



# 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.

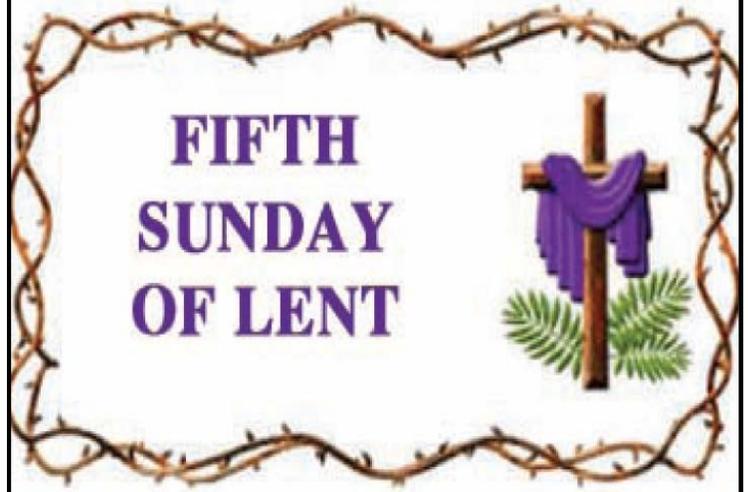
### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent



### The Raising of Lazarus ~ John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this He *said* to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples *said* to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup>This He said, and after that He *said* to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." <sup>12</sup>The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will <sup>[a]</sup>recover." <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of <sup>[b]</sup>literal sleep. <sup>14</sup>So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup>and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him." John 11:1-15



## Mass Intentions

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
Mar. 30	7:30 am	Louis Hardiek by Dave Cooper & Eileen Hartrich
Mar. 31	12:00 pm	The Mette Family by Jane Howard
Apr. 1	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Apr. 2	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
Apr. 3	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Apr. 4	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Apr. 5	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Terry Baird by Frank & Ann Schalasky
	10:30 am	Francis Medina by Rito & Maria Medina

## Weekly Offerings

Our Lady of Lourdes Church ~ Week ending Sun. Mar. 15, 2020  
 Envelopes \$530.00 Loose \$111.00 Operation Rice Bowl \$36.00  
 Deposit: \$677.00

## 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 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 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 and Peace for your kind generosity.

## 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.



## 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.

## Scriptural Reflections ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

From time immemorial God has promised, "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." But this will not happen before Jesus weeps. He weeps in front of doubt: "You want to go back there?" He weeps in front of nihilism: 'Could he not have done something?' He weeps in front of fatalism: "Lord, by now there will be a stench." This is the optimum moment for God to have Lazarus rise from his grave, for then the event will teach us just how far we must go in trusting the power of Jesus' love for us. Although "dead because of sin, the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through His Spirit dwelling in you."

## Spiritual Reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent



Where have you laid him? They lead him to the place. The fate of the world is at stake as death and the Lord stand face to face. Jesus commands that the stone be rolled away. Martha reminds him of the four days that have passed since burial. Have I not told you that if you believe you shall behold the glory of God? She believes but does not comprehend. Jesus stands alone with all that he is, the only one intrinsically alive among so many mortals, hence also the only one who really knows what death means. He must break this dark power. Turning to his Father, he praises him for the unheard of power about to manifest itself; then he cries with a loud voice: Lazarus, come forth! With a loud voice— why? In Nain it had been so easy, and at the bedside of the little girl a quiet word had sufficed. Why then the cry and the huge gesture? We recall the same mighty cry from the cross between the last word and death (Lk 23:46). Both issued from the same heart, the same calling, and are one and the same act. Here though is not only the miracle of resuscitation from death; behind the visible event, deep in the last recesses of the spirit, rages a battle.... It is against the enemy of salvation that Jesus warns. Christ conquers death by conquering him who reigns in death: Satan. And he does not vanquish by magic, nor by superior spiritual force, but simply by being what he is: invulnerable to the root and vital through and through. He is life itself, that life which is grounded in perfect love to the Father. This is Jesus' strength. The cry was a surge of that vitality in an all-overpowering thrust of love.

