



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.

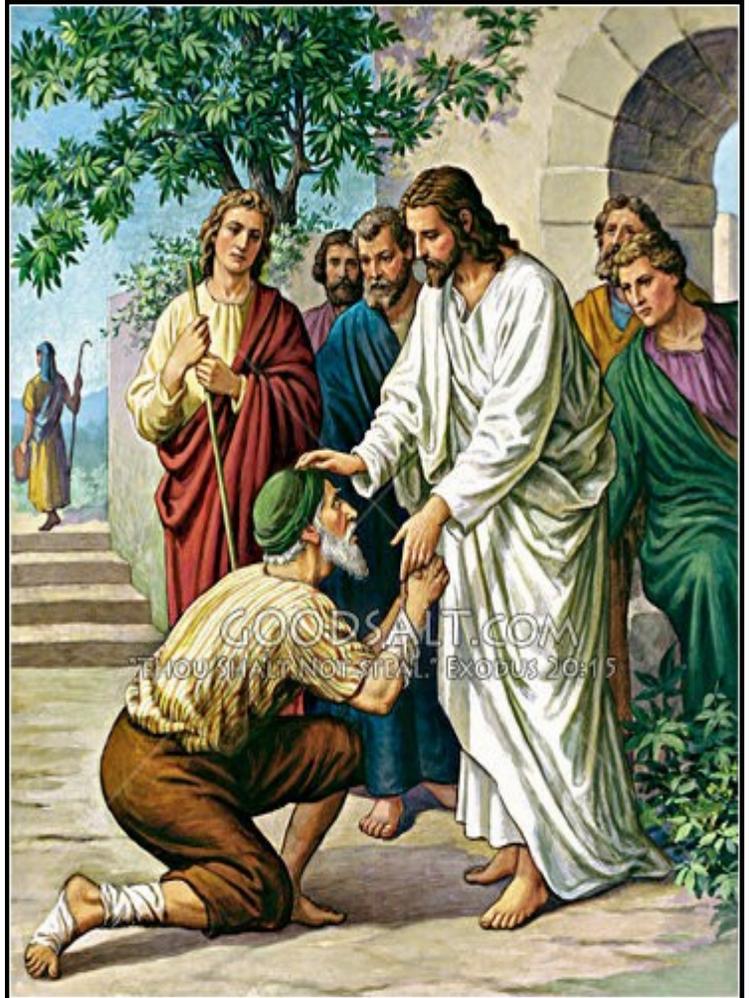
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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, February 11, 2018 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Now a leper came to Him,
imploring Him, kneeling
down to Him & saying to
Him, "If you are willing,
You can make me clean."**

Mark 1:40



Mass Intentions

Feb. 10	4:30 pm	Martha Tebbe by Ken & Carol Bergbower
Feb. 11	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Special Intentions For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Julie & Jim Maloy~6th Wed. Anniv. by George & Jane Bohman
Feb. 12	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Feb. 13	12:00 pm	Patrick Goda by George & Jane Bohman
Ash Wednesday Feb. 14	7:30 am 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Mike Straube by Karen Smith OLOL-Mildred Hinterscher by Karen Bailey St. Elizabeth-Kevin Murray by Larry & Debbie Dix
Feb. 15	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Feb. 16	7:30 am	Richard Roth by Anne Pool
Feb. 17	4:30 pm	Charles Adams by Keith & Patti Buercklin
Feb. 18	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Wm. & Louetta Wirey by Keith & Rita Wirey Special Intentions



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, February 17, 2018 ~ Sunday, February 18, 2018

<u>Sat. Feb. 17, 2018 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Karen Sanders
USHERS:	Ken & Carol Bergbower
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Ella Bunten, Ella Jenkins
GIFTS:	Dennis Jenkins Family
<u>Sun. Feb. 18, 2018 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Linda Sikorski
USHERS:	Craig Weber, Jeff Rich
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Jacob Eckert
GIFTS:	Ross Holscher Family
<u>Sun. Feb. 18, 2018 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Anita Kocher
USHERS:	Rich & Anita Kocher
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Jared Hermann
GIFTS:	Rod & Wilmer Wilson
<u>Sun. Feb. 18, 2018 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Ian Quick
USHERS:	Karen Free, Roselene Quick
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Levi Dickerson, Cody York
GIFTS:	Ted Staller Family

Collection Counters: *February, 2018:*

Lisa Baird, Kaye Holscher, Kay Pescatore



Parish School of Religion

Parish School of Religion Classes will be on Wednesday,
February 14, 21 & 28.

