

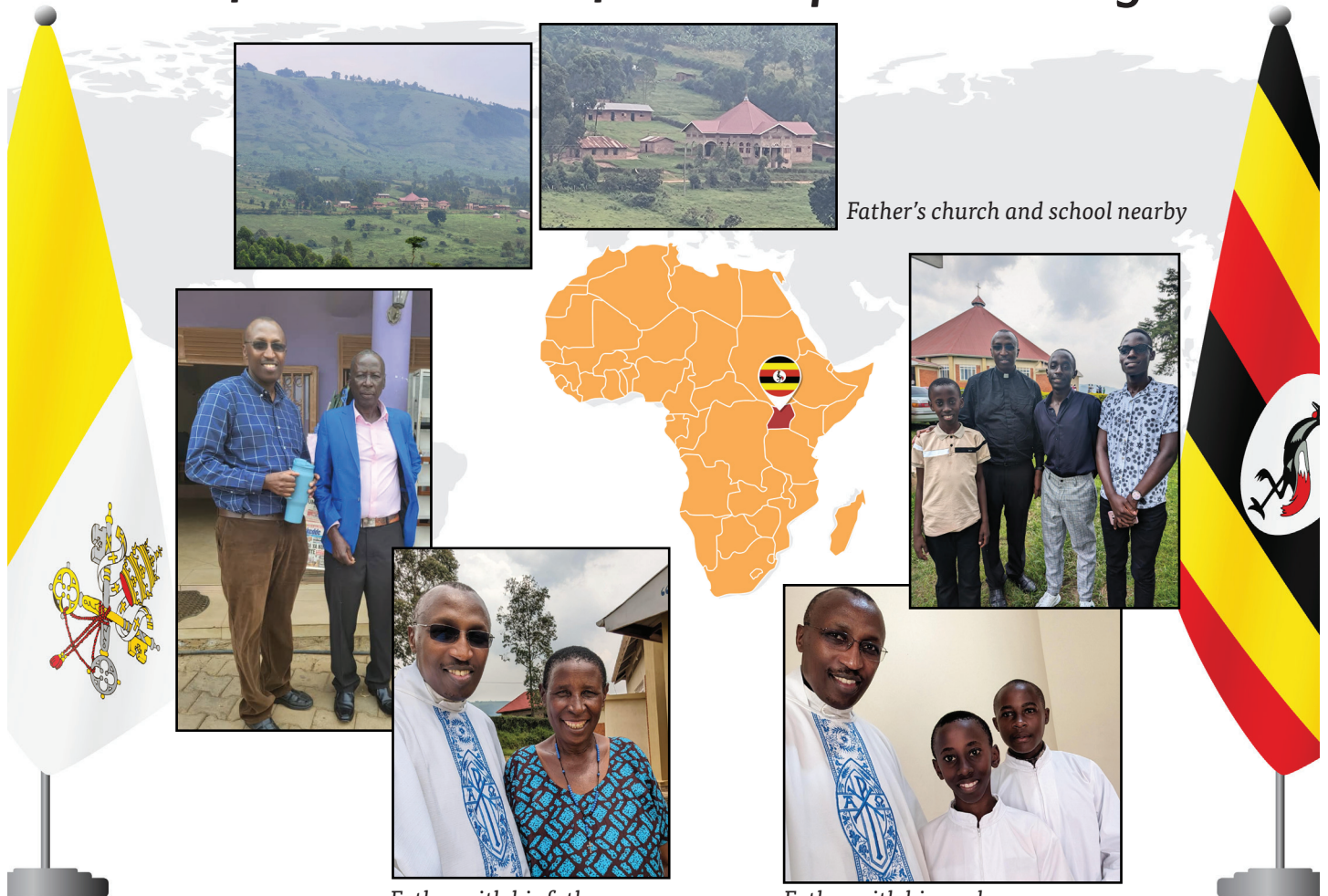
# Disciples Stewards

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ January 21, 2024

## Photos from Father Alfred's Trip Home to Uganda



Father's church and school nearby

Father with his father...  
and with one of his aunts

Father with his nephews...  
the youngest, 7, served Mass last week


2300 Pontoon Road  
Granite City, IL 62040


Phone 618-877-3300


Fax 618-877-9800


After-Hours Emergencies  
314-266-8387

Web: [stelizabethgc.org](http://stelizabethgc.org)

