



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

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Join us on Facebook! Search for "Crawford County Catholics"

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 & Adam 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, January 7, 2018 The Epiphany of the Lord



Story found in Matthew 2:1~12 The Magi Visit The Messiah

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10~11

Jan. 6	4:30 pm	Martha Tebbe by Ken & Carol Bergbower
Jan. 7	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Special Intentions William & Louetta Wirey by Keith & Rita Wirey For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Jan. 8	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
Jan. 9	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
Jan. 10	7:30 am	Florence Huss by Tom Huss
Jan. 11	7:30 am	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Jan. 12	7:30 am	Robb Sparks by Dave & Eileen Cooper
Jan. 13	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Jan. 14	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Grover Michl by Michl Family Special Intentions

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 13 ~ Sunday, January 14, 2018

<u>Sat. Jan. 13, 2018 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Terry Roche
USHERS:	Jack & Carol Watts
COMMUNION MIN:	Lisa Baird, Karen Sanders
SERVERS:	Eva Hermann, Jared Hermann
GIFTS:	Terry Roche Family
<u>Sun. Jan. 14, 2018 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Linda Sikorski
USHERS:	Dave Holscher, Tom Huss
COMMUNION MIN:	Mike & Jona Uptmor
SERVERS:	Matthew Jenkins
GIFTS:	Jeff Rich Family
<u>Sun. Jan. 14, 2018 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Anita Kocher
USHERS:	Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson
COMMUNION MIN:	Mary Patchett, Bob Coffman
SERVERS:	Ava Patchett
GIFTS:	Adam & Lori Davis
<u>Sun. Jan. 14, 2018 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Courtney Ferris
USHERS:	Ken Deters, Chris Weber
COMMUNION MIN:	Jane Bohman, Matthew Hartrich
SERVERS:	Emily Heidorn, Isabel Heidorn
GIFTS:	George Bohman Family

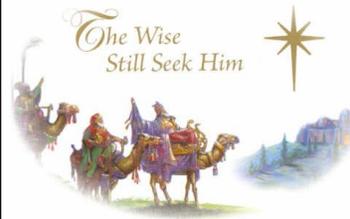
Collection Counters: *January, 2018:*

Lexi Gower, Josh & Roselene Quick

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

Parish School of Religion Classes will be on Wednesday, January 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Scriptural Reflections for the Solemnity of the Epiphany



'The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star" (Pope Benedict XVI). Our response to the Father's offer of salvation is that of the

Magi: "To offer gold is to proclaim Christ's kingship, to offer incense is to adore his Godhead, and to offer myrrh is to acknowledge his mortality" (Saint Odilo of Cluny). Creation responds as well: "When the king of heaven was born, the heavens knew that he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light" (Saint Gregory the Great). The manifestation of the Son of God to the world begs belief from us, by which we will be led home by another way.

Prayer Requests



Please remember the following in your prayers: Lori Brown, Scott

Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Karen Heap, Trent Matthews, Teresa Mullins, Lisa Schaefer, Robb Sparks, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Rich Welp, Janis Wickland, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.

Daily Mass Readings from Jan. 8~Jan. 12



Monday, January 8, 2018 First Reading
Is. 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is. 55:1-11, or
Acts 10:34-38,
or 1 Jn. 5:1-9
Gospel Mk. 1:7-11

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 First Reading
1 Sm. 1:9-20
Gospel Mk. 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 First Reading
1 Sm. 3:1-10, 19, 20
Gospel Mk. 1:29-39

Thursday, January 11, 2018 First Reading
1 Sm. 4:1-11
Gospel Mk. 1:40-45

Friday, January 12, 2018
1 Sm. 8:4-7, 10-22A Gospel Mk. 2:1-12



The feast of the Epiphany manifests to the world that Jesus' mission is for all humankind. God the Father informs the world that Jesus' salvific message is for Jew and Gentile. God's love does not discriminate. It embraces everything. If God's love does not discriminate, neither then does God's compassion. In his book "Living in the Sacred" (RENEW International, \$18.95), Father Ronald Rolheiser writes: "Like the sun, it does not shine selectively. It just shines ... and everything receives its warmth."

