



# 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~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, December 22, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent



Story found in Matthew 1:18-24 ~ The Birth of Jesus

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream & said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son & you are to name him JESUS, because he will save his people from their sins." All this is took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child & bear a son, & they shall name him Emmanuel, " which means, God is with us."



## Mass Intentions

Dec. 21	4:30 pm	50th Wedding Anniversary of Dave & Liz Cordes
Dec. 22	7:30 am	Tammy Uptmor by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	9:00 am	Anniversary Mass~ Ron Dhom by Ethel Dhom
Dec. 23	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve- <u>Our Lady of Lourdes</u> -Special Intentions
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve- <u>St. Elizabeth</u> -Anna Lucille (Byrne) Hawkins by Ginger Osborne
Dec. 25	9:00 am	Jean & Clarence Loy (Anniversary) by Anne Loy
Dec. 26	7:30 am	Val Pescatore by Steve & Geri Ezell
Dec. 27	7:30 am	Special Intentions
Dec. 28	4:30 pm	Special Intentions
Dec. 29	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Donnal Fitzmaurice Fitzmaurice Family
	10:30 am	Francis Medina by Virginia Hall



## Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, December 28 ~ Sunday, December 29, 2019

Sat. December 28, 2019 4:30 pm St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Terry Roche

USHERS: Randy Mullins, Ty Mullins

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Abby Mullins

GIFTS:

Sun. December 29, 2019 7:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR: Linda Sikorski

USHERS: Jim Jaeger, Jeff Rich

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Nathaniel Arkenberg Family

GIFTS: Randy Schutte Family

Sun. December 29, 2019 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

LECTOR: Anita Kocher

USHERS: Chris & Donna Keller

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Emma Davis

GIFTS: Chris & Donna Keller

Sun. December 29, 10:30 am St. Elizabeth

LECTOR:

USHERS: Maddy Myers, Isabel Heidorn

COMMUNION MIN:

SERVERS: Brady York, Cody York

GIFTS: Scott Chapman Family

December Collection Counters: Scott & Valerie Chapman, Karen Reinoehl



## Parish School of Religion

JANUARY DATES: WED. JAN. 8,15,22,29, 2020 6:30~7:30 pm.



## Confirmation Class Dates

CONFIRMATION CLASS DATES: JANUARY 12, 26, 2020 from 5:30~7:00 pm.

Spiritual Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Child from the womb of the Virgin is called the Christ.... Christ in the form of a servant (cf. Phil 2:7) is a servant...but also in the form of a servant he is Lord of human beings. Christ in the form of a servant, because of the excellence of his conception, is Lord of human beings because, even though he assumed flesh, it was not, nevertheless, with the [sinful] contagion of the flesh. He was not conceived as a mere human being, nor was he born as a mere human being; nor was he accepted afterward as God according to his merit, but rather, God the Word—his unchangeable essence remaining, which is coeternal for him with the Father and the Holy Spirit—assumed flesh for the salvation of humankind, in which flesh he, although incapable of suffering, suffered; and, unable to die, died; and, eternal before the ages, was able to be shown in time.

Scriptural Reflections for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The angel points to the Prophet Isaiah in order to persuade the dreaming Joseph to take Mary, his wife, into his home; "The virgin shall conceive, & bear a son, & shall name him Emmanuel." Thus, due to righteous Joseph's "obedience of faith," the Incarnate Christ genealogically was "descended from David," & the words of the psalm—"Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory"—are fulfilled. We boldly declare ourselves "slaves of Christ Jesus," knowing the love he has for us is "deep as the netherworld & high as the sky." He calls us to be holy—& makes us so.

## A Blessed & Joyous Christmas



I am pleased & happy to offer you & your loved ones my sincere & prayerful wishes for a BLESSED & HOLY CHRISTMAS. This special feast brings families together. It reveals sentiments of friendship, loyalty, affection, & generosity. This outpouring of love within us is a true reflection of the love of God the Father Who through the Holy Spirit gave His Divine Son to us at the very First Christmas. Christmas without Christ, without a deep & religious meaning loses its importance in our spiritual lives. This is why we gather in prayer on this solemn & joyful day to allow God's Love to come ever more deeply into our hearts. As we gather around the crib of the Infant Jesus remembering the first Christmas morning, we celebrate the miracle of the mystery of God coming among us as we realize the depth of that love as we contemplate this saving & redeeming love. Through the birth of the CHRIST CHILD, OUR SAVIOR, we perceive the many outpourings of God's Love & we accept the invitation of our faith to live in the spirit of cooperation & good will each day.



