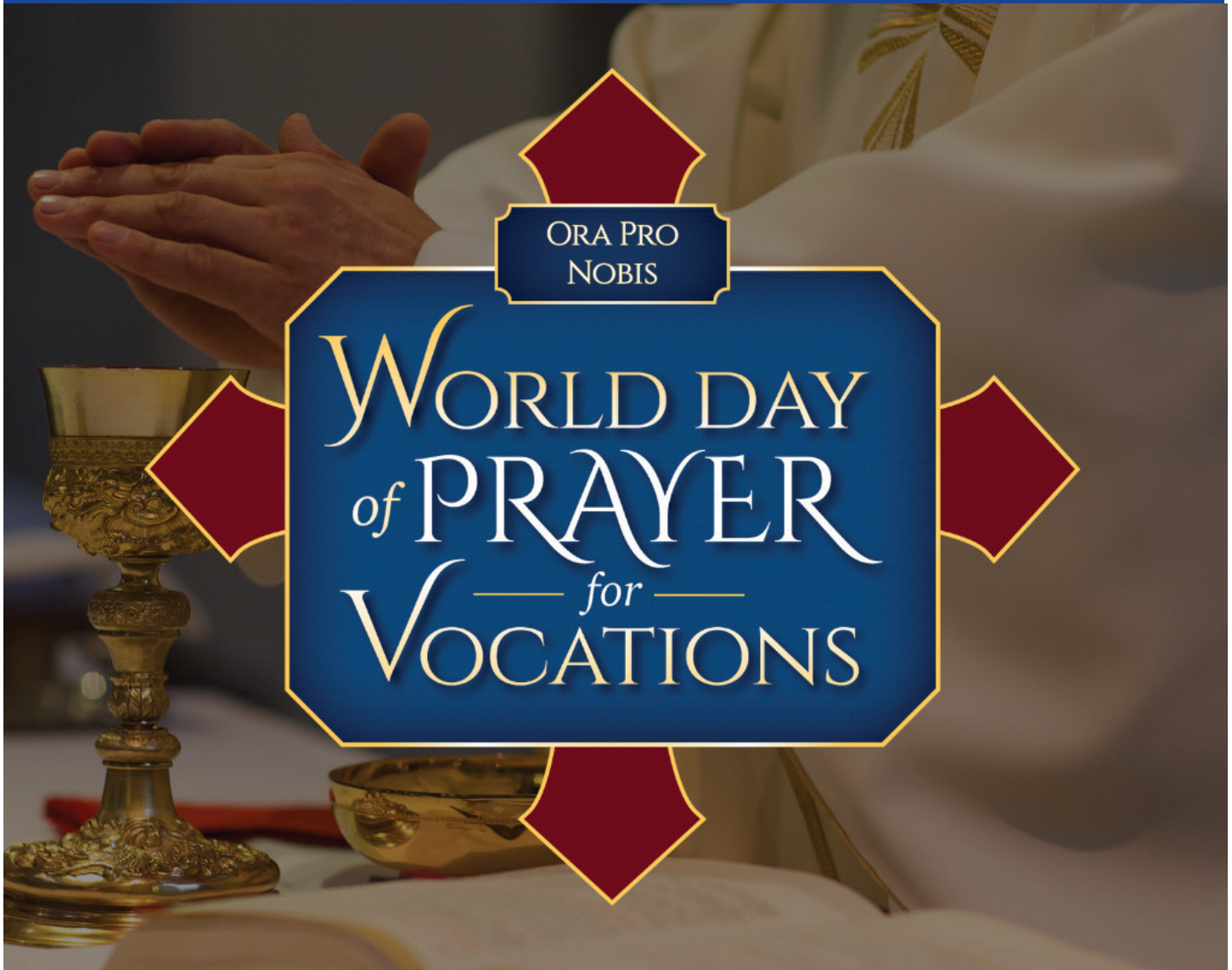


Disciples Stewards

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Fourth Sunday of Easter ♦ April 21, 2024




2300 Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040


Phone 618-877-3300


Fax 618-877-9800


After-Hours Emergencies
314-266-8387

Web: stelizabethgc.org

 @stelizabeth.gc

 @stelizabeth.gc

 @stelizabeth_gc

 @stelizabethgc

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Deacon Michael Halbrook
x1005 | mhalbrook@dio.org

