

Stay Awake. Be Ready.

As we enter into Advent, we watch for and eagerly await the dawn that breaks over the horizon.

The promise of Advent is the promise of a candle in a dark room – of the dawn breaking over the horizon. It is the promise that the darkness cannot stand in the presence of the light. In this holy season, we must be watchers, searching for Christ's light, eagerly awaiting the dawn. Are we awake? Are we prepared?

Isaiah prophesies the nations streaming toward the mountain of the Lord's house and all nations being instructed in God's ways. Paul warns the Romans that salvation is near, and the day is at hand, so they should put on the armor of light. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples to stay awake for the coming of the Son of Man.

2300 Pontoon Road Granite City, IL 62040

Phone 618-877-3300

Fax 618-877-9800

After-Hours Emergencies 314-266-8387

Web: stelizabethgc.org

f @stelizabeth.gc

(O) @stelizabeth.gc

y @stelizabeth_gc

@stelizabethgc

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Alfred Tumwesigye, Pastor Office x1002 | Residence x1201 pastor@stelizabethgc.org

Deacon Michael HalbrookFaith Formation & Liturgy
x1005 | mhalbrook@stelizabethgc.org

Brot Ware

Parish Secretary & Office Admin secretary@stelizabethgc.org

Jackie Jones, Bookkeeper x1003 | jjones@stelizabethgc.org

Cathy Cassy, Director of Music

SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

School Phone: (618) 877-3300 x2 School Fax: (618) 877-3352 Pre-School: (618) 877-3300 x2003

Michelle Williams, Principal mwilliams@stelizabethgc.org

Loretta Joyce, School Secretary ljoyce@stelizabethgc.org

CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

2910 S. State Route 157 Edwardsville, IL (618) 656-5464

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

Finance Council: Charlotte Charbonnier School Board: Ron Perich Parent/Teacher Org.: Shelly Perich Ladies Sodality: Tammi Mooshegian Holy Name Men's Club: Rob Hutson Men at Prayer: Tom Cholevik Funeral Dinners: Pam Ames Athletic Director: Matt Schwendemann Maintenance Team: Bud Charbonnier

Strong in Faith since 1871

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As the Roman Catholic parish of St. Elizabeth, striving to become saints, we commit ourselves to the discipleship and stewardship way of life as commanded by Jesus Christ and revealed by Sacred Scripture and Tradition. We are committed to implementing the Four Pillars of Discipleship and Stewardship of our diocese:

Hospitality: To maintain a warm and welcoming environment, and invite others to join us in prayer, especially Sunday Mass; **Prayer**: To journey the path to Heaven together through celebration of the sacraments and ever-deepening lives of prayer; **Formation**: To continue sharing, learning, and accepting the teachings of our Lord and His Church; and **Service**: To share our Lord's Love by reaching out to all in service, especially the afflicted.

PRAYER & LITURGY

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, November 28
Monday of the First Week of Advent
No Mass

Tuesday, November 29 Tuesday of the First Week of Advent

6:00 p.m. Mass:

Forgotten Souls in Purgatory+ by Carol McGee

Wednesday, November 30 St. Andrew, Apostle

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Forgotten Souls in Purgatory+ by Carol McGee

Thursday, December 1 Thursday of the First Week of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Forgotten Souls in Purgatory+ by Carol McGee

Friday, December 2 Friday of the First Week of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass: First Friday Intentions

Saturday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Mary Ellen Becherer+ by Nancy Santana

Saturday-Sunday, December 3-4 Second Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass: Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

8:00 a.m. Mass: D

Sam Shambro+ by Don & Kathy Byrd

10:30 a.m. Mass: Ronnie Crippen+

by Deacon & Mrs. Michael Halbrook

Mass offerings are available (\$10), as are memorials on the 14 Day Candle / Sanctuary Lamp, and Altar Flowers. Contact the parish office.

December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December: For Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

This Sunday: First Sunday of Advent Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

We do now know when the Lord will come, so we should do our best to always stay ready, putting on the armor of light and conducting ourselves properly as during the day. When the Lord comes, we want to be ready to join Him on his holy mountain, in His everlasting kingdom. Advent is a wonderful time to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive the Lord's generous mercy.

