



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 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

*My sheep hear
my voice;
I know them, and
they follow me.*



Story in John 10:1~10 The Good Shepherd

1 In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God. ² ^[a]He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, & apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, & the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, & the darkness did not ^[b]comprehend it. ⁶ There ^[c]came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ ^[d]He came ^[e]as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ ^[f]He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. ⁹ There was the true Light ^[g]which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, & the world was made through Him, & the world did not know Him.



Mass Intentions

May 2	4:30 pm	Harry & Marie Bohman Anniversary Deceased by George & Jane Bohman
May 3	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Special Intentions Calberta Goda 15th Birthday by George & Jane Bohman
May 4	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 5	12:00 pm	Special Intentions
May 6	7:30 am	Jim Loy by Ann Loy
May 7	7:30 am	Karlene Frese by Pete Frese
May 8	7:30 am	Special Intentions
May 9	4:30 pm	Monica Mann by Celeste White
May 10	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	For all parishioners by Fr. Flach Patty Sycho by Keith & Rita Wirey Francis Medina by Rito & Maria Medina

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

Weekly Offerings

St. Elizabeth
Week ending Sunday, April 26, 2020 \$0
Envelopes \$1,000.00 Seminarians \$25.00
Palm Sunday \$40.00
Holy Land/Good Friday \$25.00
Catholic Home Mission Appeal \$50.00
4 Online @ \$300.00 Deposit: \$ 1,440.00

Our Lady of Lourdes
Envelopes \$ 520.00 Deposit: \$520.00



Give Central

St. Elizabeth has an Online Giving called Give Central. You can find this on the Church website, www.crawfordcountycatholics.com. You can click on the DONATE button and click on whatever donation you would like to donate to, such as church offeratory, building fund, etc. Thank you to all that use this service.

Personnel Change

Bishop Paprocki has granted permission to Father Flach to retire at the end of June, 2020. In light of this information, Bishop Paprocki has appointed Father Suresh Sambapura to serve at St. Elizabeth Church, Robinson and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Oblong. Thank you & God bless you.

Scriptural Reflections for the Fourth Sunday of Easter



Peter stands up with the Eleven and preaches about Jesus, our "Lord and Christ." When the people hear that it is by Christ's wounds that they have been healed, they themselves are "cut to the heart." They beg "What are we to do, brothers?" They have found in the witness of the Apostles an authority they are eager to follow. This is what Jesus means when he says that the Good Shepherd walks ahead of his sheep, and that the sheep follow him "because they recognize his voice." Good Shepherd Sunday celebrates the fulfillment of "the promise made to us" that God will send a Shepherd who will give us life "more abundantly."

Spiritual Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter



Christ is the Good Shepherd; he calls his sheep by name & leads them forth. We, his flock, know his voice & we share his concern to gather his people together, to lead them on the way of salvation.... Let yourselves be summoned by the love of Christ; recognize his voice which rings in the temple of your heart. Receive his luminous & penetrating glance which opens the paths of your life upon the horizons of the mission of the Church, today more than ever committed to teaching man his true being, his end, his destiny, & to revealing to faithful souls the unspeakable riches of the love of Christ. Have no fear of the fact that the response he requires is radical, because Jesus, who has first loved you, is ready to give what he asks of you. If he asks much it is because he knows that you can give much. Young people, give the Church a hand in the task of saving the world of youth. React against the culture of death by means of the culture of life. Lord, Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of our souls, you who know your sheep & know how to reach man's heart, open the minds & hearts of those who search for & await a word of truth for their lives; let them understand that only in the mystery of your Incarnation do they find full light; arouse the courage of those who know where to seek the truth, but fear that what you ask will be too demanding; stir the heart of those who would follow you, but who cannot overcome doubts & fears, & who in the end follow other voices & other paths which lead nowhere. You who are the Word of the Father, the Word which creates & saves, the Word which enlightens & sustains hearts, conquer with your Spirit the resistance & delays of indecisive hearts; arouse in those whom you call the courage of love's answer: Here I am, send me! (Is 6:8). Virgin Mary, young daughter of Israel, support with your motherly love those whom the Father will grant that they hear his voice.... Let them repeat with you the yes of a joyful & irrevocable gift of self. Amen.

