



# 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~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, September 15, 2019 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Parable of the Lost Son. Story found in Luke 15:1~32

<sup>20</sup> So he got up and came to <sup>[1]</sup>his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and <sup>[2]</sup>embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; <sup>23</sup> and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.  
Luke 15:20~24



## Mass Intentions

Sept. 14	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Sept. 15	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	The repose of the soul of Lillie Rose Myers
Sept. 16	7:30 am	Terry Free by Ruth Beckes
Sept. 17	12:00 pm	NO MASS- PRIEST CONVENTION
Sept. 18	7:30 am	NO MASS- PRIEST CONVENTION
Sept. 19	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Sept. 20	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
Sept. 21	4:30 pm	Karlene Frese by Pete Frese
Sept. 22	7:30 am	Special Intentions
	9:00 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	10:30 am	Erma Veldhaus by Ted & Kathy Staller



## Ministry Schedule

Saturday, September 21 ~ Sunday, September 22, 2019

Sat. September 21, 2019 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Geri Ezell

USHERS: Ken & Carol Bergbower

COMMUNION MIN: Ginger Osborne, Celeste White

SERVERS: Liam Wirey, Isla Wirey, Jude Wirey

GIFTS: Terry Roche Family Family

Sun. September 22, 2019 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Shari Eckert

USHERS: Garrett Rich, Travis Rich

COMMUNION MIN: Chad Arkenberg, Joe Hepner

SERVERS: Mallory Mosbey

GIFTS: Travis Rich Family

Sun. September 22, 2019 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Cameron Davis

USHERS: Chris & Donna Keller

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Emma Davis

GIFTS: Chris & Donna Keller

Sun. September 22, 2019 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Cydnee Weber

USHERS: Ken Deters, Chris Weber

COMMUNION MIN: Mark Ghering, Roselene Quick

SERVERS: Maddy Myers, Lauren Staller

GIFTS: Eric Schmidt Family

September Collection Counters: Janet Hill, Ellen Rees, Chris Tylka

**Please remember to attend weekly Mass**



## Parish School of Religion

SEPTEMBER PSR DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 FROM 6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM.

OCTOBER PSR DATES: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2019.

## Confirmation Class Dates



CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES:  
Sept. 15, Sept. 22 & Sept. 29, 2019 from 5:30—7:00 pm. OCTOBER DATES: Oct. 6, Oct. 20, 2019 from 5:30—7:00 pm.

## Priest's Convocation

**The Diocesan Priest's Convocation will take place on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 & WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019. Father Flach will be attending the Convocation so there will be NO MASS on either of those two dates. Thank you & God bless you.**

Spiritual Reflections for the Twenty-fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

The Pharisees and scribes complain about Jesus, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Yet, God had shown mercy even after their own ancestors at the base of Mount Sinai had "become depraved" and had turned aside from the way that God pointed out to them. God uses the experience of our being lost like the sheep, the coin, and the son to demonstrate compellingly that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Christ welcomes sinners and eats with them because only that closeness with Christ's human presence changes sinners into saints. To this Saint Paul attests: "I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant, but I have been mercifully treated. The grace of our Lord has been abundant, along with faith and love."

## "Stewardship~Discipleship Prayer"



Lord, You alone are the source of every good gift and the author of the mystery of each human life, created in your image, beginning at the moment of conception. We praise and thank You for Your great power, and for your infinite and faithful love. All we are and all we have is Your gift, and You have loved us so much You even sent your begotten Son, who died for us and was raised into Glory, thus ascending and entering the gates of heaven as a means to our salvation. Fill our minds with His truth; fill our hearts with His grace; and may His Spirit lead us to unity as a bonded community of faithful caring "intentional disciples". In His Name and by the grace of the Holy Spirit may we commit ourselves to living 'stewardship' as a "way of life" sharing the gifts entrusted to us be living as true stewards, faith-filled disciples of the living Body of Christ. We pray this in the Holy Name of Jesus, He who is the Way, The Truth, and the Life. Amen!

Jesus is speaking to a mixed crowd in today's Gospel — to tax collectors & sinners, but also to grumbling Pharisees & scribes, who disapprove of Jesus' fellowship with "the wrong kind of people." It is to these Pharisees & scribes that Jesus directly addresses the three parables. Jesus must be fully aware that what he presents as normal & reasonable behavior is, in fact, anything but. The hypothetical shepherd, for instance, who leaves the 99 in the desert to go find the one lost lamb? Not a great plan. Sheep are prone to wander, & they are fairly defenseless against predators. In other words, the odds of returning with the one lost sheep to find the other 99 all safe & together would be pretty poor. As for the woman with the lost coin, unless it was incredibly valuable, gathering all her friends & neighbors & asking them to rejoice with her because she had found it must have seemed a bit over the top. But the story of the man with the two sons really would have confounded the critics in Jesus' audience. When the son finds himself penniless because of his own bad choices & is reduced to tending pigs & longing to eat the animal fodder, the Pharisees would no doubt have nodded with grim satisfaction, thinking, "Serves him right!" No doubt the Pharisees & scribes would have brightened up again at the story of the virtuous, long-suffering elder son the one who played by all the rules. They could relate to & would agree with this son's reasonable refusal to enter the house. In fact, the father must have been quite mad to expect the elder son to "celebrate & rejoice" over his brat of a brother. Surely, one or another of the Pharisees must have asked Jesus: "Well? Did the elder son bow to his father's wishes & go in to the feast or not?" And I picture Jesus saying to them (& to us): "My question exactly! Why don't you tell me?" Meanwhile, I expect the tax collectors & sinners were smiling at the Good News: "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who have no need of repentance."

