



# 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 ~ 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 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter



Story in John 14:15-21 The Advocate

**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know, it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**

**John 14:15~18**



## Mass 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
May 18	7:30 am	Jane Brown by George Brown
May 19	12:00 pm	R.D. Reynolds by Ellen Rees
May 20	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 21	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 22	7:30 am	Shirley Osborn by Marjorie Boatman
May 23	4:30 pm	Monica Mann by Dave Cooper & Eileen Hartrich
May 24	7:30 am	Tammy Uptmor by Mike & Jona Uptmor
	9:00 am	Darrell & Marjorie Wilson by Wilson Brothers
	10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach

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

## Weekly Offerings

### St. Elizabeth

Week ending Sunday, May 10, 2020

Envelopes \$2,870.00 Building Fund \$30.00

Retired Priests \$120.00

Catholic Home Missions Appeal \$20.00

Catholic Relief Services \$20.00 Seminarians \$20.00

Catholic Communications Campaign \$20.00

7 online @ \$625.00 Deposit: \$3,725.00

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Envelopes \$ 720.00 Building Fund \$55.00

Operation Rice Bowl \$10.00 Seminarians \$50.00

Deposit: \$785.00



## Give Central

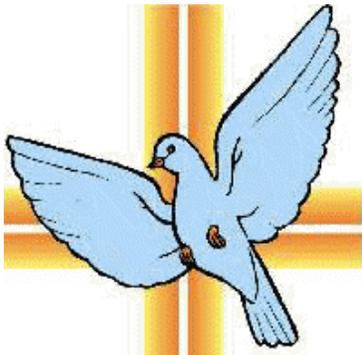
Online thru Give-Central at Church website.  
www.crawfordcountycatholics.com. Click DONATE.



## What Catholics Believe ~ The Third Person Of the Blessed Trinity ~ The Holy Spirit

The Nicene Creed confesses that the Holy Spirit "spoke through the prophets." "By 'prophets' the faith of the Church here understands all whom the Holy Spirit inspired... in the composition of the sacred books, both of the Old & the New Testaments" (CCC 702). On the one hand, this inspiration was not necessarily audible or even verbal (word for word), but on the other hand, it was more than "inspiration" in the common sense of the word, more than a vague help or inclination. On the one hand, the Spirit did not reduce his human instruments to puppets, but spoke through the different personalities, backgrounds, & styles of his human authors; for "grace does not destroy nature but perfects it." But on the other hand, he insured that their writings (Scripture) would have infallibility & divine authority, so that we can be certain of its truth; for "God can neither deceive nor be deceived." A sinful & fallible mankind needed no less; & a wise & merciful God provided no less. "God gave the law as a 'pedagogue' [tutor] to lead his people toward Christ. But the Law's powerlessness to save man along with the growing awareness of sin that it imparts, enkindles a desire for the Holy Spirit" (CCC 708). For without the Spirit within us, we cannot obey God's Law. Thus Saint Augustine prays, "Give what you command [i.e., give the power, through the Spirit, to obey your command], & then command what you will." Augustine also says, "Love God and then do what you will," for as Christ says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). It is the Spirit who gives us that greatest gift, the gift of loving God. Only one merely human being in history was so "full of grace" & of the Holy Spirit in this world that she was sinless, and perfectly obeyed the "first & greatest commandment," to love God with her whole heart & soul & mind & strength. Mary is the Spirit's masterpiece, "our tainted nature's solitary boast." "The Holy Spirit prepared Mary by his grace. It was fitting that the mother of him in whom 'the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily' should herself be 'full of grace.' She was, by sheer grace, conceived without sin as the most humble of creatures, most capable of welcoming the inexpressible gift of the Almighty" (CCC 722). The Holy Spirit is to the Church what the soul is to the body. He is the Church's soul, the Church's life. The Church is the Body of Christ & the temple of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies too are "temples of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor.6:19) because we are the cells in the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit infallibly guides the Church's earliest ecumenical Councils to formulate the doctrine of the Trinity including the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Why do Catholics believe in the Holy Spirit? On the authority of the Holy Catholic Church, which teaches it. And why do Catholics believe this Church has infallible authority? Because the Holy Spirit, & not any human spirit, is her soul. "The Church's mission is not an addition to that of Christ & the Holy Spirit, but is its sacrament" (CCC 738). The Holy Spirit is also the power of our moral life, "life in Christ according to the Spirit" (CCC 740). The Spirit gives us both the (long-developing) "fruits of the Spirit" & the (more quickly-given) "gifts of the Spirit." And "through the Church's sacraments, Christ communicates his Holy & sanctifying Spirit to the members of his Body" (CCC 739). The Spirit teaches us both through the Church which he ensouls & individually to pray & worship. "The Spirit is the master of prayer" (CCC 7410).

