



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.

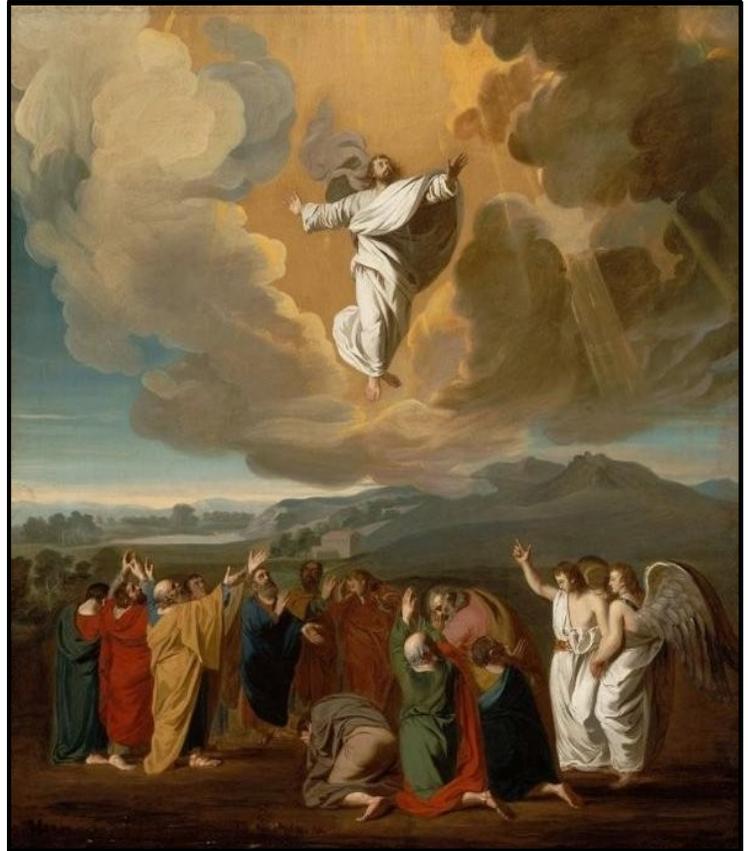
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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 24, 2020 The Ascension of the Lord ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter



Story in Matthew 28:16-20 The Commissioning of the Disciples.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached & said to them, "All power in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of age."



Mass Intentions

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
May 25	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 26	12:00 pm	Ronald Laski by Sarah Laski
May 27	7:30 am	Marilu Fehrenbacher by Albert Fehrenbacher Family
May 28	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 29	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 30	4:30 pm	In Thanksgiving by James & Donna Voss
May 31	7:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach
	9:00 am	Ron Dhom Birthday by Ethel Dhom
	10:30 am	Special Intentions



Distribution of Holy Communion

With Bishop Paprocki's permission, HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed WITHOUT PUBLIC MASS beginning SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020 at 4:30 P.M. Pertaining to Social Distancing, there are no more than 10 people allowed in the Church at the same time. A short Prayer Service will be held with an Opening Prayer, Our Father, Distribution of Holy Communion, and Blessing. Those who have already received Holy Communion are asked to leave the Church after reception so that others may have the opportunity to receive. Following is the schedule:

SATURDAY 4:30 PM

SUNDAY 7:30 AM

SUNDAY 9:00 AM OUR LADY OF LOURDES

SUNDAY 10:30 AM

MONDAY 7:30 AM

TUESDAY 12:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM

THURSDAY 7:30 AM

FRIDAY 7:30 AM

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact FATHER FLACH. Thank you & God bless you. PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO DISTRIBUTION of HOLY COMMUNION on TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020.



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), Mary Lou Tuttle, Lee Webster (Bob & Kourtney Coffman), Charlita Wilson, Brian Wirey, & the men & women in the armed forces.

Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth

Week ending Sunday, May 17, 2020

Envelopes \$1,905.00 Building Fund \$15.00

Retired Priests \$15.00 4 online @ \$325.00

Deposit: \$2,260.00

Our Lady of Lourdes

Envelopes \$ 100.00 Building Fund \$10.00

Retired Priests \$10.00

Deposit: \$120.00

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.

Give Central

Online thru Give-Central at Church website.

www.crawfordcountycatholics.com. Click DONATE.