Bret Ware
Parish Secretary & Office Admin
secretary@stelizabethgc.org

Jackie Jones, Bookkeeper
x1003 | jjones@stelizabethgc.org

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

Pre-School: (618) 877-3300 x2003

Michelle Williams, Principal
mwilliams@stelizabethgc.org

Loretta Joyce, School Secretary
ljoyce@stelizabethgc.org

CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

Finance Council: Charlotte Charbonnier

School Board: Adam Meyenburg

Parent/Teacher Org.: Natasha Reidl

Ladies Sodality: Christine Domagalski

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, April 22

Monday of the 3rd Week of Easter

No Mass

Tuesday, April 23

Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Easter

6:00 p.m. Mass:

Sharon Wallace+

Wednesday, April 24

Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Easter

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Glen Hommert+ by Janice Dittman

Thursday, April 25

Saint Mark, Evangelist

8:15 a.m. Mass:

George Friedel+ by Mark & Donna Yehling

Friday, April 26

Friday of the 3rd Week of Easter

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Romana Lofink+ by Amelia Tapp

Saturday, April 27

Saturday of the 3rd Week of Easter

No Mass

Saturday-Sunday, April 27-28

Fourth Sunday of Easter

4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass:

Ronnie Dethrow+ by Norma Lesko

8:00 a.m. Mass: ☩

Mary Konarcik+ by Janice Willaredt

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



April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April:

For the role of women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

This Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

In the first reading, Peter testifies that a disabled man has been healed in the name of Jesus Christ, the One through whom salvation comes. In the second reading, John reflects on the Father's love for us, through which he has made us his children. In the Gospel, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and freely lays down his life for them.

Next Sunday:

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

When we remain in Jesus, his word remains in us, and we bear the fruit of love for one another. The Father prunes us, knowing what we need and do not need to grow and flourish. No other vine is as life-giving as that of Jesus.

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Sanctuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **all Police, Fire, EMS, Dispatch and all other First Responders**. To offer the 14 day candle in honor or a loved one, contact the Parish Office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are for **the staff, teachers, and leadership team of Saint Elizabeth Parish**. Honor a loved one with the altar flowers. Contact the Parish Office.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 21

9-10 a.m. - Men at Prayer (PLC)

9:15-10:15 a.m. - PSR (PLC)

2:30 p.m. - Churches & Community United Meeting (Unity Baptist)

6 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)

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

Monday, April 22

6:30 p.m. - The Chosen (Harmony Rm)

Tuesday, April 23

After 6:00 Mass - Ladies Sodality (Harmony Room)

7:30 p.m. - Knights of Columbus (Columbus Home)

Wednesday, April 24

6 p.m. - Pro-Life Ministry Meeting (PLC)

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

Thursday, April 25

9 a.m.-9 p.m. - Adoration (Church); Benediction & Reposition at 9 p.m.

9 p.m. - Exodus Fraternity (Harmony)

Friday, April 26

6 p.m. - Special Friends (Harmony Rm)

Saturday, April 27

State Solo & Ensemble Music Contest (Triad Middle School)

Madison County Young Authors

8th Grade Formal (Columbus Home)

Sunday, April 28

9:15-10:15 a.m. - PSR (PLC)

Knights of Columbus 5th Sunday (10:30 Mass, breakfast to follow at Columbus Home)

6 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)

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

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The Church sets aside a Sunday with a special focus on vocations



“Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty, and peace, wherever we find ourselves.”

Pope Francis offered that summary of our Christian vocation in his message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which the Church marks today, April 21, 2024.

The Pope’s message this year focuses on the theme: “Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace.”

The Holy Father points out that all Christians are called to welcome our God-given vocation to serve Him in the world in some way, whether it be through the consecrated life, the priesthood or the diaconate, through marriage, or even as a single person.

He pointed out that gratitude should characterize our World Vocations Day celebrations, as we recall the countless Christians who serve God in all walks of life.

He especially invited and encouraged young people to make room for God, so that they might find happiness in His call, which always respects our freedom and fulfills part of what God created us for.

“Let Jesus draw you to Himself,” said the Pope. “Bring Him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let Him challenge you by His presence.”

The Pope also urged everyone to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, so that the Lord may “send out labourers into His harvest.”

Pilgrims of hope and builders of peace

Turning to the heart of his message, Pope Francis recalled that Christian pilgrimage means keeping our eyes, minds, and hearts fixed on our goal—which is Christ—and set out every day anew.