 @stelizabeth.gc

 @stelizabeth.gc

 @stelizabeth\_gc

 @stelizabethgc

### PASTORAL STAFF

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**Bret Ware**  
Parish Secretary & Office Admin  
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**Chris Spanberger**  
Director of Religious Education (School)  
[cspan@stelizabethgc.org](mailto:cspan@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](mailto:mwilliams@stelizabethgc.org)

**Loretta Joyce, School Secretary**  
[ljoyce@stelizabethgc.org](mailto: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, January 22**

**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

No Mass

**Tuesday, January 23**

**Saint Vincent, Deacon & Martyr**

6:00 p.m. Mass:

Cheryl Jones+ by Andy & Joann Yurko

**Wednesday, January 24**

**Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop, Religious Founder and Doctor**

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Mary Noeth+ by Norma Lesko

**Thursday, January 25**

**The Conversion of Paul, Apostle**

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Barbara Byrd+ by Janice Willaredt

**Friday, January 26**

**Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, Bishops**

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Maletia Clark+ by Harry Clark

**Saturday, January 27**

**Saint Angela Merici, Virgin**

No Mass

**Saturday-Sunday, January 27-28**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass:

Alice Newton+ by Claude & Carol Kessler

8:00 a.m. Mass: ☩

Romana Lofink+ by Charles & Joann King

10:30 a.m. Mass:

Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

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



January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January:**

For the gift of diversity in the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**This Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ord. Time**

Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

In the first reading, Jonah answers God's call to preach in Nineveh and the city repents.

In the second reading, Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to act as if time is running out.

The Gospel tells of the beginning of Jesus' ministry, as he calls the Galileans to repent and believe in the Gospel. We also hear of the call of James, John, Andrew, and Simon.

**Next Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ord. Time**

Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

In the first reading, Moses says God will raise up a new prophet who will speak the words of God. In the second reading, Paul contrasts the divided loyalties of married people with those who are unmarried and have only the desire to please the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus commands an unclean spirit to be quiet and come out of a man in the synagogue.

### 14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Sanctuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **the OCIA Catechumens and Candidates in our community**. To offer the 14 day candle in honor or a loved one, contact the Parish Office.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

This week, the Altar Flowers are **in memory of the deceased pastors, priests and religious who have served the parish**. 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  
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 Dederia

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 Menerick

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



## TRIVIA NIGHT THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to the many players who braved the cold and snow to come out and play trivia last Saturday night! We all had a great time and raised some money for the school in the process. It was a very exciting race to the finish, with a late lead change, and a three-way tie for third that was determined by a tie-breaker. 'Christmas Movie Quotes' and 'Old Sayings' seemed to be the favorite categories that generated the most discussion. We missed Fr. Alfred being there since he is on vacation, but had a very fun heads/tails game, a wide variety of music, plus some nice monetary donations! We also want to thank our many sponsors (a record number this year): Top level sponsors: Helmkamp Construction and GRP Wegman. Supporters: Charbonnier State Farm, Revity Credit Union, and Andy's Auto Body & Towing, and our Round Sponsors: Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery, Scott's Auto Service, Irwin Chapel, Royal Banks, Holland Construction Services, and Granite City Optimist Club. A HUGE thank you to all involved for a successful and fun night! - Trivia Committee



## The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

On January 25, the faithful celebrate the Conversion of Saint Paul, one of the great events of the early Church. Saul, a student of the great Pharisee rabbi Gamaliel, had persecuted Christians, but was suddenly converted on the road to Damascus when our Lord appeared to him in His resurrected glory (Acts 9:1-9). From this point, he took the name Paul, and would become the "Apostle to the Gentiles."

Born into a well-to-do Jewish family of Tarsus, the son of a Roman citizen, Saul (as we shall call him until after his conversion) was sent to Jerusalem to be trained in the famous rabbinical school headed by Gamaliel. Here, in addition to studying the Law and the Prophets, he learned a trade, as was the custom. Young Saul chose the trade of tent-making. Although his upbringing was orthodox, while still at home in Tarsus he had come under the liberalizing Hellenic influences which at this time had permeated all levels of urban society in Asia Minor. Thus the Judaic, Roman, and Greek traditions and cultures all had a part in shaping this great Apostle, who was so different in status and temperament from the humble fishermen of Jesus' initial band of disciples. His missionary journeys were to give him the flexibility and the deep sympathy that made him the ideal human instrument for preaching Christ's Gospel of world brotherhood.

In the year 35 Saul appears as a self-righteous young Pharisee, almost fanatically anti-Christian. He believed that the trouble-making new sect should be stamped out, its adherents punished. We are told in Acts chapter 8 that he was present, although not a participator in the stoning, when Stephen, the first martyr, met his death.