Sunday, May 17, 2020 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter ~  
From the Pastor: Another Advocate



**The Advocate, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send  
in my name, will teach  
you everything, and remind  
you of all that  
I have said to you.**

John 14:26

Last week's readings wanted Jesus' followers to see the Church as a spiritual building built of living stones with Christ as the cornerstone. This week the Scriptures show the depth of protection God the Father goes to safeguard the Church. Today the word to ponder is "advocate" or, rather, "advocates." The first advocate is Jesus Christ. Jesus represents the interests of his followers & disciples, which Jesus places before his Father. The second advocate is the Spirit. He arrives as Jesus is departing from this earth. What does an advocate do? An advocate undertakes various roles. He often serves as a

defense attorney, also as a prosecutor in the cases leveled against the world, or even as a witness to the truths of Jesus. In either role, the Advocate wipes away all deception when believers see God. A follower of Jesus has to be impressed by the care & concern the entire Trinity has for each member of Jesus' flock. Not only do they have the sacraments to help them live the precepts & teachings of Jesus, but all three persons of the Trinity take part in safeguarding their vocation as they journey through life. As stated above, each advocate acts by presenting their interests when necessary & defending them when needed. The Holy Spirit, for instance, the second advocate, is sent from the Father to dwell within the believer, as a keeper of the memory of Jesus' teachings. As the Spirit of truth, this advocate ratifies the teachings of Jesus, who is the authentic revelation of God originating from the Father & defending Jesus' truth against the world's angel of darkness, untruth & obstinacy. The Holy Spirit also inspires & emboldens Jesus' followers to choose good actions when a choice is presented. The holiness of Christians is deepened & intensified as he or she chooses acts of service for neighbors who are facing challenges & hardship alone. In this way, the Spirit motivates believers to see God in their everyday lives. My friend Jack's mother always said, with her finger pointing upward, "Our main work on this earth is to get from here to there, but we can never presume we'll get where we're headed without help, & God is that help!" She knew that if God is on our side, & we believe in him, then who can be against us. If all believers hear this & live it, they will have nothing to fear, for they know they have the perfect Advocate.

### Daily Mass Readings

Mon. May 18, 2020 First Reading Acts 16:11-15  
Gospel Jn. 15:26-16:4A

Tues. May 19, 2020 First Reading Acts 16:22-34 Gospel Jn. 16:5-11  
Wed. May 20, 2020 First Reading Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 Gospel Jn. 16:12-15  
Thurs. May 21, 2020 The Ascension of the Lord ~ Acts 1:1-11, Second Reading Eph. 1:17-23, Gospel Mt. 28:16-20, Thursday Sixth Week of Easter Acts 18:1-8 Gospel Jn. 16:16-20  
Friday, May 22, 2020 Acts 18:9-18 Gospel Jn. 16:20-23

### Spiritual Reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

A Christian is a disciple of the Lord who keeps his commandments, and if not... Jesus has said openly: He cannot be my disciple. A Christian seeks God's will, the happiness of others, and... the Church's presence in today's world. A Christian loves the cross of Christ and carries it in his or her life. A Christian is a living Credo, continuing Jesus' work here on earth, and making the song of hope resound in the midst of the world's trials. Whatever difficulties may arise, the Christian remains God's heir. For love of Christ, a Christian accepts hatred if it comes. The Holy Spirit dwells in and enlightens a Christian. A Christian who is continually renewed makes Jesus' revolution of love alive in his or her life. With the Church, a Christian lives the Passion of Christ in union with Mary, in the midst of critics, opposition, and that suffering which is destructive. In a word, a Christian is a faithful reproduction of the life of Christ who causes all who see him or her to say, "There is Christ!"