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

John the Baptist - and then Jesus - weren't what the people were expecting. Is Jesus what we expect? In His kingdom, justice and peace are found in abundance and in a perfect balance. Prepare the way for His kingdom in your heart!

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

The 14-day Santuary Lamp burns constantly before the Tabernacle to reminds us of Jesus presence. This week, it also reminds us to pray for **Lonnie DeRuntz+ by the DeRuntz Family**. To offer the 14-day candle in honor of a loved one, contact the Parish Office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week, the Altar Flowers are **for the dearly departed parishioners of Saint Elizabeth Parish.**Honor a loved one with the altar flowers. Contact the Parish Office.

Be with Jesus Adoration Thursdays 9 am - 9 pm Holy Hour Sundays 7:30-8:30 pm

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIALS

Bill Loftus

Deceased Members of Ladies Sodality Lisa Dellamano Richard A. Willaredt

Deceased Members of St. Elizabeth Choir

Gene Cassy Jim Dedera

Pieper Family

Crawshaw Family

Cassy Family

Binney Family

Chad Sigite

Rose Vierdag

Charles Dickey

Angela & Ronald Briggs, Jr. Robert & Lorriane Joshu

Billy Adams

Jim Grav

Lesko & Danheiser Families Pawlak & Sertich Families Joseph & Victoria Krystopa

Pfaff & DeRuntz Families

John & Theresa Straubinger

Winters & Huff Families Votoupal- Bursik Family

Connie B. Hayes

Jim Noeth & Brothers

Noeth & M. Papp Families

Jim Alsop

Leonard Hylla

Lisa Garcia- Fensterman

Bob Scaturro

Dortch Family

The Kierski Family

James Dittman

Michael & Leona Banach

Deceased Members of

St. Elizabeth Men's Club

Czwornog and Ostrenga Families

Ida Gragg & Patti Jackson

Tony & Mary Bellue

Brian Foreman

Merry Trtanj

Carl Williams

Cliff Jones

Rene Zayner

Dennis Riggs Alma & Greg Voss

act the parish office

Contact the parish office to add yours to the list.

LEARNING & LIVING AS DISCIPLES

Pray the Traditional St. Andrew Christmas Novena

It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer (printed to the right) fifteen times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.

While a novena is normally a nine-day prayer, the term is sometimes used for any prayer that is repeated over a series of days. That is the case with one of the most beloved of all Advent devotions, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena.

The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the "Christmas Novena" or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer," because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas. It is an ideal Advent devotion; the First Sunday of Advent is the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Andrew.



An Explanation of the Novena

The opening words of this prayer—"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment"— may seem odd at first. But they reflect the Christian belief that moments in the life of Christ—His conception in the womb of the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation; His birth in Bethlehem; His death on Calvary; His Resurrection; His Ascension—are not only special but, in an important sense, still present to the faithful today.

The repetition of the first sentence of this prayer is designed to place us, mentally and spiritually, there in the stable at His birth, just as an icon of the Nativity or a Nativity scene is meant to do. Having entered into His presence, in the second sentence we place our petition at the feet of the newborn Child.

Definitions of Words Used

Hail: an exclamation, a greeting

Blessed: holy

Most pure: spotless, unstained; a reference to Mary's Immaculate Conception and her lifelong sinlessness

Vouchsafe: to grant something, especially to someone who doesn't deserve it on his own

Desires: something one wants strongly; in this case, not a physical or gluttonous desire, but a spiritual one

Merits: good deeds or virtuous actions that are pleasing in God's sight.

- Scott P. Richert; adapted from learnreligions.com/ saint-andrew-christmas-novena-542608

St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.
In that hour vouchsafe,
I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.

A Farewell & Prayers for Phillip Gorrell

Mr. Phillip Gorrell has discerned a call away from the seminary and priestly formation and returned home to prayerfully consider his next steps. He will no longer be assigned and ministering with us here at St. Elizabeth. Please keep him in your prayers, and pray for Vocations.

Thanks be to God for his openness to God's Will for his life, and taking steps to discern and follow that Will.

Phillip writes, "In consultation with my formators and spiritual director, I have discerned that God is calling me to withdraw from seminary formation. I have had much peace coming to this decision. I am confident that God has been guiding me in this decision and will continue to guide me in the next steps of my life. I appreciate all the support you have shown to me this past year. Thank you and may shower blessings upon Saint Elizabeth. Saint Elizabeth, pray for us!"

