



# 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)

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: 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, May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day



Story in John 14:1-12 Jesus Comforts His Disciples

**14** "Do not let your heart be troubled; <sup>1</sup> believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again & receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas \*said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, & the truth, & the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."



## Mass Intentions

May 9	4:30 pm	Monica Mann by Celeste White
May 10	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Patty Sycho by Keith & Rita Wirey
	10:30 am	Francis Medina by Rito & Maria Medina
May 11	7:30 am	John Rooney Birthday by Ann Roy
May 12	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
May 13	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
May 14	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 15	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 16	4:30 pm	James Voss
May 17	7:30 am	Anita Bergbower by Marjorie Boatman
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions

### Prayer to the Mother of our Lord for all Mothers

Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth & changed human history. You opened yourself to God's Word & the Word was made flesh & dwelt among us. Dear Mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "faith." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call of sacrificial love - the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love & witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son. On this Mother's Day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you.

### Weekly Offerings

#### St. Elizabeth

Week ending Sunday, May 3, 2020

Envelopes \$1,145.00 Seminarians \$10.00

Palm Sunday \$10.00 Harry Wong Memorial \$30.00

Operation Rice Bowl \$10.00 Catholic Relief Services \$10.00

Holy Thursday \$10.00 Building Fund \$35.00

Holy Land/Good Friday \$10.00 Catholic Home Mission Appeal

\$10.00 3 Online @ \$200.00 Deposit: \$ 1,480.00

#### Our Lady of Lourdes

Envelopes \$ 780.00 Building Fund \$50.00

Edith Smith Food Pantry \$50.00 Operation Rice Bowl \$100.00

Catholic Home Missions Appeal \$90.00 Holy Thursday \$50.00

Holy Land/Good Friday \$50.00 Catholic Relief Services \$50.00

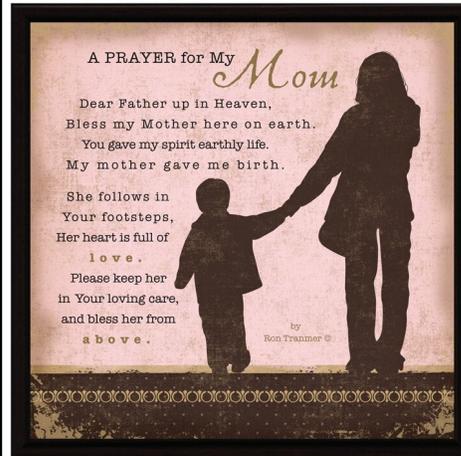
Seminarians \$50.00 Deposit: \$1,270.00

### Give Central



www.crawfordcountycatholics.com. Click  
On DONATE to donate to any collection.

## A Prayer For Mothers



All—loving God, we give you thanks & praise for mothers young & old. We pray for young mothers, who give life & count toes & tend to our every need; May they be blessed with **p a t i e n c e** & tenderness to care for their families & themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured &

cared for us; May they continue to guide in strong & gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away. We pray for women who are not mothers but still love & shape us with motherly care & compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, & great—grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory & nourish us with their love.

### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, by Pope Francis

Mary, Virgin & Mother, you who, moved by the Holy Spirit, welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith: as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One, help us to say our own "yes" to the urgent call, as pressing as ever, to proclaim the good news of Jesus. Filled with Christ's presence, you brought joy to John the Baptist, making him exult in the womb of his mother. Brimming over with joy, you sang of the great things done by God. Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith, you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection, & joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit so that the evangelizing Church might be born. Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection, that we may bring to all the Gospel of life which triumphs over death. Give us a holy courage to seek new paths, that the gift of unfading beauty may reach every man & woman. Virgin of listening & contemplation, Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast, pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are, that she may never be closed in on herself or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom. Star of the new evangelization, help us to bear radiant witness to communion, service, ardent & generous faith, justice & love of the poor, that the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the earth, illuminating even the fringes of our world. Mother of the living Gospel, wellspring of happiness for God's little ones, pray for us. Amen. Alleluia!

### 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), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, Brian Wirey, Linnie York (Sharon Skaggs) & the men & women in the armed forces.

