

Disciples Stewards

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

First Sunday of Advent ♦ December 3, 2023

Thank you



**View
to the
Future**
School Windows Project

Have you seen the beautiful new windows going in on the east side of the school? As the east side is completed, the west side will come next. This weekend we pause to give a huge THANK YOU to all who have helped make this possible, but most especially to our good and gracious God who continues to provide for us as a parish, through providing for parishioners who in turn prioritize stewardship.

It is truly remarkable that in April, after months of discernment and deliberation, we rolled out the vision of replacing the old, original school windows, and by the end of November - 7 short months later - the \$700,000 project has been fully paid for. In part due to prior stewardship in the parish's savings, but also in large part to the hard work of every parish organization and the generosity of so many giving all that they've been able. This type of stewardship helps to make for a great, thriving parish that continues to meet its current needs and also tackle projects in a vision for the future.

Thanks be to God!

From the Order of Blessing of a Building/Construction Site:

All-powerful and merciful Father, You have created all things through your Son and have made Him the unshakable foundation of your kingdom. Through the gift of your eternal wisdom, grant that the undertaking we begin today for your glory and our own well-being may progress day by day to its successful completion. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.


2300 Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040


Phone 618-877-3300


Fax 618-877-9800


After-Hours Emergencies
314-266-8387

Web: stelizabethgc.org

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 [@stelizabethgc](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

PASTORAL STAFF

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CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

2910 S. State Route 157

Edwardsville, IL

(618) 656-5464

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

Finance Council: Charlotte Charbonnier

School Board: Adam Meyenburg

Parent/Teacher Org.: Natasha Reidl

Ladies Sodality: Tammi Mooshegian

Holy Name Men's Club: Rob Hutson

Men at Prayer: Tom Cholevik

Funeral Dinners: Pam Ames

Athletic Director: Joe Philips

Maintenance Team: Bud Charbonnier

**Strong in Faith
since 1871**

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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, December 4

Monday of the First Week of Advent

No Mass

Tuesday, December 5

Tuesday of the First Week of Advent

5 p.m. Mass: (note: 5 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.)

Sam Shambro+ by Terry & Kathy Mangi

Wednesday, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Cheryl Jones+ by Lewis & Lois Glasgow

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Helen Lack+ by Norma Lesko

Friday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

(Holy Day of Obligation)

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Maryann Rizzato+ by Lee+ & Dorothy Hayes

6 p.m. Mass:

Romana Lofink+ by Charles and Joanna King

Saturday, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

No Mass

Saturday-Sunday, December 9-10

Second Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass:

Dioneda Family+ by Lenie Alegre

8:00 a.m. Mass: ☪

Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

10:30 a.m. Mass:

Betty Lampitt+

by Friends & Family of Betty Lampitt

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 of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:

For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

This Sunday: First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Isaiah laments that the people have wandered from the ways of the Lord and pleads that God rend the heavens and come down. Paul gives thanks for the gifts Christ has bestowed while the Corinthians wait for the revelation of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples to be watchful like servants waiting for the return of the lord of the house.

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Isaiah offers comfort and hope that the time of exile is coming to an end and the Lord is preparing to reveal his glory to all people. Peter exhorts his community to live in holiness & devotion in anticipation of the day of the Lord. Mark begins his Gospel describing the ministry of John the Baptist proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and that one greater than he would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Sanctuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **Joe Rosales+ by Nancy Rosales**. To offer the 14 day candle in honor or a loved one, contact the Parish Office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week, the Altar Flowers are for **Richard Votoupal+ by Lee+ & Dorothy Hayes**. Honor a loved one with the altar flowers. Contact the Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIALS

Deceased Members of Holy Name Men's Club
Czornog & Ostrenga Families

Kierski Family

Bill Loftus

John & Theresa Straubinger

Carl Williams

Alan Winters

Keith Winters

Brinker & Soboleski Families

Delores Brinker

Paula Gushleff Koliste

DeRuntz & Pfaff Families

Louise Harrison

Kenneth Jaimet

Deceased Members of St. Elizabeth Choir

Gene Cassy

Jim Dederá

Cassy Family

Pieper Family

Crawshaw Family

Charles Dickey

Binney Family

Alma & Greg Voss

Chad Sigite

Lisa Garcia-Fensterman

Jim Alsop and Family

Gus & Angeline Scaturro

Dortch Family

Richard A. Willaredt

Lisa Dellamano

Rosalie Boyd

Joseph & Victoria Krystopa

Michael & Leona Bonach

Richard Horbelt

Gus & Angie Scaturro

Johnson Family

Jones & Harbin Families

Lesko & Danheiser Families

Mary Mennerick

Glen Hommert

Marvin Wiedemer

Mark Malone

Bill Mathes

Angela & Ronald Briggs Jr.

Robert & Lorraine Joshu

Jesse & Lorraine Gonterman

Jim Noeth & Brothers

Noeth & M. Papp Families

Brian Foreman

Tony & Mary Bellue

Jim Dittman

Pattie Jackson

Ida Gragg

Pawlak & Sertich Families

Deceased Members of Ladies Sodality

Betty Lampitt

Connie Hayes Family

Bursik/Votoupal Family

Ann Fabisher

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.



Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to tell you about the upcoming 2023 collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal assists nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests nationwide.

I am grateful for the significant influence that women and men religious, both past and present, have had on my own spiritual journey. I deeply appreciate their invaluable contributions to our diocese and the wider community. Perhaps you too have been touched by the kindness and guidance of an older woman or man religious who made a positive difference in your life.

We are called to recognize that many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their religious communities face a shortage of retirement savings. Compounding this challenge are rising health-care costs and decreased income. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to meet the day-to-day needs of aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities.

Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members.

I know you are frequently asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to contribute whatever you can toward this year's collection. In addition to your financial contribution, please keep all our women and men religious in your prayers.

May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Please note:

This week's Tuesday evening Mass will be at 5 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.

For those who have tickets and are attending, the Ladies Sodality Advent Party follows Mass.



Friday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass will be at 8:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. at St. Elizabeth, as well as 6 p.m. at Holy Family.

Tri-City Advent Penance Service: Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m. at St. Elizabeth, with reflection by Fr. Michael Trummer

Other Advent Penance Services nearby:

- St. Cecilia in Glen Carbon, Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Boniface in Edwardsville, Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m.
- Sts. Peter & Paul in Collinsville, Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

| Holiday Mass Times in Granite City & Madison | St. Elizabeth | Holy Family | St. Mary/St. Mark |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 4th Sunday in Advent December 23-24 | Normal Mass times: Sat 4:30 p.m.; Sun 8 & 10:30 a.m. | Normal time: Sat 4 p.m.; Sun 8:30 a.m. | Normal time: Sun 10 a.m. |
| Christmas Eve (Sun) Dec. 24 | 4:30 & 11 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 4 p.m. |
| Christmas Day (Mon) Dec. 25 | 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | |
| Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph, Dec. 30-31 | Normal Mass times: Sat 4:30 p.m.; Sun 8 & 10:30 a.m. | Normal time: Sat 4 p.m.; Sun 8:30 a.m. | Normal time: Sun 10 a.m. |
| Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Dec. 31-Jan. 1 | New Year's Eve, Sun 4:30 p.m. New Year's Day, Mon 9 a.m. | Monday, Jan 1 10:30 a.m. | |

Remember! Sundays are obligatory, as are the Holy Days of Obligation of Christmas (Eve or Day of Dec. 25) and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Eve or Day of Jan. 1).



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent Wreath Prayers

Don't let the Advent wreath become just another tradition without any meaning behind it! Use this time as a family to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the Advent season. Make lighting the Advent Wreath a time for meaningful connections and discussions with your loved ones. These prayers add a touch of spirituality and help you all reflect on the season in a more profound way. It's not just about going through the motions — it's about actively engaging and growing together.