#### Spiritual Reading for the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Not without reason has Saint Luke narrated three parables in order that of the sheep which was lost & then found, that of the drachma which was mislaid & was located, & that of the son who had died & was brought back to life. All of this so that, having been taught the lesson of the triple remedy, we can cure our wounds, for a threefold cord is not easily broken (Eccl 4:12). Who, then, is this father, this shepherd, this mother? Could they not, perhaps, represent God the Father, Christ, & the Church? Christ carries you on his shoulders, the Church seeks you out, & the Father receives you. One, because he is Shepherd, continues carrying you; another, as Mother, ceases not to search for you; & then the Father comes back to dress you. The first, as a work of his mercy; the second, looking after you; & third, reconciling yourself to him. Each one of them matches these qualities perfectly well; the Redeemer came to save, the Church assists, & the Father reconciles. The same mercy is present in all divine activity.... The Shepherd calls out to the tired sheep, the drachma which had been lost is found, & the son, on his own initiative, returns to the father, fully repentant of his errors, which he accuses himself of & this drachma, which carries the imprint of the figure of the prince, is not something of little value. The riches of the Church consist in possessing the image of the King. We are his sheep. Let us pray so that we may become worthy of placing ourselves in the waters which give life (cf. Ps 23:2). I have said that we are sheep: let us ask for the pasture; & as we are sons & daughters, let us run towards the Father. Truly, he will come out running to meet you, his arms will be all embracing—for the Lord lifts those who are bowed down (Ps 147:6)—& he will give you a kiss, a sign of affection & of love; he will order his servants to dress you, to put a ring on you & give you sandals. You still

are fearful for the affront you have caused, but he returns to you the dignity which you had lost. You fear punishment, & he kisses you. Finally, you fear being scolded, but he entertains you with a banquet.

### How Catholics Pray The Sacred Eucharist

"The liturgy of the Eucharist unfolds according to a fundamental structure which has been preserved throughout the centuries down to our own day. It displays two great parts that the liturgy of the Word & the form a fundamental unity: (CCC 1346) liturgy of the Eucharist...." Within these two, the Catechism more specifically mentions four parts: "The Eucharistic celebration always includes: [a] the proclamation of the Word of God; [b] thanksgiving to God the Father for all his benefits, above all the gift of his Son; [c] the consecration of bread and wine; and [d] participation in the liturgical banquet by receiving the Lord's body and blood. These elements constitute one single act of worship" (CCC 1408). 1) God-The Father, to whom the sacrifice of Christ The Son is offered, & who accepts it. 2) "At its head is Christ himself, the principal agent of the Eucharist" (CCC 1348). Christ gave the Eucharist (himself) to us for our salvation so that we could offer with him to God the Father for our salvation. 3) The Holy Spirit, who energizes it. 4) Christ's whole Body, the Church. "The whole Church is united with the offering..." (CCC 1369). "To the offering of Christ are united not only the members still here on earth, but also those already in the glory of heaven" (CCC 1370). & "the Eucharistic sacrifice is also offered for the faithful departed who 'have died in Christ, but are not yet wholly' (CCC 1371). So, in the Eucharist are united: the Church Militant on earth; the Church Triumphant in Heaven; & the Church Suffering in Purgatory & the Church on earth includes both clergy & laity, who are equally necessary but with different roles: "It is in representing him (Christ) that the bishop or priest, acting in the person of Christ the head presides over the assembly..." (CCC 1348). But "[a] have their active parts to play readers, those who bring up the offerings, those who give communion, & the whole people whose 'Amen' manifests their participation" (CCC 1348). 5) In the Eucharist the whole creation is presented to God through man, the mediator and priest of all creation, just as all mankind is presented to God through Christ, the mediator and High Priest of man. As Christ is priest for all men, man is priest for all creation. Christ restores man to the priestly role given to Adam by God and perverted by sin. "In the Eucharistic sacrifice the whole of creation, loved by God, is presented to the Father. (CCC 1359). The Eucharist is cosmic. Everything in the universe and everything in our lives can be offered and transformed in the Eucharist. We can bring our whole selves to the Eucharist and lay them down on the altar — all of them, nothing held back. For the Eucharist is Christ, and whatever we give to Christ, we get back perfected and transformed. To the extent that we give ourselves up, to that extent we get our true, Christ-transformed selves back. Nothing in our lives should remain outside the Eucharist. "The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value" (CCC 1368). As a sacrament, the Eucharist has a double aspect: it is both a sign and the reality signified by it, both a remembering of the past and a making-really-present: "When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, she commemorates Christ's Passover, and it is made present: the sacrifice Christ offered once for all on the Cross remains ever present (CCC 1364). Here the three meanings of "present" come together: Christ in the Eucharist is 1) present, not absent, but really here; 2) present, not past, but happening now; and 3) presented as a gift (a "present"), really given; offered, not withheld.

