



# 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, February 23, 2020 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Matthew 5:38~42

Teaching About Retaliation ~

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' <sup>39</sup> But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. <sup>40</sup> If anyone wants to sue you and take your <sup>l</sup>shirt, let him have your <sup>l</sup>coat also. <sup>41</sup> Whoever <sup>l</sup>forces you to go one mile, go with him two. <sup>42</sup> Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may <sup>l</sup>be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the evil & the good*, and sends rain on *the righteous and the unrighteous.* <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same. <sup>48</sup> Therefore <sup>l</sup>you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



## Mass Intentions

Feb. 22	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Feb. 23	7:30 am	Mrs. Paul (Rita) Holscher by Jeff & Linda Rich
	9:00 am	Brian Wilson by Wilson Brothers
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Feb. 24	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
Feb. 25	12:00 pm	Val Pescatore by Kaye Pescatore
Feb. 26	7:30 am	Ash Wednesday-Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
OLOL	4:00 pm	Ash Wednesday-Special Intentions
St. Elizabeth	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday-Special Intentions
Feb. 27	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Feb. 28	7:30 am	Monica Mann by Jane Howard
OLOL Friday Mass	5:00 pm	Donnal Fitzmaurice by Donald & Lesa Harper
Feb. 29	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Mar. 1	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Margaret & George Schalasky by Frank & Anne Schalasky
	10:30 am	Val Pescatore by Dan & Marian Hatfield



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, February 29 ~ Sunday, March 1, 2020

Sat. February 29, 2020 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Geri Ezell

USHERS: Randy Mullins, Ty Mullins

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Abby Mullins, Clara Mullins

GIFTS: Kristen Mullins Family

Sun. March 1, 2020 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Jim Jaeger, Jeff Rich

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Jared Hermann

GIFTS: Chad Arkenberg Family

Sun. March 1, 2020 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Lori Davis

USHERS: Carol Miller, Janelle Hoke

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Cameron Davis

GIFTS: Carol Miller, Janelle Hoke

Sun. March 1, 2020 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Courtney Ferris

USHERS: Callie Dickerson, Isabel Heidorn

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Emily Ferris, Owen Ferris

GIFTS: Ted Staller Family

February Collection Counters: Don Brown, Susan Goodwine, Mary Ann Griffin

**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**



## Parish School of Religion

FEBRUARY DATES: WED. FEBRUARY 26, 2020. MARCH  
DATES: WED. MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 from 6:30-7:30 pm.



## Confirmation Class Dates

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES: MARCH DATES: March  
8, 15, 22, 29, 2020 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

## Scriptural Reflections ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord says to Moses, "Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy." And Jesus says to his disciples, "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." We may at first be frightened by this daunting command. But that is a sign that we are judging by "the thoughts of the wise" —thoughts that "are vain." In order to become perfect as the Father, we must first "become a fool, so as to become wise." That is, we must realize we are not spiritually self-reliant, & that true Christian perfection is possible only if it is given to us. Holiness consists in such humble receptivity before God's grace. Yet we ask with absolute confidence, knowing

## Spiritual Reading for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

These words challenge all of us, as the Lord's disciples. Imitating the holiness & perfection of God might seem an unattainable goal. Yet we must never forget that without the Holy Spirit, our efforts are in vain! Christian holiness is not first & foremost our own work, but the fruit of docility—willed & cultivated—to the Spirit of God thrice holy. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to us of holiness, & explains to us the new law, his law. He does this by contrasting the imperfect justice of the scribes & Pharisees with the higher justice of the Kingdom of God. The first contrast of today's passage refers to revenge. You have heard that it was said, "an eye for an eye & a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you... if anyone should strike you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. We are required not only to avoid repaying others the evil they have done to us, but also to seek generously to do good to them. The second contrast refers to our enemies: You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor & hate your enemy." But I say to you, love your enemies & pray for those who persecute you. Jesus asks those who would follow him to love those who do not deserve it, without expecting anything in return, & in this way to fill the emptiness present in human hearts, relationships, families, communities & in the entire world. Jesus did not come to teach us good manners, how to behave well at the table! To do that, he would not have had to come down from heaven & die on the cross. Christ came to save us, to show us the way, the only way out of the quicksand of sin, & this way of holiness is mercy, that mercy which he has shown, & daily continues to show, to us. To be a saint is not a luxury. It is necessary for the salvation of the world. This is what the Lord is asking of us.



## Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers, Phil Burger (Ellen Rees), Bob Callier (Jona Uptmor), Sara Casburn & Ared Allen (Linda Allen), Scott Chapman, Eileen Fabris, Carolyn Kermicle (Angie Schutte), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Linda Stewart (Nolan Stewart), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
From The Pastor: Perfected In Christ

The profound Jewish nature of this Gospel text & of Jesus himself cannot possibly be ignored. Jesus shows himself to be an astute interpreter of the Torah, something which we already know he holds precious from his earlier statement concerning the Law's enduring status (cf. Mt 5:17-19). The passage before us today runs as an amplification or intensification of how we hear the call to holiness, rather than an alteration or elimination of even one stroke of the letter of the Torah itself. Indeed, the last verse in the Gospel text this Sunday stresses that the listener must rewrite the "text" of his or her heart: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." The Matthean community deploys the Greek word teleios as a way of underlining everything the Lord has been saying in this discourse. I do not believe that we are to reduce the call to perfection as some rigid, lifeless way of living within a very narrow series of self-imposed (and self-congratulating) guidelines. That attitude seems to be the opposite of what Jesus says, which is meant to instill a holy desire that moves toward a deepening of faith in the listener — the goal of every good preacher. This sermon, after all, is the call to love more perfectly and to be perfected by God in love. In fact, Jesus himself will become an example of precisely the one who, during his passion, turns the other cheek, offers his garments to his tormentors and goes the extra mile with the unjust. In this regard, we might consider Matthew's reference to Jesus' own self-gift of divine love as a deeply vital feature of this particular passage. Read one way, the early Church was looking back at this preaching of Jesus through the divine window of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. Jesus' sermon becomes an example of just how God's gift will be offered as love made most perfect in self-sacrifice: "Through him with him and in him." We say it every day at the Eucharist. In a certain sense, the Christological, incarnational mystery unfolding before us is literally the human subject as the Body of Christ made teleios — that is, Son of God. The drive to be perfected by God in Christ should haunt our daily desires to become a "temple of God," as Paul describes it in the second reading. Prayerfully imagining one's self as a place where the Trinity makes their home should not surprise the baptized & if we were to apply Jesus' challenge to live that call to be a new creation more intensely, then baptism becomes for the Christian an avenue of being made perfect. We need look no further than allowing God to perfect us in heroic charity in grace, with our full cooperation. We have surrendered our cloaks. And God has clothed us anew, inviting us to walk not only an extra mile, but a limitless one for the sake of the kingdom.

### Our Lady of Lourdes Friday Mass

Due to the St. Elizabeth Fish Fry on FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020, there will be NO FIRST FRIDAY MASS in March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Instead, Father Flach will be celebrating the Eucharist on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Thank you & God bless you.

### Our Lady of Lourdes Breakfast



Our Lady of Lourdes is hosting BREAKFAST in the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 1, 2020 after the 9:00 am Mass. They will be offering: scrambled eggs, sausage links & patties, biscuits & gravy & pancakes, sweet-breads, & cookies. Both Parishes are invited. A free-will donation would be appreciated.

### Pastoral Council

St. Elizabeth & Our Lady of Lourdes PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on TUES. MAR. 3, 2020 at 6:00 PM in OLOL's Church.



## Lenten Events

### ST. ELIZABETH ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

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

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

4:00 PM ~ SACRED EUCHARIST ~ IMPOSITION OF THE BLESSED ASHES

ST. ELIZABETH

6:30 PM ~ SACRED EUCHARIST ~ IMPOSITION OF THE BLESSED ASHES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

7:30 AM ~ SACRED EUCHARIST ~ ST. ELIZABETH

5:00 PM ~ SACRED EUCHARIST ~

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

5:30 PM ~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020 ~ ST. ELIZABETH ~

11:30 AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## The HOLY & SACRED SEASON OF LENT

THE HOLY & SACRED SEASON OF LENT. THE LENTEN SEASON begins ON ASH WEDNESDAY, THE 26TH of FEBRUARY, 2020. 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 remember that what it is all about is the love of God & neighbor, the only source of ultimate meaning & purpose. The SPIRIT OF LENT invited 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 of LENT ~ to help each other to cultivate the SPIRIT OF LENT in our hearts & souls.



## Fish Fry News

The DATES for the ST. ELIZABETH FISH FRY DATES ARE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 13, & 20, 2020. We are sincerely grateful for all of the faithful & dedicated help that we have had in the past years & we appreciate all of our parishioners & others working so well together. If you have not been able to help in the past & would like to participate & help, please feel welcome to give us a helping hand because it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you & God bless you. MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR: March 6, 13, 20, 2020 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.



## St. Elizabeth Finance Council

ST. ELIZABETH FINANCE COUNCIL will meet on TUES. MAR. 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM in St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

## Why Do We Fast During Lent?

FASTING is a traditional form of penance & helps us to develop willpower & temperance. Limiting the quantity of food or drink is sometimes recommended as a way of cleansing the body & when penitential, helps cleanse our souls. By creating hunger for that which is denied, we are reminded of the reason why we are fasting. We also fast to sympathize with those who are hungry or poor. Fasting helps to make us more loving & compassionate.