Start with the Advent Wreath Blessing

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

The First Week of Advent: December 3, 2023 - light the first purple candle

Scripture Reflection: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Isaiah 9:2

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

The Second Week of Advent: December 10, 2023 - light the first and second purple candles

Scripture Reflection: "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

The Third Week of Advent: December 17, 2023 - light the first and second purple candles and the pink candle

Scripture Reflection: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

The Fourth Week of Advent: December 24, 2023 - light all four candles

Scripture Reflection: "And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Advent Wreath Prayer Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

An Advent Wreath for your Home

This week marks the First Sunday of Advent, the first of the four Sundays marking the weeks preparing to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas.

Cut out the bottom half of this page and put it on your refrigerator or elsewhere in your house, and then cut out the candles to the right.

Add the second purple candle on the second Sunday of Advent (December 10). Add the rose candle on the third Sunday of Advent (December 17), and add the final purple candle on the fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24).





Become a man of hope

During the Season of Advent, men from around the world will grow in the theological virtue of hope as they journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary. Your journey to hope can start this Advent.



Season of Advent
Starts December 3, 2023

Get ready at:

StartMyExodus.com



Exodus

Trade your distractions for deeper peace.

Our culture today has no shortage of 'modern Pharaohs' that hold us back from true unity with God. If we're ruled by these Pharaohs, how can we truly be free to become the men God made us to be? Exodus 90 gives you the tools to take control of your life.

We start Jan. 1, 2024:



MenOfExodus.com

Thank you to Exodus for sponsoring the printing of this weekend's bulletin.



This Friday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On this day, all the faithful are obliged to attend Mass. We remember and celebrate the dogmatic belief that Mary was without the stain of sin from the moment of her conception. How might this be? Jesus is God - the second Person of the Holy Trinity, and as God, He exists outside of time. The fruits of his passion, death, and resurrection also existed before and outside of time, so God was able to apply the fruits of Jesus's saving work to Mary in advance, in order to prepare a suitable (stainless, the literal translation of "Immaculate" - "without mark or stain") place for God to enter humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.

Mass at St. Elizabeth this Friday for the Holy Day will be at 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

CELEBRATING THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES

HEARING THE WORD:

Luke 1:26-31, 34-38b

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Like all of Israel, Mary was waiting for the Messiah. When the angel Gabriel visited Mary in her home in Nazareth, he gave her some amazing news that she was being called to be the mother of the Lord! We may wonder, what made this young girl so special? She was lowly, not rich; nor was she proud or famous. Yet God chose her for this task, and she responded to God's invitation. After Gabriel's visit, Mary waits for the arrival of her Son. How can we join Mary in her waiting.

ON THE WAY TO MASS

Let us listen for the Holy Spirit in today's Gospel. What is the work of the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit reveal to us about this child? this mother

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

Mary told the angel that she was a handmaid of the Lord. What does it mean to be a handmaid of the Lord? How is each member of our household called to serve the Lord? Is the Holy Spirit connected to our service to God?

LIVING THE WORD

The angel greeted Mary with words that may be familiar to us: "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you!" Where have we heard these words before? Write these lovely words on a prayer card or have your children draw an image of the angel Gabriel coming to Mary to place on the prayer table. Each night this week, read the prayer card or pray the Hail Mary prayer as a family, and think deeply about the angel's words to Mary.

YOUNG DISCIPLES SOCIETY

Young Disciples TEENS Updates

Some of our teens have been hard at work turning their "Upper Room" in the Parish Life Center into a comfortably blue & gold masterpiece. They are working hard to finish up the project this week.

At last Sunday's meeting, they discussed upcoming meetings and a cadence that allows them to focus on diving into each of the pillars of the parish & diocesan mission statement from their own perspective as teenage young disciples. How do they fully enter into the life of faith as they're growing into young, faithful adults?

Teens, join your peers at Young Disciples Teens at one of the upcoming opportunities, & bring a friend:

All of these gatherings are after the 10:30 Sunday Mass, until 1 p.m., and include lunch or a snack:

December 10: Prayer + Service - "Up-cycling" /making holiday cards for the homebound

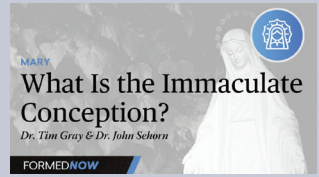
December 17: Prayer + Formation - Learning about the end of Advent traditions and the "O Antiphons"

January 14, January 21, January 28

Questions? Call Bret in the Parish Office for more information.



