



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, March 15, 2020 Third Sunday of Lent



The Samaritan Woman ~ John 4:5-42

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*."

John 4:13-14 & 25-26



Mass Intentions

Mar. 14	4:30 pm	Harriett Reed by Rosemary Halter
Mar. 15	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Donnal Fitzmaurice by Kaye Pescatore Patrick Goda (Birthday) (Deceased) by George & Jane Bohman
Mar. 16	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Mar. 17	12:00 pm	Harold Hardiek by Dave Cooper & Eileen Hartrich
Mar. 18	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Mar. 19	7:30 am	William Loy (Birth) by Ann Loy
Mar. 20	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Mar. 21	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Mar. 22	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Jane Dixon by Mike & Jona Uptmor Fred Kirts by Kaye Pescatore For all parishioners by Fr. Flach



Ministry Schedule

Saturday, March 21 ~ Sunday, March 22, 2020

Sat. Mar. 21, 2020 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Geri Ezell

USHERS: Ken Bergbower, Horacio Solis

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Liam, Jude & Isla Wirey

GIFTS: Jack Watts Family

Sun. March 22, 2020 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Eileen Hartrich

USHERS: Dave Holscher, Tom Huss

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Nathaniel Arkenberg

GIFTS: Chad Arkenberg Family

Sun. March 22, 2020 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Cameron Davis

USHERS: Ethel Dhom, Carol Zellars

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Jeff Hermann

GIFTS: Ethel Dhom, Carol Zellars

Sun. March 22, 2020 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Josh Quick

USHERS: John Birkofer, Chris Weber

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Maddy Myers, Noah Myers

GIFTS: Charles Richey Family

March Collection Counters: Marge Boatman, Scott & Valerie Chapman

Please remember to attend weekly Mass



Parish School of Religion

MARCH DATES: MARCH 18, 25, 2020 from 6:30~7:30 pm.
APRIL DATES: APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020 from 6:30~7:30 pm.



Confirmation Class Dates

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES: MARCH DATES: March 15, 22, 29, 2020. APRIL DATES: April 5 & 19, 2020.

Scriptural Reflections ~ Third Sunday of Lent

What was the Samaritan woman looking for in those six men? Pope Benedict XVI wrote that "the woman is made aware of what in actuality she has always known but to which she has not always adverted: that she thirsts for life itself & that all the assuaging that she seeks & finds cannot slake this living, elemental thirst.... There comes to light the real dilemma, the deep-seated waywardness, of her existence: she is brought face to face with herself.' What brings this about is an encounter with Jesus. Pontius Pilate will declare: "Behold the man!" From our own living & elemental thirst, like the woman at the well, we do just that, giving' ourselves to the one who in his thirst ("I thirst!") asks us for a drink. We are certain that at last we will "have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Our "hope does not disappoint." We will not die in our thirst. The Lord is in our midst. Finally, satisfaction can happen; this is the Love we have

Spiritual Reading for the Third Sunday of Lent



"I am He, the One Who is speaking with you." At noon I was talking with the Samaritan woman. The hour of grace rang for her & she said to Me at the well of Jacob: I know there is a Messiah coming, & I said: I who speak to you am He. Her heart was enlightened with grace & through my humanity she recognized my divinity & adored it filled with love & hope. I am also the one who speaks to you today. I have looked for you to the point of exhaustion in the highways & byways of the world. It is your Jesus, who comes close to you in this consecrated Host. I am He who comes to ask, as I asked the Samaritan woman, to give Me to drink a little of the water of your contrition and your tears to quench My thirst. Your Jesus asks for this small alms. Will you deny it? If you would only recognize the gift of God! If you could understand my predilection for you. If you were only able to comprehend the infinite love with which I follow you everywhere. If you could see my fervent desire to do you good. If you could see with your eyes the mountain of graces that I have bought with My Blood & that hang over you, longing for you to open your heart to receive them. If you would only appreciate My Cross, the secrets that it hides & the delights that God has reserved for the moment that you embrace them with love. If you could understand Who it is Who says to you: Give Me to drink. Listen! Hear! This is the hour of your salvation. I AM the One Who speaks, Who wants to pardon you, Who comes to you with all the tenderness of your Savior. Come! I am here!