Before his conversion, Saul was fervently anti-Christian. In the book of Acts, we see that Saul was present for the stoning of the first Christian martyr, Saint Stephen. In fact, Acts 8 begins with the words, "And Saul approved of their killing him."

In the fury of his zeal, he applied to the high priest and Sanhedrin for a commission to take up all Jews at Damascus who confessed Jesus Christ and bring them bound to Jerusalem, that they might serve as public examples for the terror of others. But God was pleased to show forth in him his patience and mercy: and, moved by the prayers of St. Stephen and his other persecuted servants,



for their enemies, changed him, in the very heat of his fury, into a vessel of election, and made him a greater man in his church by the grace of the apostleship, than St. Stephen has ever been, and a more illustrious instrument of his glory.

St. Paul was converted to Christianity on his way to Damascus, in the 30s of the first century A.D.. Though we don't know exactly how many years after Jesus' death Paul was converted, we do know for a fact that it was shortly after the stoning of St. Stephen. It is said that Paul was converted approximately two years after Jesus' death.

On his journey to Damascus, the Resurrected Christ appeared to him and it was this encounter that brought about his dramatic and immediate conversion.

In commenting on the conversion of St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI states that when Paul met

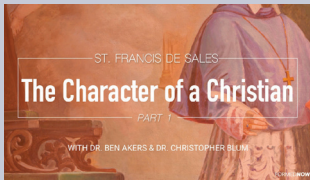
Christ on the road to Damascus, "...it was not simply a conversion... but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, a new one was born with the Risen Christ. [I]t was not simply a conversion ... but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, new one was born with the Risen Christ." – Pope Benedict XVI

Saul was on his way to Damascus when suddenly "a light from heaven flashed about him" (Acts 9), Jesus then revealed his name to Saul. Acts 22 also recounts this event when Paul said, "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'" (Acts 22:6).

After seeing Christ, when Saul opened his eyes he could see nothing. The men traveling with him had to lead him by the hand into Damascus. "And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank" (Acts 9:9). There was a Christian of distinction in Damascus, much respected by the Jews for his irreproachable life and great virtue; his name was Ananias. Christ appeared to this holy disciple and commanded him to go to Saul, who was then in the house of Judas at prayer. Ananias, commanded by the Lord, laid his hands on him, and "immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized and took food and was strengthened" (Acts 9: 18-19).

From ETWN. Read more at: [ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/conversion-of-saint-paul-23084](http://ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/conversion-of-saint-paul-23084)

This Week on  
**FORMED**



**Saint Francis de Sales and the Character of a Christian: Devotion (Part 1 of 4)**

In this four-part series, Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Christopher O. Blum sit down to discuss St. Francis de Sales, his best known work “The Introduction to the Devout Life”, and the character of a Christian

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

Go to [signup.FORMED.org](http://signup.FORMED.org) and select our parish name.

**Mercy Minute**

“O Jesus, how sorry I feel for poor sinners. Jesus, grant them contrition and repentance. Remember Your own sorrowful Passion. I know Your infinite mercy and cannot bear it that a soul that has cost You so much should perish. Jesus, give me the souls of sinners; let Your mercy rest upon them. Take everything away from me, but give me souls. I want to become a sacrificial host for sinners.” (Diary, 908).



**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH**

Has it been a while since you’ve thought much about some of the aspects of our faith? We’re in the middle of a few weeks of diving deeper into the Sacraments. Join us on Thursdays from 7-8 in the PLC Library:

- 1/25: Sacraments of Healing: Penance & Anointing of the Sick
- 2/1: Sacraments of Service: Matrimony & Holy Orders
- 2/8: Living Lent

**YOUNG DISCIPLES SOCIETY** Young Disciples Teens: Join us after the 10:30 Sunday Mass, until 1 p.m., January 21, 28.

Questions? Call Bret in the Parish Office.

**PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LOURDES**

Please join us on a pilgrimage with Fr. Charles Robinson, F.I. to Fatima and Lourdes, with a stop in Avila Spain, as well as Azpeitia, Spain where St. Ignatius of Loyola was born, and more! Daily Mass. September 10-19, 2024. \$3595/per person. \$150 early bird discount if registered by Feb. 15th, 2024. For more information please visit [www.QoHTours.com](http://www.QoHTours.com) or call us at 1-800-213-4295.



