

Disciples Stewards

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

The Epiphany of the Lord ♦ January 7, 2024




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PASTORAL STAFF

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CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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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 8

The Baptism of the Lord

No Mass

Tuesday, January 9

Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

6:00 p.m. Mass:

James Alsop+ by Pat Alsop

Wednesday, January 10

Wednesday of the First Wk in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Geraldine Ropac+ by Norma Lesko

Thursday, January 11

Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Cheryl Jones+ by Janet Davinroy

Friday, January 12

Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Romana Lofink+ by the Grinstead Family

Saturday, January 13

Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

No Mass

Saturday-Sunday, January 13-14

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass:

Bob Pawlak+ by Dot Pawlak

8:00 a.m. Mass: ☐

Warren & Zita Bequette+ by Jim Bohn

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: The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah promises that Jerusalem will be a light for all nations. In the Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul explains the revelation that the Gentiles are members of the same body of Christ. In the Gospel, magi from the east look for the newborn king, finally finding the child with his mother, Mary.

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ord. Time

2 Sam 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

The Lord calls Samuel for the first time, but Samuel does not know him. Eli recognizes what is happening and tells Samuel how to answer: Speak, for your servant is listening. In the Gospel, John the Baptist directs two of his disciples toward Jesus, who invites them to stay with him. Andrew, one of the two, seeks his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus.

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Sanctuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **Joseph Leo Bugnitz+ by Bret & Tracy Ware**. 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 **all first responders: police, dispatch, fire, EMS, doctors and nurses**. 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 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



The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

From the U.S. Catholic Bishops' website at USCCB.org.

Read

The Epiphany marks the arrival of visitors, identified in Scripture as the magi, to the place where Jesus was born. Although we know virtually nothing about them, we do know they brought three gifts:

Gold — a symbol of wealth and power, identifies the recipient as a king.

Frankincense — the crystalized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer.

Myrrh — another resinous tree sap, was used in healing liniments and as an embalming ointment. Myrrh is an odd gift for a child—so, even at the beginning of Jesus' life on earth, this gift foreshadows his death.

Reflect

For much of the secular world, the holiday season has died down. Reflect with this article on the joys of the holiday season and what you have left to celebrate when the decorations are put away.

Journeys of Love, from ForYourMarriage.org:

This past Christmas season was an experience of hosting or visiting for us. Stacey's parents joined us just before Christmas, then my parents traveled to see us after Christmas. There were even a few days of overlap when we had a house full of grandparents.

Then, my parents were stuck with us for another day or two after their planned departure—a giant winter storm delayed their travel. In the middle of all of that, Stacey and I made a trip to New York to visit a friend for a few days; her parents stayed back with the kids. So, it was a season of traveling in one form or another, and it all went as well as it possibly could have gone. December and January were full of stories, laughing, good food, and playfulness.

When we came upon the feast of the Epiphany (January 5 this year), I was ripe for reflection upon journeys. The three wise men traveled long distances to visit the Holy Family, and they brought gifts to honor the Christ child. They invested themselves in this person, Jesus—they picked up and mobilized their lives to encounter him. The traveling and hosting that we experienced during Christmas was much like this—people picked up their lives and journeyed long distances to encounter one another, and to honor each other with gifts.

The story of the three wise men indicates that they were overjoyed to reach their destination and to find Jesus and his mother and father. After such a long journey, after such searching, their encounter did not disappoint. They had read and studied about this child, but it made a difference to be able to see and touch him, to speak with his parents and to understand what his life was like. They left feeling like their journey was worth the effort—their encounter changed the way they understood everything about Jesus.

Stacey and I got the kids out for an hour of sledding after all our house guests were gone—just the five of us—and we realized that it was the first time our family had been just our family for weeks. We were grateful to settle back into a normal routine again soon. But the time together with people who are most important to us had been well worth it. Sharing life together, even for a few days, changes the way we understand those relationships. Like the three wise men, we've also been overjoyed at the encounters that the season had brought us.

We stay in touch with people who are important to us using all of the modern means of communication, but even live video chats can't replace spending time with each other in person. Nothing replaces shaking hands, standing or sitting next to each other, or a warm hug from a loved one—we give and receive love with our bodies. The three wise men were among the first to encounter and appreciate this characteristic in God as well—out of love, God has joined our bodily condition.

What a gift it is for the love among family and friends to be an experience of embodied love, and for this experience of love to be a participation in God.

Pray

Say the blessing on your home on the Epiphany (today).

Act

Wish someone a Merry Christmas today! An easy way to evangelize is to wish someone a Merry Christmas during the Christmas season after December 25 and explain why. The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year falls tomorrow, Monday, January 8.



This Week on
FORMED



Who are the Magi?

In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this historical event recorded in Scripture.

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

"O Mary, today a terrible sword has pierced Your holy soul. Except for God, no one knows of Your suffering. Your soul does not break; it is brave, because it is with Jesus. Sweet Mother, unite my soul to Jesus, because it is only then that I will be able to endure all trials and tribulations, and only in union with Jesus will my little sacrifices be pleasing to God. Sweetest Mother, continue to teach me about the interior life. May the sword of suffering never break me. O pure Virgin, pour courage into my heart and guard it." (Diary, 915).



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Thursdays from 7-8 in the PLC Library:

- 1/11: Baptism & Confirmation
- 1/18: The Eucharist
- 1/25: Penance & Anointing of the Sick

YOUNG DISCIPLES SOCIETY

Young Disciples Teens:
Join us after the 10:30 Sunday Mass, until 1 p.m., January 14, 21, 28.

Questions? Call Bret in the Parish Office.

Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany

The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. When all have gathered, the leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen." The leader greets those present in the following words:

Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.
R/. Blessed be God forever.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 19:1-9:

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

The intercessions are then said:

The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.
R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head. *R/. Stay with us, Lord.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. *R/. Stay with us, Lord.*

Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory.
R/. Stay with us, Lord.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer. The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them (us) with the light of Christ, that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *R/. Amen.*

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:
May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. *R/. Amen.*

End the celebration with a suitable song, for example, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "We Three Kings." It is also appropriate to make the traditional signing over the door of the house with the symbol "20 + C + M + B + 24" using blessed chalk. The numbers represent the year, and "C, M, & B" represent the traditional names of the three kings: Caspar, Malchior & Balthazar. It also abbreviates the Latin phrase, Christus Mansionem Benedicat, meaning "May Christ bless the house."

PARISH LIFE & HOSPITALITY, SERVICE

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.

CHARITABLE OUTREACH UPDATE

The next meeting of our Charitable Outreach group is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17 at 6pm in the Harmony Room. All are welcome to attend, particularly if you feel called to help this much needed ministry. Thank you to all who have dropped off items, donations or are prayerfully supporting this effort. Please continue to donate items with particular attention or focus on **stocking caps, scarves, gloves, rain ponchos**, feminine hygiene items, bathing wipes/handwipes, toothpaste and brushes. Any donations of the items above can be placed in the totes in the gathering space. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

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



THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 7

Harmony Cafe after all Masses sponsored by the Men's club - Breakfast in the Cafeteria 8:30 a.m. to Noon

After 8:00 Mass to 10:15 - PSR (PLC)
9 a.m. - Men at Prayer (Harmony Rm)
7:30-8:30 p.m. - Exposition & Holy Hour with Vespers & Benediction (Church)

Monday, January 8

Tuesday, January 9

Papa John's Night

5:30 p.m. - School Board (Cafeteria)
7:00 p.m. - PTO (Cafeteria)

Wednesday, January 10

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

Thursday, January 11

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

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

Catechist Retreat (Evermode Institute)

Sunday, January 14

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



EPIPHANY CONCERT

The Gift of the Magi, Holy Family Parish's First Annual Epiphany Concert, will be held on Sunday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Granite City. It is a festive celebration of music, including jubilant organ pieces, instrumental ensembles, and choral numbers. In addition to the Holy Family Parish Choir, several guest artists will be performing, including several music directors from the Alton Deanery and the Father McGivney Catholic High School

Choir. There will be free admission, and we hope you can join in this joyful festival of music to celebrate our Savior's birth! Questions, contact Thomas Halbrook, thomas@halbroom.net, Director of Liturgical Music at Holy Family.



K of C CORNER This year, 2024, we are looking forward to having a successful year in providing programs and contributions to all 3 parishes. These goals and also the goal of keeping our degrees financially and spiritually foundations strong are very important to all of us. Men, if you are a member that has not participated in our events or meetings, we urge you to come back and give us just a little of your time and men, if you are not a Knight, please consider joining us. It is one of the best things you could do to help the parishes. You will be welcomed with open arms. Go to kofc.org/joinus, fill out the short application and make sure you put in Council 1098. May the Lord be with all 3 parishes this year. Yours in Christ, Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight





NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

JOIN US IN INDIANAPOLIS NEXT 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.**

Similar to the Diocesan Congress last weekend, we'd like to create the opportunity to attend with a group from our parish.

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.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 1/9- Rev. John Titus 1/17- Rev. Augustin Koomson 1/18- Rev. John Renken 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

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 1/7- Rev. Matt Cummins Rev. Frank Westhoff 1/9- Rev. Henry Frohboese Rev. Henry Burhast Rev. Joseph M. McKeogh 1/10- Rev. Clement Johannes 1/11- Rev. Charles Geier



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 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:

Matthew 2:1-5, 7-11

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

The Magi are searching for the newborn king. Who is this child? He is a king, who will be offered a tribute of gold. He is recognized as God, which is signified by the gift of incense. Finally, he is also recognized as human with the gift of the myrrh, a perfume used to anoint the dead. Today's Gospel will give us more clues about the identity of this child.

ON THE WAY TO MASS

The Magi follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem. They saw a large star rising in the sky; why would a small baby have such an amazing star marking his arrival?

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

In what ways do the events in today's Gospel tell us more about who Jesus came for? The shepherds lived near Bethlehem, and they were Jewish. What about the Magi?

LIVING THE WORD

Even with the star to guide the Magi, they needed more help to find Jesus. Who do we turn to when we need help or advice about what to do, what direction to go? Do we turn to God in prayer? Write a prayer asking God for help. for anything that you need help with. Are there other ways we can let God know that we need him?

STEWARDSHIP

Our Financial Stewardship January 1, 2024

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 27 Regular Income	\$6,507.00		
112 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$58.10			
One-Time Donation			
Loose	\$426.00		
Online Giving	\$1,760.00		
TOTAL	\$8,693.00	\$9,104.00	(\$411.00)
YTD TOTALS	\$212,417.68	\$245,808.00	(\$33,390.32)

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	\$110.00
Bldg. Repair & Maintenance	\$70.00
Special Projects	\$70.00
Mission & Ministry	\$40.00
Christmas Offering	\$480.00
Assumption of Mary	\$20.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$595.00
First Offering	\$220.00
Catholic Children's Home	\$130.00
Church in Latin America	\$50.00

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. **November tithe: \$3,241.00**

Catholic Times	\$90.00
Other Not Specified	\$75.00

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

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

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then, they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

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!

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.

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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