



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

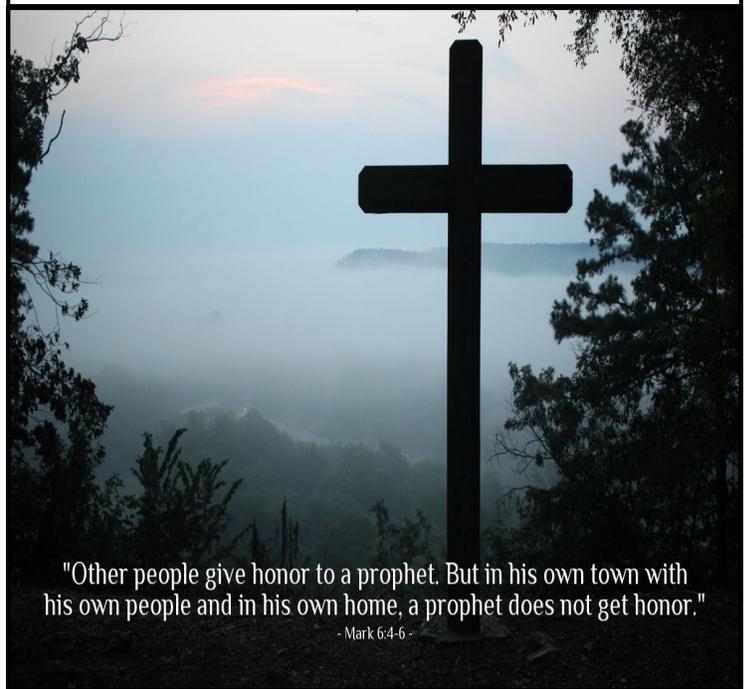
If you are considering marriage, please contact Father Flach no later than 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date and the diocesan and parish guidelines will be explained.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays at St. Elizabeth 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm or by appointment

Sunday, July 8, 2018 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Story found in Mark 6:1~6a



"Other people give honor to a prophet. But in his own town with his own people and in his own home, a prophet does not get honor."

- Mark 6:4-6 -

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place & among his own kin & in his own house."

Mark 6:4



Mass Intentions

July 7	4:30 pm	Doris Prier by Mike & Jona Uptmor
July 8	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Robert & Karla Birkofer
July 9	7:30 am	Ethel Hardiek by Eileen Hartrich
July 10	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
July 11	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Greg & Elizabeth White
	7:30 am	Marie Bohman (Deceased) Birthday by George & Jane Bohman
July 13	7:30 am	Special Intentions
July 14	4:30 pm	Karen Rickermann by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	7:30 am	Favorable Weather
July 15	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, July 14, 2018 ~ Sunday, July 15, 2018

Sat. July 14, 2018 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Terry Roche

USHERS: Ken & Carol Bergbower

COMMUNION MIN: Lisa Baird, Karen Sanders

SERVERS: Ella Bunten, Ella Jenkins

GIFTS: Terry Roche Family

Sun. July 15, 2018 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Janet Jenkins

USHERS: Dave Holscher, Tom Huss

COMMUNION MIN: Mike & Jona Uptmor

SERVERS: Matthew Jenkins

GIFTS: Mike Uptmor Family

Sun. July 15, 2018 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Kourtney Coffman

USHERS: Rich & Anita Kocher

COMMUNION MIN: Keith & Rita Wirey

SERVERS: Taylor Blank, Emma Davis

GIFTS: Rich & Anita Kocher

Sun. July 15, 2018 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Eileen Hartrich

USHERS: Geraldo Rios, Miguel Vega

COMMUNION MIN: Roselene Quick, Phyllis Inboden

SERVERS: Joe Quick, David Staller

GIFTS: George Bohman Family

July Collection Counters:

July 2018: Carol Bergbower, Lexi Gower, Rhonda Stone

Scriptural Reflections for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



To be contemporaries in our age is somewhat like being compatriots. We are thus, and sometimes even without our knowing it, formed into a people with a shared mentality, identical