It's Not Actually Addressed to Saint Andrew

While the novena is tied to the Feast of Saint Andrew, it is not actually addressed to Saint Andrew but to God Himself, asking Him to grant our request in honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas. You can say the prayer all 15 times, all at once; or divide up the recitation as necessary (perhaps five times at each meal).

An Ideal Family Devotion for Advent

Prayed as a family, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is a very good way to help focus the attention of your children on the Advent season.



FORMATION Growing in Knowledge of Christ & His Church

This Week on FORMED



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

An Augustine Institute Original production.

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Thanks to our Men's Club, parishioners have access to free Catholic programming on FORMED on smart TV, streaming device, computer, and mobile device.

Go to signup.FORMED. org and select our parish name.

HOT TOPICS - ADJUSTMENT

We're rethinking our approach to Hot Topics, due to lack of interest in the last one on November 17. Some suggestions include a monthly dinner topic on Sunday evenings, leading into Vespers & Holy Hour. If you have ideas, please call or email Deacon Michael. Thank you!

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ON DYING & DEATH

The diocese has put together an easy to navigate and comprehensive look at end-of-life issues. Go to dio.org/funeral for questions like: Why should one pre-plan their funeral? If my loved one is dying, what should I do? Why must one insist on Catholic funeral rites? Why should one pray for the dead? Who should one insist upon being buried in a Catholic cemetery? Also covered is the issue of cremation, among other topics. As the month of November is dedicated to praying for the dead, now is a good time to learn more about dying and death from our Catholic faith perspective.

EXODUS 90 2023

Men: Talk with Bret in the parish office or Deacon Michael about coming to see what it's like at one of our Fraternity meetings on Thursday evenings - or just ask them for more info.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOLERS

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

With Seminarian Phillip's departure (see note on page 3), Deacon Michael is going to re-evaluate the next date to continue with our newly-forming youth group. Watch for more info soon!

GC ROCK

Sunday, December 4- Gathering at Holy Family Community Center Rock Room. Prepare Christmas Cards for shut-ins.

Saturday, December 10- Assist at Billie's Kids Christmas all morning . Time & Place will be posted on our FB page!

Sunday, December 18- Gathering @ Holy Family Community Center/ Rock Room 6:30-8pm

Watch our FB Group (GC Rock Youth Group) or GroupMe for any changes or additions. Questions? Call Woody 618-876-7551 or Bret in the St. Elizabeth Parish office.

#SEEK23 IN ST. LOUIS JANUARY 2-6

World-class speakers, fellowship, prayer, entertainment, and more will encourage participants to answer a new call to greatness, holiness, joy, and mission through the SEEK Conference. This five-day event, hosted by FOCUS takes place at the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Jan. 2-6 (although attendees can attend single days). SEEK23 attendees will step away from daily distractions and participate in prayer, adoration, Scripture, and the sacraments celebrated by hundreds of priests and bishops, Thomas John Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Registration is open at **seek.focus.org**. Catholics in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois also receive a discount as a neighboring diocese of the Archdiocese of St. Louis (you will receive it when you type in your zip code).

Mercy Minute

"I felt today how greatly a certain dying soul desired prayers. I prayed until I felt she had died. Oh, dying souls are in such great need of prayer! O Jesus, inspire souls to pray often for the dying." (Diary, 1015).



MEN:

Are you tired of endlessly scrolling on your phone — and missing out on the best parts of life?



Exodus 90 starts January 9th: **StartMyExodus.com**

EXODUS

Parish Life & Hospitality

HOLIDAY SCRIP

Advent will be here soon and even sooner after, Christmas. Are you looking for that gift for the hard to buy for person? Extra stocking stuffer? Buying your holiday meal? We have gift cards to fit every situation. Stop by our parish office or send an order to school with your student and help raise money for our school at the same time!

HELP BILLIE'S KIDS

Please be sure to bring your unwrapped gifts back by the end of THIS weekend. These gifts will be shared with the kids and their families at the Billie's Kids Christmas party on December 10. For more information on this great group or for other gift list options, visit stelizabethgc.org/billies.