This Week on
FORMED



What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs. Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

Thanks to our Men's Club, parishioners have access to free Catholic programming on FORMED on any device.

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

Mercy Minute

"The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Before Holy Communion. I saw the Blessed Mother inconceivably beautiful. Smiling at me She said to me, 'My daughter, at God's command I am to be, in a special and exclusive way your Mother; but I desire that you, too, in a special, way, be My child!'" (Diary 1414).



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Anyone is welcome to join us to learn more about our faith - jump in with the OCIA (those learning more about our faith to potentially be baptized and/or come into the Catholic Church) any given Thursday. Learn more, help ask great questions... Thursdays from 7-8 in the PLC Library:

- 12/7: Mary
- 12/14: The Bible & Divine Revelation
- 12/21: The People of God
- 1/4: The Sacraments - Intro & Overview
- 1/11: Baptism & Confirmation
- 1/18: The Eucharist
- 1/24: Penance & Anointing of the Sick



JOIN US IN INDIANAPOLIS NEXT JULY

The U.S. Bishops invite us to join them in Indianapolis next year for the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years. The National Eucharistic Congress will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium and Indianapolis Convention Center from July 17-21, 2024 - next summer.

It's just a short drive from us, so we're hoping to take a contingent from our parish for at least a couple of days of this generational event.

If you have any interest at all, please contact Bret in the parish office.

Confession Preparation - Advent Penance Service next Sunday

The annual Tri-Cities Advent Penance Service is next Sunday, December 10, here at St. Elizabeth. Has it been a while since you've taken part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? We want to help you be ready.

Join us Sunday, December 10 at 6 p.m... and please feel free to stay in thanksgiving to God through our usual Sunday Holy Hour with Adoration & Vespers from 7:30-8:30.

PREPARE:

Spend time prayerfully examining your conscience to remember moments where you've fallen short of living God's law, or have distanced yourself from God, the Church, or others around you.

WHEN IT'S TIME:

Enter the confessional and greet the priest. Make the sign of the cross and say "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It's been [however many days/months/years] since my last confession."

List your sins - Mention venial (everyday) sins and mortal sins, which are more serious. Try to be thorough, but it's OK if you don't remember every single sin. It may be more of a conversation, as the priest may ask questions or comment. It doesn't have to be a non-stop laundry list of sins. When you're done, conclude by saying "I'm sorry for these and all my sins."

Listen to the priest - When you're done confessing your sins, the priest may offer some guidance and suggest ways to avoid sins in the future. He'll then give you a penance, which could be a form of prayer, a service or some work of mercy.

Pray the Act of Contrition - there is even a version on paper handy in the confessional! My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Receive absolution from God, via the priest - The priest will say the following prayer to absolve you of your sins: "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Make the sign of the cross and close with Amen."

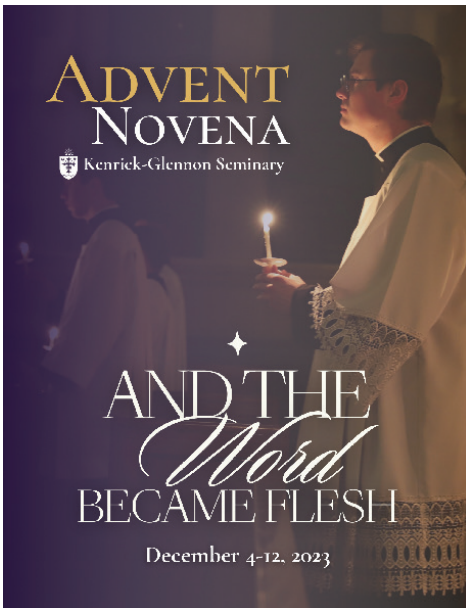
Depart and fulfill your act of penance.