The reading from I Peter today labels the Church as a spiritual edifice constructed of living stones with Christ himself as the cornerstone. Christ is the Church's singular foundation because, as the Word made flesh, Jesus is his Father's full revelation incessantly remaining as "the way, the truth & the life" (Jn 14:6). Keep in mind Jesus does not just point to God the Father, but is identified with him and as such is clearly the way, the truth and the life. The Church today is still in the mire of the sexual abuse scandal. This reminds us that the faithful cannot be blind to the Church's missteps and failures. These sins make it difficult for many Catholics today to continue believing, & therefore, discouraged & angry, they walk away. Those remaining bear deep love & mature faith but still carry the sting of these sins. Staunchly loyal, they understand & realize that the Church's dark underside cannot be ignored & is carried as a cross. They do this along with the Church's bright banner of daily goodness generated in individual churches everywhere. These faithful realize that while the living stones flourish with many grace-filled deeds, we find these same living stones compromised by the sinful deeds of a few. Some Catholics today wonder whether they can ever again trust the Church's ministers & leaders. Others, with faith-filled eyes & passionate love rising from matured hearts, believe it is possible. They believe that, though sin exists, it can never overpower the superabundant life-giving graces the Father lovingly pours over these living stones. In this spiritual edifice, graces flourish through the lives & deeds of faithful living stones existing within. There are a variety of ministries, all contributing to the Church communities well-being, rising from the diverse service the Church provides & continues to deliver, as different needs thrive. Jesus came to help his varied flock live life to the fullest. While he set the standard, it is up to the local Church to offer the means to fulfill that for Jesus' diverse assembly. The Church has quite a long history of serving its flock. It has accompanied immigrants to strange new lands, built places of worship, taught the Faith, assisted the dying, aided its people through epidemics & often heard the cry of the poor. Whatever lies ahead, this sense of dedicated service cannot be overlooked. This is especially true of the many sisters, like Sister Blandina Segale, who courageously followed miners to Colorado, nursing their wounds & courageously offering civility lessons to Billy the Kid despite great risk to her own safety. These living stones are not limited to contemplation. The kingdom of God is built with giving hearts, believing souls & strong bodies, those who see the hungry faces of the needy & feed them with the Word of God & the Faith.

### Hail, Holy Queen



**Hail, Holy Queen!**  
 Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we sigh, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us and, after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To Mother Savior you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve! To you do we send up our signs, mourning, and weeping this vale of tears! Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus! O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

Let us march forward intrepidly to meet our Redeemer, Jesus, pursuing our onward course without swaying until we come to the assembly of the saints & are welcomed by the company of the just. It is to join our Christian forebears that we are journeying, to those who taught us our faith.... In the place where the Lord will be everyone's light, the true light which enlightens every human person will shine upon all. In the house where we are going the Lord Jesus has prepared many resting places for his servants, so that where he is we also may be. This was his express desire. Listen to his own words: In my Father's house there are many resting places. And: I will come again & take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. You may say, perhaps, that he was speaking only to his disciples, & it was to them alone that he promised there would be many resting places.... And what of that statement of his about people coming from all sides to take their seats in the Kingdom of God? Have we any grounds for doubting that God's will is effective? With Christ, surely, to will a thing is to accomplish it. In short, the Lord has not only shown us the way we are to travel, he has also pointed out our destination. Where I am going you know, he says, & the way there is known to you. This destination is our Father's house, & our way to it is Christ, as his own words assure us: I am the way, the truth, & the life.... Let us set out, then, upon this way, holding fast to the truth & following in the footsteps of life. Christ is the way that leads us, the truth that strengthens us, & the life that restores us to life in him. To make sure that we really understand his will, our Lord prays a few minutes later: Father, it is my desire that those whom you have given me be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory. How graciously our Lord asks his Father here to grant what he himself had promised earlier! The promise came first & then the request, not the other way around. Conscious of his authority & knowing the gift was at his own disposal, he made the promise; then as if to exemplify his filial submission, he asked his Father to grant it. Yes, Lord Jesus, we do follow you. But we can only come at your bidding. No one can make the ascent without you, for you are our way, our truth, our life, our strength, our faith, our reward. We belong to you; be the way that carries us onward, the truth that inspires us with courage, & the life that fills us with renewed vigor.

### Scriptural Reflections for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Lord Jesus has "called us out of darkness into his wonderful light." We hear him do that very concretely in the Gospel today. He reassures us with these words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God & faith in me. Where I am you will be. I am the way, the truth, & the life. Whoever believes in me will do the works I do." This is the Word of God that "continued to spread" so that the number of disciples increased daily." And this increase is what the risen Christ continues to offer the Church through the ministry of priests & deacons. "Come to him; let yourselves be built into a spiritual house".



### Daily Mass Readings

**Mon. May 11, 2020** First Reading Acts 14:5~18  
 Gospel Jn. 14:21~26 **Tues. May 12, 2020** First Reading Acts 14:19~28 Gospel Jn. 14:27~31 **Wed. May 13, 2020** First Reading Acts 15:1~6 Gospel Jn. 15:1~8 **Thurs. May 14, 2020** First Reading Acts 1:15~17; 20~26 Gospel Jn. 15:9~17 **Fri. May 15, 2020** First Reading Acts 15:22~31 Gospel Jn. 15:12~17