### Catholic Charities Thank-You



Catholic Charities wishes to thank the parishioners of St. Elizabeth's Parish for the Annual Collection Donation of \$1,267.00 received to date. The donation to the Annual Collection helps care for our neighbors who struggle with the basic necessities of living. Thank you for your example of discipleship in caring for our neighbors who are in need.

Catholic Charities wishes to thank the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for the Annual Collection Donation of \$211.00 received to date. The donation to the Annual Collection helps care for our neighbors who struggle with the basic necessities of living. Thank you for your example of

### Scriptural Reflections for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

When Philip "proclaimed the Christ" to the crowds, "with one accord" they "paid attention to what was said." Their full acceptance of the Word of God provoked Peter and John to go to them and lay hands on them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. This fulfills what Jesus promised us the night before he died: "The Father will give you the Spirit of truth. He will be in you." The 'reason for our hope' is a Person we have met: Christ the Lord, whom we sanctify in our hearts and whose commandments we keep. Just as the crowds today are transfixed by the attraction of Philip, so we are captivated by the One who has loved us and revealed himself to us. It is the source of "great joy."

### 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.

## What Is A Novena, & Why Should I Pray One?

"Jesus always responds to a prayer offered in faith." - Catechism of the Catholic Church. The word novena refers to nine of something. Traditionally it's a nine-day prayer, but it can also be a prayer of nine hours, or nine weeks, or simply nine repetitions. One of the more famous recent testimonies we have to the power of this simple form of prayer is the "express novena" to the Blessed Mother - a repetition of the Memorare nine times in a few minutes - that Mother Teresa likes to pray during times of challenge or difficulty. So, why nine? Is this the magic number that ensures God hears & answers our prayers? And why should you & I pray novenas today? The number we invoke during the devotion of a novena is, itself, symbolic & historically significant. Three times three, nine, is a trinity of trinities - it brings God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit to mind by its very form. On the other hand, it's incomplete - one shy of ten. The incompleteness we sense can only be made complete by God, & that's something we can't forget. The novena reminds us of our neediness even as it assures us of God's greatness. Novenas take their inspiration from Scripture. After Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, the apostles & the Blessed Virgin Mary spent nine days in prayer in the upper room: "All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women & Mary the mother of Jesus, & with his brothers" (Acts 1:14). Then, at the end of their "novena," on the feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them, filling them with supernatural gifts. Whether they are prayers of thanksgiving or petition, novenas by their very form remind us of our dependency on Christ, & allow us to ask - in a manner united to the first foundations of our Church - for the Holy Spirit to come assist us. Praying a Novena with the Right Attitude. Because a novena is such a powerful form of prayer, sometimes we can be tempted to abuse that power. When you hear stories of prayers that supposedly never fail - as though the novena were a magical incantation that always gets you what you want - you're seeing abuse, & misuse, of the novena. Prayer is not magic. We can't manipulate God just by saying a few "special" words. Even the most sincere prayer doesn't come with a "guarantee" that we'll get what we want. We will get an answer - that much is guaranteed. The answer may not be what we expect, & there will be times when it's exactly the opposite of what we think we want. But God answers on the basis of our needs, not just our wants. In everything we pray, the prayer of Jesus himself at Gethsemane is implicit. "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. Luke 22:42 The Gospels teach clearly that time & time again, Jesus turned to his Father in prayer. He did this, as he did everything in life, for the glory of the Father, & for love of us. He wanted to leave us an example. When we pray, we must pray that God's will be done. From Jesus' prayer, we learn the real object of prayer. Prayer isn't about changing God, because God doesn't change. The object of prayer is changing ourselves. We should be prepared for our prayers to be answered the way the apostles were answered. The gifts they received at Pentecost were surely an answer to their novena prayers. But the gifts weren't just a days worth of good feeling. They were a spiritual preparation for the hard life the apostles had ahead of them - a life of trials & even martyrdom, but a life nonetheless that conformed them ever more closely to Jesus Christ. Even when they suffered, the apostles knew joy, even ecstasy - because they had received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that they had prayed for those nine days before Pentecost. That outpouring of the Holy Spirit, & the lasting joy that comes with it, is the real object of all our prayers. Praying with the Whole Church. Since those days of the apostles praying together for nine days, novenas have developed slowly, perhaps more slowly & quietly than many other devotions with which we may be familiar. By now, of course, novenas are not only