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, Jim Deters (Ken Deters), Eileen Fabris, Randy Hatten, Carolyn Kermicle (Angie Schutte), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Dorla Shook, Linda Sparks (Robb Sparks), Linda Stewart (Nolan Stewart), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Sunday, March 15, 2020 ~ Third Sunday of Lent
From The Pastor: Baptism & Commitment



Water is a hidden sign behind all our readings today. Yahweh hears the moans & groans rising from the disgruntled Israelites in the desert. They cry to Moses about the lack of water & wonder why they were led away from Egypt to die in the desert. Instead of anger, Yahweh tells Moses to tap a rock & give them plenty of water. Again, their ingratitude is met with a generous response from a gracious God who remembers he chose them to be his chosen people. But as a reminder to them, Yahweh calls this place Massah, meaning testing place, & Meribah, meaning place of quarrel. These names recall this place as where his chosen failed to appreciate God's goodness. Paul alludes to God's superabundant grace as pouring over sinful creation after Jesus' death in the form of the Spirit. This generous gift is in no way earned by an unjustified human race. Like Moses tapping the rock, the Spirit's life flows abundantly, placing gifts of hope, peace & harmony between God & his creation. They dispel all fear & anxiety, leaving behind the joyful certainty of believers' future glory. In his conversation with the woman at a freshwater well, Jesus' request for water is met with a reluctant response. He then introduces his own claim to have another kind of water, one that is not stagnant, but is living water. This living water has the Spirit & can lead everyone to eternal life. When the woman finally understands Jesus' claim to living water, she finally moves in faith from outcast to recognizing Jesus as prophet & messiah. The woman's rapid advancement from pariah to evangelizer changes her demeanor to one of an apostle & missionary. She becomes a bearer of the word, running into town to proclaim the good news to others. Hiding in the background through all these happenings lies the Sacrament of Baptism. Lent provides believers the opportunity to review their baptismal commitment. The Church community is making this Lenten pilgrimage alongside those preparing for reception into the faith. The waters used in their induction are the actual living waters Jesus shared with the now happy woman at the well. It is a commitment to that same person, Jesus, the Messiah, Savior, son of God, & it dramatically changes the way they live their whole life. The faith professed is not something private but calls for a public conviction & boldness. Indeed, these readings remind everyone that baptism is no small thing.

Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth Church ~ Week ending Sun. Mar. 8, 2020

Envelopes \$2,137.00 Loose \$420.75 Operation Rice Bowl \$20.00
Catholic Times \$15.00 Easter Flowers \$70.00 Building Fund \$5.00
First Offering \$10.00 5 online @\$500.00 Deposit: \$3,177.75

Our Lady of Lourdes Church ~ Week ending Sun. Mar. 1, 2020

Envelopes \$920.00 Loose \$45.00 Building Fund \$125.00
Operation Rice Bowl \$26.08 Catholic Charities \$211.00 Ash
Wednesday \$75.00 Church in Central & Eastern Europe \$35.00
Edith Smith Food Pantry \$42.00 Easter Flowers \$10.00 Deposit:
\$1,489.08



Sincere Congratulations

Our Parish family of ST. ELIZABETH is so happy to offer our SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS to JOSH QUICK who has received from the Robinson Chamber of Commerce the 2020 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD. All one needs to do is observe the parish life of St. Elizabeth & one will see a strong & gentle leader among us. We are grateful to God that Josh shares his dedicated & outstanding services with us as his sterling example & deep faith that draws us closer to God's Love. THANK YOU, JOSH & SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS! GOD BLESS YOU!



Our First Reconciliation

THE FIRST RECONCILIATION SERVICE IS ON SUN. MAR. 15, 2020 at 11:30 am in St. Elizabeth Church. Our parish families are pleased & happy to offer SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS to our SECOND GRADE CHILDREN who are celebrating for the first time to the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. On the front page of the FIRST RECONCILIATION Program we read the words: WE COME TO ASK FORGIVENESS. May the grace & blessings that you will receive for the first time remain deep in your hearts so that you may always trust in God's merciful & everlasting forgiveness. We promise you continued prayers as you prepare to receive the SACRAMENTS of CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST. We congratulate ABBY DAVIS, ATLEE DECKARD, MIA DICKERSON, BRYNLEE MURRAY, ALLIE SCHMIDT, & KEELY STEWART.

