



# 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~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 2, 2020 The Presentation Of The Lord



Story found in Luke 2:22~40 The Presentation in the Temple.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," & to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous & devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, & the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; & when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms & blessed God, saying:" "now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, & glory for your people Israel." Luke 2:22~30



## Mass Intentions

Feb. 1	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Feb. 2	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Donnal Fitzmaurice by Ron & Carolyn Kirts
	10:30 am	Repose of the soul of Lillie Rose Myers
Feb. 3	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
Feb. 4	12:00 pm	Harry Wong by Carol Wong
Feb. 5	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Feb. 6	7:30 am	Jane Brown by Karen Sanders
Feb. 7	7:30 am	Special Intentions
First Friday of the Month Mass OLOL	5:00 pm	Kim Hopper by Keith & Rita Wirey
Feb. 8	4:30 pm	Julie & Jim Maloy Anniversary by George & Jane Bohman
Feb. 9	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Val Pescatore by Kay Pescatore
	10:30 am	Ralph F. Miller by Rosemary Halter



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, February 8 ~ Sunday, February 9, 2020

<u>Sat. February 8, 2020</u>	<u>4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Terry Roche		
USHERS: Jack & Carol Watts		
COMMUNION MIN:		
SERVERS: Jude, Isla & Liam Wirey		
GIFTS: Terry Roche Family		
<u>Sun. February 9, 2020</u>	<u>7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Shari Eckert		
USHERS: Jim Jaeger, Jeff Rich		
COMMUNION MIN:		
SERVERS: Mallory Mosbey		
GIFTS: James Eckert Family		
<u>Sun. February 9, 2020</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR: Kourtney Coffman		
USHERS: Rich & Anita Kocher		
COMMUNION MIN:		
SERVERS: Taylor Blank		
GIFTS: Rich & Anita Kocher		
<u>Sun. February 9, 2020</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR: Courtney Ferris		
USHERS: Korbin Rawlings, Scott Rawlings		
COMMUNION MIN:		
SERVERS: Ian Schmidt, Owen Schmidt		
GIFTS: George Bohman Family		

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



## Parish School of Religion

FEBRUARY DATES: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020 from 6:30~7:30 pm.



## Confirmation Class Dates

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES: FEBRUARY DATES: FEBRUARY 2, 9, & 23, 2020 from 5:30~7:00 pm.

## The Call To Discipleship

In today's Gospel, Jesus foresees the various contexts in which his apostles will be witnesses to him, including the possibility that they will encounter hostile reactions. Immediately before this, Jesus had encouraged his disciples to have courage and confidence in times of persecution, [for] he doesn't promise them serenity or immunity from violence and rejection, but he indicates to them the true root of freedom: the victory over fear whose source is found in Jesus' victory over death. Easter will be, for Jesus and his disciples, the experience of this victory.... The moments in history, when the disciples are called upon to publicly acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Messiah, harken forward to the final judgment before God, when Jesus himself, as Son of Man, will act as advocate and defender. The followers of the Son of Man will reject him, as we see even Peter, the first among the apostles, did on the night Jesus was arrested. Peter failed to acknowledge and remain faithful to Jesus because he had not yet witnessed his passion and resurrection and he had not yet received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But Peter is forgiven in the greeting from the Risen Lord, Peace be with you (Lk 24:36), and in love (see Jn 21:15-19). After receiving the Holy Spirit, the experience of the Gospel is complete and Peter, renewed, is now filled with the power of the Risen Christ, certain of the gift of faith. The welcoming or the rejection of the Spirit of God is a mysterious relationship of our conscience and our freedom with God; our hearts are fully scrutable only by God and in God. Only God, who knows our hearts, grants forgiveness of sins and salvation.

