



# 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](mailto:crawford_catholics@rocketmail.com)

Web Site: [www.crawfordcountycatholics.com](http://www.crawfordcountycatholics.com)

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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.

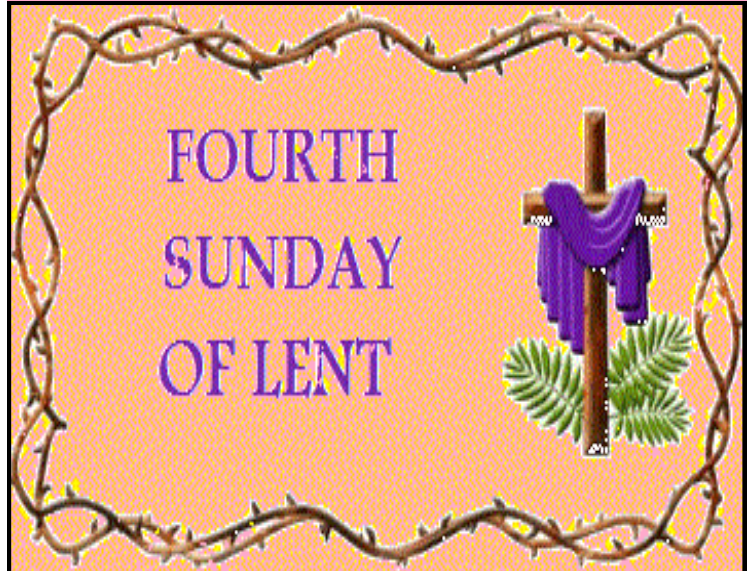
### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent



### The Man Born Blind ~ John 9:1-41

<sup>9</sup> As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "*It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*" <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> *While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.*" <sup>6</sup> When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, <sup>7</sup> and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away & washed, and came *back* seeing. <sup>8</sup> Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Others were saying, "This is he," *still* others were saying, "No, but he is like him." <sup>10</sup> He kept saying, "I am the one." <sup>11</sup> So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" <sup>12</sup> He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." John 9:1-12



## Mass Intentions

Mar. 21	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Mar. 22	7:30 am	Jane Dixon by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	9:00 am	Fred Kirts by Kaye Pescatore
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
Mar. 23	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Mar. 24	12:00 pm	Dr. Szigethy by Robert & Karla Birkofer
Mar. 25	7:30 am	Jean Loy (Birth) by Ann Loy
Mar. 26	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Mar. 27	7:30 am	Joe Stein (Birthday)(Deceased) by George & Jane Bohman
Mar. 28	4:30 pm	Butch & Linda Stewart by Jane Howard
Mar. 29	7:30 am	Doug Downs by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	9:00 am	Ron Dhom Birthday by Ethel Dhom
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

## Lenten Confessions/Reconciliation Schedule

THE LENTEN RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE is: SAT. MAR. 21, 2020 ~ 3:00 PM ~ 3:45 PM & SUN. MAR. 22, 2020 1~2:00 PM. OLOL CHURCH FRI. APR. 2, 2020~4:00 pm ~4:45 pm.



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, March 28 ~ Sunday, March 29, 2020

<u>Sat. Mar. 28, 2020 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Patti Buercklin
USHERS:	Jack & Carol Watts
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Aleighta Mullins, Lily Ann Mullins
GIFTS:	Don Biernbaum Family
<u>Sun. March 29, 2020 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Dave Holscher
USHERS:	Angel Avila, Garrett Rich
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Jared Hermann
GIFTS:	Randy Schutte Family
<u>Sun. March 29, 2020 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
LECTOR:	Kourtney Coffman
USHERS:	Jerry & Sarah Ping
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Taylor Blank
GIFTS:	Jerry & Sarah Ping
<u>Sun. March 29, 2020 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
LECTOR:	Joe Quick
USHERS:	Callie Dickerson, Evan Ferris
COMMUNION MIN:	
SERVERS:	Emily Ferris, Owen Ferris
GIFTS:	Juanita Jochim, Tom Jochim

March Collection Counters: Marge Boatman, Scott & Valerie Chapman



## Parish School of Religion

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



## Confirmation Class Dates

APRIL DATES: April 5 & 19, 2020 from 5:30 ~ 7:00 pm.