## Spiritual Reading

Jesus' parable, recounted in the sixth chapter of Saint Luke's Gospel, concerning the removing of the plank in one's own eye, one of the most psychologically & spiritually insightful remarks in the New Testament. Let's face it: The favorite indoor pastime of most human beings is the criticism of others. We positively delight in pointing out the failures, foibles, moral failings, & annoying tendencies of our neighbors. This is, of course, a function of pride & egotism: The more I put someone else down, the more elated I feel but it "also, oddly, a magnificent means of turning a mirror on ourselves, to see what usually remains unseen. Why, we might to ask, do we find precisely sin of others particularly annoying? Why does that tick or trait or sin of a confrere especially ill us? Undoubtedly, Jesus implies, because it reminds us of a similar failing in ourselves. I remember, years ago during a retreat, the rector asked each of us to call to mind a person that we found uniquely hard to take & then to recount, in some detail) the characteristics of that person that made him or her so obnoxious to us. I confess that we entered into the exercise with some relish! But then made the devastating recommendation: "Now I want each of you return to your rooms & ask God to forgive you for those very insults in yourself." His words were as unnerving & as

## A Lenten Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus. You lived & died for me. Help me to keep that thought before me today so that whatever life brings, whether it be success or failure, satisfaction or disappointment, happiness or sorrow, I may offer it to You. Through me, may everyone I meet this day see You, Lord, feel Your Presence & experience Your Love. May I serve You by serving others in Your Name, making all that I do a gift of love & thanksgiving for all You have done for me. Amen.

## Lenten Prayer For Conversion Of Heart

Sovereign Maker of all things, God of covenant & grace. Every creature knows Your Power. Quakes with fear before Your Face. But Your Mercy far exceeds. What our minds can comprehend; deep compassion stays Your Hand. Chastening not, though we offend. You have promised to forgive contrite sinners who repent; so, I come with humbled heart. By Your Word made confident. I have sinned, Lord, I have sinned, Well, I know my wickedness. Yet, I make this prayer to You; Lord, forgive me, heal, & bless. Let me not be lost in sin, Banished to eternal night; God, who hears the penitent. Let Your Goodness show Your Might. Though, I be unworthy, Lord. Your Great Mercy, I will claim, till I reach the hosts above, who forever praise Your Name.

## Weekly Offerings

### St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending Sunday, February 16, 2020

Envelopes \$2,467.00 Loose \$265.00 Building Fund \$5.00  
Easter Flowers \$45.00 5 online @ \$425.00 Deposit: \$3,207.00  
CCW Fees Collected: \$245.00

### Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, February 9, 2020

Envelopes \$897.00 Loose \$54.00 Building Fund \$30.00  
Operation Rice Bowl \$20.00 Church in Latin America \$10.00  
Deposit: \$1,011.00

## Online Donations thru Give Central

On the Church website, click on DONATE.



## Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Feb. 24, 2020 Jas. 3:13-18 Gospel Mk. 9:14-29

Tues. Feb. 25, 2020 Jas. 4:1-10 Gospel Mk. 9:30-33

Wed. Feb. 26, 2020 Reading 1-Jl. 2:12-18

Reading 2-2 Cor. 5:20-6:2

Gospel Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Thurs. Feb. 27, 2020 Dt. 20:15-20 Gospel Lk. 9:22-25

Fri. Feb. 28, 2020 Is. 58:1-9A Gospel Mt. 9:14-15

## Catholic Charities

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** in both of our parishes on **FEBRUARY 29, 2020** and **MARCH 1, 2020** during the Sunday Eucharist. When making a donation to **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**, please make the check payable to either **ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH** or **OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH** and the amount of the collections will be forwarded to **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**. Thank you for your dedicated generosity **TO THIS IMPORTANT SERVICE** and **MINISTRY** of the **CATHOLIC CHURCH** for the Effingham Deanery. Listed below is information about the involvement of **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** in **CRAWFORD COUNTY**. Thank you and God bless you. Poverty has a face & a voice in Crawford County. Who are your brothers & sisters? What are their needs? \$100.00 helps a family pay their rent or utility bill for one month. \$26.00 helps provide new basic school supplies for a child at the start of a school year. \$40.00 helps an individual with a medication copay or helps pay the cost of 1-3 emergency medications. \$65.00 helps provide meals from the pantry for a family of 4. \$85.00 helps provide meals from the mobile food pantry for a family of 4. \$65.00 helps a client receive free or low cost medication for a year. In Crawford County: 546 people received food through the pantry & mobile pantry programs for an average of 21,840 lbs. of food. 17 households were helped with rent, utility, and/or propane assistance impacting the lives of 45 people. 28 people received needed medications for a total of \$7331.00. 224 children received new school supplies through Ramblin' Rose. In total: Catholic Charities served 79,797 people in 2017-2018 through all our services. Catholic Charities provided food for 31,841 men, women, & children. Catholic Charities gave away \$120,000 in clothing, household items, school supplies, baby items. Catholic Charities obtained for free medications for our clients to the cost of \$737,000.

## Lent Reflections—Ash Wednesday

**Marked for Salvation:** At the beginning of Dante's Purgatory, 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 stories mountains, one by one, the P's are wiped away. If 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 & 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 also

God's seal of protection (dv. 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 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)