LADIES, PLEASE CIRCLE THESE TWO DATES:

Tuesday, Dec. 6: Ladies Christmas Party
Plan to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season whether you've been naughty
or nice. Tickets are \$10 and available before
& after all Masses the next two weekends.
The evening begins with Mass at 6:00 p.m.,
followed by our delicious dinner in the Harmony Room. In lieu of a gift exchange, we
are donating baby items to Church Women
United to create their "Gift Layettes". The
following are needed items: sleepers, bibs,
socks, hats, large crib blankets, cloth wash
cloths, bottles, Desitin Ointment, baby
wipes, baby lotion, & baby wash.

Sat-Sun, December 17-18: Cookie Sale
Ladies we can bake this world a better place
one Cookie at a time. So get ready to start
your ovens!

More detailed information to follow on these two "Special" events for Ladies Sodality next weekend.

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Norma Lesko and her son for their help in refurbishing the new candlestands by the altar through Advent. Over a year ago, Father Alfred, Deacon Michael, and Seminarians Ryan & Dan found them at the "reclamation center" where the Archdiocese of St. Louis exchanges used church goods. They were in rough shape, but Norma and her son refurbished them and got them ready for our sanctuary.

FISH FRY FRIDAY

Join us for the Men's Club Famous Fish Fry this Friday, December 2, from 4-7. Come one, come all, bring a friend!

LECTOR BOOKS FOR 2023

Lectors, please pick up your annual lector's workbook from the sacristy. Thank you for your service!

KNIGHTS CORNER

Matthew 18-20 reads, "For where two or three of you



gather together in My name, there am I with them." Our meetings start at 7:30 on the 4th Tuesday of each month. At 7 p.m some of us pray the rosary together. This scripture is one of the reasons we do this. There is something very comforting for several of us to pray the rosary together. We all have friends and loved ones on our prayer list and each individual can offer their reciting of the rosary but we always mention for the end of abortions and for those mothers who decide to have their babies. We are asking Catholic men of all parishes to consider joining us in this 20 minutes of prayer. Yours in Christ, Grand Knight Tom Cholevik

The Knights of Columbus is for men 18 years or older who are "practical" (practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. Ask a Knight, or come and see what being a Knight is all about.

Parish & School Events

Sunday, November 27

9:15-10:15 a.m. - PSR (Parish Life Center) 6 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)

7:30-8:30 p.m. Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

6 p.m. - Ladies Sodality (Harmony Room)

Wednesday, November 30

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

Thursday, December 1

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. - Adoration

7:00 p.m. - Hot Topic: The Mass & The Church Year (with RCIA) (Harmony Room)

9 p.m. - Exodus Fraternity (Harmony)

Friday, December 2

4-7 p.m. - Fish Fry (Cafeteria)

Saturday, December 3

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Blood Drive (Cafeteria)

Candy Cane Parade - School/Parish Float

Harmony Cafe' after all Masses

Sunday, December 4

Harmony Cafe' after all Masses 9:15-10:15 a.m. - PSR (Parish Life Center) 6 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church) 7:30-8:30 p.m. Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, December 6

Ladies Sodality Christmas Party Mass at 6 p.m., followed by dinner

Thursday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

Masses at 8:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 16

Tri-Cities Advent Penance Service, 6 p.m.

December 17-18

Ladies Sodality Cookie Sale

December 18

The Longest Night Luminary Walk

Christmas Masses

Sat., December 24: 4:30 & 11 p.m. Sun., December 25: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Sat., December 31: 4:30 p.m. Sun., January 1: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.



Edwardsville, IL 62025

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Phone:

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Total Charged to card.

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St. Elizabeth School

BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 3

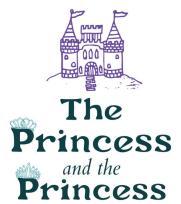
The season of giving is upon us. If you are struggling to find the perfect gift, the St. Elizabeth Student Council suggests considering the perfect gift - the gift of life.

Did you know that... -By the time a typical Mass is over, approximately 3600 people in the United States will have had the need to receive blood or blood products like platelets or plasma. -A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood. - Over 1.8 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer each year and many of them depend on blood and blood products, sometimes daily, to stay alive and courageously fight that terrible disease. -Shockingly, less than 10 percent of the United States eligible population donates blood.