Scriptural Reflections for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time



Jesus "stretched out his hand and touched him." This was probably the first time the leper had ever been touched. That contact was just as compelling as his cure. The leper perceives in Jesus a compassion, a "pity"; like nothing else, the personal experience of sickness and suffering can make one acutely aware of the tenderness and goodness of another. Most likely the leper never would have begged Jesus in this way if he had not been afflicted in the first place. "I turn to you, Lord, in times of



The Lenten Season

The Holy & Sacred Season of Lent begins on February 14, 2018. LENT is an amazing & fruitful spiritual season. It begins with Ash Wednesday & leads on a forty—day pilgrimage towards the feast of Easter. Along the way, LENT invites us to cultivate a spirit of unselfishness based on the virtues of faith, hope, & charity. This holy & sacred season invites us to remember that is what it is all about ~ the love of God & neighbor, the only source of ultimate meaning & purpose. The SPIRIT OF LENT invites us to "UNSELF OURSELVES" & that is the purpose of the traditional discipline of FASTING & ABSTINENCE. That is, to UNSELF OURSELVES & to become more oriented to the LOVE OF GOD & NEIGHBOR. That is what we want to help each other to do during the holy & sacred season of LENT — to help each other to cultivate the SPIRIT OF LENT in our hearts & souls.

Lenten Events for Feb. 14~Feb. 23, 2018



ASH WEDNESDAY~ February 14, 2018	
7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist~	Imposition of the Blessed Ashes
8:00 am ~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
10:00 am ~ Stations of the Cross	10:30 am ~ Benediction
4:00 pm ~ OLOL~Sacred Eucharist~	Imposition of the Blessed Ashes
6:30 pm ~ St. Elizabeth~Sacred Eucharist~	Imposition of the Blessed Ashes
Friday, February 16, 2018 7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist	
5:30 pm ~ Stations of the Cross~Our Lady of Lourdes	
Monday, February 19, 2018 6:00~7:00 pm ~ Lenten Bible Study	
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist	
8:00 am ~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
10:00 am ~Stations of the Cross	10:30 am ~ Benediction
6:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross	6:30 pm ~ Sacred Eucharist
7:00 pm ~ P.S.R. Confessions ~Grades 6 & 7	
Friday, February 23, 2018 7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist	
5:30 pm ~ Stations of the Cross ~ Our Lady of Lourdes	

OLOL's Finance Council Meeting



There will be the Finance
Council Meeting
at Our Lady of Lourdes on
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
at 6:00 pm.

Sun. Feb. 4, 2018 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
From the Pastor ~ God's Desire to Heal


He Heals
the Broken in Heart
And Binds Up
Their Wounds

Some biblical scholars have noted that the Law of Moses had practical benefits for those who observed it. Dietary laws, as well as those dealing with illness & contagion, may well have contributed to Israel's thriving & prosperity as God's Chosen People because they anticipated modern practices of personal & medical hygiene. One of these was the practice of quarantining people like the leper in today's Gospel who were presumed to be contagious. The safety of the community, however, came at a high price to those who suffered such disfiguring illnesses — loneliness & isolation. In approaching the Lord, the afflicted man violates the Law, & by engaging him, Jesus in turn renders himself ritually unclean. Maybe that is why the man comes to Jesus with obvious humility ("If you wish ..."), but he also comes with strong faith ("you can make me, clean"). Jesus' actions speak louder than words. He reaches out & touches the afflicted man, saying simply, "I do will it. Be made clean." And the leprosy leaves the man. Many of the skin diseases described in the Leviticus reading can be healed today with antibiotics or other treatments. But there are still plenty of contemporary ailments that can make people feel like lepers — alone & hopeless. One young woman recounts how an unwanted pregnancy at the age of 16 led her to seek an abortion. She writes: "Emotionally, I was unable to process, cope or handle the trauma of having an abortion, & unconsciously I buried that day [of the procedure] deep in my mind. ... But, the pain grew, & because I didn't know how to handle it, I masked it with anything that I could, creating new unhealthy habits & dependencies. By the age of 22, I was heavily addicted to opiates .. tired of fighting & hiding." Happily, she was able to resist the temptation to suicide & instead begged God for help. She entered a recovery program. "There," she recalls with gratitude, "I was able to get the healing & care that I desperately needed & was able to restore my relationship with Jesus."