“Our pilgrimage on this earth is far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering,” he said. “On the contrary, each day, by responding to God’s call, we try to take every step needed to advance towards a new world where people can live in peace, justice, and love.”

The goal of every Christian vocation, added the Pope, is to become “men and women of hope,” bearing the Gospel message of hope and peace amid countless crises and “the baneful spectre of a third world war fought piecemeal.”

Christ’s Resurrection, noted Pope Francis, is the force that drives our Christian hope and allows us to face the challenges our world present us.

Christian passion for life

In conclusion, the Pope invited Christians to “rise up” and awaken from our indifference by embracing our vocation and letting Christ guide our steps.

“Let us be passionate about life,” he said, “and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live.”

You can read the Pope’s message at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/20240421-messaggio-61-gm-vocazioni.html>

“Today the Lord continues to call us to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous ‘yes,’ nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God gives us.” - Pope Francis, Message for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations in 2018

What is vocation?

God who created man out of love also calls him to love, the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1604)

From his conception, man is destined for eternal beatitude: Heaven. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1703)

God creates everyone with a purpose, a mission. That mission is what is known as vocation.

Does everyone have a vocation?

Yes, we have all been created by God with a purpose and an end.

God has willed a unique and unrepeatable plan for each of us, designed from all eternity: “Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you; before you came forth from the mother’s womb, I consecrated you” (Jeremiah 1:5).

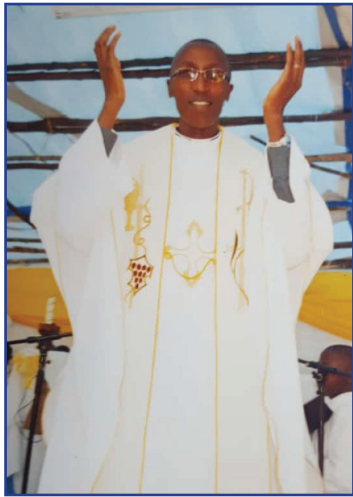
The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the vocation to beatitude, in short, to holiness, to union with God who makes us partakers of His happiness and who loves us totally and unconditionally.

The common vocation of all Christ’s disciples is a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world.

Within this common vocation, God invites each one to follow a specific path in life together with Him. Some are called to the ministerial priesthood, others to the religious life, and others, the laity, are called to meet him in ordinary life, either by living celibacy or by a vocation to marriage. (See the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1533, 1716-1729)

“We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain” (Gaudete et Exultate, 14).

(continued on the next page)



Father Alfred on the day of his priestly ordination, July 3, 2005, the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle.



Sister Stephanie making her final vows to her vocation as a consecrated religious.



Deacon Daniel with Bishop Paprocki and family the day of his diaconate ordination, May 26, 2023.



Above: Deacon Michael at his marriage to Suzanne, September 4, 2004, and his ordination to the diaconate, June 26, 2021.



Right: Father Robert Lampitt of Granite City at his first Mass after his priestly ordination.



(continued from the previous page)

How do I know if God is calling me to a particular vocation?

God calls everyone, some to a specific mission, personally designed for them. "Each in his or her own way," the Council says. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Cor 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness. Indeed, when the great mystic, Saint John of the Cross, wrote his *Spiritual Cantic*, he preferred to avoid hard and fast rules for all. He explained that his verses were composed so that everyone could benefit from them 'in his or her own way.' For God's life is communicated 'to some in one way and to others in another'" (Gaudete et Exultate, 11).

The setting in which a person can discover his vocation is that of prayer, that is, a living and personal relationship with God. Prayer is absolutely necessary for spiritual life. It is like the breath that allows the life of the spirit to develop. In prayer, faith in the presence of God and his love is actualized. It fosters the hope that leads to directing one's life towards Him and trusting in His providence. The heart is enlarged by responding with one's own love to divine Love.

Our model is the Lord. Jesus prays before the decisive moments of his mission: before his Father's witness to him during his baptism and Transfiguration, and before his own fulfillment of the Father's plan of love through his Passion. He also prays before the decisive moments related to the mission of his apostles: at his choosing of the Twelve, before Peter's confession of him as "the Christ of God," and again, that the faith of the chief of the Apostles may not fail when tempted. Jesus' prayer before the events of salvation that the Father has asked him to fulfill is a humble and trusting commitment of his human will to the loving will of the Father.