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic Congress**

**JOIN US IN INDIANAPOLIS THIS JULY**

To close out the third year of the National Eucharistic Revival, 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.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE CONGRESS?**

Each day will include Mass, Eucharistic Processions and Adoration, tons of breakout sessions, and general sessions featuring amazing nationally-known speakers like Bishop Robert Barron, Father Mike Schmitz, and dozens of others.

**IT DOESN’T END THERE**

Not only do many of our bishops hope that the movement continues with Eucharistic Congresses occurring more frequently around the country in the future as they did before the World Wars, but they hope to send home from Indianapolis next July an activated army of Missionary Eucharistic Disciples who are on fire for our Lord in the Eucharist and ready to help invite and bring others to the Eucharist. We hope you’ll become a part of that movement with us!

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

**We’re starting to put together plans for options for people who want to go the entire time, and/or for people who would like to try to go for the Friday-Sunday or Saturday-Sunday time frame.**



## PARISH LIFE & HOSPITALITY, SERVICE

### LADIES SODALITY MEETING

The Ladies Sodality Meeting will be this Tuesday, January 23 following 6 p.m. Mass. Please join us in the Harmony Room for our first meeting of the year. All ladies of our church are invited to attend. We will hold our regular meeting followed by some fun and games. Please bring 9 quarters to participate in the game. You just might be the lucky winner! Our meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They not only provide an excellent opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth but give each one of us the chance to make a difference in our church and our community. The Ladies Sodality sponsors and lends support to many projects within our parish. Please come to our meetings, we would love to have you there.

### 150 CLUB WINNER

Congratulations to our 150 Club winner for January, Dan Antonovich, #142. Tune in next month for our next winner!

### MEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - COME ON OUT!

Calling all Men of the Parish and School Family (Catholic or not catholic). FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FOOTBALL. Come join us on Sunday January 28th for our Annual Membership Drive. Doors open at 1:30 pm in the cafeteria. We will be there till the second game is over. Come for an hour or stay all day!



### MOSAIC BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

The 2024 Mosaic baby bottle drive begins on Sunday, January 14. You can help transform lives and save babies from abortion by filling a baby bottle with coins, cash, or a check! Pick one up today! Grab a bottle from the table in the gathering space this week, fill it with change or a check and return it to the gathering space or parish office before February 11. You can also donate online at <https://gift.idonate.com/mosaic-health/babybottle>

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 21

After 8:00 Mass to 10:15 - PSR (PLC)  
9 a.m. - Men at Prayer (Harmony Rm)  
After 10:30 Mass: Young Disciples  
Teens until 1 p.m. (Upper Room)  
6 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)  
7:30-8:30 p.m. - Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction (Church)

### Monday, January 22

MAP Testing all week (School)

### Tuesday, January 23

Ladies Sodality after 6 p.m. Mass (Harmony Room)  
7:30 p.m. - Knights of Columbus Meeting (Columbus Home)

### Wednesday, January 24

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

### Thursday, January 25

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. - Adoration (Church)  
7 p.m. - OCIA (PLC Library)  
9 p.m. - Exodus Fraternity (Harmony)

### Friday, January 26

School: Wear Faith Family t-shirt & uniform bottoms

### Saturday, January 27

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee

### Sunday, January 28

Men's Club Membership Drive  
Catholic Schools Week Begins!  
After 8:00 Mass to 10:15 - PSR (PLC)  
After 10:30 Mass: Young Disciples  
Teens until 1 p.m. (Upper Room)  
6 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)  
7:30-8:30 p.m. - Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction (Church)

## AROUND THE AREA

### WOMEN: LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ENRICH YOUR LENTEN SEASON? 2024 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Featuring a talk by Sister M. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM, entitled:  
*Living Lent for a Change*

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at St. Boniface Church, Edwardsville, 8 a.m. - Noon. Mass, Catered Breakfast, & Speaker. Pre-registration is required. Download the registration form at [st-boniface.com](http://st-boniface.com). Proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George.



Sister M. Karolyn Nunes entered the Sisters of the Martyr St. George in 2005. A native of Rhode Island, she is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville having received a bachelor's degree in theology with a concentration in Religious Education and a Masters in Catechetics and Evangelization. Over the past 20 years, she has worked in the field of catechetics and youth ministry in Tennessee, Illinois, New Jersey, and Kansas. She currently serves as the community's vocation director which involves traveling to share her community's charism of merciful love in parishes, school, retreats, and conferences throughout the country. She enjoys painting and other arts and crafts and making music on the guitar, harmonica, ukulele, and as a human jukebox with a song always on her heart.