## Scriptural Reflections ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent



When Jesus sees the blind man, he says, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Once the blind man is healed, the people ask, 'Isn't this the one who used to sit & beg?' They betray their own blindness: "Man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." The blind man answers using words that Christ uses of himself; he says, "I am." Is this a coincidence? The man was born blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him." "Light produces every kind of goodness & righteousness & truth." The Light who is Christ produces a goodness in us by which we come to resemble Christ himself. We beg for the ability to look into the heart of each person we meet & to see reality the way God does.

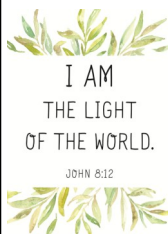
## Spiritual Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Fathers see in this [healing] the direct continuation of the creation of Adam. In the beginning, they say, God formed a body from the earth & breathed the breath of life into it. Now, in the fullness of time, the Logos made man, the right hand of the Father & creator, comes to heal the man whom Satan's darkness has made blind. And, that there may be no doubt that here is nothing except the continuation of that initial work. Jesus takes a bit of "the earth's slime," makes clay of it, & puts it on the eye of the blind man. The incarnate God moistens the earth with his spittle. Things of heaven & things of earth, earth's matter & God's life, just come together to make man & to make him anew. But the third element, the real new creation, the purification from what is old, from the corruption of sin, the healing from the blindness of sin as it is given to us, is water, the image of baptism. The water takes his sickness from man, his leprosy & blindness. The name of the pool points to the mystical character of this water. It is called Missus, the one sent. Christ himself, the Messiah whom the Father has sent, is the pool, as he is the living water which fills the well of his Church; his blood poured out on the cross is the healing water for man, made sick & blind through sin. The death of Christ is his baptism for the forgiveness of sin & the illumination of his mind. It gives health & light, purity from sin, & faith. "I went & washed & saw, & I found faith in God" is the joyful speech of the man born blind in the sin of Adam & now healed. The Church could not express more immediately or spontaneously her deep belief in the presence of the saving action of the new creation, when she celebrates the Mass. Christ is present, he holds the earth which heals in his hand: it is his sacred flesh, his human, earthly body. The mysterious pool of Siloe is represented by the chalice, with its precious water & blood from the wound in the side of the crucified. Everything is ready for healing & for illumination & we who were born blind are there. Baptism has indeed given us sight.



## Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Mar. 23, 2020 Is. 65:17-21 Gospel Jn. 4:43-54  
 Tues. Mar. 24, 2020 Ez. 47:1-9, 12 Gospel Jn. 5:1-16  
 Wed. Mar. 25, 2020 Is. 7:10-14; 8: 10, Reading 2-Heb. 10:4-10  
 Thurs. Mar. 26, 2020 Ex. 32:7-14 Gospel Jn. 5:31-47  
 Fri. Mar. 27, 2020 Wis. 2:1A, 12-22 Gospel Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30



The Lenten readings today noticeably shift focus, pointing believers away from sin's darkness toward the brightness that Christ's light brings to the world. It conveys for Christians the great symbol that lighting the candle of Christ is far superior than cursing the darkness of sin. The theme of light surfaces in the First Book of Samuel when David, the unknown shepherd, is lifted from total anonymity & obscurity into God's light & presented as the anointed king of Israel. Another example of Yahweh choosing the lowly to confound the mighty. Paul encourages the Ephesians, who lived once without the light of faith but are now enlightened through their baptism, to live boldly in the light by avoiding more vigorously the darkness of sin. Now, what they do in daylight is more easily seen & esteemed. Today's Gospel, which tells us of Jesus curing the blind man, focuses on his single declaration that Jesus is the light of the world, and accepting completely that Jesus is the light of the world. Everyone who comes to Jesus with this same faith, rejecting sin's darkness, embraces Jesus as the light of the world. How ready the blind man was to approach Jesus. Look at his strong responses hurled at his opponents. They were no match for his copious gratitude. He simply spoke the truth while they shrewdly looked in the opposite direction, unable to face the brilliance of Jesus' splendor. They have much to give up & are unwilling to go the distance. They would rather twist the evidence, brand others liable, & make Jesus unworthy of such astonishing faith. Christians to this day defend positions not out of conviction but because they would have to admit their convictions are wrong in the first place. Christians living in Christ's light through baptism are encouraged to see with Christ's heart & eyes. This Christlike vision contains transparency, frankness & respect. God's choice of David focuses on internal qualities, not external appearances. David is described as handsome, but the message is that God saw in David a different beauty. God saw why this young shepherd could be a compassionate king. David had a good heart full of love & mercy, much like Jesus, the incarnate Son.

### Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth Church ~ Week ending Sun. Mar. 15, 2020

Envelopes \$1,991.00 Loose \$174.00

Building Fund \$20.00 Catholic Relief Services \$5.00

CCW \$10.00 5 online @\$425.00 Deposit: \$2,625.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Church ~

Week ending Sun. Mar. 8, 2020

Envelopes \$580.00 Loose \$50.00 Operation Rice Bowl \$22.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe \$22.00 Deposit: \$674.00

### Spiritual Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

This passage of Saint Luke constitutes one of the peaks of spirituality & literature of all time. Indeed, what would our culture, art, & more generally our civilization be without this revelation of a Father so full of mercy? It never fails to move us & every time we hear or read it; it can suggest to us ever new meanings. Above all, this Gospel text has the power of speaking to us of God, of enabling us to know his face &, better still, his heart. After Jesus has told us of the merciful Father, things are no longer as they were before. We now know God; he is our Father who out of love created us to be free & endowed us with a conscience, who suffers when we get lost & rejoices when we return. For this reason, our relationship with him is built up through events, just as it happens for every child with his parents: at first he depends on them, then he asserts his autonomy; & in the end if he develops, well he reaches a mature

O Lord, if I could fly to my people & tell them of your goodness at the top of my voice: oh, how many souls would be won! *ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA* ~ Abide in the home of the divine & fatherly goodness of God like his child who knows nothing, does nothing, makes a mess of everything, but nevertheless lives in his goodness. *ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD* ~ The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment & to thank God for all that he, in his goodness, sends to us day after day. *ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA* ~ Should we commit a sin, let us humble ourselves sorrowfully in his presence, & then, with an act of unbounded confidence, let us throw ourselves into the ocean of his goodness, where every failing will be cancelled & anxiety turned into love. *ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS* ~ The Incarnation teaches us how much God cares for us. Let us think of all the Lord has done for us, & then we shall realize how his goodness appears through his humanity. The lesser he became through his human nature, the greater was his goodness; the more he lowered himself for me, the dearer he is to me. *ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX* ~ My hope is in Christ, who strengthens the weakest by his divine help. I can do all in him who strengthens me. His power is infinite, & if I lean on him, it will be mine. His wisdom is infinite, & if I look to him for counsel, I shall not be deceived. His goodness is infinite, & if my trust is stayed on him, I shall not be abandoned. *POPE ST. PIUS X*

### Spiritual Reading Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time cont.



relationship based on gratitude & authentic love. In these stages we can also identify moments along man's journey in his relationship with God. There can be a phase that resembles childhood: religion prompted by need, by dependence. As man grows up & becomes emancipated, he wants to liberate himself from this submission & become free & adult, able to organize himself & make his decisions, even thinking he can do without God, this stage is delicate & can lead to atheism, yet even this frequently conceals the need to discover God's true face. Fortunately for us, God never fails in his faithfulness & even if we distance ourselves and get lost he continues to follow us with his love, forgiving our errors & speaking to our conscience from within in order to earn us back to him. In this parable, the sons behave in opposite ways: the younger son leaves home & sinks ever lower whereas the elder son stays at home, but he too has an immature relationship with the Father. In fact, when his brother comes back, the elder brother does not rejoice like the Father; on the contrary he becomes angry & refuses to enter the house. The two sons represent two immature ways of relating to God: rebellion & childish obedience. Both these forms are surmounted through the experience of mercy. Only by experiencing forgiveness, by recognizing one is loved with a freely given love, a love greater than our wretchedness but also than our own merit, do we at last enter into a truly filial & free relationship with God....Let us meditate on this parable. Let us compare ourselves to the two sons &, especially, contemplate the Heart of the Father. Let us throw ourselves into his arms & be regenerated by his merciful love.

### Rest in Peace



Rest in peace Carolyn Kermicle. She was the Mother of Angie & Brad Schutte. In God's Love we pray that He will grant CAROLYN a place of eternal love in the Kingdom of Heaven & that her family will receive comfort & peace in their sorrow & loss.