Spiritual Reading ~ Third Sunday of Lent

First of all, it must be emphasized that nothing is more personal & intimate than the Sacrament of Confession in which the sinner stands alone before God with his sin, repentance & trust. No one can repent in his place or ask forgiveness in his name. There is a certain solitude of the sinner in his sin, & this can be seen dramatically represented in Cain with sin "crouching at his door," as the book of Genesis says so effectively, & with the distinctive mark on his forehead; in David, admonished by the prophet Nathan; or in the prodigal son, when he realizes the condition to which he has reduced himself by staying away from his father & decides to return to him. Everything takes place between the individual alone & God. But at the same time one cannot deny the social nature of this sacrament, in which the whole Church—militant, suffering, & glorious in heaven—comes to the aid of the penitent & welcomes him again into her bosom, especially as it was the whole church which had been offended & wounded by his sin. As the minister of penance, the priest by virtue of his sacred office appears as the witness & representative of this ecclesial nature of the Second, it must be emphasized that the most precious result of the forgiveness obtained in the Sacrament of Penance consists in reconciliation with God, which takes place in the inmost heart of the son who was lost & found again, which every penitent is. But it has to be added that this reconciliation with God leads, as it were, to other reconciliations which repair the breaches caused by sin. The forgiven penitent is reconciled with himself in his inmost being, where he regains his own true identity. He is reconciled with his brethren whom he has in some way attacked & wounded. He is reconciled with the Church. He is reconciled with all creation. As a result of an awareness of this there arises in the penitent a sense of gratitude to God for the gift of divine mercy received, & the church invites the penitent to have the sense of gratitude. Every confessional is a special & blessed place from which, with wiped away, there is born new & uncontaminated a reconciled individual—a reconciled world!

Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Mar. 16, 2020 2 Kgs. 5:1-15 AB

Gospel Lk. 4:24-30

Tues. Mar. 17, 2020 Dn. 3:25, 34-43

Gospel Mt. 18:21-35

Wed. Mar. 18, 2020 Dt. 4:1, 5-9 Gospel Mt. 5:17-19

Thurs. Mar. 19, 2020 2 Sm. 7:4-5A, 12-14 A, 16

Reading 2 Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22 Gospel Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24A

Fri. Mar. 20, 2020 Hos. 14:2-10 Gospel Mk. 12:28-34



Fish Fry News

Many SINCERE THANKS to all those who helped in any way to make the FIRST FISH FRY for 2020 the SUCCESS it was. I know that it takes countless hours and so many hands to put on the FISH FRY so all of your hard work and devoted effort is truly appreciated. This important activity fosters unity and harmony among ourselves so HEARTFELT THANKS for helping in any way. On the first Fish Fry held on Friday, March 6, 2020, there were 972 dinners served. A nice round of applause for a JOB WELL DONE. Thank you & God bless you.



Lenten Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020 ~ 7:30 am ~ Sacred Eucharist

8:00 am ~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10:00 am ~ Stations of the Cross 10:30 am ~ Benediction

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020 FISH FRY ~ 4:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

5:30 pm ~ Stations of the Cross ~ Our Lady of Lourdes

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020 ~ 11:30 am ~ Stations of the Cross

Lenten Confessions

This holy & sacred Season of Lent is a time of spiritual reflections as we reach into our hearts for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' Suffering & Death. This holy season of LENT is a perfect opportunity to consider those choices & decisions that we have freely made in which we have turned away from God seeking our own desires. In the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION, we receive the gift of God's Mercy & Forgiveness so that we are enabled to begin anew our relationship of love with God our Father. THE LENTEN RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE is as follows: SAT. MAR. 21, 2020 ~ 3:00 pm ~ 3:45 pm