Annual Catholic Services Appeal

The theme of the 2017-2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal is **GO THEREFORE & MAKE DISCIPLES**. This is an invitation from God to provide out of our financial resources & blessings a gesture of generosity to assist with the needs of the entire Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Your gift to help us secure the different goals for both of our parishes is a sign of your deep faith & trust that God will bless you. Through our Baptismal calling, we are all invited to **EVANGELIZE** & we do so by sacrificing so that the necessary services throughout the Diocese are fulfilled. As of January 31, 2018, the goal for St. Elizabeth Parish is \$31,455.00 with the amount of \$20,350.00 being pledged & the amount of \$18,975.00 being secured. As of January 31, 2018, the goal for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is \$3,671.00 with the amount of \$3,065.00 being pledged & the amount of \$2,585.00 being secured. As always, your generosity is deeply appreciated & may God bless you abundantly with good health & peace.



Lenten Bible Study

As you know, our **FIRST SESSION** is on **MON. FEB. 19, 2018** from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Father Flach will distribute the resource~**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**. You may make the payment for the resource at our first class. I believe that this will be an enriching & spiritual pilgrimage for each of us. God bless you.

Spiritual Reading for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

But even if we are not able to make as much progress as we like, we should not be discouraged on that account. This does not indicate that God would deny our pious expectation, but only that he wills to try our perseverance. Let us continue faithfully and courageously in our holy desires and good intentions, striving to increase them more and more, and leaving all else in God's hands. As Saint Augustine says: "God keeps for us what he does not wish to give us at once, so that we may learn greatly to desire great things." Saint Bernard also expresses a thought which is most consoling to souls eager for perfection: "A diligent care and continual effort toward perfection is reputed as perfection," he says; "and if thus to aspire after perfection with great favor is, in a sense, to be perfect, likewise, failing to advance is falling back." It is therefore in order to stimulate our desire that God delays its accomplishment, and so that, having obtained what we want, we may prize it higher, and preserve it with more solicitude and care. "Holy desires," Saint Gregory tells us, "are increased by this delay; and if, on account of it they should become tepid, then they are not true desires." It is also that we may clearly recognize our weakness so that, having acquired some degree of perfection, we may know that it is to a pure grace of God and not to any industry on our part that it is due. Saint Chrysostom adds still another reason. He says that many times God does not grant our prayer immediately, wishing to bring it about thereby that we should approach him more often, importuning him by our prayers, and that by this means we may enjoy his bounty more fully and unite ourselves to him more closely in love.

The Holy & Sacred Season of Lent



Behold, dearest brethren, through the mercy of God the season of Lent is approaching. Therefore, I beseech you, beloved, with God's help, let us celebrate these days, salutary for bodies & healing for the soul, in so holy & spiritual a manner that the observance of a holy Lent may lead to progress for us & not judgment. For if we lead a careless life, involving ourselves in too many occupations, refusing to observe chastity, not applying ourselves to fasting & vigils & prayers, neither reading Sacred Scripture ourselves nor willingly listening to others read it, the very remedies are changed into wounds for us. As a result of this we shall have judgment, where we could have had a remedy. Devoting ourselves to God out of love for eternal life, during these days let us with all solicitude strive to repair and compose in the little ship of our soul whatever throughout the year has been broken or destroyed or damaged or ruined by many storms, that is, by the waves of sins & since it is necessary for us to endure the storms and tempests of this world while we are still in this frail body, as often as the enemy wills to lead us astray by means of the roughest storms or to deceive us by the most voluptuous pleasures, with God's help may he always find us prepared against him.

Daily Mass Readings



Feb. 12, 2018-First Reading-Jas. 1:1-11
Gospel Mk. 8:11-13 Feb. 13, 2018-First Reading-
Jas. 1:12-18 Gospel Mk. 8:14-21 Feb. 14, 2018-
First Reading-JL. 2:12-18 Second Reading-2 Cor.
5:20-6:2 Gospel-Mt.6:1-6, 16,18 Feb. 15, 2018-First Reading-Dt.
30:15-20 Gospel Lk. 9:22-25 Feb. 16, 2018-First Reading-Is.
58:1-9A Gospel Mt. 9:14-15

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Lenten Reflections ~ Ash Wednesday