Sunday, May 3, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter ~

From the Pastor: **The Only Way**

Strong winds of change have taken hold of today's readings. In the Gospel, Jesus claims the mantle of the Good Shepherd, not only because he finds the lost sheep, but because he guides them to his Father as the way, the truth & the life. The risen Jesus is now the recognizable leader who speaks definitively for his Father regarding who gains entrance through the sheep gate. Jesus knows his flock & can tell who **t r u l y b e l i e v e s** & who pretends. With certitude, Jesus separates those who now accept him as Lord & Messiah & those who only make believe. When they accept Jesus as Lord they are admitting that Jesus is the anointed of God, the Messiah. Peter is firm in asking for this fealty. In his heart, Peter knows how much Jesus has suffered & will not yield even one iota on this point. Notice how Peter stands out in this first reading from Acts. His is a refreshing bravado & passion for Jesus. Peter did not show this same disposition on the night of Jesus' captivity. A European proverb says: "Heroism consists of changing on one minute longer." When Peter realized his betrayal, instead of taking his life as Judas did, Peter held on for one more minute, & during this moment remembered. He recalled Jesus' preaching on compassion & mercy & in that short minute begged for Jesus' mercy. The result is the fiery spirited preacher Peter became explaining to the Jews that Jesus is their Messiah. Why? Because Jesus is David's descendant & rightfully presides over a restored Israel. For Peter, both titles, Lord & Messiah, now belong only to Jesus. "He [Peter] testified with many other arguments & was exhorting them. ... And about three thousand persons were added that day" (Acts 2:40-41) Peter reminds his readers that Christ suffered in silence when insulted, & he went humbly to be judged & die for their sins. Yet thinking of his own betrayal, Peter added, "Repent & be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; & you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (v. 38). Jesus is making it quite clear that he is the only way to the Father. As Pope Francis emphasizes time & again, an encounter with Jesus is necessary & failure to accept Jesus as the proper way is foolish. The lack of comprehension of this pathway can only say one thing about the believer: He thinks he sees, but is still blind. Full acceptance of Jesus & his message is the only way to a life of abundance.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary During the Coronavirus Pandemic



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself

our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are on trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen



Daily Mass Readings

Mon. May 4, 2020 First Reading Acts 11:1~18
Gospel Jn. 10:11~18

Tues. May 5, 2020 First Reading Acts 11:19~26
Gospel Jn. 10~22~30

Wed. May 6, 2020 First Reading Acts 12:24~13:5A
Gospel Jn. 12:44~50

Thurs. May 7, 2020 First Reading Acts 13:13~25
Gospel Jn. 13:16~20

Fri. May 8, 2020 First Reading Acts 13:26~33
Gospel Jn. 14:1~6

A Note About Holy Communion



If you prefer to receive holy Communion under 'both kinds' — that is, the body and blood — it is important to note that "since Christ is sacramentally present under each of the species, communion under the Species of bread alone makes it possible to receive all the fruit Of Eucharistic grace" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1390). It is also worth noting

that, in the United States, Communion in the hand is allowed by permission of Pope Paul VI, but the decision on which way to receive (in the hand or on the tongue) ultimately is left up to the faithful, not the extraordinary minister or the pastor. However, the Code of Canon law states that, in view of the common good, "ecclesiastical authority can direct the exercise of rights which are proper to the Christian faithful," which means-that, for reasons of the common good, the bishop may request and urge the faithful to receive holy Communion in the hand (see Canon 223). Finally, reception of Communion is not a requirement for those attending Mass. Indeed, the sacraments are gifts generously bestowed upon us by our Creator, and sometimes we find reason that we should forego the gift for a time. The tradition of the Church has long held that the faithful unable or unwilling to receive the body and blood of Christ at Mass might instead participate in "spiritual Communion" what St. -Thomas Aquinas described as "an ardent desire to - receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and in lovingly embracing him."

Prayer During An Epidemic



Lord Jesus, Hear our pleas, our Good Shepherd and Divine Physician. We implore your mercy in the wake of an outbreak of serious illness and disease. Guide our efforts to prevent contagion and make preparation to care for those most vulnerable. Assist all professionals and volunteers who work to eradicate the epidemic now spreading. May our actions be

marked by your steadfast love and selfless service and never by panic, or fear. Bestow your comfort and healing to the sick, sustain and strengthen them by your grace. May they know your closeness as they carry the cross of illness. And may all who have been called from this life come to worship you eternally with all the saints as you grant consolation and peace to their mourners. Amen. Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us. St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, pray for us. St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us.

Please remember to attend weekly Mass

FAITH and COMMON SENSE ~
THE CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO AN EPIDEMIC

Care for the Most Vulnerable

During times of crisis, the poor, elderly, or those living alone tend to become the most vulnerable to illness and death. While parishes should keep track of and have a plan for assisting those in need, individuals, to the best of their ability, also should try to maintain connections with those in need. During times of stress, it may be tempting to isolate and insulate, and to put self before others. At those moments, it may be helpful to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for how we can best care for our neighbor.