SUN. MAR. 22, 2020 ~ 1:00 pm ~ 2:00 pm

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH FRI. APR. 2, 2020

Return to Me ~ An Examination of Conscience for Lent



It's the call we hear every year during Lent: "Return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12). Why? Because, Joel continues, the Lord is "gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment" (2:13). God is good. He never gives up on us; he wants to forgive, heal, and make us whole. The Sacrament of Reconciliation provides a unique opportunity to experience this goodness and mercy of God, especially during the season of Lent. Nervous? Try picturing God as a loving Father welcoming you back home. Imagine how eager he is to embrace you and help you as you confess your sins to him. As you do, you'll begin to experience Jesus' victory over sin as your own personal victory! The following examination of conscience, is meant to help you prepare for this sacrament. They are intended to get you started, to prompt your own personal examination. As you read and pray through them, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see where you need God's forgiving, healing touch. Then turn to the Lord in Confession, and let him welcome you back. Loss of Harmony With God.

Does God have first place in my life, or do other interests or obligations take all my time & attention? How have I pursued a stronger relationship with God? Do I pray every day? Do I receive the sacraments faithfully? Have I fallen short of giving God the respect he's due or taken God's name in vain? "Return to me," God says. "Let me bring you into my heart of love." Loss of Harmony With Each Other. Do I see the value & dignity in each person? How do

Hope & Almsgiving



"It is in giving that we receive," according to the Prayer of Sair Francis. Almsgiving can seem the easiest of Lenten discipline. Most of our parishes have opportunities to donate funds to missions or the poor, & these are important works of charity. Giving funds to help support others has been a part of Lent since the earliest days of Christianity & brings hope to others. However, a Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into the giving" that's important. Exercising hope means we are relying on God's love for us, which calls us to truly love others. This might mean that we exercise our hope this Lent by giving our love in time as well as in treasure: Volunteer time at your parish during one of their Lenten activities, or help clean or decorate the church in preparation for Holy Week. Write cards to family & friends expressing ways to help you feel more hopeful & thanking them for their support. At Mass, introduce yourself to one new person each week of Lent & show them God's love by sitting with them during the liturgy. Actively watch for someone each day who needs an extra helping hand in your family, in your neighborhood, at work, or at school. Keep a Lenten Hope List. Write down names of those you encounter who need an extra dose of love & support. Pray for them & check in with them

Return to Me ~ An Examination of Conscience for Lent cont.

I treat people who don't agree with me or who treat me badly? Have I tried to steal recognition that was due to someone else or take credit for something I didn't do? Do I give into anger or frustration with the people close to me? Do I lose my temper or insult people? "Return to me," God says. "Let my mercy teach you to be merciful." A Clouded Mind. Do I trust in God's goodness? Or do I try to satisfy my desires all by myself? Do I look to material possessions to make me happy? Am I generous with my money & time? Do I engage in impure thoughts or fantasies? Do I act on them? Is my mind occupied with resentful thoughts from past hurts? "Return to me," God says. "Let me heal your divided, conflicted mind."

The Holy & Sacred Season of Lent: Receiving Our Inheritance: The Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent

Just before he sent Joshua & the Israelites into the Promised Land, God commanded them to be strong & brave (Joshua 1:6). He wanted them to know that while he did promise them a home for themselves, the Israelites had to cooperate with him in order to receive this inheritance. In a similar way, calls each of us to be strong & courageous so that we can experience the freedom that Jesus won for us on the cross. He has already defeated sin & now He calls us to stand firm in faith. He calls us to trust that as we stay close to Him in obedience, all race of our redemption will flow into our hearts like a river. This is why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is so important. Whenever we turn to God & confess our sin, he washed us clean so that we can continue to move forward into this "Promised Land" He has given us. The following examination of conscience, while not exhaustive, is meant to help you identify those areas in your life where you may have put aside the call be strong in the Lord. Prayerfully consider the question below ask the Holy Spirit to point out where you need repentance. A. you do, know that God loves to forgive us & empower us to take hold of all the promises He has given us. Love for God (Marl 2:28-30) John 14:23-24). (in what ways do I put God first above all else? Are there areas in my life where need to seek His will for me, even when the calling is difficult?