sensibilities, and common desires and fears. We tend to become contemporary citizens of a country that no longer has its roots in any particular land. Now, we notice a certain absence of faith in this film of time, of our age. The storyline does not in the least seem to be determined by faith; faith is as it were crowded out by everything that is going on, by goals and desires for which faith does not seem to be needed. It seems to be too much in the way to take part in the action; it is tempted to slink off into the margins, to take leave of our age, to withdraw. But it gets worse: some of the most modern milieus have the reputation of being harmful to the Faith, of being intolerable to it. This reputation did not come about for nothing; it has some foundation in the facts: within such milieus, many Christian lives grow thin, get' warped, or crumble altogether. However, whether we are talking about wavering attitudes, or actual deteriorations and breakdowns, it is worth pointing out that this is not the fault of faith but the fault of what Christians sometimes call the Faith; it is in fact a mere representation of the Faith that becomes abridged, deformed, and deprived of certain essential elements; or else a representation of the Faith that is weighed down, encumbered, and adulterated with elements that do not belong to it—with mentalities, principles, and goals that are more or less foreign to it. In most cases, what is at fault is a faith that strives primarily to maintain and preserve itself, and in the process forgets its own effective presence and fecundity. Genuine faith holds firm. It would be absurd to think that faith could not survive precisely in those milieus for which it was made. It would be absurd to think that the Christian is inescapably doomed to lose his faith in milieus in which faith has not been proclaimed. If we are so often partial & practical apostates, it is because we tend to be people who forget. Whenever we discover or rediscover one aspect of the Faith & allow ourselves to become fascinated by it, we are constantly tempted at the same time to lose interest in another truth, which we very quickly end up forgetting altogether. All of a sudden we remember that faith exists in an age & for an age. And at that very moment, we are tempted to temporalize or naturalize it. All of a sudden, we are awestruck by the glimpse of eternity faith affords us, & we begin to think that we can best be faithful by being immobile. But, if God is immutable, standing still is not the way to image Him. Genuine faith is wholly made to guide us in time toward eternal life, to make us live eternal life already in time...Nevertheless, genuine naked faith never finds a comfortable welcome in time. Faith is beset with the questions of an age, it is sometimes questioned by the age, & it is often called into question by the age. And the rule of the game is the law of Redemption. But if we take our faith as sufficient for us, if we do not add anything to it, or take away anything from it, we will be able to be questioned & called into question along with it: but faith will give us life, will tell us how to act & what to say, no matter what sort of age we live in, even if the age is our present age.

St. Elizabeth Finance Council Meeting

St. Elizabeth will have their Finance Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at the Parish Center at St. Elizabeth at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, July 8, 2018

From the Pastor: Mysterious Strength in Weakness

Some 40 years ago, when he was the rector at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Father Michael J. Buckley, SJ, wrote a letter to the ordinands that since has become famous and often has been reprinted. While his immediate audience was seminarians in the final stages of preparation for priestly ordination, I think his main point applies equally well to all Christians, who are "priests" by virtue of their baptism. Father Buckley notes that, as Americans, we tend "to estimate a person's aptitude for a profession or for a career by listing his strengths." Naturally enough, then, we also tend to judge one's aptitude for priesthood — whether ordained or baptismal — by considering a person's gifts, talents and achievements. This, Father Buckley says, "is disastrous." He argues instead that the focus should be on whether an individual is weak enough to be a Christian. Does the person know suffering and failure? Has he or she had to live with confusion or self-doubt? St. Paul tells the Corinthians in the verses that immediately precede those read today that he certainly has had wonderful visions and revelations from God, and he has been "caught up into paradise" where he "heard ineffable things" (2 Cor. 12:4). But these are gifts and not cause for boasting. Like Ezekiel, Jesus does not judge his success based on whether people "hear or resist" his message (Ez. 2:5).

So, while his reception in his hometown must have stung a bit, it seems unlikely that Jesus was altogether surprised by it, knowing human frailty as he did. What mattered in the end for Jesus was that he faithfully carry out his Father's will. This also is the point stressed by St. Ignatius Loyola in the well-loved "Suscipe" prayer from the end of the Spiritual Exercises. The prayer concludes: "Give me only your love and your grace. With these will be rich enough and will desire nothing more." That is what true "riches" looks like for a faithful disciple of Christ.

A Kingdom of Light How To Push Back The Darkness

FAITH is
seeing light
with your
HEART
when all
your eyes
sees is
DARKNESS.

Imagine yourself alone in a friend's country guesthouse in the woods far away from any city or town. Your friend is due to arrive in a few hours, and he has left a key for you under the front mat. So, you let yourself in and begin exploring the house. Suddenly, a violent storm arrives, and the power goes out. The house is completely dark, and you can't find the candles or flashlights. Thunder

cracks in the sky, the wind howls through the trees, and you begin counting the seconds, wondering when the lights will come back on. As time progresses, you find yourself feeling insecure and anxious.