With his prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, to discover the will of our Father God and to identify with it. In prayer we can discern God's will in every moment of our life: "You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world." (Gaudete et Exultate, 23)

In addition, at the moment of vocational discernment, the figure of a spiritual director can be a great help, a person to whom we can entrust ourselves and who, through his advice, helps us to discover the will of God and to strive to put it into practice. (See the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2558, 2601- 2622, 2657)

Four Ordained Deacons!

Including newly-ordained Deacon Ryan Kehoe, who ministered here as a seminarian during the 2022-2023 school year

Four new deacons were ordained for service in our diocese at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield last Friday, April 12.

The newly-ordained include Deacon Ryan Kehoe, who served here as a seminarian during the 2022-2023 school year. Also ordained were Deacon Charles Delano, who some here may remember from Totus Tuus in the past, Deacon David Beach, and Deacon Stefan Kaniewski. Deacons Kehoe, Delano, and Kaniewski are *transitional* deacons continuing in priestly formation; Deacon Beach is a *permanent* deacon.

Deacon David Beach was originally a classmate of Deacon Michael Halbbrook's, but had to leave formation during COVID due to work demands in his role as VP of HR for the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Deacon Beach re-entered formation for the permanent diaconate just over a year ago.



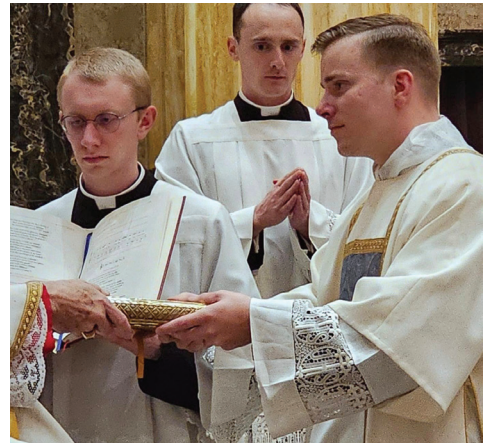
Deacon candidates Ryan Kehoe, Charles Delano, David Beach, and Stefan Kaniewski in front of the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception before the Ordination Mass.



In one of the more dramatic moments in the ordination liturgy, all of the candidates for orders lay prostrate on the floor of the Cathedral, while everyone present prays the Litany of the Saints for them, invoking the intercession of all the Saints.



The candidates kneel in front of Bishop Paprocki during the Prayer of Ordination. "Send forth upon them, Lord, we pray, the Holy Spirit, that they may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace for the faithful carrying out of the work of the ministry."



Bishop Paprocki places the Book of the Gospels in the hands of the newly ordained Deacon Kehoe saying, "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

MORE ORDINATIONS!



Deacon Daniel McGrath is wrapping up his studies and will be ordained a Priest on Saturday, May 25!

Dcn. Daniel will return to St. Elizabeth June 1 & 2 to celebrate Mass with us. We will have a reception after each Mass in the Harmony Room for him and cards or gifts can be shared with him personally as well. You can also drop off a card or gift at the parish office and we will ensure he receives them.

If you would like to be present at the ordination at the Cathedral in Springfield and are interested in car pooling options, please contact the parish office immediately. All are welcome! The ordination will also be streamed at spicathedral.org.

Additionally, **Daniel Mauro** of the Diocese of Kansas City Kansas, who was also with us during the 2022-23 school year, will be ordained a Deacon on Saturday, May 18 at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Kansas City, Kansas. His address is : Dcn Daniel Mauro 5200 Glennon Dr. Saint Louis, MO 63119



True or false: Is there more than one other member of Deacon Ryan Kehoe's extended family in ordained ministry in our diocese? What do you think? The answer is on the bottom of the inside back page of this bulletin.

About Msgr. Hoefler

Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia is our special guest for our Parish Appreciation Dinner



When you hear Msgr. Hoefler tell his vocation story, he points out at that as a young boy as young as seven, he remembers imagining himself with a wife and a family. But God had another call for him in time.

With his first love and work of farming, stemming from his family livelihood, he took up carpentry to support his college studies, earning a degree in computer science with a minor in business administration. He then worked as a computer programmer for 10 years.

In his early 30s, he left his computer programming job and moved to Springfield where his family had migrated and started his own business as a carpenter and contractor.

Through it all, prayer was an anchor for him in life. Over the next couple of years, mentions that others had made to him early in life about him being a good priest kept coming back to him in his prayer. The more he would ask God for clarity, the more his prayer started to naturally turn to asking about God's desires. He started to pray for God to give him the desire to do what God willed for his life. Very rapidly, God started to put in him the desire to pursue the priesthood rather than a secular career and potential family. And then he came to realize that God wasn't going to give a clear answer, but wanted him to use his free will to choose.