Care for the Sick

In the case of a severe outbreak, many individuals will need care. Clergy should follow the diocesan policy when it comes to caring for the sick. In its document "Policies Relating to Planning for Seasonal & Pandemic Influenza (and other Infectious Disease Outbreaks)," the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, recommends that each deanery should name at least two priests and, if available, two deacons to care for the sick during a pandemic. Lay people could assist on a voluntary basis.

Care for the Common Good

In the event of an epidemic or a pandemic, one's actions must take into account the common good. Basic everyday actions, as recommended by the CDC, include: • Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care. • Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue. • Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily — for example, tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, cabinet handles — using a regular household detergent and water. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent and water prior to disinfection. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. • Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. • Choose a room and bathroom in your home that can be used to separate sick

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 Catholics Believe ~
The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity ~
The Holy Spirit



"The Holy Spirit is the first to awaken faith in us. But the Spirit is the last of the Persons of the Holy Trinity to be revealed. Saint Gregory of Nazianzus explains this progression in terms of the pedagogy of divine 'condescension':

'The Old Testament proclaimed the Father clearly, but the Son more obscurely. The New Testament revealed the Son and gave us a glimpse of the divinity of the Spirit. Now the Spirit dwells among us and grants us a clearer vision of himself. It was not prudent, when the divinity of the Father had not yet been confessed, to proclaim the Son openly and, when the divinity of the Son was not (CCC 684) yet admitted, to add The

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

Holy Spirit Christ said this: he told his apostles before his ascension, "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor [the Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). If Jesus Christ would appear visibly in person anywhere on earth, a billion people would probably come. Yet we have something better than that, according to Christ's own teaching. We have the Holy Spirit. But why is this better? Because the Spirit's presence to us can be even more intimate than Christ's. Or, rather, Christ himself can be more intimately present through his Spirit than he was to his apostles bodily. They knew him better — more intimately and more accurately — after he left them and sent his Spirit. This is clear by comparing the apostles, especially Peter, in the Gospels and in Acts. The same is true for us. The visible Christ is separated from us by 2000 years of time and 4000 miles of space. We are not first century Jews; we did not see him. The Father is separated even more: he is infinitely transcendent, and "dwells in inaccessible light." But the Spirit makes Christ known to the eyes of our spirit, as Christ made the Father known to our bodily eyes. The Father is God outside us, the Son is God beside us, the Spirit is God inside us, God haunting us, God "possessing" us. He is maximal intimacy. That is why it is "better. This "indwelling of the Holy Spirit" is the culmination of the plan God had for us before the foundation of the world. "God is love," therefore all he does comes from his love, his essence. What love seeks above all is intimacy. Therefore God seeks intimacy with us. He reveals himself in three stages of intimacy. 1) Throughout Old Testament history, the Father enters into the daily life of his chosen people. He makes himself like a good parent to his children. He does not keep to himself, but comes out of himself to us. (For love is "ek static", "beside itself," out of itself.) 2) In the Gospels, the Son becomes even more intimate; he comes down from Heaven to earth and becomes one of us — in fact, the lowest. This is as if a parent became a child to become more intimate with his children. 3) Yet even that is not enough. He has to get "under our skin." After Pentecost, the Spirit dwells within us. This is the ultimate goal of love: to get into your beloved's heart. This is the ultimate reason for God's creation of the universe, the reason for each detail of his providence (see Romans 8:28), the reason for the Incarnation, and the reason for the Church. That's what they are for! The universe and the Church are divinely designed saint-making machines. They are bridal chambers. All three Persons act together in all three stages of our destiny. First, the Father creates us — not alone, but by his Word (the Son) (Genesis 1:3) and his Spirit (Genesis 1:2). Then, the Son redeems us — not alone, but by obeying his Father's will unto death, and by being baptized with the Spirit (John 1:33). Finally, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us — not alone, but by showing us Christ (John 16:14-15) and, through Christ, the Father. The work of creation is especially "appropriated" to the Father, redemption to the Son, and sanctification to the Spirit. But each Person of the Trinity works with the others: The Father created us for the Son and for redemption. Colossians 1:16 says that "all things were created [by the Father] through him [the Son] and for him. The Son redeemed us for the Spirit's work of sanctifying us. Justification (redemption) was for sanctification. He was called Jesus ("Savior") not only because he would save us from the Punishment due to our sins, but "because he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). And the Spirit sanctifies us in order to bring us back to the Father, so that God can be all in all, Alpha and Omega.