**K of C CORNER** Fellow parishioners, our spelling bee will be on Saturday, Jan 27th at the Columbus home. The event will be held in the gym and all are welcome to watch the kids strive to do their best. The event starts at 9 a.m. Our council of men are dedicated to a brotherhood that is unique in that our spiritual love for each other is real. Yes, there are disagreements as there are in any organizations, but we work through those for the common good for our parishes and schools. We ask all men, member who have drifted away to come back and help us and for men who are not members yet to join us in our holy and devout mission. Go to [koc.org/joinus](http://koc.org/joinus), fill out the 2-page form and be sure to put in Council 1098. God bless you all, Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight, 618-789-0337



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:

1427 Jesus calls to conversion. This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." In the Church's preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. Also, Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life.

1428 Christ's call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This *second conversion* is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, "clasping sinners to her bosom, [is] at once holy and always in need of purification, [and] follows constantly the path of penance and renewal." This endeavor of conversion is not just a human work. It is the movement of a "contrite heart," drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first.

1429 St. Peter's conversion after he had denied his master three times bears witness to this. Jesus' look of infinite mercy drew tears of repentance from Peter and, after the Lord's resurrection, a threefold affirmation of love for him. The second conversion also has a communitarian dimension, as is clear in the Lord's call to a whole Church: "Repent!" *St. Ambrose says of the two conversions that, in the Church, "there are water and tears: the water of Baptism and the tears of repentance."*

1430 Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, "sackcloth and ashes," fasting and mortification, but *at the conversion of the heart, interior conversion*. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance.

1431 Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace. This conversion of heart is accompanied by a salutary pain and sadness which the Fathers called *animi cruciatus* (affliction of spirit) and *compunctio cordis* (repentance of heart).

1432 The human heart is heavy and hardened. God must give man a new heart. Conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him: "Restore us to thyself, O LORD, that we may be restored!" God gives us the strength to begin anew. It is in discovering the greatness of God's love that our heart is shaken by the horror and weight of sin and begins to fear offending God by sin and being separated from him. The human heart is converted by looking upon him whom our sins have pierced: *Let us fix our eyes on Christ's blood and understand how precious it is to his Father, for, poured out for our salvation it has brought to the whole world the grace of repentance.*



### PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 1/20- Rev. Steven Sotiroff 1/25- Rev. Don Roberts 1/25- Rev. David Lantz 1/27- Rev. Larry Anschutz Rev. Donald Blickhan 1/30- Rev. John Burnette 2/2- Rev. Thaddeus Adukus 2/5- Rev. George Radosevich Rev. Divikar Talluri 2/10- Rev. Steven Thompson 2/11- Rev. John Sohm Rev. Rodney Schwartz

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 1/20- Rev. George Hensey Rev. George A. Monarque Rev. Roger Simpson 1/21- Rev. Henry Eggenstein Rev. Anthony Zurbonsen Rev. George Kenney Rev. Vitus Duschinsky, O.F.M. Rev. John Carberry 1/22- Rev. John Campbell 1/23- Rev. James Smith Rev. James Strembo Rev. Daniel J. Quinn



### 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

## CELEBRATING SUNDAYS FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES

*This is from '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 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 1:14-20

### REFLECTING ON THE WORD:

The fishermen abandoned their nets and followed Jesus. Did they ever question or second-guess that decision? It appears that they were so sure that they did not hesitate. or offer excuses as to why they could not go. James and John even left their father in his fishing boat to follow Jesus! How often do we make excuses for not answering the Lord when he calls? How can we help our children be still so that they can hear God calling, and help them to respond promptly to the working of the Spirit in their lives?

### ON THE WAY TO MASS

If Jesus were to ask us today to leave everything behind and follow him, how might we respond?

### ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

Simon, Andrew, James, and John all gave up their careers as fishermen to follow Jesus. What helps us to be able to follow Jesus?

### LIVING THE WORD

The fishermen in today's Gospel left everything to follow Jesus and became "fishers of men." As disciples of Jesus, they were called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. From Mass, we too are sent out to proclaim the Good News. What story about Jesus would you share? Pick a time this week to share your stories with one another. Either read the story from the Bible and tell why that is your favorite or write it in your own words or draw a scene from the story to share with your family.