There's no better way to imitate Christ than to give your life's blood so that another may live. St. Elizabeth Church and School, led by the Student Council, is hosting another blood drive through the American Red Cross on Saturday, December 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm in the cafeteria.

In the true spirit of giving this holiday season, please consider registering for an appointment to help us meet our goal of 35 units of blood. You can register online at **redcrossblood.org**. Thank you for your consideration.

St. Elizabeth School Drama Club Presents



Friday, December 2nd 10:00 am and 7:00 pm St. Elizabeth Gymnasium

THE PRINCESS & THE PRINCESS

The St. Elizabeth School Drama Club is proud to present their production of "The Princess and the Princess". This production includes school students from grades K-8 and features Natalie Jones as Princess Twinkleberry and Maddie Wineburner as Princess Popplepea. Performances are scheduled for Friday, December 2 at 10am and 7pm in the school gym. This is a FREE event. Donations for the Drama Club will be accepted at the door to help offset costs of the production. Come out, eat at the fish fry, and follow it up by enjoying a great show!

FR. McGIVNEY

SCHOOL CALENDAR

mcgivneygriffins.com/ school-calendar



ATHLETICS NEWS & SCHEDULE

il.8to18.com/McGivneyGriffins/

ADMISSION KEY DATES

Applications are open and Shadow Days are available! December 15 Application Deadline

McGIVNEY DRIVERS EDUCATION CAR NEEDED

Father McGivney Catholic High School is in the process of developing a Driver's Education Program. We are seeking assistance from our families and the community to help find a safe and reliable car for this program. If you know anyone at a local auto dealership or someone who has a good used car for sale please let me know. A donation would be ideal. The donor would benefit from a tax break for the donation and would be a hero to so many future drivers! The car would be needed by January 1st, 2023. Please contact Principal, Mr. Joseph Lombardi by phone 618-855-9010 or email jlombardi@mcgivneygriffins. com if you can assist.

NEARBY

ST. MARY'S SNOWMAN BALL Saturday Dec. 3, 6-11 p.m. at Engelbert Hall. Tickets are \$20. Doors open 5, Dinner 6. Music by Dave Hylla's Good Times Band. Great food, music, and fellowship. Call Cheryl at the Parish Office, 618-452-5180 or 610-7158, for tickets, or stop by the office Mon-Thurs 8:30-11:30 a.m.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 11/30- Rev. Jeffry Holtman 12/4- Rev. Pawel Augustyniak 12/5-Rev. Carlos Bohorquez 12/13- Rev. David Zimmerman 12/16- Rev. Ronnie Lorilla 12/21- Rev. James Neuman Rev. David Beagles 12/23- Rev. Steven Janoski 12/29- Rev. Richard Chiola Rev. Daniel Bergbower 12/31- Rev. Charles Edwards

The following are priests of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 11/26- Rev. Jerome L. Marley 11/27- Msgr. William B. Whelan 11/28- Rev. Cornelius Hoffman Rev. F.X. Smith 11/30- Rev. William Pachlhofer 12/1- Rev. William J. Hamilton 12/2- Rev. James Mullaley SVD Rev. Lucan Freppert OFM



PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Please reach out to the parish office and let us know of any active military persons for whom you would like the parish to pray. Thank you!

Almighty and Eternal God, protect the members of our Armed Services as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, to all who love them. May they ever praise you for your loving care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nolan Yehling- USAF, Whiteman AFB; Justin Niles- USAF, South Korea; Brandon Weidner- US Coast Guard, Sault Sainte Marie, MI; Kody Presswood- U S Army, Naples, Italy

STEWARDSHIP

Our Financial Stewardship November 20, 2022

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 21 Regular Income	\$6,280.00		
103 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$60.97			
One-Time Donation			
Loose	\$308.00		
Online Giving	\$1,302.00		
TOTAL	\$7,890.00	\$8,871.00	(\$981.00)
YTD TOTALS	\$166,953.00	\$186,291.00	(\$19,338.00)

Weekly and YTD Goals are calculated based on our annual fiscal year budget submitted to the Diocese and what is required to break even.