## How Catholics Pray The Sacred Eucharist continued

Christ is 'present in many ways to his Church" (CCC 1373) but "[c] the mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species [forms, appearances] is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as 'the perfection of the spiritual life & the end, to which all the sacraments tend [Saint Thomas Aquinas]. In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist 'the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially, is presence in the fullest sense... Christ, contained God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present (CCC 1374).

## Oblong School N.O.W. Program

Oblong School District is again participating in the County's N.O.W. Program. Their "Nutrition-on-Weekends" initiative currently involves 40 children. They experience more need 4 times in the school year when the children have extended weekends. Monetary donations have allowed Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to purchase jars of peanut butter & jelly. To continue this support, collections will be held after Mass from Sunday, September 22nd through October 6th, 2019. Your generosity is appreciated.

## Annual Catholic Services Appeal

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 PARISH \$33,773.00 & OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH - \$7,153.00. May God bless you abundantly with good health & peace for your kind & generous response.

## Daily Mass Readings

Mon. Sept. 16, 2019 First Reading ~ 1 Tm. 2:1-8  
Gospel Lk. 7:1-10

Tues. Sept. 17, 2019 First Reading ~ 1 Tm. 3:1-13  
Gospel Lk. 7:11-17

Wed. Sept. 18, 2019 First Reading ~ 1 Tm. 3:14-16  
Gospel Lk. 7:31-35

Thurs. Sept. 19, 2019 First Reading ~ 1 Tm. 4:12-16  
Gospel Lk. 7:36-50

Fri. Sept. 20, 2019 First Reading ~ 1 Tm. 6:2C-12 Gospel Lk. 8:1-3



## Prayer Requests

Please remember the following in your prayers: Tucker Babbs (Wilmer Wilson), Karla Birkofer, Phil Burger & Linda Dudine (Ellen Rees) Sara Casburn (Arid Allen), Scott Chapman, Judy Eckert, Eileen Fabris (Kathleen Pescatore), Kay Pescatore, Terry Free (Ruth Beckes), Debbie Nichols (Celeste White), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Josh, Angela & Madison Rose Stumborg, Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, Kathy Wright (Sharon Skaggs) & the men & women in the armed forces.

## Annual Catholic Services Appeal ~ 2019

*"Together In Mission"* Frequently Asked Questions.  
Why should I support the Church? We should support the Church because God expects us to be generous stewards of the gifts of creation, returning to God the first fruits of these gifts. This expectation clearly expressed throughout the Bible, beginning with the story of Cain & Abel in the book of Genesis 4:2-5, we read, "Abel" became a herder of flocks & Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time, Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the ground, while Abel, for his part, brought the fatty portion of the firstlings of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel & his offering, but on Cain & his offering he did not look with favor." God was pleased with the nature of Abel's offering since Abel brought "the first-of his flock, their fat portions," while Cain offered merely "of the fruit." God wants the best from us, not just our leftovers. In the Old Testament, the people understood their support for the Temple giving to the Lord: "The people rejoiced over these free-will offerings, for they had been contributed to the Lord wholeheartedly" (1 Chronicles 29:9). The first century Church described in the New Testament understood the offering of first fruits as part of God's plan for the sanctification of the Church founded by His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. This is in keeping with Jesus' teaching that "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me (Matthew 25:40). Giving to the Annual Catholic Services Appeal supports the Church in fulfillment of command. How much should I give? The Bible answers this question with the concept of tithing, or giving ten percent. The Church did not create this concept. Tithing is God's own idea, the divinely chosen way to contribute regularly & systematically to work. Tithing is God's concept of giving. Sacred Scripture mentions tithing forty-six times. The first reference comes in the Book of Genesis, where Abram (as he was known before God changed his name to Abraham), returned victorious from battle. After receiving a blessing from Melchizedek, King of Salem & "priest of God the Most High", the text says that "Abram gave him a tenth of everything" (Genesis 14:20). While we should give freely without expecting anything in return, Scripture does contain God's written guarantee of rewards for those who tithe, as we read in the Book of Malachi" "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, & see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven for you, & pour down upon you a blessing without measure!" (Malachi 3:10).

## Weekly Offerings

### St. Elizabeth Church

Week ending Sunday, September 8, 2019

Envelopes \$2,232.00 Loose \$268.00

4 Online @ \$455.00

Deposit: \$2,955.00

### Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

Week ending Sunday, August 18, 2019

Envelopes \$675.00 Loose \$83.00

Building Fund \$135.00

Edith Smith Food Pantry \$40.00

Deposit: \$933.00

## Give Central

Give Central can be accessed on the Church Website.