Only a well-known popular devotion but have also been adopted officially by the Church for certain occasions. One of the best ways to pray a novena is to pray with the whole Church. Around the liturgical calendar, various feasts have traditional novenas assigned to them. In particular, there's a Pentecost Novena, a Christmas Novena, a Novena of the Immaculate Conception, & the Divine Mercy Novena, which is prayed on Good Friday. Different Kinds of Novenas - Novenas to the Holy Spirit take their inspiration from the apostles' nine days of prayer between the Ascension & Pentecost. When he called the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII asked the whole Church to join him in a novena to the Holy Spirit for the inspiration of the council ([www.ewtn.com/devotiona//pentecost/seven/htm](http://www.ewtn.com/devotiona//pentecost/seven/htm)). Novenas to the Blessed Virgin Mary appear under many of her titles, among them Our Lady of Sorrows [www.catho/icdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p000028.htm](http://www.catho/icdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p000028.htm) & our Lady of Good Remedy ([www.catho/icdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p00067.htm](http://www.catho/icdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p00067.htm)). St. Anthony of Padua was known as the Wonder-Worker, & Catholics often turn to him for finding lost objects, or even souls ([www.ewtn.com/devotionals/novena/anthony\\_.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/novena/anthony_.htm)). St. Josemaria Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei, is popular with people who want to find or keep work ([www.iosemariaescriva.info/opus-dei/NovenaforWork.pdf](http://www.iosemariaescriva.info/opus-dei/NovenaforWork.pdf)). St. Joseph, who provided a home to the child Jesus, is often invoked by Catholics needing to sell a home ([www.stiosephsite.com/SJSPrayerToSellahome.htm](http://www.stiosephsite.com/SJSPrayerToSellahome.htm)). St. Thérèse of Lisieux, also called the Little Flower, is popular among many today who pray various novenas to her for help in all kinds of situations ([www.ewtn.com/therese/novena.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/therese/novena.htm)). How Do I Pray a Novena? There are many ways to pray a novena. You could certainly pray spontaneously for nine days & designate that as a novena for a particular intention. But praying, like speaking or writing, is a skill. You learn how to speak or write persuasively from people who know what they're doing. In the same way, when you use some of the saints' own prayers, you're learning to pray from people who have practiced the art for a long time. That's why you'll find many novenas with a set text, usually a prayer for each of nine days, with a space for you to mention your special intention. In times of difficulty, anxiety, or uncertainty, many people turn to St. Jude, long known as the patron saint of "hopeless" or desperate causes. This novena prayer is simple - one set of prayers, said for nine days - &, as a powerful aid in restoring calm in stressful times, can be a great way to begin a novena devotion. Novena Prayer to St. Jude. (The following prayers are repeated once a day for nine consecutive days.) Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant & friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered your beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors & invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless & alone. Make use, I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible & speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation & help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, & sufferings, particularly (mention your request here), & that I may praise God with you & all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special & powerful patron, & to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. (Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, & one Glory St. Jude Thaddeus, pray for us, & for all who invoke your aid. Christ Teaches Us to Pray Without Ceasing. God is our loving Father. We come to him in our childlike simplicity & ask for what we think we need, endeavoring to understand what it is he knows we need. This continual dependence, this childlike asking, is what the novena emphasizes by its very form. We don't stop at once or twice; we keep going back, nine times. Novenas invite us to keep asking, just as Jesus told us to.