Other Gifts:

Tuition Assistance	\$100.00
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$280.00
Special Projects	\$25.00
Mission & Ministry	\$15.00
All Souls Day	\$20.00
All Saints Day	\$30.00
Votive Offering	\$156.00
Camp. for Justice & Hope	\$1,207.00
Calvary Catholic Cemetery	\$25.00
Funeral Stipend	\$150.00
Other Not Specified	\$20.00

Upcoming Special Collections

December 11-12: Retirement Fund for Religious

Parish Tithing Reporting

Our parish tithe to the Diocese to support the administration, ministries, and work of our Diocese is 10% of our regular monthly income.

September tithe: \$3,993.00

Scrip Progress

Two weeks ended November 13, 2022

	Current	/ YTD
Walmart	Did	/ \$36,900
National	Not	/ \$48,515
Total Sales	Balance	/ \$85,415
Annual Gross Profit to-date		\$3,499.00
Approx. Credit Card Fees		(\$299.00)
Approx. Net Profit to-date		\$3,200,00

Please continue to purchase scrip as much as possible.

Remember that this is free money
for our school & parish!

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." - Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily, and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

GIVE ONLINE

There are online options to maintain stewardship. Consider online giving through GIVE CENTRAL. No checks or envelopes needed. No remembering to tithe when you are out of town. https://www.givecentral.org/location/412/allevents

GC ROCK IS STILL STEWARDING SUPPLIES TO THE HOMELESS

GC Rock's sock bins continue to help those in need, collecting items like clean white socks and any size new or gently used men's white undershirts. You can also done small packs of baby wipes, purse-size tissue packs, toilet paper, ChapStick, any travel size toiletries, new combs, gently used or new bath washcloths. We take these items to the monthly outreach on the open lot at Community Care so they can be freely given to those who need a helping hand. Thank you from GC Rock for your generosity.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING

Published weekly by St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School and printed by Schwartzkopf Printing in Alton, Illinois. To recommend content for inclusion in the bulletin, email bulletin@stelizabethgc.org prior to Tuesday at Noon. For information on bulletin advertising, contact Bret Ware in the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: If you have been away from the Church and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a while, feel free to contact the parish office for guidance & materials to help you prepare to return to the Sacraments. In addition to Confessions offered from 3-4 p.m. on Saturdays, you could also schedule an individual time for Reconciliation.

Anointing of the Sick: Anointing of the Sick is appropriate for any upcoming surgery, prolonged illness, or in the event of emergency or danger of death. Please call the office if you or a loved one needs to be anointed.

Infant & Child Baptism: For children under the age of 8, please submit the forms at stelizabethgc.org/baptism and sign up for a Baptism Preparation class at least a month before your desired date of Baptism. For questions or emergencies, please contact the Parish Office or Deacon Michael. Baptisms are usually celebrated after the 10:30 Mass most Sundays or at 7 p.m. some Wednesdays.

Matrimony: To begin preparation for Holy Matrimony, please contact Father Alfred or Deacon Michael at least six months (recommended twelve months) before your desired date. At least an introductory interview must be completed before a date can be set.

Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, first Holy Communion) for children 8 and over, or for adults: Contact Deacon Michael via the Parish Office.

PASTORAL CARE

Entering the Church: If you are new to the Catholic faith and interested in learning more about the church or about entering the church, welcome! Contact the parish office for a meeting with Father Alfred or Deacon Michael.

Communion to the Homebound: If you or a family member are, or are going to be, homebound, whether at home or in a care facility, please notify the parish office. Medical and care facilities are unable to inform us of their Catholic residents and patients. We would be happy to arrange to visit and bring you Holy Communion. Please contact the parish office for arrangements.

Declarations of Nullity: In some cases, a man or a woman desires healing through a declaration by a Church tribunal (a Catholic Church court), which does not deny that a relationship existed, but simply states that the relationship was missing something that the Church requires for a valid marriage, falling short of at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union. (Commonly called an 'annulment.') Father Alfred, Deacon Michael, and Laura Black are available as Advocates before our diocesan tribunal for those needing assistance with declarations of nullity. Call the parish office to set up an appointment.

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My Parish Prayer

Almighty God, My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them.

It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and of compassion, charity, and mercy if I - who make it what it is -

am filled with these same qualities.

Therefore, with the help of God,

I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my parish to be.

Bless my journey Lord God, that I might follow Jesus and build the Church for your glory. Amen.