Daily Mass Readings

Mon. May 25, 2020 First Reading Acts 19:1-8

Gospel Jn. 16:29-33

Tues. May 26, 2020 First Reading Acts 20: 17-27

Gospel Jn. 17:1-11A

Wed. May 27, 2020 First Reading Acts 20:28-38

Gospel Jn. 17:11B-19

Thurs. May 28, 2020 First Reading Acts 22:30, 23:6-11

Gospel Jn. 17:20-26

Fri. May 29, 2020 First Reading Acts 25:13B-21

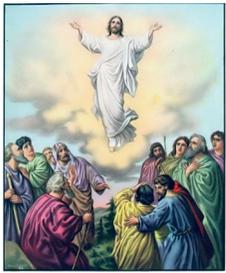
Gospel Jn. 21:15-19

Scriptural Reflections for The Ascension of the Lord

"The Ascension of Jesus into heaven," Pope Francis said, "acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: in Christ, true God & true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us.... If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Savior." Thus, as Benedict XVI wrote, it would be a mistake to interpret the Ascension as "the temporary absence of Christ from the world."

Spiritual Reading for the Ascension of the Lord

The central idea in the liturgy today is the raising of our hearts toward heaven, so that we may begin to dwell in spirit where Jesus has gone before us. "Christ's Ascension," says Saint Leo, "is our own ascension; our body has the hope of one day being where its glorious head has preceded it." In fact, our Lord had already said in his discourse after the Last Supper, I go to prepare a place for you & if I shall go & prepare a place for you, I will come again & will take you to myself; that where I am, you also may be. The Ascension is, then, a feast of joyful hope, a sweet foretaste of heaven. By going before us, Jesus our head has given us the right to follow him there some day, & we can even say with Saint Leo, "In the person of Christ, we have penetrated the heights of heaven." As in Christ crucified we die



The day the apostles did not want to happen arrived! Jesus is going home to his Father. Yet it is the day the Father has long awaited. For on this day the word made flesh, now the risen Lord, takes his place at God's right hand. There his pleased Father has placed every power in heaven & earth at his feet. Although delighted to return, Jesus wanted this made clear: He is not abandoning his disciples. In just a little while, they will understand how his departure will soon become their hope. When Jesus ascends, the Holy Spirit will descend upon them & the Spirit will give them the necessary seeds of leadership. These 40 days with the presence of the risen Jesus has truly transformed the apostles. The Resurrection appearances gave them opportunities to verify that indeed Jesus is truly alive, as well as to deepen their own understanding of God's reign. Jesus' presence made the apostles more certain of who Jesus is, more convinced of what he taught & strengthened their faith to follow him. The promise of the Spirit's conferral excites the apostles. They know the Spirit's power comes from on high, bringing to an end the time of Jesus, while setting the scene for the new age of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will send them on their first saving mission reminding them of what to preach and giving them the proper voice to proclaim it. This promise alone gives them the hope of success & a joyful willingness to begin. As the disciples' gaze upon Jesus taking his leave to return to his waiting Father, they do not yet know the gravity of this rite of passage for themselves & for the newly forming Church. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, as the keeper of Jesus' memory, will impart Jesus in their hearts & on the lips. Through baptism this mission becomes everyone's with God willingly sharing the Holy Spirit's power. When believers commit their lives to Jesus' saving mission, they can certainly trust that their efforts will be sustained with the strength of his Father's faithful love. This same love that brought about Jesus Christ's resurrection gives assurance to every follower guaranteed the same promise.

Spiritual Reading for the Ascension of the Lord continued



Ascension

to sin, as in the risen Christ we rise to the life of grace, so too, we are raised up to heaven in the Ascension of Christ. This vital participation in Christ's mysteries is the essential consequence of our incorporation in him. He is our head; we, as his members, are totally dependent upon him and intimately bound to his destiny. God, who is rich in mercy, says Saint Paul, for his exceeding charity wherewith he loved us hath quickened us together in Christ And hath raised us up. ...and hath made us sit together in the heavenly places through Christ Jesus (Eph 2:4- 6). Our right to heaven has been given us, our place is ready; it is for us to live in such a way that we may occupy it someday. Meanwhile, we must actualize the beautiful prayer which the liturgy puts on our lips: Grant O almighty God, that we, too, may dwell in spirit in the heavenly mansions (Collect). Where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also, Jesus said one day. If Jesus is really our treasure, our heart cannot be anywhere but near him in heaven. This is the great hope of the Christian soul, so beautifully expressed in the hymn...: O Jesus, be the hope of our hearts, our joy in sorrow, the sweet fruit of our life.

