

Disciples Stewards

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Second Sunday of Advent ♦ December 10, 2023

A Parish Full of Life

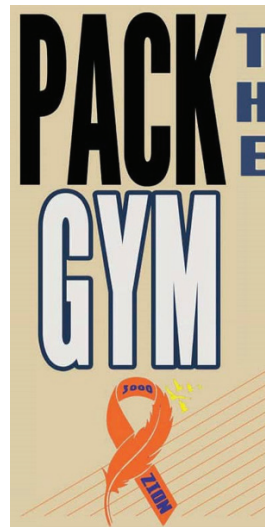
If you were around the parish/school campus this week, you saw a parish full of vibrant life, for which we're thankful to God!

On Thursday evening alone, the evening Mass was followed by roughly 70 ladies of the parish enjoying the annual Ladies Sodality Christmas dinner. Bootsie & Carol hosted another beautiful evening with their helpers. The room was decorated to the theme of "The Holy Family at Christmas", and everyone enjoyed wonderful salad, chicken pot pie, desserts, take-home cookie boxes, nativity ornaments, door prizes and more! St. Nick even stopped by on the eve of his Feast Day.

Meanwhile, the Holy Name Men's Club held their monthly gathering in the Cafeteria, with the men of the parish gathered for fellowship, prayer, and discussion of their efforts within the parish.

Upstairs in the gym, the place was truly packed (and loud with a happy excitement) for the Pack The Gym night in memory of Zion Ratchford. Every staff member took part in the free throw contest, fun drawings were held for prizes, and more - plus 3 games of basketball! Hundreds of Funko Pops, which were one of Zion's favorite toys to collect, were brought by attendees to donate to St. Louis Children's Hospital - the teams from Ss. Peter & Paul in Collinsville even brought cases of Funko Pops. A new Zion banner was unveiled in the gym as well.

There's so much good happening here every week. Get involved, pray for your neighbor, remember the Golden Rule...



Congrats to the staff free throw contest winner, Mrs. Kohl! (It must run in the family - see page 6.)


2300 Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040


Phone 618-877-3300


Fax 618-877-9800


After-Hours Emergencies
314-266-8387

Web: stelizabethgc.org

 [@stelizabethgc](https://www.facebook.com/stelizabethgc)

 [@stelizabethgc](https://www.instagram.com/stelizabethgc)

 [@stelizabeth_gc](https://twitter.com/stelizabeth_gc)

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Alfred Tumwesigye, Pastor
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pastor@stelizabethgc.org

Deacon Michael Halbrook
Faith Formation & Liturgy
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Bret Ware
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Jackie Jones, Bookkeeper
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Chris Spanberger
Director of Religious Education (School)
cspan@stelizabethgc.org

Cathy Cassy, Director of Music

SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

School Phone: (618) 877-3300 x2

School Fax: (618) 877-3352

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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: 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 11

Monday of the Second Week of Advent

No Mass

Tuesday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

6 p.m. Mass:

Geraldine Ropac+ by Norma Lesko

Wednesday, December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Cheryl Jones+ by Janet Davinroy

Thursday, December 14

**St. John of the Cross,
Priest & Doctor of the Church**

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Cheryl Jones+ by Janet Wilmsmeyer

Friday, December 15

Friday of the Second Week of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass: Vivian Byer+ by Jim Byer

Saturday, December 16

Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

No Mass

Saturday-Sunday, December 16-17

Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass:

Glen Hommert+ by Lois Hommert

8:00 a.m. Mass: ☪

Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

10:30 a.m. Mass:

Joe Alegre Jr+ by Lenie Alegre

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

Be with Jesus

Adoration

Thursdays 9 am - 9 pm

Holy Hour

Sundays 7:30-8:30 pm



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: 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.

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Sanctuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **all widows and widowers, that they may find peace and comfort.** 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 **the marginalized; the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill persons in our community.** Honor a loved one with the altar flowers. Contact the Parish Office.

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

Deceased Members of
Holy Name Men's Club
Czwornog & 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 Deder

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



CELEBRATING ST. NICHOLAS
 Our very own St. Nick was all over the school this week, visiting each class in celebration of his Feast Day.

*St. Nicholas, Bishop & Martyr,
 pray for us!*



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).

This Week on WThe FORMED®



The Spirituality of Advent

Dr. Tim Gray discusses the spirituality of Advent and the joy of waiting for Christ.

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

"I desire, My dearly beloved daughter, that you practice the three virtues that are dearest to Me-and most pleasing to God. The first is humility, humility and once again humility; the second virtue, purity; the third virtue, love of God. As My daughter, you must especially radiate with these virtues. When the conversation ended, She pressed me to Her Heart and disappeared.' When I regained the use of my senses, my heart became so wonderfully attracted to these virtues; and I practice them faithfully. They are as though engraved in my heart." (Diary, 1415).



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:

- 12/14: 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

YDS TEENS - JOIN US!

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

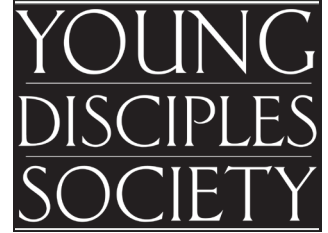
All of these gatherings are after the 10:30 Sunday Mass, until 1 p.m., and include lunch or a snack:

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.



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



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!

SCRIP MAKES GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS

Looking for that hard to buy for person or searching for that last minute stocking stuffer? Come by the parish office and take a look at the selection of Scrip Gift Cards. Not only are they great for giving, a percentage of the purchase goes to the parish. We have fast food, movie theatres, gas cards and much more.