## Bearing Spiritual Fruit

Experience shows that hearts respond more generously when they are shown trust; we do not conquer people for divine love with fear, imprisoning them in their misfortune. The image of the fig tree planted in the vineyard suggests, perhaps, that the kingdom of God (the vineyard) is much larger than either Israel or Jerusalem (the fig tree), and that Jesus the Messiah, the divine gardener, came to seek in the Holy City the fruits of mercy, justice, and faithfulness. These are the fruits that God likes, the fruits expected by the "owner of the orchard." But time is running out and the decision to cut down the fig tree is made, because these fruits have not been found. This is also the meaning of the episode of the barren fig tree of Mark (13:28) and Matthew (21:18-22; 24:32), which conclude with the curse of the tree. But surprisingly, in the parable of Luke, it is the gardener who intercedes with the owner, asking him to have a little patience with his fig tree, that is, to have mercy on Jerusalem. And as if this were not enough, he commits himself to doing everything possible to make this very expensive tree fruitful.... Unfortunately, the invitation to conversion was not accepted, the warnings were not heard, the signs were not understood, and the time of grace was not embraced. But before the final tragedy of Jerusalem occurred, the Tree of Life itself, Jesus, accepted to be cut down so that, in the end, the root of all evil was torn out and that Tree was planted in our hearts, eternally vivifying it with the sap of the Holy Spirit.

Developmental psychologists often emphasize the crucial role that generativity plays in human growth. Experiencing generativity can occur at any time in the life cycle, but its most important emergence occurs in our golden years. To be able to look back with satisfaction on a life well-lived, promises kept and communities that have blossomed is a blessing when the light of our years starts to dim. Conversely, it is a struggle to witness the shrinkage of a once vibrant community, a tragedy to bury a child, a profound darkness to look back and see ... nothing. The feast of the Presentation and its readings offer a shining light of promise in the night. As a witness to those who have seen God's work even after the length of years and blindness, we find Simeon and the prophetess Anna. Simeon, like John the Baptist, is a transition character in the New Testament. He belongs to both the old and the new order, a bridge from the world of vigil and waiting testified in the Hebrew Scriptures, but also blessed to see the light of the Messianic age that has come. Simeon also finds a home in the world of literary irony: although blind, he sees what others fail to see — the coming of the Promised One. Moreover, like Simeon, Anna has undergone the test of long vigil as a devoted daughter of Israel, and Luke links her waiting with widowhood and the Temple. Read one way, Anna and Simeon are both children of holy space because God has been made manifest in the act of ritual, the presentation to the God of Abraham after their purification. Indeed, it is in the very act of surrendering the child to the blind old man that Simeon's enlightenment occurs. Simeon and Anna receive a gift that keeps on giving, one that underlines God's fidelity and precious love for his people. This feast marks the "official" end to the Christmas season, although that closing celebration is not widely attended. Candlemas normally only shows up during a weekday. We can mark this feast of light with generativity as a parish community, knowing that the gift is before us always: Christ who enlightens humankind with the radiance of the Resurrection. God's calling us to newness of life signals what all of us can be grateful for, a renewal of the earth with the promise of spring and new life. Christmas may be over, but the gift of the promised one who even now enflames the hearts of those who await the luminous grace made to the whole Church is just beginning to light the world.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has four main parts commonly called pillars & are titled:  
PILLAR ONE ~ THE PROFESSION OF FAITH  
PILLAR TWO ~ THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY  
PILLAR THREE ~ LIFE IN CHRIST  
PILLAR FOUR ~ CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Future articles in the bulletin under this title will seek or clarify the relationship of Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition, & the Catholic Church so we are able to more fully embrace & Live our faith. In this Sunday's bulletin, we are examining the FOURTH PILLAR of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CHRISTIAN PRAYER. The Catechism explains there are various expressions of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise (CCC 2623-49). A prayer of blessing is the response of one who is blessed, for once grace descends from heaven, the human heart returns blessing for blessing. In petition, we turn to God, the creator of all, asking for forgiveness among all our other needs, for God hears the prayers of a humble, contrite heart (Psalm 51). In intercession, the faithful remember the needs of others, both within the community and those who reject the gospel; from Abraham's intercession for Sodom (Genesis 18) to the present day, intercessory prayer reflects the believers' trust in the providence of God. Whenever we pray, St. Paul says we should always give thanks, in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). After all, we are a eucharistic people: the sacrament of thanksgiving is the "source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324). Finally, the purest movement of prayer is praise, wherein we acknowledge the greatness of the triune God not for what is done, but because God is. This ecstatic expression is the high point of the Mass, when the celebrant exclaims, "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever," to which we can only respond, "AMEN." In a brief, powerful section called "The Way of Prayer," the Catechism clarifies to whom and with whom we pray. As there is no Christian prayer outside of Christ, we access the Father through his Son. Praying in the name of Jesus, we invoke the meaning of the name: God saves. Whether praying to the Father or simply invoking the name of the Son, believers recall the need for a savior. This interior recollection is from the stirring of the Holy Spirit, the advocate Jesus promised his disciples. In response to this promise, the Church continuously prays, Come, Holy Spirit." Mary, uniquely cooperative with the Holy Spirit, prays with and for us. It is most appropriate, then, that we pray, "Hail Mary," recalling the greetings of both Gabriel and Elizabeth and asking for her intercession in life and at the hour of death, knowing she remains steadfastly with us as she remained at the cross of her Son. There she became our mother, too (CCC 2664-82). While Christians inherit a great tradition of prayer and are commanded to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), we sometimes struggle to pray regularly and with fervor due to distraction or dryness. Instead of becoming discouraged by our concerns, we are encouraged to bring our distracted minds to Jesus and offer him each attachment. Similarly, when dryness tempts us to abandon our efforts, we can recall the various moments of desolation in Christ's life and unite ourselves to him. The key in both struggles is humble, loving perseverance. Here we find an abiding gratitude for Jesus, without whom we can do nothing (John 15:5, CCC 2725-58).

 Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Feb. 3, 2020 ~ 2 Sm. 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Gospel Mk. 5:1-20  
Tues. Feb. 4, 2020 ~ 2 Sm. 18:9-10, 14B, 24-25A, 30-19:3  
Gospel Mk. 5:21-43, Wed. Feb. 5, 2020 ~ 2 Sm. 24:2, 9-17 Gospel  
Mk. 6:1-6 Thurs. Feb. 6, 2020 ~ 1 Kgs. 2:1-4, 10-12 Gospel Mk. 6:7  
-13 Fri. Feb. 7, 2020 ~ Sir. 47:2-11 Gospel Mk. 6:14-29

 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, Monica Mann (Sherri Murray-Thomas), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Linda Stewart (Nolan Stewart), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Rest In Peace

 Rest in peace, Ed Lytle. Ed was the Father of Sherry Bush. In God's Love we pray that He will grant Ed a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of Heaven & that his family will receive comfort & peace in their sorrow & loss.

## February Meetings ~ Pastoral Council

ST. ELIZABETH & OUR LADY OF LOURDES PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM in St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

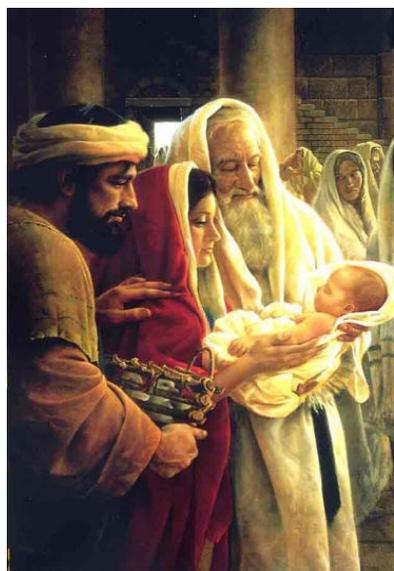
## February First Friday of the Month Mass

The FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be celebrated on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 at 5:00 pm OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Finance Council

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FINANCE COUNCIL will meet on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020 at 6:00 PM in OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH.

