



# 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: Jerry Pittman, St. Elizabeth**

**Custodial Care: Lori & Adam Davis,**

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**Music Director: Chris Jansen, St. Elizabeth**

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday~Thursday from 8:00 am~5:00 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, November 12, 2017 Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Story found in Matthew 25:1-13

### The Parable of the Ten Virgins

**“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”**

**Matthew 25:13**



## Mass Intentions

Nov. 11	4:30 pm	Martha Tebbe by CCW
Nov. 12	7:30 am	Favorable Weather
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions
Nov. 13	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Nov. 14	12:00 pm	Martha Tebbe by Ken & Carol Bergbower
Nov. 15	7:30 am	Delores Bercham By Maxine Zwermann
Nov. 16	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Nov. 17	7:30 am	Ed Halter by Jeff & Linda Rich
Nov. 18	4:30 pm	Arlene Schutte by Schutte Family
Nov. 19	7:30 am	Marylin Stanley by Dave & Eileen Cooper
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Special Intentions



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, November 18, 2017 ~ Sunday, November 19, 2017

<u>Sat. Nov. 18, 2017 4:30 pm</u>	St. Elizabeth
<b>LECTOR:</b>	
<b>USHERS:</b>	Mark & Cindy Grimm
<b>COMMUNION MIN:</b>	Ginger Osborne, Celeste White
<b>SERVERS:</b>	Ella Bunten, Ella Jenkins
<b>GIFTS:</b>	Mark Grimm Family
<u>Sun. Nov. 19, 2017 7:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
<b>LECTOR:</b>	David Holscher
<b>USHERS:</b>	Kurt & Anne Holscher
<b>COMMUNION MIN:</b>	Jim & Shari Eckert
<b>SERVERS:</b>	Jacob Eckert
<b>GIFTS:</b>	
<u>Sun. Nov. 19, 2017 9:00 am</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>LECTOR:</b>	Kourtney Coffman
<b>USHERS:</b>	Rich & Anita Kocher
<b>COMMUNION MIN:</b>	Keith & Rita Wirey
<b>SERVERS:</b>	Taylor Blank
<b>GIFTS:</b>	Rich & Anita Kocher
<u>Sun. Nov. 19, 2017 10:30 am</u>	St. Elizabeth
<b>LECTOR:</b>	Ian Quick
<b>USHERS:</b>	Levi Dickerson, Anthony O'Dell
<b>COMMUNION MIN:</b>	Phyllis Inboden, Roselene Quick
<b>SERVERS:</b>	Madalyn Myers, Lauren Staller
<b>GIFTS:</b>	Miguel Vega Family

Collection Counters: November, 2017: John Ferris, Alan Maddox, Anne Schrey

**Please remember to  
attend weekly Mass**



## PSR Upcoming Classes

Wednesday, November 15 & 29, 2017 at 6:30-7:30 pm  
Wednesday, December 6 & 13, 2017 at 6:30-7:30 pm



## High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group is accepting donations for religious themed Christmas books for our first little library. These books will be a wonderful way to evangelize to our community and to give to children in our community. Books can be brought to the Parish Center.



## Scriptural Reflections ~ Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Why do the five wise virgins not share their oil with the five foolish ones? Because it is something that simply cannot be shared. The oil is our personal virtue. "The wise maidens represent all those who possess the ensemble of virtues which characterize a complete Christian life. The burning oil lamps which they carry...symbolically portray Christian wisdom... This Christian wisdom empowers all those who embrace prudence & the other moral virtues to fulfill the requirements of an integral and holy life" (R. Cessario). "God, through Jesus, will bring with him those who seek wisdom with the same ardor with which the wise virgins seek the bridegroom. For Christ is the Bridegroom.



## The Season Of Advent



As we embark on our ADVENT JOURNEY of prayer, you are able to receive a prayer book of ADVENT entitled DAILY REFLECTIONS for ADVENT and CHRISTMAS WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE.

The season of Advent invites us to search out those dry places in our spiritual lives with need to be enriched and made pleasing to God before the coming of Jesus Christ as we celebrate His Birth on the Sacred Feast of Christmas.

The season of Advent challenges us to slow down to embrace a time of silence and darkness, waiting and watching, surrender and trust. The flickering candles of the Advent Wreath burn through the enveloping darkness of the month of December to remind us that the darkness will never overcome us. LIGHT is on Christmas and for all time, but we must be patient.

This is the season of waiting in prayer and in the incarnation, the birth of Christ silence. Jesus, we bow in humility. Jesus Christ is born so that we know God's redemptive LOVE. May this resource help you to prepare spiritually as we pray: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.

The prayer book DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT and CHRISTMAS ~ WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE will be distributed the weekend of NOVEMBER 18 and 19,  
2 0 1 7 .



## Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers:  
Sherry Boswell, Lori Brown, Scott Chapman, Renee Craig, Ron Dhom, Sharon Drake, Sandy Ellis, Karen Heap, Leona Kocher, Trent Matthews, Teresa Mullins, Robb Sparks, Charlie Stegall, Katie Stovall, Rich Welp, Janis Wickland, Brian Wilson, Charlita Wilson, men & women in armed forces.