## In Sincere Gratitude

In the Spirit of Christian Generosity, once again as in the past, the GOODWINE FUNERAL HOME & the PULLIAM FUNERAL HOME have provided for the 2020 Religious Calendars, located in the vestibules of our Churches. Many heartfelt & sincere thanks to these individuals. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless them & their loved ones with good health, peace, & prosperity in the New Year of 2020.

Sunday, December 22, 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~  
From The Pastor ~ Nearer, My God, To Thee



The deep pondering underneath the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent remains the same for anyone interested in progressing in a relationship with God. How near does the Lord intend to come? We are about to find out in only a few days. As a kind of preview to the coming of the Word in the flesh, Isaiah discloses a God who begs Ahaz — not among the pantheon of great to ask for a sign. But Ahaz prefers to trust in kings in Israel a political alliance with Syria rather than a trusting relationship with the Lord. But remarkably, the Lord gives a sign nevertheless. Historically, we know that the promise God has given is the continuance of the Davidic dynasty. And for us it is Emmanuel, "God with us." The covenant endures, not because of politics or ideological persuasions, but because of God's fidelity. The enduring sign is life from a young woman, the root of God's creative, redemptive power, "which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh but established as Son of God in power. ..." These words of Paul to the Romans, taken from the second reading, show us that Paul grasps the whole of salvation history through the lens of God's enduring promise. In these last few days before the celebration of the Lord's Nativity, we have a chance to put God's promise in context and recognize the vital religious and historical significance of salvation history. We may be tempted to live episodic lives, such as YouTube videos flashing here and there on the computer screen. But God's promise is anything but episodic. Matthew's Gospel carefully situates the birth of Jesus within the framework of the Hebrew Scriptures, specifically the prophetic oracles of Isaiah. The Christian community makes memory in the presence of Emmanuel. Like Paul, we have received our own call granted to us in baptism to belong to Jesus Christ. We live not inside a fragment in time, but a divinely willed narrative imbued and sanctified by grace. In this regard, Joseph is a model for us in consenting to be part of God's grand story. All Joseph knew was that he was a conversation partner with the Holy who wanted him to shelter the Most High. That was enough for the righteous man; God could not be any nearer. Ordained ministers are nearer to God than we might think we deserve, as we pray and celebrate our way into God's constant presence in our lives & in the world.

### The Big Divvy

It's once again that time of year...time for the BIG DIVVY Mega Raffle. The Big Divvy has the potential to generate up to \$14,500.00 for our Parishes. Funds generated from the Mega Raffle have helped our Parishes in many ways; religious education, audio/video system in the hall, our carillon, church insulation, church hall renovations & many others. The prizes will be same as last year. First Prize \$7,000.00 ~ 2nd Prize ~ \$1,500.00 ~ Third Prize \$500.00 ~ Fourth Prize \$400.00 ~ Fifth Prize \$300.00 ~ Sixth Prize \$200.00 ~ Seventh Prize \$100.00. Winners will be drawn at 9:00 pm at the Mardi Gras Party held at Stoney Ridge on Feb. 22, 2020. The Seller of the winning ticket will win \$100.00 & the individual selling the most tickets will also win \$100.00. Tickets are \$25.00 & we will sell only 1000 tickets so your odds of winning are 1 out of 1000...much better than the lottery! You may pick up tickets to sell from either Terry Roche or from the Parish Office. Our committee needs to be our entire Parish, so we hope that you will all help in this endeavor. Let's make this a great project, have fun & help our Parishes in the process. In advance~THANK YOU VERY MUCH ~ Terry Roche~Big Divvy Chair