Everything is so unfamiliar! But then, the power is restored, and darkness gives way to light. A feeling of peace and security washes over you, and all is well again. This story gives us a clear illustration of the difference between light and darkness in the physical world. However, it's not always this easy to identify the difference between spiritual light and darkness. That's why we need to become alert to these forces. We need to learn how to guard ourselves against the darkness so that we can enjoy more and more deeply the light that is our heritage as citizens of the kingdom of God. We need to be alert to the spiritual battle that is going on around us, a battle between the fiercely competitive powers of light and darkness. An Unseen Battle. St. Paul used military images when he spoke about the Christian life. He referred to Archippus and Epaphroditus as fellow soldiers (Philemon 2; Philippians 2:25), and he urged Timothy to be a "good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy

2:3). He also spoke about himself "as a soldier" (1 Corinthians 9:7) and about spiritual weapons" with which we can "destroy arguments" that raise themselves up against Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5). In his most explicit military allegory; Paul spoke about how our battle is with the "principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness": (Ephesians 6:12). He then told his readers to "put on the armor of God" so that they could push back the darkness (6:13). Paul saw that the devil is our number one enemy. He saw that we are engaged in a spiritual battle, and he wanted everyone to be alert to this battle - especially since the devil's influence can be hard to detect. The fact that we are engaged in a battle against an invisible foe poses two threats. First, because we can't see him, the devil can go undetected. As a result, we forget about the battle and become easy prey to his tactics. If you were in an ordinary war zone, you would know it! You would hear the explosions, smell the gunpowder, and see signs of the enemy's work all around you. You would naturally be on guard, your body tense and your senses alert all day long as you wondered when the next attack would come. But because the devil is a spirit and because he is so devious, it can be easy to miss his attacks. The second threat is that we can think that our real struggle is only with the people around us - the ones we can see. When someone hurts us or gossips against us or lies to us, the offense is clear, and we have a negative reaction against the offender. Of course, justice tells us that something wrong has been done to us, and reparations should be made. But while we are focusing on the hurt we have suffered, we may miss out on the spiritual dimension. Paul tells us that our battle is not with "flesh and blood." He also tells us not to do "battle according to the flesh" (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3). We need to see that quite often the devil has had a hand in whatever conflict has arisen. Satan, "the accuser of our brothers," is often the unseen force moving us to say and do things against each other (Revelation 12:10). This is how the devil likes it. He wants to remain undetected so that he can pit us against each other. He

likes to instigate trouble by whispering accusations and suspicions in our ears - just enough to start us down a negative, divisive path. He plays off of the weaknesses in our fallen nature so that we will turn against each other or turn away from the Lord. Just one or two words of doubt may be all he needs, especially if we're not onto his ways! This is all part of the devil's strategy to weaken and overthrow the kingdom of God. For what good is a king if he doesn't have any subjects? What good is a kingdom filled with discord, animosity, and division? The Spirit's Strategy. The good news is that the Holy Spirit uses a similar strategy - but he does it with the grace and power of almighty God! Like the devil, the Spirit is also invisible, so we need to be just as alert to his presence and work. Like the devil, the Spirit also whispers thoughts to our hearts, trying to bend us to his will. But this is where the similarity ends. Instead of pitting us against each other, the Spirit encourages us to forgive and care for one another. Instead of sowing doubts about God and his care for us, the Spirit tells us that we are beloved children of God. He tells us that our Father will never abandon us. He helps us see the grace that Jesus is offering us in every situation. While the devil appeals to our fallen nature, the Spirit appeals to even deeper drives and desires in our hearts. He helps us come in touch with our longing for God and our desire for unity and peace. He reminds us that we are made in God's image, and he tells us that everyone else has just as much dignity as we do. Day after day, in situation after situation, the Spirit is at work, urging us to live as the citizens of the kingdom that we truly are. Moving and shaping our hearts with his love, he helps us build each other up so that the kingdom of God can advance in this world.

