



Serving St. Elizabeth Church & Our Lady of Lourdes Church



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTER

207 E. Walnut, Robinson, IL 62454

Phone Number: (618) 544-7526

Fax Number: (618) 544-9327

E-mail: crawford_catholics@rocketmail.com

Web Site: www.crawfordcountycatholics.com

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 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, June 24, 2018
The Nativity of
St. John the Baptist



Vacation
Bible
School
Program

We are so excited to have your children participate in this year's VBS program "Marvelous Mystery~The Mass Comes Alive." This year's program has been especially designed to help the Mass come alive for your children. VBS will be held July 8-10 from 6-8 p.m. in the Parish Center. This program is for children in K-5th grade during the 2018-19 school year. VBS payments need to be paid on or before June 21, 2018. Make checks payable to St. Elizabeth. The cost is \$15/child. Registration forms have been emailed to PSR parents and are available on Facebook and in the Parish Center.

Mass Intentions

June 23	4:30 pm	Ron Laski by Sarah Laski
June 24	7:30 am	Favorable Weather
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
June 25	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
June 26	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
June 27	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher
June 28	7:30 am	Special Intentions
June 29	7:30 am	Jeanette Loy Kraemer by Anne Loy
June 30	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
July 1	7:30 am	Mike & Judy Smolinski by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, June 30, 2018 ~ Sunday, July 1, 2018

Sat. June 30, 2018 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Geri Ezell

USHERS: Ken & Carol Bergbower

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Xavier Brown, Jeff Hermann

GIFTS: Kristen Mullins Family

Sun. July 1, 2018 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Shari Eckert

USHERS: Steve & Janet Jenkins

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Mallory Mosbey

GIFTS: Chad Arkenberg Family

Sun. July 1, 2018 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Lori Davis

USHERS: Ron & Ethel Dhom

COMMUNION MIN: Keith Wirey, Wilmer Wilson

SERVERS: Eva Hermann

GIFTS: Rod Wilson, Wilmer Wilson

Sun. July 1, 2018 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Cydnee Weber

USHERS: Ken Deters, Chris Weber

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Halle Gower, Madalyn Myers

GIFTS: Eric Schmidt Family

June Collection Counters: Lisa Baird, John Ferris, Anne Schrey

**Please remember to
attend weekly Mass**

Scriptural Reflections for the Solemnity of the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist

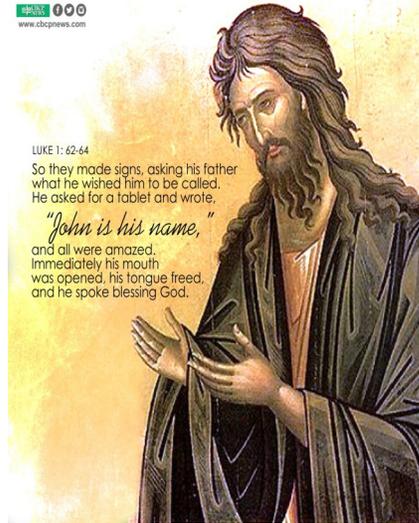
www.cbcnews.com

LUKE 1: 62-64

So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote,

"John is his name."

and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.

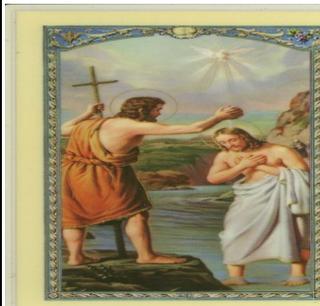


Why does the Church celebrate the birthday of John the Baptist? Because "John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last" (CCC 523; Lk 1:76; cf. 7:26; Mt 11:13). He "goes 'before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah'" (CCC 696). John the Baptist "is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way," who "inaugurates the Gospel from his mother's womb" (CCC 523; Jn 1 29; cf. Acts 13:24; Mt 3:3). John the-Baptist

proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel;-he is the 'voice' of the Consoler who is coming" (CCC 719; Jn 1:23; cf. Is 40:1-3). "With John the Baptist the Holy Spirit-begins the restoration to man of 'the divine likeness'" (CCC 720).

Spiritual Reading for the Solemnity of the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist

Fortunate is John, who through the spirit of God deserved to express his joy before he uttered any infant cries. Fortunate is he who deserved to possess divine benefits before he got human goods. Fortunate is he who deserved acquaintance with heaven sooner than with earth. Fortunate is he who deserved to announce future events before he saw any present ones. Fortunate is he who could receive God before he was received into his own body. Fortunate, yes-outstandingly fortunate, is he who acquired merit before he knew how to seek it. Fortunate is he who did not come to grace through toil but was ennobled by grace and then proceeded to his labors.... John comes in the spirit of Elijah, and he walks in his power...by his food; clothing, 'honor, chastity, abstinence, and all virtues, he represented both Elijah and Christ. To prepare for the Lord a perfect people. May our God and Lord deign to prepare this' in your own case, too, unto the glory of his name.



Prayer to
St. John the Baptist
O God, You raised up
St. John the Baptist
to prepare a perfect
person for Christ.
We call upon St. John's
intercession to properly
prepare us with a true sense of
repentance to receive
Your grace and salvation.
Make us faithful to truth and
justice, as You did Your servant,
John the Baptist, herald of
Your Son's birth and death.
Lord, may You
increase Your life within us.
Amen.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Erica Adams (niece of Patti Buercklin), Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Todd Drake, Sandy Ellis, Ginny Hall, Jennifer Pierce, Marissa Rees, Barb Skaggs (cousin's wife to Sharon Skaggs), Charlie Steagall, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson & the men & women in the armed forces.

**"AS IT IS IN HEAVEN" - GOD WANTS TO SEND US
INTO THE WORLD AS HIS AMBASSADORS**



OUR FATHER

who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen

fillingmyprayercabinet.com

Jesus told us to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). On one level, we are asking Jesus to come again in glory. But on another level, we are asking our Father to give us the grace we need to build a heavenly life right now, here on earth. We live in the age of the Church, the time between Jesus' first coming as a man and his second coming as Lord and King. During this in-between time, God has called us to receive his power so that we can share it -with the people around-us—He-has called-us to cooperate with him so that

his kingdom truly can come on this earth. He knows that without the power of heaven, we as a Church won't be able to be the light of the world that he has called us to be. So, let's take a closer look at this part of the Lord's Prayer. Let's explore what it means to ask our Father to bring his kingdom to earth - and what our role is in this prayer.

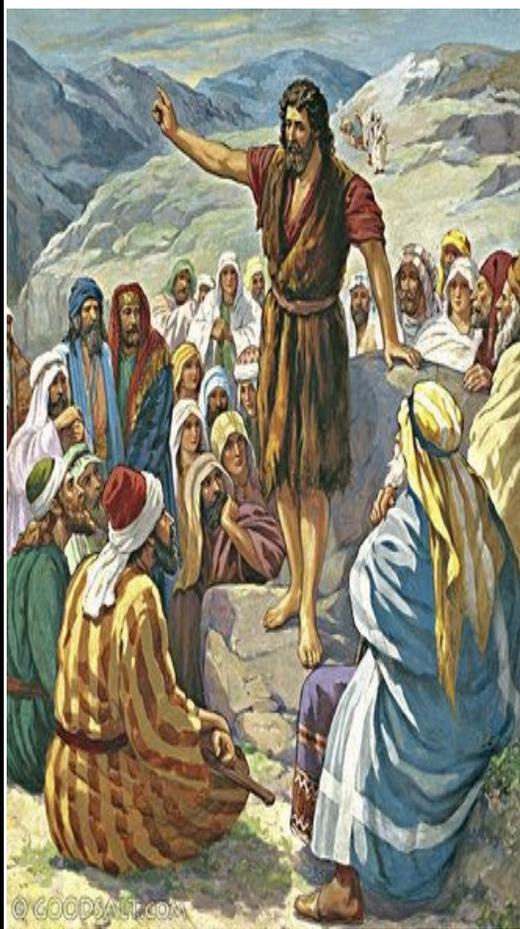
The Kingdom is Here. Jesus once told some Pharisees, "Behold, the kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17:21). These words are just as surprising today as they were back then. Given the wars, the famines, and the upheaval in the world, and given the sin and selfishness in our own lives, you might think that the kingdom of God is still a long way off. But our faith tells us that we can begin to live right here, right now, "as it is in heaven." It also tells us that in Christ we have all the grace and power we need to help build the kingdom here every day. This includes the way we relate to our families, the way we approach our jobs, the way we treat our friends, and even the way we deal with our enemies. So, what can we do to make sure that life on earth can more fully reflect "as it is in heaven"? We can begin with a rejection of sin. In heaven there is no sin. The day you enter heaven is the last day you will ever commit a sin. Until then, our sins offend God. They hurt us, and they hurt the people around us. They make it harder for us to love one another. They hinder our desire to have heaven on earth. Of course, we all know how hard it can be to avoid sin. We are weak and fallen, after all. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep fighting against temptation. We may never achieve perfection, but we can keep asking our Father for his help - and he will keep giving it to us. We really can become more holy. By his grace, we can become brighter and brighter reflections of his perfect kingdom.

Receiving and Giving. Turning away from sin will clearly help bring heaven to earth, but that is not enough. We need to be turning toward something as well. Now, we know that the environment of heaven is one of complete and perfect love. We also know that Jesus taught that the two greatest commands are to love God and to love one another. These are comforting thoughts. But as we look at Jesus' life, and as we look at the lives of the saints, we see that love is far more than just a feeling of warm affection. No, love is active. It's meant to be given away to everyone in need. It reaches out to the sick and the marginalized. It shares the good news of God's mercy & pours itself out for the sake of other people. Without active, self-giving love, we will never see this earth come

all the generosity & love we can, & then give it away without enjoying any of its benefits themselves. But that's not how God works. First, he gives his love. He pours his mercy, his kindness, and his affection into our hearts. And he does it every time we come to him in prayer. This experience of God's love moves to reach out to the people around us. It's a chain reaction in which we are first transformed by God's love and then find ourselves eager to offer that same transforming love to our neighbors. It's as if we just can't help ourselves. The more we receive, the more we want to give! Every act of love, however large or small, bring heaven to earth. Every time a mother prepares another meal for her family, every time a father gives up his free time to be with his children, every time someone helps a lonely neighbor, every time someone shares his or her faith with another, every time we put a coin in the offering box at church - all of these acts, and millions more like them, help to bring heaven to earth. **The Cry of the Poor.** Just as there is no sin in heaven there is also no poverty in heaven. No one is homeless. No one goes hungry. Everyone is welcomed and treasured. When Jesus announced his own mission to bring heaven to earth, he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Luke 4:18). We can be very quick to "spiritualize" these words but Jesus was speaking about people who were suffering physically as well as spiritually. To those who were suffering spiritually, he offered his message of mercy and forgiveness. To those who were suffering physically, He has offered healing, he multiplied loaves and fishes, and urged them to be fair in their dealings and to share their possessions with each other. Now that Jesus has returned to heaven, his mission has become our mission. As his ambassadors, we are called to make sure that every person, regardless of age race, nationality, or background, is treated with love, respect, and justice. Those who are poor, oppressed, unwanted are our responsibility. They are our brother and sisters. Their needs are our needs. If we want to see God's kingdom come and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven, we also need to be willing to speak out against those things that are morally wrong. We need to protect the weak and support those who are less fortunate. We need to reach out with compassion to those who have made mistakes. We need bring God's "glad tidings" to everyone. Do you want to bring heaven to earth? Ask the Lord how you can help him wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:14). Ask him to open your eyes to the needs all around you. May we all do as much as we can for as many as we can as often as we can! **Instruments of Change.** "Your kingdom come...on earth as in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). This is both a demanding and a glorious prayer. Every time we say it, the Holy Spirit fills us with grace. He tells us that we can live a holy life and change the world. He tells us that Jesus has already saved the world from sin and that it's up to us to reclaim the world for him. Working together with the Spirit, each of us can make this world resemble heaven a little bit more each day. Each of us can find ways to give our love away to others without conditions. When we seek God's grace in prayer, we will surely find it. We will find the power to stop sinning, to love everyone as best we can, and to reach out to those in need. The Spirit of the Lord is upon you. He has anointed you with his grace, his love, and his power. You have all you need to bring good news to your loved ones, to the poor, and to your enemies. You can bring his freedom to those in bondage, and lead people out of darkness. May our loving Father fill you with his love. May this love inspire you to take up your calling, confident that he is with you every step of the way! May we all become instruments of change - helping to bring God's heavenly kingdom to earth.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

From the Pastor: A Prophet & More Than A Prophet



John the Baptist is one of the greatest saints of the Church, arguably outranked only by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself. John's stature, like that of Mary, results 'from his special-in salvation history. While Mary is the mother of Jesus, John, his cousin, was his herald and forerunner. John's birth, like that of Jesus, was heralded by the angel Gabriel. It also, arguably, was miraculous: Jesus was born of a virgin, while John was born to a barren woman of advanced age. Finally, John is the only saint other

than Mary whose nativity is celebrated on its own special day. Perhaps that explains why the feast — which already was well established in parts of the Roman Church by the end of the fourth century — was upgraded to a solemnity in 1970, following the Second Vatican Council (which is why it takes precedence over a Sunday in Ordinary Time). Not surprisingly, given all the special signs surrounding the child, John's birth provokes a certain amount of wonderment. His father, Zechariah — who had been silenced for doubting Gabriel's prophecy concerning the child — recovers his speech and, filled with the Spirit, sings God's praises in the canticle (Lk 1:68-79);-used by-the-Church daily at nornine prayer. No wonder that "fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea" (Lk. 1:65). It is normal for any parent or relative to wonder, after the birth of any child, "What, then, will this child be?" But how much more so when it is already clear with this child that "surely the hand of the Lord was with him" (Lk 1:66). John's martyrdom at the hands of Herod also is celebrated by the Church on Aug. 29. John the Baptist rightly can be regarded as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the Christian martyrs (apart from the Holy Innocents). John is a model of radical simplicity, as well as of single-minded passion and courageous faith in the service of doing God's will.



Weekly Collection

St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, June 17, 2018

Envelopes \$2,277.00 Loose \$253.00

Sisters Mission \$240.00 3 online @ \$185.00

Total Deposit: \$2,955.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Week Ending June 10, 2018

Envelopes \$735.00 Sisters Mission \$441.00

Loose \$73.50 Edith Smith Food Pantry \$44.00

Total Deposit: \$1,293.50

Kiosk Corner



Here is the astonishing true story (abridged version) of the harrowing experiences of a young German seminarian drafted into Hitler's dreaded SS at the onset of World War II. Without betraying his Christian ideals, against all odds, & in the face of evil, Geron Goldmann was able to complete his priestly training, be ordained & secretly minister to German Catholic soldiers & innocent civilian victims caught up in the horrors of war. How it all came to pass will astound you. Fr. Goldmann tells of his own incredible experiences of the trials of war, his many escapes from almost certain death, & the diabolical persecution that he & his fellow Catholic soldiers encountered on account of their faith. What emerges is an extraordinary witness to the working of Divine Providence & the undying power of love, prayer, faith, & sacrifice.

Daily Mass Readings

- June 25, 2018 First Reading 2 Kgs. 17:5-8, 13-15A, 18
Gospel Mt. 7:1-5
- June 26, 2018 First Reading 2 Kgs. 19:9B-11, 14-21, 31-35A,36 Gospel Mt. 7:6, 12-14
- June 27, 2018 First Reading 2 Kgs. 22:8-13; 23:1-3
Gospel Mt. 7:15-20
- June 28, 2018 First Reading 2 Kgs. 24:8-17
Gospel Mt. 7:21-29
- June 29, 2018 First Reading Acts 3:1-10
Second Reading Gal. 1:11-20 Gospel Jn. 21:15-19
Reading 1 Acts 12:1-11,
Reading 2 2 Tm. 4:6-8, 17-18 Gospel Mt. 16:13-19

Now Program



By now you are all familiar with the local N.O.W. Program which provides food on the weekends to students who would otherwise go without. The N.O.W. program now includes "shopping" days for those students in order to get them ready for the school year. Since we are not having a yard sale this year, we would like for you to consider donating those gently used children's clothing items to the N.O.W. Program for their shopping days. This is a simple way for our parishes to support that program and make the lives of those children better while cleaning out our closets as well. If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Ferris at the Parish Center.