For more preparation information, check out:

hallow.com/blog/how-to-go-to-confession-the-sacrament-of-penance-reconciliation/

PARISH LIFE & HOSPITALITY, SERVICE

THIS WEEK



ADVENT NOVENA AT KENRICK

Every Advent, the men at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis pray a novena in preparation for Christmas. It is a beautiful time of prayer and sacred music, and it is open to the public. The reflections each evening are based around the liturgical "O Antiphons," which the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is written about. I would like to invite you to come to one or even all of the nights of the Novena at the seminary. This year, it will be from December 4-12.

Each evening of the Novena will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Joseph and will include prayer, Scripture, a reflective homily, and hymns led by the seminarian choir. All are welcome in-person and on our livestream. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Drive in Shrewsbury, Missouri.

Thanks!
Deacon Daniel!

EMHC TRAINING RECAP

Last week we held a training session for our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) to give some formation and updates around this ministry. If you were not able to attend the training, please review the updates and the video at stelizabethgc.org/emhc before the next time you serve as an EMHC. Call or see Bret in the parish office if you have any questions. Thank you!

COOKIES & SWEET TREATS SALE

The Ladies Sodality Cookies & Sweet Treats Sale will be held on the weekend of Dec. 16-17. This is our last fundraiser of the year and we are asking our infamous bakers to create any irresistible cookie you choose, and it will be greatly appreciated. The sky's the limit. We hope you will be able to participate in both of our Christmas events again this year.

Good things come to those who bake,
Marilyn - Maggie - Carol - Bootsie

TRIVIA NIGHT!

Please join us for another fun-filled event on Saturday, January 13, 2024! Tables of 8 are \$160. ONLY 35 tables available. Sodas and snacks will be provided. Please call Loretta Joyce in the School office at (618) 877-3300 to reserve your table or become a sponsor. All net proceeds will go to assist the school with projects and educational needs. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and trivia begins at 6:30 p.m. You must be 21 or older.

If you have never played, or haven't played in a long time....it is a blast! We look forward to another fun evening!

Thank you!
- The St. E School Trivia Committee

RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

Next ones:

- 2/2 - 2/4/2024, St. Peters, MO
- 3/15 - 3/17/2024, Cape Girardeau, MO
- 4/5 - 4/7/2024, St. Peters, MO

MCA CHRISTMAS ARTWORK

Calling All Young Artists: Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) has an annual Christmas Artwork Contest for students from K-8th grade. Entries should be sent to the Office for the Missions no later than January 31, 2023. For information on submitting an entry go to: dio.org/missions/missionary-childhood-association

Sunday, December 3

Harmony Cafe after all Masses
After 8:00 Mass to 10:15 - PSR (PLC)
7:30-8:30 p.m. - Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction (Church)

Monday, December 4

Tuesday, December 5

Daily Mass is at 5 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.
Ladies Sodality Christmas Party after Mass (Harmony Room)
7:30 p.m. - Holy Name Men's Club (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, December 6

6 p.m. - Charitable Outreach (Harmony Room)
7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

Thursday, December 7

Santa's Cottage (School)
9 a.m. - 9 p.m. - Adoration (Church)
7 p.m. - OCIA (PLC Library)
9 p.m. - Exodus Fraternity (Harmony)

Friday, December 8

Santa's Cottage (School)
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass at 8:15 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 9

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Blood Drive (Cafeteria)

Sunday, December 10

After 8:00 Mass to 10:15 - PSR (PLC)
After 10:30 Mass to 1 p.m. - Young Disciples Teens (PLC Upper Room)
6 p.m. - Tri-Cities Advent Penance Service (Church)
7:30-8:30 p.m. - Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction (Church)

K of C CORNER We were so honored to help St. Elizabeth celebrate their saint's feast day with handing out bread to the families after masses. The children's Christmas cakes and sausage party will be Saturday Dec 16 starting at around 8 a.m. at the Columbus Home. Breakfast. Coloring and Santa, oh what fun we'll have!! Next meeting will be 4th Tuesday in January. Think about becoming one of our brother Knights.
Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight, 618-789-0337



ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER OPTIMIST STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Dean A. and Isabella G. were selected as the Granite City Optimist November Students of the Month. Isabella and Dean are members of Mrs. Rebecca Corbett's second-grade class. Each honoree will receive a certificate from the Optimists, and St. Elizabeth School will receive an unrestricted donation of \$100.00 in their names.