# STEWARDSHIP

## Our Financial Stewardship January 14, 2024

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 29 Regular Income	\$4,878.00		
75 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$65.04			
One-Time Donation			
Loose	\$220.00		
Online Giving	\$650.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,748.00</b>	<b>\$9,104.00</b>	<b>(\$411.00)</b>
<b>YTD TOTALS</b>	<b>\$226,761.76</b>	<b>\$264,016.00</b>	<b>(\$37,254.24)</b>

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
Bldg. Repair & Maintenance	\$500.00
Special Projects	\$90.00
Mission & Ministry	\$40.00
Votive Offering	\$93.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$30.00
First Offering	\$155.00
Catholic Times	\$545.00
Church in Latin America	\$30.00
Other Not Specified	\$77.00

### 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. **December tithe: \$4,927.00**

### ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

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

### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

**"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17**

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

### ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE

**Thank you for your generous stewardship & support of St. Elizabeth Parish & School!**

2023 annual contribution statements are now available at the Parish Life Center. Please stop by and pick yours up at your convenience. If you would like it mailed, please call Bret or Jackie at the Parish Office at 618-877-3300.

Did you know? We send out 407 sets of contribution envelopes. 343 families regularly contribute via envelopes or online giving via GiveCentral. If you contribute via GiveCentral and would like to save us time and money by being removed from the envelope mailing, please contact the parish office. We'd be happy to assist!

Of those 343 households who regularly give, below is a breakdown of annual giving. If you're able to, would you please prayerfully consider increasing your giving in 2024?

Contribution Level		# Families
Less than \$50	\$50	41
\$50	\$299	78
\$300	\$499	30
\$500	\$999	51
\$1,000	\$1,999	86
\$2,000	\$4,999	44
\$5,000	\$9,999	11
Greater than \$10,000	\$10,000	2



## 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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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><b>COME JOIN</b>  <b>Knights of Columbus</b>                  Tri-Cities Council # 1098                  4225 OLD ALTON ROAD  <b>618-877-4250</b>                  MEETINGS 2ND &amp; 4TH TUESDAY                  7:30 P.M.</p>	<p><b>Scott's Auto Service</b>                  SPECIALIZING IN:                  Engine Diagnostics, Electrical Diagnostics,                  Engine Repairs, Emissions Repairs,                  Computer Programming, Brakes, A/C,                  Suspensions, Exhaust &amp; Transmissions</p> <p><b>ASAP</b> <b>AAA</b> <b>ASE</b></p> <p>4012 North St. • Granite City • <b>797-7812</b></p>	<p><b>Irwin Chapel</b>                  "Honoring Life"                  Granite City • Glen Carbon</p>	<p><b>Carpet, Hardwood, Ceramic, Tile,                  Luxury Vinyl, Tile - Planks</b>  <b>WE COVER IT ALL...</b></p> <p><b>Vallow</b>                  Floor Design Center &amp; Outlet                  Mark Vallow Seth Renken                  1009 Plummer Drive • Edwardsville                  vallowfloor.com • 618-656-7788</p>
<p><b>REVITY</b>                  CREDIT UNION</p> <p>RevityCU.com</p>	<p><b>St. Elizabeth MENS CLUB</b>                  Meetings Monthly                  (Except July &amp; August)                  1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.                  In School Cafeteria  <b>All Men Of Parish Welcome</b></p>	<p><b>CARROLLTON BANK</b></p>	<p><b>DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR</b>                  and liaison between the Diocese and anyone with an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor.</p> <p><b>Alison Smith</b>                  (217) 321-1155</p>
<p><b>St. Elizabeth Ladies Sodality</b>                  Meetings in the Harmony Room  <b>4th Tuesday</b>                  6 p.m. Snack                  6:30 p.m. Meeting                  except June, July, &amp; December  <b>ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME</b></p>	<p>  <b>The Flower Emporium</b>  <b>618-931-6593</b>                  520 E. Chain of Rocks Rd., Granite City, IL</p>		<p><b>Exodus</b></p> <p><b>Trade your distractions for deeper peace.</b></p> <p><b>We start Jan. 1, 2024:</b></p> <p>MenOfExodus.com</p> 
<p>  <b>Everyone Welcome, Come Enjoy Open to the Public!</b></p> <p><b>TRI-CITIES COLUMBUS HOME ASSOCIATION</b>                  MEETING PLACE OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS                  4225 OLD ALTON RD                  GRANITE CITY, IL 62040                  618-877-4250</p>	<p><b>BINGO (8 times a week)</b>                  Lounge                  Bowling Machine                  Shuffle Board                  Gaming Room                  Banquet Rooms</p>		