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A COOK

St. Elizabeth Catholic School needs a cook beginning in January 2024. This would be 2-4 days per week and 3-4 hours per day. If you are interested or know someone that would be, please contact the school or parish office.

HELP WANTED

All are welcome to come and assist us as we prepare the church for Christmas. If you have some time and can help, please join us on Friday, December 22 after 8:15 a.m. daily

Mass to help decorate the church. More hands = less work for all. See you there.

LADIES, PLEASE START YOUR OVENS

Our Cookies & Sweet Treats Sale is next weekend, December 16th & 17th. This is our last fund raiser of the year and we are asking our talented bakers to create any irresistible cookie you choose, and it will be greatly appreciated.

Did you also know that "Stressed is Deserts spelled backwards"? So, turn your life around and eat a cookie!

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

"IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR."

Ladies we hope you had as much fun at our Christmas Party as we had serving as your hostesses. It was wonderful to see the beautiful ladies that were able to join us again this year. Celebrating with Friends creates "Special Memories".

We would also like to thank you for your generosity towards the Church Women United "Gift Layettes". Here's a good suggestion for a New Years' Resolution! Circle the 4th Tuesday of the month on your new 2024 calendars and try to attend a meeting or two in the coming year. We'd love to have you join us!

Wishing You and Your Family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless,
Carol & Bootsie

THIS WEEK

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)

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)

6 p.m. - Tri-Cities Advent Penance Service (Church)

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

Monday, December 11

Tuesday, December 12

7 p.m. - School PTO (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, December 13

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

Thursday, December 14

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. - Adoration (Church)

6 p.m. - School Christmas Concert (Gym)

7 p.m. - OCIA (PLC Library)

9 p.m. - Exodus Fraternity (Harmony)

Friday, December 15

6 p.m. - School Winter Dance (Cafeteria)

Saturday, December 16

Ladies Sodality Cookies & Sweet Treats Sales after all Mass (Harmony Room)

Sunday, December 17

Ladies Sodality Cookies & Sweet Treats Sales after all Mass (Harmony Room)

After 8:00 Mass to 10:15 - PSR (PLC)

After 10:30 Mass to 1 p.m. - Young Disciples Teens (PLC Upper Room)

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

K of C CORNER We want to thank the parishioners of all 3 churches for their continued support and prayers and those who help us with our bingos. Without them we would not be nearly as successful. We are still searching for new members and existing members that have drifted away for one reason or another. In order to sign up go to kofc.org/joinus and fill out the 2 page form. We are council number 1098. It's as easy as that. God be with you all, Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight 618-789-0337



**Knights of
Columbus**

ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

BASKETBALL SUCCESSES

Last Saturday, some of our St. Elizabeth Royals girls did great at the Granite City Hoop Shoot. In the 12-13-year-old division, Isabel was first, Lily was second, and Kaylee was third. In the 10-11-year-old division, Abby took first place. Nice job, ladies!



At the same time, our 5th & 6th grade boys were wrapping up the Holy Family Regional Invitational tournament, playing against St. Boniface Edwardsville in the Championship game. They played hard but fell in the championship to the Bluejays. They still brought home an impressive trophy for 2nd place, and Father Alfred was thrilled to pose for a photo with them. Father's been looking forward to one of our teams bringing home a trophy since he got here a few years ago. Nice job, gentlemen!



PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 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 12/29- Rev. Richard Chiola Rev. Daniel Bergbower 12/31- Rev. Charles Edwards

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 12/10- Rev. Joseph Locher Rev. Patrick Kearney Rev. Oscar Schubert 12/11- Rev. John Blaise Raho, C.M. Rev. Mike Ryan Rev. Michael Hurley Rev. J.W. Merscher Rev. August Forster Rev. Maurice Gavin 12/12- Rev. Amos Emil Giusti Rev. Terence J. Tracey

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 1:1-5, 7-8

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Today's Gospel begins with a quote from Isaiah, telling us about a prophet who will come to prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist was the prophet sent from God to help people get ready for Jesus' coming by inviting them to repent from their sins and to turn their hearts to the Lord. As we continue our preparations for Christmas, how do we ensure that they aren't just on the outside, but within our hearts as well? Take some time for quiet during this busy season to turn your heart to the Lord.

ON THE WAY TO MASS

To prepare means to make something ready. What could it mean to "Prepare the way of the Lord"?

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

"I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." What does your baptism have to do with your task of preparing the way of the Lord?

LIVING THE WORD

John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. How can we prepare our hearts and our homes for the coming of Jesus? At this time of year, many families are putting up decorations to prepare for Christmas. Take some time to pray together and bless your Christmas tree or Nativity scene. You can bless your tree using a simple prayer service like the one found here: usccb.org/prayers/blessing-christmas-tree



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 December 3, 2023

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 22 Regular Income	\$9,897.00		
123 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$80.46			
One-Time Donation			
Loose	\$346.00		
Online Giving	\$1,625.00		
TOTAL	\$11,868.00	\$9,104.00	\$2,764.00
YTD TOTALS	\$183,943.68	\$209,392.00	(\$25,448.32)

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	\$1,037.00
Building Repair/Mainten.	\$416.00
Special Projects	\$351.00
Votive Offering	\$59.00
Mission & Ministry	\$76.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	\$10.00
Christmas Offering	\$95.00
Christmas Flowers	\$1,213.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$90.00
Immaculate Conception	\$160.00

Parish Tithing Reporting

Our parish tithes 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**

Calvary Catholic Cem. - E'Ville	\$112.00
Catholic Children's Home	\$170.00
Retired Religious	\$75.00
Other Not Specified	\$973.00

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

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

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

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



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!



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

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.

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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.



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