



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, July 21, 2019 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Martha & Mary. Story found in Luke 10:38-42

As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

Luke 10:38-42

Mass Intentions

July 20	4:30 pm	Scott & Valerie Chapman by Steve & Geri Ezell
July 21	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Special Intentions Francis Medina by Rito & Maria Medina
July 22	7:30 am	Larry Hardiek by Eileen Hartrich
July 23	12:00 pm	Scott & Valerie Chapman by Celeste White
July 24	7:30 am	Special Intentions
July 25	7:30 am	Joetta Goda 44th Birthday by George & Jane Bohman
July 26	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
July 27	4:30 pm	Paul Wong by Carol Wong
July 28	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Special Intentions For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Francis Medina by Rito & Maria Medina

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, July 27 ~ Sunday, July 28, 2019

Sat. July 27, 2019 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Celeste White

USHERS: Jack & Carol Watts

COMMUNION MIN: Phil & Kayla Blank

SERVERS: Jeff Hermann, Ella Jenkins

GIFTS: Jack Watts Family

Sun. July 28, 2019 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Dave Holscher

USHERS: Garrett Rich, Travis Rich

COMMUNION MIN: Jane Bohman, Shari Eckert

SERVERS: Eva Hermann

GIFTS: Chad Arkenberg Family

Sun. July 28, 2019 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Cameron Davis

USHERS: Chris & Donna Keller

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Taylor Blank, Emma Davis

GIFTS: Chris & Donna Keller

Sun. July 28, 2019 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Roselene Quick

USHERS: Charles & Kandice Richey

COMMUNION MIN: Valerie Chapman, Eileen Hartrich

SERVERS: Emily Ferris, Lauren Staller

GIFTS: Scott Chapman Family

July Collection Counters: Carol Bergbower, Karen Reinoehl, Suzanne Dartt

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

VBS Thank You



We would like to say "thank you" to all those who made VBS 2019 a success. Many thanks to our volunteers: Teresa & Halle Gower, Kourtney Coffman & Taylor Blank, Emily Ferris, Lori & Cameron Davis, Josh Quick, Marian Hatfield, Chad & Chrislette Arkenberg, Mary Clark, Geri Ezell, & Jennifer Mueller. We would also like to thank those that donated to our program. Without you, VBS wouldn't have run as smoothly as it did. We appreciate you, Lynne Roche, Mary Ann Ryan, Cindy Grimm, Brook Stewart, Roselene Quick, Geri Ezell & Robin Goens. May God bless each & everyone of you for all that you do for the children of our parishes.

Spiritual Reading for The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This preference for hiddenness, for remaining unseen, seems to have been a definite impulse of Jesus, clearly depicted on a few occasions in the Gospel. It appears he wanted to go unobserved during certain interludes, to pass shrouded through the crowds, inconspicuous and ordinary even after he began his public life. Surely this desire to remain unrecognized cannot have been a capricious gesture. What is happening here, since in other places he is intent on revealing himself? Does it give a hint of a divine attribute which we have not named properly, and yet of vital importance for knowing God's relations with our soul? These occasions when he desired to remain concealed and unnoticed, are they showing us the shape and contour, as it were, of the only encounter with God at times available to us? Must we necessarily seek him in his hiddenness if we are to find him? If we desire deeper prayer, should we not also learn to pass through the crowds in secret, unnoticed by others, drawing no attention? The desire to be unknown and hidden, concealed from sight, is not

prayer

simply a monkish inclination. It is an impulse that arises with deeper prayer. This desire has a certain logic in the nature of love. We seek

in love a God who has a penchant for hiding himself, and we are drawn to follow him into his own hiding places.

Congregation of the Holy Spirit~Spiritans~ One Heart~One Spirit

The Religious Order of the Spiritans

On behalf of FATHER MICHAEL OKORO, C. S. sp. and the Religious Community of the SPIRITANS who came to speak on behalf of their service and ministry to the Catholic Church in Nigeria, he is pleased to express his sincere gratitude for the outstanding generosity that St. Elizabeth Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish who extended to them with the Missionary Appeal of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on July 13 & July 14. Your kindness and generous spirit will allow these missionaries to continue their service to God's People throughout the world. The amount of \$335.05 was donated from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and the amount of \$1,037.50 was donated from St. Elizabeth Parish. A total amount of \$1,372.55 was sent to the Office of the Missions. May God bless you abundantly for your special generosity.