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

## Four Virtues Needed To Keep Our Eyes on Christ During This Present Christ

During the 1576 plague that menaced the northern Italian city of Milan & eventually took 25,000 lives, the civil government fled the city out of fear. The archbishop of Milan, Sc. Charles Borromeo, took over, assured the people he would not abandon them &, together with priests from the parishes & religious orders, began to care for their material & spiritual needs. He organized hospitals, cared for orphans & brought the sacraments to those who were quarantined in their homes. He got priests to offer Masses in public squares & the middle of streets so that people could participate from their houses. He sold his personal goods & much of the diocesan treasury to feed the hungry & had the tapestries of his residence converted into blankets to warm the poor. As a good shepherd, he was willing to risk his life to care for both the souls & the bodies of those entrusted to him & was able to persuade so many of his brother priests to join him. Recalling how Christ died for them first, he declared that Christ "does not even request this pathetic life of ours, but only that we put it at risk." He challenged them to pay attention not only to what can kill the body, like the pestilence, but also to what can harm the soul, commenting, "The devout souls of our brethren languish with desire for divine things." And providing them, he argued, is not a small matter. "I will certainly say that the sick do not need our assistance in such a way that without it they would have no hope of salvation, but often our services are necessary," he said. "Besides, it is indisputably clear that we all understand how much the sacraments benefit not only the bad, but also the good, & how much alleviation they usually bring to the sick body & above all to the soul solicitous for its salvation." The greatest illustration of that point was how he scaled a mountain of corpses to give absolution & viaticum to a man at the top of the heap who had been placed there prematurely. His example of courage tied to charity is a mirror for the Church & her leaders in every age, most especially at times of crisis. As all of us confront the coronavirus, we can all profit from how St. Charles put the Catholic faith into action in the most demanding & dangerous circumstances. I would heartily recommend reading Msgr. John Cihak's superb 2017 work *Charles Borromeo: Selected Orations, Homilies and Writings*. To become courageous like he was, what virtues do we need? Faith. The first is faith, to recognize that Christ, who promised to be with us always until the end of time (Matthew 28:20), is good to his word. Faith likewise helps us trust in God's providential care. There's a temptation, in times of crisis, to try to take control even over things that human beings cannot control. This can come from a practical atheism, from living as if God doesn't exist or doesn't care. Faith inspires us to do all we can, but in tandem, rather than apart, from God, knowing that our life is in God's hands. Prudence. The second is prudence, which helps us to discern the good in each circumstance among many competing goods & and to choose the right means of achieving it. It helps us set a proper rule or measure, something desperately needed in times of crisis when certain goods can be emphasized out of measure & others can be forgotten. Aristotle, & St. Thomas Aquinas after him, taught that moral virtue is a middle point between two extremes, deficiency & excess. Compassion, for example, is the mean between apathy and sentimental indulgence. Courage is found within the extremes of cowardice and recklessness. In this present circumstance, prudence can help us to see that an "overabundance of caution" is not a virtue but a vice. Prudence focuses on the right measure of caution, balancing, for example, the duty we need to protect those most vulnerable to infection by "flattening the curve" through social distancing, hand-washing & various other practices, with other needs, like

## Four Virtues Needed To Keep Our Eyes on Christ During This Present Christ continued

family, nourishing one's soul & others', providing goods & services, etc. Prudence assists courage in helping people know how to take the right risks. Charity. The third virtue is charity, which helps us to sacrifice ourselves for the good of others. "No one has greater love than this," Jesus said during the Last Supper, "to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13), & charity motivates us to take risks, even dangerous ones, to protect & provide for those we love. Moms & Dads, even the most temperamentally timid & conflict adverse, instinctively protect their children in the face of gunmen, bombs & tornadoes. The greater the love, the greater the audacity. Courage does not mean fearlessness, but doing what we ought despite our fear, & love gives us the strength to overcome fear & do what love demands. Patience. The fourth is patience, which means principally not an ability to wait but a capacity to suffer. The word "patience" comes from the Latin *patior* (to "suffer"), which is why we call the sick in hospitals "patients." Courage requires that we do not have an excessive fear of pain & of where our fear of pain ultimately derives, the fear of death. In the present circumstance, many, including young people at very low risk of serious consequences from COVID-19, are terrified of contracting it, as if it were an automatic death sentence, even though, for 80% of those who get it, the symptoms are mild & pass like a cold or flu, & only those whose bodies are compromised by old age or other serious health conditions are in serious danger. We should all be doing everything reasonable to prevent transmission out of concern for those who would be most vulnerable, conscious of the reality that our healthcare system is inadequate to handle more than 120,000 people in ICUs at the same time. We need to work together to ensure that no one dies when medical services, received promptly, could save their lives. At the same time, however, we should not be giving in to an epidemic of fear.

## Prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary



"Devotion to the Blessed Virgin is firmly rooted in the revealed Word & has solid dogmatic foundations. It is based on the singular dignity of Mary, Mother of the Son of God, & therefore beloved daughter of the Father & Temple of the Holy Spirit—Mary who, because of this extraordinary grace, far greater than any other creature on earth or in heaven" (Paul VI: Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, no. 56). "When Mary honored, her Son is duly acknowledged, loved & glorified, & His commandments are observed. To venerate Mary correctly means to acknowledge her Son, for she is the Mother of God. To love her means to love Jesus, for she is always the Mother of Jesus. "To pray to our Lady means not to substitute her for Christ, but to glorify her Son who desires us to have loving confidence in His Saints, especially in His Mother. To imitate the 'faithful Virgin' means to keep her Son's command (U.S. Bishops: Behold Your Mother, No. 82)

## Offeratory Envelopes

If you could please be so kind as to provide your OFFERTORY ENVELOPE for the financial support of our parishes in the absence of the Sacred Eucharist either through ONLINE GIVING or through the MAIL, it would be deeply appreciated to provide the necessary financial support. May God bless you for your generosity & THANK YOU.