**Nov. 12, 2017 ~ Thirty-Second Sun. in Ordinary  
Time ~From the Pastor ~ Christ Will Come Again**

While the Lord's second coming was certainly something that permeated the minds and hearts of the early Christian communities, it probably is a safe bet that it doesn't cross the minds of many people today. While Christians do believe that "Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead," which they dutifully and loudly proclaim at liturgies, it barely penetrates their awareness. It is just too difficult a concept to grasp among the more pressing everyday items on their to-do lists.

Yet today's Gospel and Paul's letter to the Thessalonians remind us that this world belongs to God, & the day is coming when God will send Jesus to claim it for its rightful owner. As we prepare to end one Church year and begin a new one, the readings declare the need to give this belief a weightier presence in our lives.

The parable of the 10 virgins can be a 21st-century drama for disciples encountering Jesus as they approach their journey's final day. Preparedness is the message for that day, and today, more than fear. The Church raises this concern not to scare us into conversion but to sound a warning bell. For the day is coming, and time is still available to consider how we might better prepare. We are asked to make room for God in our lives, improve attitudes that need improving and allow the Lord Jesus a vital place in our hearts. No timetable is offered beyond this present moment, which offers plenty of opportunities to transform our lives. One wisdom-filled question is being asked today.

If the Lord comes today, do we have enough oil in our lamps to be ready when he arrives? If not, then changes must be made to obtain the reserve needed.

Sally Mae, a wise grandmother, shared her great wisdom with all her children. With a big heart, and a wide smile she taught them: "Remember, we are here to get to there." Pointing her finger theatrically down for "here" and pointing it theatrically up for "there." On this saying, Sally Mae based all her choices. She taught her children to do the same. She encouraged them to consider: "Will this help me to get from here to there?" Sally Mae's wisdom rested upon the experience that all life's choices have consequences. Taking time now to ask that question, before making a choice, gives us an opportunity to think twice before finalizing it. Then she added, "It can make Judgment Day go a little easier, too!" Sally Mae was doing exactly what these readings are suggesting — namely, to do a little forward thinking.



### **Advent Nursing Home Project**

It is that time of year again! Next weekend, we will begin our Advent Nursing Home Project. The tree will be up & filled with tags for Christmas gifts going to Residents who have little or no family. See more details in next week's bulletin of how you can help.

### **Daily Mass Readings Nov. 13 ~ Nov. 17, 2017**

**Mon. Nov. 13- Reading 1~ Wis. 1:1-7**

**Gospel Lk. 17:1-6**

**Tues. Nov. 14-Reading 1~Wis. 2:23-3:9**

**Gospel Lk. 17:7-10**

**Wed. Nov. 15 - Reading 1~ Wis. 6:1-11**

**Gospel Lk. 17:11-19**

**Thur. Nov. 16- Reading 1~ Wis. 7:22B-8:1**

**Gospel Lk. 17:20-25**

**Fri. Nov. 17 - Reading 1~ Wis. 13:1-9**

**Gospel Lk. 17:26-37**

### **St. Elizabeth Finance Council Meeting**



There will be a Finance Council Meeting at St. Elizabeth on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm

### **Anointing of the Sick Mass**



As Catholic Christians, one of the most beautiful SACRAMENTS OF HEALING that we have is the Sacrament of the ANOINTING OF THE SICK. In this particular gesture of compassion & prayer is revealed God's Presence & Love. In the Anointing's & prayers of Sacrament, the person who is ill or suffering is given strength, perseverance, & courage to allow God's Will to come to fruition in their spiritual journey. Not only is the sick person given to God's grace & blessing, but in the Sacrament the person knows the entire Body of Christ, the Catholic Church, is praying for their healing & recovery. Through this Sacrament, we unite our suffering together to ask for God's Grace & Presence.

As a sincere sign & expression of our love & concern for those who are either sick, infirmed, or suffering, you are invited to receive this SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017 at 10:30 AM Mass at St. Elizabeth Church.

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**



The PASTORAL COUNCIL of OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST. ELIZABETH invite all parishioners of both Parishes to our Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 3:00 pm at the Parish Hall of Our Lady Of Lourdes.

While the meat, potatoes, main vegetable & rolls will be provided by the Church, it would be appreciated if those attending whose names begin with A~M would bring a salad while those whose last names begin with N~Z would bring a dessert.



In addition, a gift of non-perishable food items for the Oblong Christian Community Food Pantry would be accepted with gratitude.

### **Annual Catholic Services Appeal**



The theme of the 2017—2018 Annual Catholic Services Appeal is GO THEREFORE and MAKE DISCIPLES. This is an invitation from God to provide out of our financial resources and blessings a gesture of generosity to assist with the needs of the entire Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Your gift to help us secure the different goals for both of our parishes is a sign of your deep faith and trust that God will bless you. Through our Baptismal calling, we are all invited to EVANGELIZE and we do so by sacrificing so that the necessary services throughout the diocese are fulfilled.

To date, the goal for ST. ELIZABETH is \$31,455.00 with the amount of \$11,925.00 being pledged and the amount of \$11,300.00 being secured.