I have observed, both in campus ministry and in parish work, that most Christians naturally tend to gravitate to one of two poles. For the sake of convenience, and in light of today's Gospel reading, let's call them the Mary pole and the Martha pole. The Mary's generally are attracted to all things related to prayer and

interiority. They love beautiful liturgy. They can't get enough of retreats and spirituality workshops. They read every book they can find on prayer methods and often are drawn to devotions such as novenas, the Rosary, and exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Martha's, for their part, are busy and restless souls. The thought of sitting quietly for more than five minutes and listening for God's "still small voice" makes them itch. These folks would rather cook for church suppers and launder the altar linens. Of course, both groups render vital service to the Church. But the problem for individual Christians is that Jesus didn't only say, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples" (Jn 8:31). He also said, "Whatever you do for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you do for me" (Mt 25:40). Jesus himself was a "both/and" kind of guy, as we see in his earthly public ministry, which means that if we are serious about being like Jesus, we have to open our hearts and our lives to becoming "both/ and" people ourselves. So how would it be if our Mary's and our Martha's were to switch places for a while? Maybe each Martha, at least occasionally, needs to take off the apron and stop hustling around in the kitchen; instead, she needs to hold still, chill out, take a few deep breaths and listen for the consoling (or challenging) voice of the Lord. And likewise, maybe every Mary needs to stretch beyond her comfort zone and discover that "a good retreat should end in the street." After all, Jesus and his Father love both Martha and Mary with all their hearts with no limits and no conditions.



First Friday of the Month Mass

The First Friday Mass for the month of AUGUST will take place on FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019 at 5:00 pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. This mass is for Val Pescatore.



August Meetings

St. Elizabeth Parish & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm in St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

Rest In Peace

Rest in peace Rex Dean Madlem, Father of Tony & Susan Madlem. In God's Love we pray that He will grant Rex Dean Madlem a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of Heaven and that his family will receive comfort & peace in their sorrow & loss.



Ignatian Contemplation

As a soldier-turned-mystic, St. Ignatius of Loyola provides some of the best meditative maneuvers in his Spiritual Exercises. Ignatian contemplation is a method of meditation that merges imagination with lectio Divina. It places people in the Bible stories. Imagine standing at Calvary and looking upon our Lord crucified. Powerful, yes? How to Do It. Ignatian contemplation is best done with the Gospels. Read stories of Jesus' life and picture yourself there. What do you see? How do you feel? Ask yourself all the who, what, when, where, and most importantly, why questions. God can speak to us through our intellects and our imaginations. The Jesus Prayer and Hesychasm. The Jesus Prayer is the most important prayer in the Christian East, and its acceptance in the West is due largely to St. John Paul the Great. It is a simple prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." This prayer is used in the Eastern contemplative practice of Hesychasm. Hesychasm ascribes a different meaning than the West to Matthew 6:6: "But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you." In a sense, it advocates for the suspension of the external senses to draw inward and achieve experiential knowledge of God. Practitioners of Hesychasm use the Jesus Prayer with "the mind in the heart," which is when images and even thoughts cease, and contemplation of God is possible when they rest in what practitioners call "the Uncreated Light of God." How to Do It. Although what Hesychasm aims to accomplish is best done by the monastic or even hermetic life, everyone can access the Jesus Prayer and a degree of Hesychasm. However, it is important to think about the words of the Jesus Prayer and to not say them in vain. Say them with sincerity. Those who practice this prayer also call it the Prayer of the Heart. They pray the prayer verbally until they can say it mentally. Ultimately, it becomes the prayer of the heart—our very DNA. The emptying of the mind is not for its own sake, but to dwell in Christ in love. Centering Prayer arose from the teachings of three Trappist monks from St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, MA: Fr. William Meninger, Fr. Thomas Keating, and the late Fr. Basil Pennington. To make contemplative prayer more accessible to everyone, Fr. Thomas Keating founded Contemplative Outreach. As almost a Western incarnation of Eastern Hesychasm, centering prayer is a method of meditation that focuses on interior silence. St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and Thomas Merton all practiced contemplative prayer like the centering prayer method. How to Do It. The first step in practicing centering prayer is to choose a sacred word, one that symbolizes for you the intention to enter the presence of God and interior action. Once the word is said, and repeated, eventually other thoughts disburse. Then, rest in the silence of God's presence for a few minutes. At that point, stop repeating the word, at least until other thoughts arise. While Zen also seeks to still the mind, the intent is not to enter God's presence and it is not open to the Holy Spirit working within. That is a crucial difference from centering prayer. It is also important, though, to recognize that God grants us the ability to rest in his presence. It's a gift, and the beginning of a greater dialogue, not an end. A Final Note on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If true mindfulness is the goal, we'll benefit from an examination of conscience, a heartfelt confession, and celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation. That helps prayer and meditation reach greater depths, which cultivates a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, resulting in the inner peace that people so greatly need now, and at all times.