## Sacred Feast of the Presentation of Christ Jesus Scripture Reflections



Mary & Joseph present their newborn Child in the Temple, even though Jesus, the Son of God, is already consecrated to the Lord," & Mary has no need of purification. Yet, their humble & obedient fulfillment of the law enables us to see our salvation, to encounter our long-awaited consolation & redemption. Jesus is shown to be the Messiah, & the "sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ's perfect & unique oblation on the cross" (CCC529). And just as Mary carries her Baby to the Temple, she presents us to the Lord through her intercession.

## Spiritual Reading

Mary said her Fiat in peace and holy joy on the day of the Annunciation. There was sorrow too in her heart at the thought of the sufferings which Isaiah had foretold would befall her Son. Still more light is thrown for her on the mystery of the Redemption when the holy old man Simeon speaks of the child Jesus as the salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the revelation of the Gentiles. Mary remains silent in wonder and thanksgiving. Turning then to Mary herself, Simeon addressed to her the prophetic words: And your own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed. Mary will have a share in the Savior's trials. His sufferings will be hers. Her very heart will be pierced by a sword of sorrow. Jesus' fullness of grace had two apparently contradictory effects: the most perfect peace of soul; the will to offer himself as a redemptive victim. Mary's grace produced two similarly contrasting effects: the pure joys of the days of the Annunciation and the Nativity; the desire to be united most generously to the sufferings of her Son for our salvation. Thus, presenting him in the Temple, she already offers him for us. Joy and sorrow are wedded in the heart of the Mother of God who is already the Mother of all who will believe in her Son.

## Kiosk Corner

**Something Other Than God: How I Passionately Sought Happiness and Accidentally Found It (Book)** by Jennifer Fulwiler  
Jennifer Fulwiler had it all: a life of travel, a husband with a stack of Ivy League degrees, a swanky condo in the heart of Austin, & a beautiful first-born son. Then, one night, the questions she had been holding at bay by a life of fun & excitement came flooding over her. Raised in an atheist home in Bible Belt Texas. Jennifer mocked Christianity from her childhood. One fateful experience as an eleven-year-old caused her to experience the fear of mortality which she only managed to ward off by focusing on the next big plan for her life. Once she began to allow herself to pose those questions again, she set out on a blog-writing & book-reading quest for the truth about suffering, evil, death & whether or not Jesus Christ is who he said he was. A moving memoir of her conversion, Jennifer Fulwiler is poignantly, often hilariously, honest in "Something other than God". Praise for Something Other Than God. This heartfelt book is a lovely account of a spiritual journey & a charming memoir. The author's epiphanies are wonderfully conveyed & will resonate with readers." — Dean Koontz, #1 New York Times Best Selling Author. Thought-provoking, honest, & often hilarious. It will strike a chord with anyone who ever posed—or tried unsuccessfully to avoid—the big questions of life: — Gretchen Rubin, New York Times Bestselling Author, The Happiness Project. With warmth & unflinching candor. Fulwiler leads us through a personal journey of faith that is as funny as it is affecting: — Raymond Arroyo, TV Host, The World Over. "Something Other Than God joins science, faith, & reason in an engrossing read " — Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York "Countless people find themselves astonished & swept off their feet by God's ravishing grace, but rarely has anyone described the experience as honestly & compellingly as Jennifer Fulwiler — Patrick Madrid, Host, The Patrick Madrid Show.

## 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. As of JANUARY 4, 2020, for ST. ELIZABETH PARISH, the TOTAL PLEDGED is \$18,860.00 with the TOTAL PAID of \$16,810.00. As of JANUARY 4, 2020 for OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH, the TOTAL PLEDGED is \$3,069.00 with the TOTAL PAID of \$2,653.00. May God bless you abundantly with His Graces for your kind & generous responses.

## Weekly Offerings

The offerings for St. Elizabeth for Sunday, January 29 & Sunday, February 2, 2020 will be published in the February 9, 2020 bulletin. The offerings for Our Lady of Lourdes for Sunday, January 19 & Sunday, January 26, 2020 will be published in the February 9, 2020 bulletin.

**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**