talk about the spiritual battle, it can be helpful to know that the kingdom of God is eternal. Nothing, not even the devil, can overcome it. No matter how difficult things may seem, Jesus will win the battle, and the devil will be vanquished. That's because God has authority simply by virtue of who he is as the holy and mighty Creator. Satan, on the other hand, has authority only when we give it to him. It may sound odd at first, but we empower the devil. If we go about our days unaware of his tactics, we are leaving the door of our hearts open to his lies. This is why Paul urges us to put on the armor of God. By contrast, when we open the door to the Spirit, he comes in with even more power and authority. He comes in to rescue us and restore us. He comes in to fill us with his love and to empower us to live a life of holiness and purity. Brothers and sisters, Jesus wants everyone to come into his kingdom. He doesn't want to lose one single person. That's why he died for us. That's why he promised to be always with us. It's why he continues to reach out to us every day. He never stops the world with the good news of his kingdom. Isn't it good to know that he will always help us win the battle? **Overcome the Darkness!** Jesus wants us to live in the light of his kingdom. But because he respects our free will, he allows us to make our own decisions. So let's choose to stay alert. Let's wake up every morning eager to advance his kingdom. The more we strive to live in his light, the more we will find his Spirit giving us the strength to overcome every dark area of sin, both in our hearts and in the world around us. Can you imagine the impact on the Church if all of us were to put on the armor of God every day? Imagine the effect it would have on the selfishness, judgments, and resentments in us and around us. Imagine how much more love, generosity, encouragement, joy, and forgiveness there would be in the world. So let's pray together, "Jesus, I want to commit myself to living in your light every day. I want to put on the full armor of God so that the devil will not find a foothold in my life or my family or my home. Lord, help me to stay alert to your Spirit's promptings in my day. Empower me to turn away from every kind of darkness. Jesus, may your kingdom come!"

Baby Bottle Collection



Special & Sincere THANKS to all those parishioners who participated in the BABY BOTTLE COLLECTION held on Mother's to Father's Day on behalf of St. Elizabeth & Our Lady of Lourdes. The CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER of Eastern Illinois is extremely grateful for your outstanding kindness & generosity. Each person who is served through your donation thanks you from the bottom of their hearts. St. Elizabeth Parish donated the amount of \$810.00 & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish donated the amount of \$300.00. Sincere & Special THANKS to ANNE SCHALASKY & ROSELENE & JOE QUICK. May God bless you for your

Spiritual Reading for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The people of Jesus' "native place" begin to measure hint based on their own inadequate preconceptions & presuppositions. Because they are "sated with contempt," they rule out the possibility of experiencing the "mighty deeds" of the Lord. How much better are those who, like Saint Paul, approach reality from the perspective of the thorn in their flesh, even boasting with gladly of their weakness. For "power is made perfect in weakness. The embrace of our weakness quells the rebellion of original sin & opens us to the wonder of the Prophet among us. God's grace is sufficient for us.

Offering Envelopes

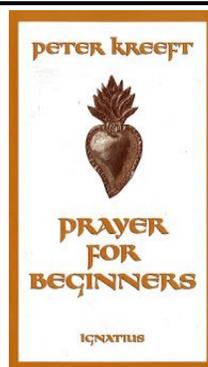


Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church
Week Ending Sunday, July 1, 2018
 Envelopes \$2,847.00 Loose \$333.00
 Peter's Pence Collection \$20.00
 Building Fund \$125.00
 5 online @ \$435.00
 Total Deposit: \$3,760.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Week Ending June 24, 2018
 Envelopes \$625.00
 Loose \$68.00 Peter's Pence Collection \$130.00
 Total Deposit: \$823.00

Kiosk Corner



Prayer for Beginners (Book)
 Dr. Peter Kreeft
 In short, straight-forward, & unsentimental chapters, Kreeft covers all the key areas for understanding & developing that intimate form of communicating with our Creator that we call prayer. He covers such areas as the necessity of prayer, various motives & methods, steps, patience, suffering, sin, faith, & grace. **Praise for Prayer for Believers** "The best short introduction to prayer I've ever read...Read it & pray!"-Ralph Martin-
 Author of Called to Holiness.

Dr. Peter Kreeft offers simple but profound advise & practical steps for developing a prayer life based on the time-tested wisdom of the saints & great spiritual writers, especially the principles found in Brother Lawrence's classic. The Practice of the Presence of God.



Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Jul. 9, 2018 First Reading Hos. 2:16, 17 C-18, 21-22
 Gospel Mt. 9:18-26
 Tues. July 10, 2018 First Reading Hos. 8:4-7, 11-13
 Gospel Mt. 9:32-38
 Wed. July 11, 2018 First Reading Hos. 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
 Gospel Mt. 10:1-7
 Thurs. July 12, 2018 First Reading Hos. 11:1-4, 8E-9
 Gospel Mt. 10:7-15
 Fri. July 13, 2018 First Reading Hos. 14:2-10
 Gospel Mt. 10:16-23



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Erica Adams (niece of Patti Buercklin), Kevin Bennett (request by Karen Bailey) Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Ginny Hall, Jennifer Pierce, Marissa Rees, Jack Stanley, Charlie Steagall, Dylan Wesley (request by Celeste White), Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass