



# 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 ~ 4:00 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 7, 2020 The Most Holy Trinity



~ Story found in John 3:16-18

**For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**

**John 3:16 & 17**



## Mass Intentions

June 6	4:30 pm	Val Pescatore by Kaye Pescatore
June 7	7:30 am 9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Stephen & Francis Begley by Frank & Ann Schalasky
June 8	10:30 am	Special Intentions
June 9	7:30 am	Roy Bohman
June 10	12:00 pm	Linda Dudine by Ellen Rees
June 11	7:30 am	Special Intentions
June 12	7:30 am	Maylee Parkhurst by Joe & Carole Hepner
June 13	7:30 am	Special Intentions
June 14	4:30 pm	Monica Mann by Celeste White
	7:30 am	Ted Bergbower by Marjorie Boatman
	9:00 am	Margaret & George Schalasky by Frank & Ann Schalasky
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, June 13 ~ Sunday, June 14, 2020

Sat. June 13, 2020 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

**LECTOR:** Patti Buercklin

**USHERS:** Ken Bergbower, Randy Mullins

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:**

**GIFTS:**

Sun. June 14, 2020 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

**LECTOR:** Eileen Hartrich

**USHERS:** Jim Jaeger, Jeff Rich

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:**

**GIFTS:**

Sun. June 14, 2020 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

**LECTOR:** Bob Coffman

**USHERS:** Carol Miller, Janelle Hoke

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:**

**GIFTS:**

Sun. June 14, 2020 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

**LECTOR:** Josh Quick

**USHERS:** Jacob & Jessica Blankenbeker

**COMMUNION MIN:**

**SERVERS:**

**GIFTS:**

**June Collection Counters:** Carol Bergbower, Janet Hill,  
Chris Tylka

## Public Mass

With Bishop Paprocki's permission, PUBLIC MASS will begin on SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020 at 4:30 pm in St. Elizabeth Church. The regular MASS SCHEDULE will resume on SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020 as well as the DAILY MASS SCHEDULE. The ONLY Liturgical Ministries that Father Flach is in need of at the weekend Masses are the LECTORS & the USHERS. Father Flach will be following ALL OF THE GUIDELINES published by Bishop Paprocki. Thank you & God bless you.

### Scriptural Reflections for The Most Holy Trinity

The Catechism teaches that "by sending his only Son & the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his inner most secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, & he has destined us to share in that exchange" (221). "The complete Trinity dwells in us" (M.M. Philippon). By worshiping the Trinity we realize the full truth of ourselves. "In the communion of grace with the Trinity, man's 'living area' is broadened & raised up to the supernatural level of divine life. Man lives in God & by God". (Saint John Paul II).

### Spiritual Reading for The Most Holy Trinity

The Creator & Lord of all so loved his people that for their salvation he sent his Son, the Prince & Savior of the faithful, who washed & dried our wounds. And he exuded the sweetest balm, from which flow all good things for salvation.... For the Father is the Father, the Son is the Son, & the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit, & these three Persons are indivisible in the unity of the Divinity. As the flame of a fire has three qualities, so there is one God in three Persons. How? A flame is made up of brilliant light & red power & fiery heat. It has brilliant light that it may shine, & red power that it may endure, & fiery heat that it may burn. Therefore, by the brilliant light understand the Father, who with paternal love opens his brightness to his faithful; & by the red power, which is in the flame that it may be strong, understand the Son, who took on a body born from a Virgin, in which his divine wonders were shown; & by the fiery heat understand the Holy Spirit, who burns ardently in the minds of the faithful. Therefore as these three qualities are found in one flame so three Persons must be understood in the Unity of the Divinity. And as three causes for the production of words are seen, so the Trinity in the Unity of the Divinity is to be inferred. How? In a word there is sound, meaning, & breath. It has sound that it may be heard, meaning that it may be understood, & breath that it may be pronounced. In the sound, then, observe the Father, who manifests all things with ineffable power; in the meaning, the Son, who was miraculously begotten of the Father; & in the breath, the Holy Spirit, who sweetly burns in them.... Therefore, in these three Persons recognize your God, who created you in the power of his divinity & redeemed you.



## 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, Paul Deters (Ken Deters), Mike Dorn, Eileen Fabris, Randy Hatten, Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Linda Sparks (Robb Sparks), Linda Stewart (Nolan Stewart), Mary Lou Tuttle, Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, Brian Wirey, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Sunday, June 7, 2020 ~ The Solemnity Of  
The Most Holy Trinity ~ From the Pastor

The readings for Trinity Sunday complicate preaching even further. Moses finds himself in a cloud, bemoaning his squeezed position between God & a stiff-necked people. Paul's text in 2 Corinthians is hardly meat-&-potatoes content, since the passage functions as something of a final benediction & loose exhortation. And the Gospel for today is so familiar a template, the Good News so popularized, that John 3:16 is used at football and basketball games ubiquitously. In a way, this solemnity & its readings will be a test case for the pastoral skills of the preacher who will be facing the congregation of hearers with the unspoken subtext: "So what?" That question should & can be addressed by a homily that prayerfully penetrates the mystery that the Scripture texts share in common this day. If attended to closely, the Word reveals the presence of a hidden God who longs & desires to disclose his holy presence to his beloved people. Moses' encounter on Mount Sinai is meant to be obscure because our tradition tells us that the Lord comes to us in mystery. That revelation, coming in a cloud, is full of self-disclosure of a "merciful & gracious God." Indeed, divine initiative of self-communication causes Moses to invite God into the journey when he says, "do come along in our company." This is, of course, the same God who definitively reveals himself in Christ, who comes on our journey "so that the world might be saved through him." Grasp that unutterable reality & we will discover that the blessed in heaven move through the universe, like Dante at the end of the Paradiso, toward the Trinity itself—that is love in its fullness, complete self-gift. The covenant given to Moses in faith in the desert is the promise of the indwelling that is still with us in Christ. Paul knew firsthand that the Risen Christ lives truly in the Christian community as an ongoing revelation of the divine gift. Preachers might consider a homily that focuses on the greeting given at the beginning of the Eucharist. Like Paul, we pass on God's very presence as a benediction to those who have gathered for praise & thanksgiving. The Church, as the steward of God's mysteries, longs for that divine gift to fill its members, especially today.

What Catholics Believe ~ The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity  
~ The Holy Spirit



What the world noticed above all was a new kind of love. The New Testament calls it agape. It is almost a new word. Greek before the New Testament rarely used the word agape, for it meant then only 'some kind of love,' not any specific kind. It now got a new, specific meaning: the love Christ showed & lived, to the Cross & and poured out on the world through his Spirit. This was the kind of love that often led to martyrdom. Christians went to their death with hymns on their lips, forgiving their killers, as Christ had done (Luke 23:34). When the world saw these Christians, they said: "See how they love one another!" Christ had promised exactly that: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Notice that this presumes that Christian love is not the same as any other kind of love, but so distinctive that the whole world will be able to see the difference. It was radical. It was supernatural. It was a miracle—the miracle that converted the world. The image Scripture uses for this love that "turned the world upside down" is fire. The early Christians were on fire with love: the fire Jesus said he came to earth to kindle: "I am come to cast fire upon the earth, & would that it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49). What kindles this fire?

What Catholics Believe ~ The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity ~ The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit. All four Gospels distinguish Jesus from John the Baptist, the last Old Covenant prophet, by this: John said, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the throng of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit & with fire" (Luke 3:16). Everyone wants "true love." "True love" is agape, the honest, self-forgetful love of the other for the sake of the other. Everyone responds to this love, everyone admires true love, everyone deeply longs for a relationship of mutual love. Everyone knows that love is the meaning of life, life's highest value, the summum bonum, or greatest good. But not everyone knows how to get it, where to go to get it. Where does this love come from? (Could there be a more practical question than that?) The answer is the Holy Spirit. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Love is the first fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). To get the fruit, you need the plant. For the Spirit is the very love of God, the love that eternally circulates, like divine electricity, between the Father & the Son. "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God is made of love as the sun is made of sunlight. As the Son is the Father's Word, or truth (Logos), the Spirit is their love. The Son is God's light, & the Spirit is God's fire. This is the fire Christ came to earth to kindle among us even now as "the 'pledge' or 'first fruits' of our inheritance: the very life of the Holy Trinity..." (CCC 735). Another difference the Spirit makes, both to the early Church & today, is wisdom, or understanding. He gives light as well as fire. This is why the saints understand Scripture so much more profoundly than the theologians. This is why simple-minded saints like Mother Teresa seem so smart, & sophisticated scholars so silly, when it comes to understanding the mind of God. For the mind of God can be understood only through the heart of God. The truth of God is understood through the love of God. (The Son of God, the "Word of God," is understood through the Spirit of God, who is the love of God.) Thus Jesus says that the way to understand his teaching is to will (love) his Father's will (John 7:17). The heart leads the head here. The kind of wisdom the Spirit gives is the kind Christ had (for it is His Spirit!): "They were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, & not as the scribes" (Mark 1:22). ("Authority," by the way, does not mean might, but right.) When a Spirit-filled Christian reads the Word of God—the Word this very Spirit inspired—the book seems to "come alive & "light up" from within itself. This is because its primary Author is really present in the reader, alive, interpreting his own words. The human writers of Scripture, after all, were only the secondary authors, the instruments. That's why Scripture has such a wonderful unity, though it was written by many different authors, with different personalities, issues, problems, presuppositions, limitations, times, places, & situations. Scripture is "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), & the difference the Spirit makes to understanding Scripture is the difference between a sword in a museum case & a sword in the hands of a great swordsman, when it comes alive & cuts to the heart. "For the Word of God is living & active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul & spirit, to joints & marrow, & discerning the thoughts & intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:1). When Christ appeared to his disciples after his resurrection on the road to Emmaus, he explained the Old Testament Scriptures to them, & they said later, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32). That fire was the Spirit, & that heart-light still burns, for his Spirit still teaches the saints. Read Saint Augustine, or Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, or Saint Catherine of Siena, or Saint John of the Cross (or a clear & faithful summary of them like *The Fire Within* by Fr. Thomas Dubay) & see whether Scripture does not suddenly light up & ignite under their teaching.

Where did they get this wisdom? The same place all the saints did: the Spirit. Do you want this wisdom? Do you want the wisdom of the saints? Do you want to be a saint? The source is the Spirit. Do you want the love that turned the world upside down? The source is the Spirit. But how do you get the Spirit? We can't "get" him; we can only let him "get" us. He is God. Only God can give him. Christ gives him. He comes from the Father through the Son. To whom does God give the Spirit? And what must we do to receive him? — so simple it is Scripture's answer & scandalously simple hard for us. "I tell you, ask, & it will be given you; seek, & you shall find; knock, & it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, & he who seeks finds, & to him who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9-13). The Spirit is free. He is God's gift. There is nothing we can do to "get" him, we must simply ask, in faith, like a child trusting his father's love. The same is true of the Spirit's gifts, such as wisdom: we get them simply by asking & believing: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously & without reproaching, & it will be given him. But let him ask in faith" (James 1.5-6). But be careful what you ask for, because God will take you at your word. The Spirit's work is to sanctify, to make saints, & saints are not safe! They are like the One who makes them. God is not safe. Rabbi Abraham Heschel says: "God is not nice. God is not an uncle. God is an earthquake. "

Three Keys To Spiritual Health ~ How To Deepen Your Life With The Lord

Have you ever thought about how closely connected things are in this world? A car runs well when the power train, the fuel system, the electrical system, & the cooling system are all functioning well. If any one of these systems stops working, the car won't work or it won't work for long. Similarly, a computer can run only when the hard drive, the memory, the monitor, & the keyboard are connected & in good working order. It's the same way in the spiritual life. Our spiritual health is dependent on many "systems" running well: our connection with Jesus, our attention to our inner life, & our efforts at loving one another as Jesus loves us. If we neglect any one of these areas, we will find ourselves being shaped more by this world than by the Holy Spirit. But if all three of these areas are in good working order, we'll find ourselves becoming more like Jesus every day. We want to see how good spiritual health can be ours as we come into the Lord's presence, allow the Holy Spirit to transform our inner lives, and try our best to love & serve the people around us. Lessons from Peter. Let's begin by looking at one of the great heroes of the New Testament: St. Peter. In many ways, this fisherman-turned-apostle is an excellent model. Like us, Peter had many good qualities when he first met Jesus. And like us, he had some qualities that needed some improvement. But none of Peter's bad qualities kept him permanently from the Lord. In fact, it was his recognition that he was a "sinful man" that moved him to follow Jesus in the first place (Luke 5:8). When we look at Peter's life from these three aspects - the heavenly, the inner, & the outward - we see a significant "before & after" picture. Over time, Peter came to love Jesus more. He came to see where his life needed to change. And he came to a deeper desire to share

with other people the good news that he had discovered. So let's look at Peter's witness to see how he can help us in our journey. Look Up & Live. The heavenly aspect has to do with our relationship with the Lord. It's something that we can develop every time we go to Mass, every time we pray, & every time we seek God's guidance. But it's not only about what we do. God is always inviting us to come to him & drawing us to him. He is constantly pouring out his blessings & love upon us. He is always trying to open the eyes of our hearts & give us deeper insights into his love, his word, & his ways. Peter was filled with many heavenly blessings. He knew that Jesus loved him. By God's revelation, his eyes were opened, & he proclaimed Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). He learned about the value of prayer. He was filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Through a vision in prayer, he was led to share the good news not only with his fellow Jews but with Gentiles as well (Acts 10). As a result of these blessings, Peter's faith in Jesus grew deeper. His sensitivity to the leadings of the Holy Spirit developed. And his desire for more of God's presence increased. Likewise, the more we seek the presence of Jesus, the more we will find him.

**Daily Mass Readings**

- Mon. June 8, 2020 1 Kgs. 17:1-6  
Gospel Mt. 5:1-12
- Tues. June 9, 2020 1 Kgs. 17:7-16  
Gospel Mt. 5:13-16
- Wed. June 10, 2020 1 Kgs. 18:20-39  
Gospel Mt. 5:17-19
- Thurs. June 11, 2020 Acts 11:21B-26; 13:1-3  
Gospel Mt. 5:20-26
- Fri. June 12, 2020 1 Kgs. 19:9A, 11-16  
Gospel Mt. 5:27-32

**Weekly Offerings**

- St. Elizabeth  
Week ending Sunday, May 31, 2020  
Envelopes \$2,190.00  
Retired Priests \$185.00  
Building Fund \$15.00  
3 online @ \$200.00  
Deposit: \$2,590.00
- Our Lady of Lourdes  
Envelopes \$ 1,385.00  
Edith Smith Food Pantry \$35.00  
Seminarians \$25.00  
Retired Priests \$60.00  
Deposit: \$1,505.00

**Give Central**

Give Central is an Online Donations on Church website. [www.crawfordcountycatholics.com](http://www.crawfordcountycatholics.com). Click on DONATE. You can donate to whatever collection you choose. Offeratory, loose offerings, etc.



**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**