Jesus invites his followers to embrace this model of universal compassion. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36). Today the Church celebrates God's generous compassion that is shared totally. Jesus wants his followers to share it equally with everyone, despite whatever their failings and mistakes happen to be.

On her way to work, Sylvia encountered a homeless woman sitting in the bus kiosk, shielding herself from the blustery wind. Sylvia acknowledged the woman's presence with a "good morning" greeting. Startled, the homeless woman looked up and smiled back at Sylvia. Sylvia's greeting allowed sunshine to fall on this lonely woman. A moment of compassion joined the two together. It was so easy. "Upon you the Lord will dawn, and over you his glory will be seen" (Is 60:2).

The Epiphany shows to the world God the Father's limitless compassion. When Jesus asks his followers to be "perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48), Jesus looks to people like Sylvia to light the way. If God is indiscriminate with his compassion, we who benefit can do the same.

This joyous feast of Epiphany reminds Christians everywhere that we "are coheirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (Eph 3:6). Each celebration of this great feast reminds Christ's followers that they have miles yet to go to manifest God's compassion to those who live around them.

Spiritual Reading for the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Graces of the Epiphany

The blessed embassy wonders that it has been led to the holy cradle by a ray of light streaming from above; the farthest nation is the first to enjoy the common good. What a wonderful favor! He who embraces heaven and earth is held within the embrace of his Mother; he who left the Kingdom of his Father lies hidden in the bosom of his Mother. Through a simple service the spiritual treasure is revealed: humanity is perceived, but divinity is adored. Those who offer gold, frankincense, and myrrh show more in mystery than they offer in knowledge. In the gift of gold royal dignity is indicated, in the smoke of the frankincense divine majesty, and in the appearance of myrrh humanity which is destined for burial. Thus the number of their offering bespeaks the Trinity, while their single devotion gives evidence of unity.

Following this example, if we wish to reach Christ, let us endeavor to behold heaven with the ever watchful attention of our heart. May the star of justice direct the path of a perfect life for us. Let us offer the gold of fidelity, the spices of devotion, and the burnt offering of chastity to him who said: No one shall appear before me empty-handed. May we possess spiritual myrrh within us to temper our souls in such a way that it may keep them unharmed by the corruption of sin. Let us change our life, if we desire to reach our true country, that is, the heavenly one. Let there be this exchange between the two so that we may prepare for ourselves the substance of that future life by our use of this present one. Just as eternal life will be the reward of this life, let us labor in such a way that this one may be the price of that.

St. Elizabeth Finance Meeting

St. Elizabeth Finance Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

The Presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary



One of the most sure signs and effects of a true, strong, and faithful love is to compassionate and assist the beloved in all his difficulties, labors, dangers, and sicknesses of mind or of body. What is there a mother will not do if her child is in danger? She will spare no labor, not even her safety or her life, to free him. What will not a wife, that truly loves her husband, say and do through pity and compassion for him, if he is in any great affliction or trouble, and most especially if he is in danger of his life...

The love which Mary has for us is greater than that of all the mothers and wives in the world. With what emotions, then, of tenderest mercy will she not regard and pity our miseries, and hasten to our assistance. ...

We read in the Revelations of Saint Bridget that she heard Christ pressing his Mother to ask some favor of him, offering her, as another and more beautiful Esther, even the half of his kingdom. Her heart full of compassion for us, she too prayed for mercy; not however like Esther, for the chosen people alone, but for all that might ever have need of it. This her request was granted her, Christ assuring her that whoever should ask mercy through her, should obtain it. She is the Treasurer and Dispenser of the mercies of God: they are all placed in her hands, to use the expression of Saint Peter Damian. She is truly the Queen and Mother of Mercy, as she called herself when she appeared to a monk of Cluny, and he asked her who she was; she answered, "I am the Mother of Mercy." Rather she is mercy itself, as says Saint Leo: "Mary is so ready to show mercy, that she merits to be called not only merciful, but even mercy itself."