## St. Elizabeth Church ~ December Schedule



**CHRISTMAS EVE SACRED EUCHARIST**  
TUES. DEC. 24, 2019 AT 6:00 PM FEAST OF  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR  
~ ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
WED. DEC. 25, 2019 AT 9:00 AM ~  
ST. ELIZABETH

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION SACRED EUCHARIST**  
TUES. DEC. 31, 2019 AT 6:00 PM SACRED FEAST OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD ~ ST.  
ELIZABETH CHURCH

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION SACRED EUCHARIST**  
WED. JAN. 1, 2020 AT 9:00 AM ~ SACRED FEAST OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

### Our Lady of Lourdes Church December Schedule



**CHRISTMAS EVE SACRED EUCHARIST**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 AT 4:00 PM  
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD &  
SAVIOR ~ OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**  
**SACRED EUCHARIST**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019 AT 4:00 PM  
SACRED FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE  
MOTHER OF GOD



### Scriptural Reflections for the Solemnity Of The Birth Of Our Lord And Savior

"O Child, who willed to have for your crib a manger;  
O Creator of the universe, who stripped yourself of divine glory;  
O Redeemer, who offered your vulnerable body in sacrifice for  
the salvation of humanity! May the radiance of your birth light  
up the night of the world.... For to us a Child is born, to us a Son  
is given! What an unfathomable mystery is hidden in the  
humility of this Child!... You, Mary, who keep watch over your  
all-powerful Son, grant us your eyes to contemplate him with  
faith; grant us your heart to worship him with love. ... O Holy  
Night, so long awaited, which has united God & man forever!  
You rekindle our hope. You fill us with ecstatic wonder. You  
assure us of the triumph of love over hatred, of life over death.  
For this reason we remain absorbed in prayer. In the luminous  
silence of your Nativity, you, Emmanuel, Continue to speak to us  
& we are ready to listen to you. Amen!" (Saint John Paul II).



### In Sincere Gratitude

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in our hearts through the incarnation of LOVE, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all of your Christmas greetings & gifts. Your expression of love at this most holy season blesses my heart with gratitude to God for allowing me to serve as your priest. I am also sincerely grateful to all those parishioners who have expressed God's Love through their expressed faithful & dedicated service. May God bless each of you with a Holy & Blessed Christmas & a peaceful & healthy New Year of 2020.

### First Friday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes



The JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY MASS  
will be celebrated on FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020 at  
5:00 pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.



**Spiritual Reading for the Solemnity of the Birth Of Our Lord and Savior**

Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the house of bread, is born in a manger. It is as if he wanted to say: "Here I am, as our food." He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. ... To us, who from birth are used to taking & eating, Jesus begins to say: Take & eat. This is my body (Mt 26:26)..Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter & eat with us. At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life. After Bethlehem as the house of bread, let us reflect on Bethlehem as the city of David. ... At Christmas, in the city of David, it was the shepherds who welcomed Jesus into the world. On that night, the Gospel tells us, they were filled with fear (Lk 2:9), but the angel said to them Be not afraid (v. 10). How many times do we hear this phrase in the Gospels: Be not afraid? It seems that God is constantly repeating it as he seeks us out. Because we, from the beginning, because of our sin, have been afraid of God; after sinning, Adam says: I was afraid & so I hid (Gn 3:10). Bethlehem is the remedy for this fear, because despite man's repeated "no," God constantly says "yes." He will always be God-with-us & lest his presence inspire fear, he makes himself a tender Child. The shepherds of Bethlehem also tell us how to go forth to meet the Lord. They were keeping watch by night: they were not sleeping, but doing what Jesus often asks all of us to do, namely, be watchful. They remain alert & attentive in the darkness; and God's light then shone around them (Lk 2:9). This is also the case for us. Our life can be marked by waiting, which amid the gloom of our problems hopes in the Lord & yearns for his coming; then we will receive his life'. So the shepherds immediately set out: we are told that they went with haste. Let us go now to Bethlehem (Lk 2:15). With these words, the shepherds set out. We too, Lord, want to go up to Bethlehem.... I want to come to Bethlehem, Lord, because there you await me. I want to realize that you, lying in a manger, are the bread of my life. I need the tender fragrance of your love so that I, in turn, can be bread broken for the world. Take me upon your shoulders, Good Shepherd; loved by you, I will be able to love my brothers & sisters & to take them by the hand. Then it will be Christmas, when I can say to you: Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you (cf. Jn 21:17).