## Lenten Events

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 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 27, 2020** ~ 5:30 pm ~ Stations of the Cross ~  
 Our Lady of Lourdes

### Liturgical Celebrations & Public Health Concerns

Since the beginning of 2020, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has been monitoring developments regarding the Coronavirus, including guidance & information for the Centers of Disease Control, the Illinois Department of Public Health, & other government agencies. Following are clarifications & guidance regarding precautionary efforts to contain the spread of the virus: **PEOPLE SHOULD NOT HOLD HANDS WHILE PRAYING THE OUR FATHER AT MASS. THE SIGN OF PEACE SHOULD BE EXCHANGED WITHOUT ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD VIA THE CHALICE BE SUSPENDED.**

### Fish Fry News



Many SINCERE THANKS to all those who helped in any way to make the SECOND FISH FRY on the 13th of March the SUCCESS it was. I know that it takes countless hours & a lot of hands to put on the FISH FRY, so please know that all of your hard work & devoted effort is truly appreciated. This important activity fosters unity & harmony among ourselves as a parish family so HEARTFELT THANKS for helping in any way. On the SECOND FISH FRY there were 778 dinners served. A nice round of applause for a JOB WELL DONE. Thank you & God bless you.



### APRIL MEETINGS

St. Elizabeth & Our Lady of Lourdes PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on TUES. APR. 7, 2020 at 6:00 pm in St. Elizabeth Parish Center. OUR LADY OF LOURDES FINANCE COUNCIL will meet on THURS. APR. 14, 2020 AT 6:00 pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

### Annual Catholic Services Appeal (ACSA)

The ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL supports our parishes & diocese in carrying out the GOSPEL MISSION of the Catholic Church in forming disciples of JESUS CHRIST. The theme of the 2019 appeal is "TOGETHER IN MISSION". Each of us by our common Baptism into Christ Jesus is called to be active participants in working to form ourselves into DISCIPLES who are willing with the grace of God to labor TOGETHER IN MISSION". As we strive to be able to serve with one another in the spirit of MISSION, may we continue to receive the gift of God's Grace by generously supporting this year's appeal. As always, your deep & sincere generosity is greatly appreciated as we strive together to fulfill the goal for: ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH \$33,773.00 & OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH - \$7,153.00. As of March 16, 2020, ST. ELIZABETH has secured the pledge of \$19,095.00 with the amount paid of \$17,995.00. As of March 16, 2020, OUR LADY OF LOURDES has secured the pledge of \$3,537.00 with the amount paid of \$3,359.00. May God continue to bless you with His Grace & Peace for your kind generosity.



## Lenten Confessions

Jesus Christ came into the world to save all people from the power of Satan, sin, & sin's consequence—death. The purpose of his ministry was our reconciliation with the Father. In a special way, his death on the cross brought the possibility of forgiveness, peace & reconciliation to all. On the evening of his resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to his Apostles & gave them the power to forgive all human sins. Breathing upon them, He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. You forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." Ja. 20:22-23) Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops & priests of the Church receive the ability from Christ himself to forgive sins. It is exercised in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as the Sacrament of Penance or simply as "confession." Through this Sacrament, Christ forgives the sins that the members of his Church commit after Baptism. In order to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation worthily, the penitent (the sinner) must be sorry for his or her sins. Sorrow for sins is called contrition. Imperfect contrition is sorrow for sins motivated by fear of the fires of hell or the ugliness of sin itself. Perfect contrition is sorrow for sin motivated by the love of God. Contrition, perfect or imperfect, must include a firm purpose of amendment, that is, a solid resolution to avoid the sin committed as well as the persons, places & things that prompted you to commit the sin in the first place. Without repentance, contrition is insincere and our confession is pointless. Whenever you in, you should beg God for the gift of perfect contrition. Often God gives this gift when a Christian thinks about Jesus' agony on the cross & realizes that his sins are the cause of that suffering. Throw yourself into the arms of the crucified Savior's mercy & resolve to confess your sins to a priest as soon as possible. When you come to church to confess your sins, you should first examine your conscience. Review your life to see how you offended the good God since your last confession. The Church teaches that all mortal sins committed after Baptism must be confessed to a priest in order to be forgiven. This "precept" or law is of Divine Institution. Simply stated, this means the confession of grave sins to a priest is part of God's plan & therefore is supported & carried out in the life of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (# 1455) underscores the therapeutic value of confession for all believers. Mortal sin is a direct, conscious & free violation of one or another of the Ten Commandments in a serious matter & mortal sin, also known as grave or deadly sin, destroys the life of grace in your soul. God's grace begins to draw the sinner back to him through sorrow for sin. He is brought back to life when he confesses his sins to a priest & receives absolution (forgiveness). The Church recommends that Catholics confess their venial sins which are violations of God's Law that do not sever the relationship with him or destroy the life of grace in the soul.



### 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), Eileen Fabris, Randy Hatten, Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Dorla Shook, Linda Sparks (Robb Sparks), Linda Stewart (Nolan Stewart), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, Linnie York (Sharon Skaggs) & the men & women in the armed forces.

**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**