## Fish Fry News

Many SINCERE & HEARTFELT THANKS to all those who helped to make the THIRD FISH FRY on the 20th of March the success it was. Even in the midst of the present crisis, you spent countless hours & many hands to put on the final Fish Fry. 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 THIRD FISH FRY, there were 651 Carry-Outs. A nice round of applause for a job well done. The final report of the profit for the 2020 Fish Fries will be forthcoming. Thank you & God bless you.

Sunday, March 29, 2020 ~ Five Sunday of Lent  
From The Pastor: From Death To New Life

Today's readings place Christ near his passion and final days. The Gospel has Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. Although a wonderful event, it doesn't reassure his hearers of his claim to messiahship, and it serves as the occasion for Jesus' enemies to choose his death. From the printed word of Ezekiel comes joyous news. God's chosen people are returning from exile to Jerusalem where God speaks of resurrection, "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them." Paul hints of this theme when he speaks about what death and life mean to Christians. Paul suggests that through the effects of Adam and Eve's sin, God's creation became weakened and debilitated. It was God's power and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that helped regain their strength. Paul then distinguishes between spirit and Spirit. Paul states that spirit is God's action in each person, while the Spirit is used for all God's activity. Believers receive the Spirit's indwelling as the first fruit of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Christ communicates the Spirit to the created world. Yet, God is the single author of this new mode of existence called life in the Spirit. Just as the Spirit brought Christ to life, that same Spirit is the pledge of human immortality. Today Lazarus, the true believer, represents this conclusion for all faithful Christians. Lazarus is the one whom Jesus loves and the one who caused Jesus to weep at his passing. Lazarus represents the difficulty death has for family members left behind like Martha and Mary. When Christ goes to the tomb and raises Lazarus from his deathly sleep, he is truly raising every Christian. Certain scholars are still interpreting Lazarus' death and its circumstances for its broader meanings for the Christian life. However, for every Christian baptized, it has this simple everyday meaning: whoever comes to Jesus in faith will never experience spiritual or total death. They have already passed from death to life, and their final resurrection will simply confirm what has already taken place in Christ's life. Easter reminds us that living in faith is simply a different kind of living. It is living with one foot on this earth and one foot always ready to step onto the heavenly ground. It is a life committed to the spirit. Faith and life must be lived side by side. St. Francis deSales said you are to be who you are and be that well as a testament to the master craftsman who created you. Once Christians make this choice, the Holy Spirit assists, and, like Lazarus, they will walk among the living.

### Spiritual Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, & all the people started coming to him, & he sat down & taught them (8:1-2). Father Comelius a Lapide, SJ.: 'The Mount of Olives is the symbol oil & of the mercy' which Christ manifest there. Pilgrims travel to the mountain of heavenly refreshment in order to draw down grace & glory from God by prayer.' What is the significance of the time of day? Early in the morning betokens something new, a beginning, renewal in mercy: 'The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness' (Lam 3:22-23). Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb early in the morning (Jn 20:1). Then the scribes & the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery & made her stand in the middle (8:3). Jesus himself was "made to be sin" (2 Cor 5:21) & "stands in the middle" at the crucifixion (Jn 19:18) & after the Resurrection (20:19). Tragically, the action of the scribes & Pharisees is a parody of intercession. We should bring others before the Lord, but in prayer & supplication, for their good rather than condemnation. (Consider Jesus' teaching to love our enemies & pray for our persecutors: Mt 5:44; Lk 6:28.) The scribes

