this silencing, shadowing mist, that cuts us off from unnecessary things—things that are not him for us. We cannot truly see them until he comes, so it is better to live in the mist—detachment, silence of desire—accepting the mystery. We must shroud our souls in Advent mist. It may be, & in my experience often happens, that instead of the inner silence we so desire, our emotions are upset & our thoughts tend to run off. We can feel very discouraged about this lack of inner peace, but there is no need to be. This is merely temptation, the cross. In no way do these feelings come between God & us provided we quietly resist, & bear with ourselves sweetly & patiently. It may be, in fact, a far deeper Advent in that we realize our immense need of a Savior—& what a blessing that is!

Our Lady of Lourdes News

The Parish family of OUR LADY OF LOURDES is very blessed to be able to begin to participate in a SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT program involving the SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT KIOSK. The Kiosk for our Parish is an attached bookcase above the counter where the bulletins are located which will contain spiritual & religious items all pertaining to the Roman CATHOLIC FAITH. All of the spiritual items are from the LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA. There are resources about the SAINTS, EUCHARIST, & SACRAMENTAL NATURE of the Catholic faith, prayer books, CONFESSION, & so on. All of the religious resources are available to purchase at a reasonable price & the resources will be changed from time to time. God bless you.

Spiritual Reading during Advent Season cont.

between memory & hope.' This is not just hope, but it is an Advent hope. It is the truth & expectation that God is working in our life now, in our present moment. It is a promise that what we hope for in His Name is obtainable. It is a time to remember that the salvation God promised throughout all of history has already come, and we live in the hope of that salvation. We cannot settle for just the way things are, but must live in the awe and wonder of the memory of God's promise.

Advent Nursing Home Project



This is the last weekend to return gifts for nursing home residents. All gifts & tags need to be returned before Wed. Dec. 12th. Gifts may be returned to the Church or Parish Office during working hours. Any questions or concerns, please contact Geri Ezell at 544-7910 or 554-1999.

Rest In Peace



Please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Terry Baird, husband of Lisa, father of Lukas & Logan. In God's Love, we pray that He will grant Terry a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of Heaven & that his family will receive comfort & peace in their sorrow & loss.

Weekly Offerings



St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, December 2, 2018

Envelopes \$2,472.00 Loose \$288.00

Building Fund \$155.00

Christmas Flowers \$55.00

4 online @ \$335.00

Deposit: \$ 3,305.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Week Ending November 25, 2018

Envelopes \$1,049.00

Loose \$135.00

Christmas Flowers \$235.00

Catholic Campaign for

Human Development \$90.00

Deposit: \$1,509.00



Give Central

Give Central can be accessed on the Church Website. You can click on the Donate button and you can donate to whatever collection you would like to. Thank you to all for using this service.



Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Dec. 10, 2018 First Reading Is. 35:1-10
Gospel Lk. 5:17-26 Tues. Dec. 11, 2018 First Reading Is.
40:1-11 Gospel Mt. 18:12-14 Wed. Dec. 12, 2018 First
Reading Zec. 2:14-17 or Rev. 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB
Gospel Lk. 1:26-38 Thurs. Dec. 13, 2018 First Reading Is.
41:13-20 Gospel Mt. 11:11-15 Fri. Dec. 14, 2018 First
Reading Is. 48:17-19 Gospel Mt. 11:16-19



Christmas Flowers

Please submit your Christmas Flowers Offering before Thursday, December 13, 2018 if you wish to place your family loved one's name that has passed in the Christmas Flowers Bulletin.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Annual Catholic Services Appeal

As you are aware, the theme of the 2018-2019 Annual Catholic Services Appeal is *"IN GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS."* Gratitude is an attitude & response that is integral to the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. God blesses us in so many ways & one way for us to express our gratitude to God is our participation supporting our parishes goal for the Annual Catholic Services Appeal. With the gift of God's grace, may we continue to become intentional disciples through our gift to the ACSA. As of December 2, 2018, **THE GOAL FOR ST. ELIZABETH IS: \$38,376.00** with the total pledged of \$14,500.00 & the total paid is \$13,350.00. As of December 2, 2018, the goal for **OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH IS: \$8,112.00** with the total pledged of \$3,684.00 & the total paid is \$2,902.00. Your deep & sincere generosity is appreciated as we strive together to fulfill our parish goals. Thank you & God bless

Advent Wreath Tradition



Advent is meant to be a preparation time for the coming of Jesus, a time of anticipating with joyful expectation that His birth will be commemorated at The Advent Wreath is a very old tradition, probably originating in the time of the Renaissance in middle European countries. Now, many families create their own version & use it in their preparation for the coming of Jesus. It can be elaborate or simple, suiting one's own good. It can be suspended or placed on a table. Pine boughs, cedar holly or ribbon can be used & placed for four candles equi-distant about the wreath must be created. The candles are normally three purple & one rose. Some families replace the candles at Christmas with red or white & add a dominate candle in the center. On Sat. before the first Sunday of Advent, the family gathers to bless the wreath. Prayer: O GOD, WHO SANCTIFIES ALL, BLESS THIS WREATH & GRANT THAT WE USE IT TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE BABY JESUS & THAT WE MAY RECEIVE ABUNDANT GRACE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN. Week, 1 candle lighted at mealtime. Prayer: O JESUS, COME, THAT BY YOUR PROTECTION WE MAY BE RESCUED FROM THE DANGER OF SIN & SAVED BY YOUR GRACE. 2nd week, 2 candles lighted at mealtime. Prayer. O LORD, EXCITE OUR MINDS THAT WE MAY PREPARE FOR YOUR SON & BE MADE WORTHY TO WELCOME WITH LOVE. 3rd week, 3 candles lighted at mealtime, 1 rose color. Prayer. JESUS, WE AWAIT THEE, HELP US TO BE MORE LOVING WITH ALL YOUR PEOPLE. 4th week, 4 candles lighted at mealtime. Prayer. COME, JESUS, COME, COME & BRING PEACE & JOY WHICH CAN ONLY RESULT FROM LOVE OF YOU.



In Sincere Gratitude



Our Parish families are **SINCERELY GRATEFUL** to the **GOODWINE FUNERAL HOME** as well as the **PULLIAM FUNERAL HOME** for their kind & generous donations of the 2019 **RELIGIOUS CALENDAR**. The calendars are at the entrance of the Churches for you to receive. May God bless them for their sincere kindness.