Marked for Salvation: At the beginning of Dante's Purgatori, the Pilgrims discover seven P's scratched across his brow -one for each of the seven deadly sins (peccati), Through his laborious climb up the seven—storied mountain one by one, the P's are wiped away. It is the image of a soul saved, but still struggling free of

sin's sevenfold lack of love. Lent charts us on a laborious course up a similar Mount Purgatory. And, at the base today, we too find our faces begrimed. Our ashes make public confession that we stand stained by our wicked deeds. We have earned the dusty death wage of sin. Yet, like the guilty Cain, who received a mysterious mark from the hand of the Lord, this sign we wear is also God's seal of protection (cf. Gn 4:15). We are branded today with the sign of the cross, as sheep of the Lord's own pasture, that the devil (who would make on us his own mark of the will know to keep his thieving hands off. The sign of the death due for our sins thus becomes the emblem of hope-if we believe in the cross & repent in dust & ashes. Ezekiel foresaw this mystery in vision when he saw the saved, who grieve over the sins of Jerusalem, having an X written upon their brow. (Ez. 9:4)

Our Lenten Journey of Healing



Each year, the Church, in her wisdom offers us Lent, a season for healing & renewal. Our spiritual ancestors, the Israelites, struggled through the desert for forty years. On this difficult journey, they gained new insights about themselves & the God who

journeyed with them. When they reached the Promised Land, their heart were full of both painful & joyful memories. Some Christians have long been praying variations of the Way of the Cross in Jesus' memory during Lent. By embracing your memories you are opening your heart to healing. There will be memories of feeling alive, loved, safe & cared for, successful, excited, hopeful, noble & good. There will be painful memories of feeling neglected, ridiculed, unloved, misunderstood, ignored, rejected. You will remember moments of failure, sinfulness, ignorance, confusion. All of these memories are part of your own life history. Your willingness to receive your wounds is a way of owning a truth that can become an instrument of healing for you. Sometimes we grumble about past wounds & choose to remain victims. It is easy to blame our present unhappiness on others. Our Hebrew ancestors had similar problems. In the book of Numbers we see the people losing patience with Yahweh & Moses. They forgot about the blessings of the past. Fiery serpents came upon the people & bit them. When Moses interceded for them, Yahweh told him to make a replica of a serpent & raise it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten was to look upon it & be healed. (Numbers 21:6). To experience healing they were to look upon that which was the cause of their wounding. During this season of renewal, you, too, are being asked to look upon what has wounded you & receive healing. You are to raise the banner of life, honoring both the wounds & the blessings. In using your memories for your prayer, you are trying to integrate them into your life. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so, too, Jesus has been raised upon the Cross that, through your belief in Him, you may know eternal life. As you pray with your memories, you, too, will be lifted upon the cross of your own life. The other side of that cross, however, is Easter glory. May you be filled with the hope of that glory as you walk the way of the cross of your life to the promised land of your true self.



Symbols of the Season

Ashes made from palm leaves of the previous year, ashes can remind us both of the baptismal & penitential character of Lent. They not only represent our own mortality & utter dependence on God but also symbolize our efforts of dying to sin (& rising to new life in Christ). Fish: As a Lenten symbol, fish stands for the obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday & abstain from meat on other Fridays of the season. Pretzels: Made from simple dough which has no dairy fat, they remind us of fasting. Shaped like two arms crossed, they remind us of prayer. Violet (Deep Purple): Violet is the liturgical color of the season & symbolizes repentant character, as well as Christ as the King of the World. (Deep purple was a color reserved for royalty in Jesus' time).

Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, Heavenly Father, look upon me & hear my prayer during this Holy Season of Lent. By good works you inspire, help me to discipline my body & to be renewed in spirit. Without You, I can do nothing. By Your Spirit, help me to know what is right & to be eager in doing Your Will. Teach me to find life through penance. Keep me from sin, & help me live by Your commandment of Love. God of Love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith & active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your Love, & prepare me for the coming Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus. Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of Life & make me one with You in love & prayer. Fill my heart with Your Love & keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass, Father, our source of Life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your Hand; let me walk more readily in Your Ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself, I cannot do Your Will. Father of Love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives & reigns with You & the Holy Spirit, One God, forever. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Virginia Japson, Marissa Rees, Charlie Steagall, Katie Stovall, Rich Welp, Janis Wickland, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, February 4, 2018

Envelopes \$4,445.00 Loose \$436.80 CCW \$140.00

Building Fund \$90.00 First Offering \$10.00 Easter Flowers \$20.00 4 online @\$205.00 Harry Wong Memorial \$20.00 Votive Candles \$83.50 Catholic Times \$30.00 Latin America \$125.00 Deposit \$5,605.30

Our Lady of Lourdes

Week ending Sunday, January 28, 2018

Envelopes \$695.00 Loose \$89.00 Catholic Times \$45.00 Building Fund \$70.00 Deposit \$899.00