### Spiritual Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

& Pharisees have the precious opportunity to speak face to face with our Lord, to ask him anything—they could have spoken to him of his divine Sonship, his love for the Father & his love for them, the forgiveness he offers! Do we realize what a privilege it is to speak with the Lord? Do we cherish time with the Lord to intercede, to seek his good, holy, & saving will, to speak to him as a friend? They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him (8:4-6a). Jesus does not break or disregard the Law, he fulfills it. He suffered death on a cross so our sins would not lead to death. (Consider the 'prophecy' or Caiaphas that it is better that one man should die rather than the people: Jn 1:50; 18:14.) In the end, the 'charge' brought against Jesus serves his own purpose—our salvation (Jn 18:29-32; 19:11). Jesus bent down & began to write on the ground with his finger (8:6b). Saint Augustine: "Jesus seems to have delineated something that put the scribes to shame, or exposed their sins." Saint Jerome: "Jesus wrote all the mortal sins of those who accused her." Saint Ambrose: "Jesus wrote on the ground with the finger by which he had written the Ten Commandments & yet, 'Jesus wrote on the earth to show the sweetness & the softness of the New Law that he gave to us' (Saint Thomas Aquinas). But when they continued asking him, he straightened up & said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (8:7). Jesus does not ignore sin; he forgives it. Saint Augustine: The Lord in his answer both observed justice & did not forego his gentleness." Jesus is aware of the woman's need for forgiveness, as she is herself; but the scribes & Pharisees do not recognize theirs. Jesus' perfect majesty of the situation punctures the false dilemma. He will forgive her sin, manifest their hypocrisy, & outwit their deceitfulness. Honesty, humility, trust: This is how to approach the Lord. Again he bent down & wrote on the ground (8:8). Why keep writing? Why didn't he scold them? Aquinas: "Because he had disturbed them with this zeal for justice, he did not think it fit to look at them, but turned from their sight. He did this out of consideration for their embarrassment, to give them complete freedom" i.e., Jesus still loves them; they still have a chance & in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him (8:9). The scribes & Pharisees, exposed in their guilt become like Adam hiding from God in the Garden of Eden (G 3:8-10). Augustine: "Only two remained, the miserable one Mercy himself." A Lapide: "Deep calling upon deep, the depth of the adulteress' misery called on the depth of Christ's mercy & she fled not, since she had experienced the grace of Christ hoped for more." Alone with Jesus, she has everything she could possibly need. Are we content with having 'only Jesus'? Then Jesus straightened up & said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, & from now on do not sin any more" (8:10-11). Neither do I condemn you: The Savior's words overcome the devil's blackmail—that we can never truly be rid of our past, our sins will always be hanging over our head. Do not sin any more: This is not an ultimatum but a promise—Jesus endows the woman with new identity & power effect of this encounter will remain with her; her love for Christ will exceed her desire for sin. Her life has changed—recall the significance of early in the morning from Verse 1.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

## Turn To Me & Be Saved ~ A Gracious Call From A Loving God

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart. (Joel 2:12) We hear this passage, taken from the Old Testament prophet Joel, at Mass every Ash Wednesday, just as we begin our forty-day journey of Lent. For the people of Israel, it was a call to turn to God in the midst of a national crisis. Hurry! Come to the Temple and beg the Lord to save ILS from this catastrophe! For us, Joel's words are more personal. They urge us to turn to God with our whole hearts so that he can save us each individually—not from an external disaster, but from the sin that clouds our relationship with him. Joel's words call us to examine our lives and find the ways we have wandered from the Lord or have hurt one another. They also ask us to open our eyes to the ways that God wants to bless us and draw us closer to him during this season. In short, these words capture the spirit of Lent perfectly. You would think that, with such a gracious invitation, we would look at Lent as one of the most blessed, uplifting times of the year. But for all the promise of this season, we can still be tempted to look at it as a time of gloom and sadness. Maybe we focus on what we have to give up instead of what God wants to give us. Or we might think about our sins more than God's mercy or fret over our need to change rather than rejoicing in his overflowing grace. Let's try to approach Lent a little differently this year. In this issue, we want to look at it as a time of promise and hope. We want to look at the call to turn to the Lord as an invitation to discover something new and uplifting—about ourselves and about God. We want to look at the goodness of God, his work of freeing us from sin, and his invitation to receive his love, mercy, and grace this Lent. A Good God. The first and most important thing to remember is that God is good. We are used to saying that God loves us or that God is love, but by saying it so often, we risk losing sight of how radical this statement is. So it's helpful every now and then to consider his love from a different angle—from his goodness. When we say that God is good, we are repeating what St. John considered "the message" that Jesus commissioned him and the other apostles to preach: "God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). We are also echoing St. James when he called God "the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change" (James 1:17). God's goodness toward us never changes. The prophet Joel knew the goodness of God as well. In the midst of his urgent plea for Israel to turn to the Lord, he spoke words of assurance and promise: "Return to the LORD, your God. For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment" (Joel 2:13). He wanted the people to know that God wasn't the cause of their troubles; he was the cure! God loved the people too much to leave them to face the crisis alone. Come to me, he called. Let me help you and deliver you. This Lent you will hear again the call to turn to the Lord with your whole heart—a call to fasting and repentance. You might imagine these words coming from a harsh judge preparing to punish you for your misdeeds. But imagine them coming instead from a Father who loves his children and who mourns over how they have distanced themselves from him. Imagine them coming from a good God who created you and who has blessed you "with every spiritual blessing" (Ephesians 1.3). Your God loves you. He is goodness itself, and he wants nothing but good for you. Can you picture the look of love on his face as he calls out to you? A Good Creation. A Clear Night sky filled with stars. The touch of a cool breeze on a fine spring day. The sound of water as it tumbles through a stream on its way to a river. Who hasn't stood in awe at the beauty of the natural world? Who hasn't felt the same way the psalmist felt when he looked up & proclaimed "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:2)? We believe that God in his goodness made this beautiful world out of nothing. But even more astounding, we believe that he fashioned this world into a home just for us