For the Seven Gifts of the Spirit



O Lord Jesus, through You, I humbly beg our merciful Father to send the Holy Spirit of grace, that He may bestow upon us His sevenfold gifts. May He send us the gift of wisdom which will make us relish

the Tree of Life that is none other than Yourself; the gift of understanding which will enlighten us; the gift of counsel which will guide us in the way of righteousness; and the gift of fortitude which will give us the strength to vanquish the enemies of our sanctification and salvation. May He impart to us the gift of knowledge which will enable us to discern Your teaching and distinguish good from evil; the gift of piety which will make us enjoy true peace; and the gift of fear which will make us shun all iniquity and avoid all danger of offending Your Majesty.

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 and \$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 and many others. The prizes will be the same as last year. First Prize ~ \$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 Mardi Gras Party held at Stoney Ridge on February 10th.

The Seller of the winning ticket will win \$100.00 and the individual selling the most tickets will also win \$100.00.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and 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 and help our Parishes in the process. In advance, THANK YOU! Terry Roche, Big Divvy Chair

Prayer of Thanks for the Father's Love

Eternal Father, we thank You for Your great love. You give the world the best of Yourself, the mirror of Your perfect transparency, the splendor of Your very being-Your Son Jesus. We thank You for giving Jesus to us as our Savior, not as a tyrant but as a friend, not as a superior but as a brother. Help us to open our hearts to His light without fear of being overwhelmed but exultant with the joy that comes from this light upon all who accept it with gladness.

Taking Up Our Cross



We are in the habit of recognizing the cross whether our recognition leads to accepting it or rejecting it; and whether we accept it or choose it freely. But on one particular day, or maybe for several years, the cross comes to us veiled and we do not recognize it. It is veiled by something which for us hides its form, its shape, and its size. Or it seems to be made up of monstrous parts that are totally incoherent. Or it seems to emerge like a phony shadow from phony lighting. Or it weighs us down and hems us in. The mystery that it presents us with from the moment that it approaches us "rejects" one vital element of our human being, even of our Christian being. The mystery of the cross "mortifies," "puts to death," apparently in an absolute way, something which is essential for our life and without which we can no longer cope as human beings. In reality it annihilates in us one of the elements which makes us the unique persons that we are. In each of the Beatitudes-the virtues taught by Jesus Christ, the counsels that He gave, the promises which He made-carries within it access to the mystery of the cross, this is because the Good News in its totality is the good news of love which has been made possible for us and which remains possible for us by the cross and in the cross...If, through our sharing in the very life of Jesus, we can indeed share in his love without sharing in his cross and without accepting what this sharing for each one of us will be, then love will remain an atrophied grain within us.

Mardi Gras 2018



**17TH ANNUAL
CRAWFORD COUNTY
CATHOLICS
SATURDAY, FEB. 10, 2018
6:00PM-MIDNIGHT**

**STONEY RIDGE EVENT CENTER
\$30/TICKET**

Tickets available at
*St. Elizabeth Parish Office,
First National Bank,*

MENU

*Grilled Smoked Sausage Kabobs
BBQ Pork Sliders on a Homemade Onion Bun
Mini Crab Stuffed White Fish
Mini Ham Loaf with Pineapple
Cajun Red Beans & Rice
Peel-n-Eat Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce
Variety of Cheese Balls
Crudites with Chipotle Ranch Dip
Fresh Fruit Kabobs Dessert Tasting Bar
Tea/Lemonade/Cucumber Lime Water/Coffee*

Kaye Holscher Catering

King Cake by Debbie Dix

BIG DIVVY TICKETS-\$25.00

Big Divvy Drawings announced at 9:00 p.m.
Big Divvy winners need not be present to win.

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
CRAWFORD COUNTY CATHOLICS.**



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, December 31, 2017

Envelopes \$ 1,747.00 Loose \$ 215.00

Christmas Flowers \$10.00 Christmas Offering \$45.00

Dependent Children \$55.00 Votive Candles \$98.00

Catholic Times \$15.00 Retirement Fund \$5.00

Immaculate Conception \$10.00 First Offering \$60.00

Solemnity of Mary \$15.00 3 online @ \$180.00

Harry Wong Memorial \$25.00 Building Fund \$25.00

Deposit: \$2,505.00

Our Lady of Lourdes

Week ending Sunday, December 24, 2017

Christmas Envelopes \$145.00 Loose \$130.00

Dependent Children \$60.00

Deposit \$335.00