Isabella is seven years old and is the daughter of Davril. Isabella says that P.E. is the class she likes best out of all the subjects that she takes in second grade. Isabella loves to run and the activities that Mr. Kahn, the P.E. teacher, plans allow her to do just that. After school, you will find Isabella watching television. The new Spiderman show is her favorite. She also is on the cheerleading squad for the Braves football team. Isabella's favorite parts of her recent Thanksgiving holiday were being with her family and playing with her cousins. Her family had a great Thanksgiving dinner. She says that's because her mom makes the best turkey ever! Aria's future life goal is to become a doctor who specializes in caring for people's eyes.

Seven-year-old Dean is the son of Victoria G. & Daniel A. Dean picks math as his favorite class. Right now, his favorite math skill is adding. He can add numbers all the way into the hundreds. When his school day is over, Dean gets even busier. He plays three different sports: basketball, football, and soccer. He is a member of the Purple Panthers' soccer team, serves as a guard for the Braves football team, and plays in many positions for the Bulldogs basketball team. Dean is also in the Wolf den of Cub Scout Pack 103. Hanging out with his family was his favorite thing to do during the past Thanksgiving holiday, and he says that his grandma is the star of "turkey-cooking" in his family. After graduating from school, Dean would like to become a police officer or video gamer.

The Granite City Optimist Organization is an international society dedicated to helping the youth of the world. For more information about the Granite City Optimists, contact Paul Hellrich at 618 407-3011. The Optimists are always looking for new members who would like to aid in their mission to help the youth of the community. Come join us!



CELEBRATING SUNDAYS FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES

This is from a book called 'Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families' by Kerri Mecke-Lazano. It includes the Gospel, a reflection, a question to ponder before AND after Mass as well as a section called Living the Word to consider how you can take the Gospel with you for the rest of the week. Please use them to help you and your family get more out of the Mass each week!

HEARING THE WORD:

Mark 13:33-37

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

As parents, we have stayed awake with a late-night feeding, with a sick child, or waiting for a teenager to return home from an evening out with friends. Even when we are tired. or weary, we are alert to the needs of our children. We are called to practice the same kind of alertness in our spiritual life. As God's servants, he has given us responsibility, a particular work to do. We know that he is coming. How do we keep our eyes, and our hearts open to his return, so that we are ready when he comes?

ON THE WAY TO MASS

To be alert means to be wide awake. How can watch for Jesus today?

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

How have we been awakened to all the ways Jesus comes to us?

LIVING THE WORD

Create a "Be Watchful! Be Alert! Jesus Is Coming!" sign and list every time a family member is aware of how or when Jesus has come to your home or your heart. It may be a moment on the school playground, at the grocery store, or around the kitchen table. Note the date, the time, and a brief description to help you track how often we are aware of Jesus' presence in our daily lives. The goal is that through this exercise, your family will become more attuned to the many occasions God is present in daily life.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 12/4- Rev. Pawel Augustyniak 12/5- Rev. Carlos Bohorquez 12/6- Rev. Michael Grawe, OFM 12/10- Rev. James Palakudy, SAC 12/13- Rev. David Zimmerman 12/14- Rev. Vincent Elsen, OFM 12/16- Rev. Ronnie Lorilla Rev. Florent Emmanuel Kanga, SAC 12/21- Rev. James Neuman Rev. David Beagles 12/23- Rev. Steven Janoski

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 12/2- Rev. James Mullaley, S.V.D. Rev. Lucan Freppert, O.F.M. 12/5- Rev. Longinus Quitter Rev. Manasses Kane 12/6- Rev. Charles Wozniak



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; Brandon Weidner- US Coast Guard, Sault Sainte Marie, MI; Kody Presswood- Staff Sergeant, US Space Force, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Nick Glasgow- USMC, California