**In Gratitude**

 The gifts for the nursing home residents have been bagged, wrapped & delivered. Thanks to all who participated in making this project possible. Thanks to all who bought gifts or donated cash to purchase supplies & unreturned gifts. Thanks to our wrappers: Patti Buercklin, Susan Goodwine, Susan Emmerich, Marian Hatfield & Kyndal Maxwell for venturing out on a snowy day. Special thanks to Kayla Blank & Harmons Drug Store for donating plastic tote pages. May God bless you for your kindness & generosity. Geri

**Daily Mass Readings**

Mon. Dec. 23, 2019 Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24 Gospel Lk. 1:57-66  
Tues. Dec. 24, 2019 2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A,16 Gospel Lk. 1:67-79  
Wed. Dec. 25, 2019 Is. 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Gospel Mt. 1:1-25, Thurs. Dec. 26, 2019 Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Gospel Mt. 10:17-22  
Fri. Dec. 27, 2019 1 Jn. 1:1-4 Gospel Jn. 20:1A & 2-8



**December 25, 2019 ~ The Sacred Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus ~ From the Pastor ~ The Grace of God Has Appeared**

The patristic authors were keen on noting that, with the arrival of Christmas, the days were getting longer, the light of day lengthening. That is true for half the world, anyway. The coordination between the cosmos and the liturgical year is a beautiful thing to imagine, but hardly inclusive to those in the Southern Hemisphere whose days are now getting shorter at Christmastime. But geographical differences cannot erase the supernatural light that dominates the oracles in the book of the prophet Isaiah in the celebration of the Lord's Nativity at midnight, dawn and during the day. Whether the days are getting shorter or longer, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah underlines God's breaking into human history, made all the more apparent celebrating the Eucharist in nocte. Further, the first reading for the Mass at dawn brightens before our eyes. "See, the Lord proclaims to the ends of the: say to daughter Zion, your savior comes," our God has appeared. Indeed, even in the broad light of the coming day, the Collect remains irresistible in its championing of the divine light: "Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds." And, finally, the Mass during the day reminds the hearers that they are to behold a divine manifestation made visible now. "The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God." There is more to light than the change of seasons. The "light of faith" is what is going to make this Christmas different from last year's celebration. Seasons come and go; the winter snatches our light from us, while the spring slowly surrenders it back. But God alone illumines our hearts and minds with the light of faith, the presence of grace, the Incarnate Word. I think it is a sobering question to ask how we have allowed the light of God's love to fill our hearts and minds over the past year. As we know well, the Word has already "made his dwelling among us." Did we see his glory and bring tidings from the fields and mountaintops, announcing peace and saying, "Your God is King?" Christians have been given the inner light in baptism. Ordination is the lamp handed to us by Christ himself. Shine forth! Our faith, newly renewed this day in the sight of all, burns well into the night, illuminating the Nativity of the Lord.

**Weekly Offerings**

St. Elizabeth Church  
Week ending Sunday, December 15, 2019  
Envelopes \$3,132.00 Loose \$372.00  
Christmas Flowers \$95.00 Retirement Fund \$70.00  
4 @ \$300.00 Deposit: \$3,969.00  
Our Lady Of Lourdes Church  
Week ending Sunday, December 8, 2019  
Envelopes \$592.00 Loose \$72.00 Retirement Fund \$136.00  
Immaculate Conception \$95.00  
Deposit: \$895.00

**Prayer Requests**

Please remember the following in your prayers: Bill Birkofer (Birkofer Family), Phil Burger (Ellen Rees) Bob Callier (Jona Uptmor), Sara Casburn & Ared Allen (Linda Allen), Scott Chapman, Eileen Fabris, Terry Free (Ruth Beckes), Monica Mann (Sherri Murray-Thomas), Anthony O'Dell (Jane Bohman), Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, & the men & women in the armed forces.