for the men & women he would create out of love. The Book of Genesis tells us that God placed our first parents in a lush garden & charged them with cultivating the earth & making it fruitful. He blessed them as husband & wife & charged them to be fruitful as well. He gave them everything they needed for happiness in this new world—a loving relationship with him & with each other; the joy of bearing children; meaningful labor; & a safe, beautiful environment that would always reflect his love & care for them. Take some time this Lent to ask the Holy Spirit to show you how all the beauty, vastness, & majesty of the world points to a loving, generous God. Ask him to open the eyes of your heart so that you cry out in joy, "All the earth falls in worship before you; they sing of you, sing of your name!" (Psalm 66:4). A "Very Good" People. Not only did God create the world we live in, but he created each of us individually. We are not the random result of evolution. Unlike any other creature on earth, we are made in God's own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27). We have gifts and abilities that no other creature has. Using our gifts of reason, memory, and imagination, we can rise above our environment and determine our own future. We can fall in love. We can imagine new possibilities for ourselves and each other. And most important, we can have a relationship with God that gradually transforms our heart and mind. We can see the goodness of humanity every day in family life, in parishes, in hospitals and schools, and in community centers. We see it in people caring for the poor and needy. We see it in all the unnoticed acts of kindness that happen every day. We see it especially when two or more people gather in Jesus' name. Of course, we also see evil. Sometimes it can seem as if it's all around us. It can even seem as if evil is just as powerful as good—a natural force that is just as much a part of us as goodness. But our faith tells us that there is only one "principle" in creation: God's goodness. "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good" (Genesis 1:31). It's this goodness—this innocence and wholeness—that God wants to deepen in us as we turn to him in Lent. He doesn't want to condemn us for our sins. He wants to remove our sins so that the beauty of his creation can shine through us all the more. We might shy away from the idea of repentance and self-denial because it sounds so difficult. But these are avenues of grace for us. They are good gifts from a good God who wants to come into our hearts more deeply. The Last Word: God is good, and everything he created is good. Remember this when you think about your resolutions this Lent. God is asking you to deny yourself some of the pleasures of life so that you can focus on him more fully. This doesn't mean that these pleasures are bad. There's nothing wrong, for example, with dessert after dinner. God is asking you to give up something good so that you can receive something better: Jesus, who gave up the goodness of heaven in order to save you from sin. If you get discouraged by the sin you see around you—or even by the sin in your own heart—remember this truth as well: evil doesn't have to win out, and sin doesn't the last word during Lent, as you turn to the Lord, you can experience Jesus' victory over sin as your own victory. You can find the extra grace to say no to a particular sin or to finally forgive someone who has hurt you. We have a good, good God, and he has made us "very good." May the grace of this Lenten season bring us even closer to him and help us display his goodness in our lives.

## Daily Mass Readings



Mon. Mar. 30, 2020 Dn. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62  
or 13:41C-62 Gospel Jn. 8:1-11,

Tues. Mar. 31, 2020 Nm. 21:4-9 Gospel 8:21-30

Wed. Apr. 1, 2020 Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Gospel Jn. 8:31-42

Thurs. Apr. 2, 2020 Gn. 17:3-9 Gospel Jn. 8:51-59

Fri. Apr. 3, 2020 Jer. 20:1-13 Gospel Jn. 10:31-42