"When the Father sends his Word, he always sends his Breath [Spirit]. In their joint mission, the Son & the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable. To be sure, it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God [Colossians 1:15], but it is the Spirit who reveals him" (CCC 689). "The Holy Spirit is at work with the Father & the Son from the beginning. But in these 'end times,' ushered in by the Son's redeeming Incarnation, the Spirit is revealed & given, recognized & welcomed as a person. Now can this divine plan, accomplished in Christ, the firstborn & head of the new creation, be embodied in mankind by the outpouring of the Spirit: as the Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, & the life everlasting" (CCC 686). These last five articles of the Creed are the Spirit's work too. All the rest of the Creed belongs to the Holy Spirit. The Creed is totally Trinitarian. It is not Trinitarian plus anything else. The Trinity has no postscripts. " Spirit does not speak of himself. The Spirit who 'has spoken through the prophets' makes us hear the Father's Word, but we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only by the movement by which he reveals the Word to us. The Spirit... 'will not speak on his own.' Such properly divine self-effacement... " (CCC 687) is remarkable. God is self-effacing! God is humble! How dare we be proud? Humility, subordination, submission, obedience to authority — this is very unpopular in our secular world, but it is the very life of the Trinity, the nature of God himself. It "goes all the way up." It is not merely a human virtue, it is certainly not an old-fashioned superstition; it is the nature of ultimate reality. No man was ever more obedient than Jesus Christ, God incarnate. Since it was not demeaning for God the Son to obey God the Father (they are equals!), it is not demeaning for human equals to obey each other: for children to obey their parents, wives their husbands, or citizens their rulers, as Scripture clearly commands (see Ephesians 5:21-6:9; Colossians 3:18; 4: 1, & Jesus' radical words in Matthew 20:20-28). Obedience means something totally different in the Christian life than it means in the world. It does not signify inferiority in any way. Christ was obedient to the Father, but he was equal to the Father in all things. The Spirit is equally divine, yet he is self-effacing. Therefore Scripture's command that some of us obey others "in Christ" in no way signifies inferiority, as it does in the world. We cannot speak of the invisible God directly, but only through visible symbols. Three of the most prominent symbols for the Holy Spirit in Scripture are water, fire, and the dove. "Water. The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism. Just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit" (CCC 694). Water is the most important element in nature: it is necessary for all life, it was the second thing God created, after light. It is the element most of us naturally love the most. Our favorite vacation spot is the sea. We have a mysterious love of moving water. And some of the great saints, like Saint Teresa of Avila, say it has taught them more than books. Jesus spoke of the Spirit as "living [moving] water": "Jesus stood up and proclaimed, 'If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water."' Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive" (John 7:37-39). Fire. God revealed himself to Moses in a burning bush. Scripture describes him as "a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). Mystical experiences of him, such as Pascal's, often take that fiery form. 'Fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions. The prayer of the prophet Elijah, who 'arose like fire' and whose 'word burned like a torch,' brought down fire from heaven on the

What Catholics Believe continued from page 3

sacrifice on Mount Carmel. This event was a 'figure' of the fire of the Holy Spirit, who transforms what he In the form of tongues 'as of fire,' the Holy Spirit rests touches (Acts 2:3-4; on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost ccc 696). The dove symbolizes peace, one of the most precious fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). "When Christ comes up from the water of his baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes down upon him and remains with him (CCC 701). The Spirit is both fire and peace, both fire and water; paradoxically opposite symbols from nature must be used to express adequately the One who transcends anything in nature.

Pope Francis: Pray The Rosary At 'This Time Of Trial'

As the coronavirus pandemic has led to many families praying together more, Pope Francis has invited the faithful to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home during May, the month of special devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary: Below is the-full text of the Pope's April 25 letter & the two accompanying prayers. "Dear brothers & sisters, the month of May is the approaching time when the People of God express 'with particular intensity their love--& devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. "It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come 'to appreciate all the more this' family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. "For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. "This can be done as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, & it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow. "I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, & that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone. "Dear brothers & sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more a spiritual family & will help us overcome this time of trial. "I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering greatly, & I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, & with great affection, I send you my blessing." ~ First Prayer ~ O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation & hope: We entrust ourselves to you, ' Health of the Sick, who; at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus Suffering, & persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people," you know our needs, & we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy & celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love to conform ourselves to the will of the Father & to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering & burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious & Blessed Virgin. ~ Second Prayer ~ "We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God." In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering & anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God & our Mother, & seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught & mourn their loved ones who have died &, at times, are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick & who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the

Pope Francis: Pray The Rosary At 'This Time Of Trial' cont.

future & the consequences for the economy & employment. Mother of God & our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end & that hope & peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick & the victims be comforted, & their hearts be opened to confidence & trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers & volunteers who are on the front line of this emergency & are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort & grant them strength, generosity & continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night & day, & to priests who, in their pastoral concern & fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help & support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men & women engaged in scientific research may find effective solutions to over-come this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude & generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life & may devise social & economic solutions inspired by farsightedness & solidarity. Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing & stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family & to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity & solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations in poverty & need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress & pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand & free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation & hope, do we entrust ourselves, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Memorial Day

Have a safe and Happy Memorial Day on Monday,
May 25, 2020.



Please remember to attend weekly Mass