To date, the goal of OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH is \$3,671.00 with the amount of \$1,720.00 being pledged and the amount of \$1,370.00 being secured.

If you haven't done so, please consider helping us with our assigned goals. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and God bless you in many ways.

## Spiritual Reflections for the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:1-13



*Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom" (25:1).*

Father Romanus Cessario, O.P. 'The principal point of the parable illustrates the kind of preparedness Jesus expects of his

disciples, but the wise or prudent maidens also represent all those who possess the ensemble of virtues which characterize a complete Christian life. The burning oil lamps that they carry into the wedding feast symbolically portray Christian wisdom, the crown of the other gifts of the Holy Spirit and of the infused moral virtues. This Christian wisdom empowers all those who embrace prudence and the other moral virtues to fulfill the requirements of an integral and holy life."

*"Five of them were foolish and five were wise?" (25:2).*

Mark the Ascetic (5th cent.): 'The foolish virgins possessed some virtues and external achievements and some gifts of grace, so that their lamps, remained alight for a certain time. But because of negligence; ignorance, and laziness they were not provident; and did not pay careful attention to the hidden swarm of passions energized within them by the evil spirits. They were secretly enticed and overcome by malicious envy, by jealousy that hates everything good, by strife, quarreling, hatred, anger, bitterness, rancor, hypocrisy, wrath, pride, self-esteem, love of popularity, self-satisfaction, avarice, listlessness, by sensual desire which provokes images of self-indulgence, by unbelief, irreverence, cowardice, dejection, pomposity, boastfulness, insatiation, profligacy, greed, by despair which is the most dangerous of all, and by the subtle workings of vice. Even the good acts which they performed and their vow of chastity were all for the sake of being seen and praised by men; and though they had a share in some gifts of grace, this they sold to the spirits of self-esteem and popularity."

*"The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps" (25:3-4).*

Virginity is a way of loving without possessing, loving without manipulating. Virginity is loving things according to their truth, without imposing our preconceptions, our prejudgments. The essence of virginity is dispossession, detachment, holy distancing. Virginity means to regard others without reducing them. It is to love others according to their destiny. Saint John Paul II: 'Virginity indicates the final destiny of conjugal love.' *"Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep" (25:5).*

To be ready to greet the Bridegroom Jesus, we must stay awake—see Mt 24:42-43.

*"At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps" (25:6-7).*

The oil symbolizes the virtue and interior illumination of those who have heard the Word of God and put it into practice (Mt 7:24). The oil is the energy of the Holy Spirit active in our lives.

*"The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'- But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves'" (25:8-9).*

We cannot lend others our moral character. Caryl Houselander: "Unfortunately, there are not only wise virgins in this world -but unwise ones; and the foolish virgins make more

## Spiritual Reflections for the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:1-13 continued

noise in the world than the wise; giving a false impression of virginity by their loveless and joyless attitude to life.

These foolish virgins, like their prototypes, have no oil in their lamps. And no one can give them this oil, for it is the potency of life, the will and capacity to love. Virginity is really the whole offering of soul and body to be consumed in the fire of love and changed into the flame of its glory. The wise virgins exemplify the faithful, farsighted servant Jesus has described in Mt. 24:45.

*"While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked" (25:10).*

We become "foolish virgins" when we opt to remain imprisoned in our own limited and impaired nature. The folly of the five—like the fraudulence of the scribes and the Pharisees—shuts the doors of God's Kingdom on themselves (Mt 23:13).

*"Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply; 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (25:11-13).*

Saint John of the Cross: 'The ten virgins had all preserved their virginity and done good works; yet because five of them had not rejoiced by directing their joy in these works to God, but rather by rejoicing vainly in the possession of these works, they were rejected from heaven and left without any gratitude or reward from their spouse. Also, many of the ancients possessed numerous virtues and engaged in good works, and many Christians have them today and accomplish wonderful deeds; but such works are of no profit for eternal life, because of failure to seek only the honor and glory of God. The Christian, then, should not be joyful if he accomplishes good works and abides by good customs, but if he does them out of love for God alone, without any other motive."



### Weekly Collection

#### St. Elizabeth Church

Week Ending Sunday, November 5, 2017

Envelopes \$ 3,142.00 Loose \$ 336.00  
2 Online @ \$80.00 Building Fund \$150.00  
All Saints \$351.00 All Souls \$25.00  
Christmas Flower \$20.00  
Deposit \$4,104.00

#### Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, November 5, 2017

Envelopes \$515.00 Loose \$34.00 Building Fund \$50.00  
Landscaping \$465.00 Edith Smith Food Pantry \$72.00  
All Saints Day \$70.00 Deposit \$ 1,206.00



### Give Central Online Giving

Give Central can be accessed on Church Website.

### Our Lady Of Lourdes Landscaping Project

A SPECIAL & SINCERE THANK YOU to those parishioners who have assisted with donations for the landscaping in front of our Parish Church. With the landscaping around the sign, the total amount for the project was \$3,027.95. To date, the amount of \$1,700.00 has been collected. May God bless you for your generosity to beautify the grounds of our Church.