STEWARDSHIP

Our Financial Stewardship November 26, 2023

| | Actual | Goal | Over/(Short) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Week 22 Regular Income | \$5,114.00 | | |
| 95 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$53.83 | | | |
| One-Time Donation | | | |
| Loose | \$256.98 | | |
| Online Giving | \$735.00 | | |
| TOTAL | \$6,105.98 | \$9,104.00 | (\$2,998.02) |
| YTD TOTALS | \$172,075.68 | \$200,288.00 | (\$28,212.32) |

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 | \$120.00 |
| Building Repair/Mainten. | \$38.00 |
| Special Projects | \$25.00 |
| School Window Project | \$11,300.00 |
| Mission & Ministry | \$13.00 |
| Campaign for Justice & Hope | \$50.00 |
| Christmas Offering | \$100.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$785.00 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$100.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$50.00 |
| BINGO Profit | \$12,000.00 |

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. October tithe: \$4,456.00

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Catholic Children's Home | \$25.00 |
| Retired Religious | \$20.00 |
| Other Not Specified | \$30.00 |

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

Consider online giving through GIVE CENTRAL. For more information, visit <https://www.givecentral.org/location/412/allevnts>

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come" - Mark 13:3

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

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. 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 the parish office to set up initial appointments and preparation 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 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.

FAST AND SECURE WAY TO DONATE STOCK TO YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL

Did you know it is easy, secure, and fast to donate gifts of stock to your parish or school?

A stock gift helps you save on capital gains and income tax. Share your joy and maximize your giving with a non-cash asset!

Ready to donate? Go to bit.ly/ParishStock or scan the QR code below



Contact Katie Price at 217-321-1121 today to learn more!

ARE YOU 70 1/2 OR OLDER?

If you are 70.5 or older, you can support your parish and school directly from your individual retirement account and potentially reduce your taxable income.

If you must fulfill a required minimum distribution, your donation is a compassionate way to fulfill this requirement.

Go to bit.ly/ParishQCD to use this free and secure tool to donate from your IRA today!

Make an impactful gift of joy!

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING







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

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.



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| <p>COME JOIN Knights of Columbus Tri-Cities Council # 1098 4225 OLD ALTON ROAD 618-877-4250 MEETINGS 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY 7:30 P.M.</p> | <p>Scott's Auto Service SPECIALIZING IN: Engine Diagnostics, Electrical Diagnostics, Engine Repairs, Emmissions Repairs, Computer Programming, Brakes, A/C, Suspensions, Exhaust & Transmissions</p>  <p>4012 North St. • Granite City • 797-7812</p> | <p>Irwin Chapel "Honoring Life" Granite City • Glen Carbon</p> | <p>Carpet, Hardwood, Ceramic, Tile, Luxury Vinyl, Tile - Planks WE COVER IT ALL... Vallow Floor Design Center & Outlet Mark Vallow Seth Renken 1009 Plummer Drive • Edwardsville vallowfloor.com • 618-656-7788</p> |
|  <p>RevityCU.com</p> | <p>St. Elizabeth MENS CLUB Meetings Monthly (Except July & August) 1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. In School Cafeteria All Men Of Parish Welcome</p> | <p>CARROLLTON BANK</p> | <p>DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR and liaison between the Diocese and anyone with an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. Alison Smith (217) 321-1155</p> |
| <p>St. Elizabeth Ladies Sodality Meetings in the Harmony Room 4th Tuesday 6 p.m. Snack 6:30 p.m. Meeting except June, July, & December ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME</p> |  <p>The Flower Emporium 618-931-6593 520 E. Chain of Rocks Rd., Granite City, IL</p> | <p>Columbus Home</p>  <p>Everyone Welcome, Come Enjoy Open to the Public!</p> <p>TRI-CITIES COLUMBUS HOME ASSOCIATION MEETING PLACE OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4225 OLD ALTON RD GRANITE CITY, IL 62040 618-877-4250</p> | <p>BINGO (8 times a week) Lounge Bowling Machine Shuffle Board Gaming Room Banquet Rooms</p> |
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