A Spotlight of St. John

Before St: John wrote his Gospel, he was an apostle, and before that he was a fisherman. John was also the brother to another apostle, St. James the Greater, and the Son of Zebedee and St. Salome. John and his brother James were out fishing when Jesus called them to be "fishers of men. When two brothers promptly left their trade behind and followed Jesus. John and James had the nickname "Sons of Thunder," thought to have emanated from their response of being outraged by the same willingness of some Samaritans to receive the message of Christ. John was part of a small group—seemingly a bit closer to Jesus: only John, his brother James, and Peter were with Jesus for the miracles of Jairus' daughter returning life and our Lord's transfiguration. These three were also nearest to Assunta the Garden of Gethsemane. St. John Emphasizes the Eucharist. John presents a very compelling discourse by Jesus on the Eucharist. Much of his sixth-chapter, If read slowly and deliberately, propels us to embrace more deeply your Catholic belief that the bread and wine at Mass truly do become the Body and Blood of Christ. Consider these quotes from Jesus, presented to us in the Gospel Of: John: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever" (6:51a). "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and me in him" (6:56).* Following these profound assertions, John's Gospel shares how Jesus lost many believers. They simply couldn't accept this understanding of Jesus, and left as a result. Intriguingly, Jesus didn't stop them. He didn't offer further clarification to attempt to recast his explanation as something symbolic. He let them go. Yet, his *apostles stayed.* They accepted something mystical that others did not. "As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him" (6:66). St. John Presses for Unity. In his seventeenth chapter, John shares a deep and tremendously heartfelt prayer of Jesus from shortly before his arrest and passion. On four separate occasions within this beautiful prayer, Jesus expressed his deep yearning for unity among his followers: "*Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are" (17:11b), "...so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you" (17:21a). "And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one" (17:22) that they may be brought to perfection as one" (17:23b)* Jesus made four direct pleas to his Father in heaven. He clearly wanted his followers to be united, to be one—as Jesus and God are one. These statements command our attention and should inspire us to ponder and pray about the vast divisiveness within Christianity. St. John's Plentiful Dialogue. John also gives a rich treasury of conversation and dialogue. Peppered throughout John's Gospel are numerous direct quotes not found in the other Gospels, spoken words that enlighten our understanding of the interactions of early Christians. A complete list of John's recorded quotes would be too long to present here. Some examples include: "*Behold, the Lamb of God.*" John writes the narrative of John the Baptist calling Jesus the "Lamb of God" twice (1:29, 36), evoking parallels between Jesus and the Passover lamb of the Old Testament (see Exodus 12). "*We have found the Messiah.*" Saint Andrew spoke these words on the heels of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus as the "Lamb of God." Andrew believed, spent a day with Jesus, and sought out his brother Simon Peter to share his belief in Jesus as the Messiah (1:41). "*Can anything good come from Nazareth?*" Saint Nathanael (also known as St. Bartholomew) was quite the skeptic, with some sort of prejudice against people from Nazareth. So, he initially doubted that the Messiah could have possibly "come from Nazareth" (1:46). Until he met Jesus. Then, Nathanael/Bartholomew's heart rapidly changed, and he freely proclaimed Jesus as the "King of Israel."

Daily Mass Readings



Mon. July 22, 2019
First Reading Sgs. 3:1-4B or
2 Cor. 5:14-17
Gospel Jn. 20:1-2, 11-18
Tues. July 23, 2019 First Reading
Ex. 14:21-15:1 Gospel Mt. 12:46-50
Wed. July 24, 2019 First Reading Ex. 16:1-5, 9-15
Gospel Mt. 13:1-9
Thurs. July 25, 2019 First Reading 2 Cor. 4:7-15
Gospel Mt. 20:20-28
Fri. July 26, 2019
First Reading Ex. 20:1-17 Gospel Mt. 13:18-23

Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending Sunday, July 14, 2019

Envelopes \$3,067.00 Loose \$439.00 Building Fund \$40.00
Holy Spirit Congregation Mission \$1,037.50
Retired Priest \$1.00
3 online @ \$280.00
Deposit: \$4,864.50

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, July 7, 2019

Envelopes \$902.00 Loose \$102.00 Building Fund \$70.00
Edith Smith Food Pantry \$56.00
Votive Candles \$52.00 Peter's Pence \$15.00
Deposit: \$1,197.00

Give Central

Give Central can be accessed on the Church Website.

Scriptural Reflections for The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



"There is' need of only one thing." The psalm tells us what it is: living in the presence of the Lord. Abraham begs for this presence: 'Sir; please do not go on past your servant."

With Jesus in her home, Martha is "anxious and worried" because 'she fails to see the "one thing" that all of her business is ordered to hosting Jesus and enabling her guests to converse with and adore the Lord. Saint Paul attests that God's stewardship is given to him "to bring to completion for you the word of God." God chooses "to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery" to those who choose him and find in him the source of their contemplation and activity.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:
Scott Chapman, Ray Collings (Sharon Skaggs), Eileen Fabris (Kathleen Pescatore), Terry Free (Ruth Beckes), Larry Hardiek (Eileen Hartrich), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Stumborg Family (Susan Goodwine), Lee Webster (Bob Coffman), Charlita Wilson, Kathy Wright (Sharon Skaggs) & the men & women in the armed forces.