Once he had the courage to look at the priesthood, right around his 35th birthday, his calling became clear to him. On that birthday, he found himself overwhelmed with gratitude that he had the chance to do everything he had thought he wanted to do in life, except start a family.

Out of that gratitude, it occurred to him that he had focused so much on what he wanted to do and it had all been a gift from God. He then knew that he wanted to give it all back.

Father Hoefler was ordained to the sacred priesthood on May 25, 2002.

Currently, he serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for our diocese. As Vicar General he's the "General" or "head priest", helping Bishop Paprocki look after and lead the priests and deacons of the diocese. As Moderator of the Curia he leads the staff in the diocesan curia (at the diocesan pastoral center). His role is to lead and rally the priests, deacons, and diocesan staff in cooperating on accomplishing Bishop's vision for our diocese and her people.

Previously, Father Hoefler served as Parochial Vicar of Blessed Sacrament in Springfield from 2002-2005, Parochial Administrator of the same from 2005-2006, and Pastor of the same from 2006-2011; Pastor of Annunciation in Shumway, Sacred Heart in Effingham, and St. Anthony of Padua in Effingham from 2011-2014. He also served as Dean of the Effingham Deanery from 2011-2014, and briefly as Parochial Administrator of St. Anthony of Padua in Effingham & Annunciation in Shumway in 2017. He has served as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia since 2014 and was Acting Director of the Office for the Diaconate in 2017-2018. He has also served as Chaplain of the Courage Apostolate in our Diocese from 2014-2016 and of Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry from 2017-2018.

A Prayer for Vocations

Loving and Generous God,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.
Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Church
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
of Your Spirit
to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's Mission
of love and justice.

Bless our Diocese
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts
to hear Your call.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Another Prayer for Vocations

Hail Mary, full of grace;
all generations call you blessed.
Hail Mother of God;
when asked by the angel
to bear the Son of the Most High,
filled with faith, you responded:
"Let it be done unto me."

Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana,
you prompted your Son to perform his first sign.

Be with us as we discern our life's work
and guide us in the way we are called to follow
in the footsteps of your Son.

Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross
you mourned the death of your only Son.

Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests,
deacons, brothers and sisters.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd,
turn your motherly care to this nation.

Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest
to send more laborers to the harvest
in this land dedicated to your honor.

Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick,
inspire vocations in our time.

Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew
in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim
the good news of everlasting life.

Amen.



**Days from this Sunday to the start of our Parish Picnic
June 7-9, 2024 - Three Days, Four Bands
All of your favorite rides, booths, food, & activities
Sign up to help now!**

Volunteer sign-ups will be available before and after all masses starting this weekend. Those of you who choose to sign up electronically will be able to do so on Monday evenings through Friday evenings each week. These two sign-up procedures will be available up until the start of the picnic. Thank you for signing up as early as possible to relieve the worry of our chairpersons from not being able to successfully run their booths without adequate volunteers. We are still in search of chairpersons for the picnic, please consider helping and getting involved. These are the areas in which we need help.

- Co-chairperson to help Rosa Luna with the Mexican Food Booth. This is the current top gross revenue food booth, is a fan favorite and is a great asset to our picnic.
- Co-chairperson to help Paul Hellrich with the Parking Lot. This is a vital part for our visiting patrons to leave their vehicles in an organized parking lot, reducing liability damages to vehicles and patrons.
- Chairperson for our Day time grounds trash/clean-up. The day (operational times) grounds team would keep our trash receptacles emptied and do minor details of picking up trash. Please consider.

Please call me or any chairperson listed above and let us know your interests. We would love to have new or past volunteers get involved. Thank you in advance to those considering chairmanships.

Picnic Chairperson,
Tim Domagalski, 618-304-6074

PICNIC PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS

We are now seeking parking lot attendants for the picnic on June 7-9. If you have previously worked and would like to work again this year, we would love to have you back.

We are currently looking for 3 attendants per shift. The shifts will be 6 hours in length. There will be a morning/day shift and an afternoon/evening shift each day.

Please call Paul Hellrich for more detailed information @ 618-407-3011 or email phhellrich@yahoo.com to leave your contact information.

Thank you,
Paul Hellrich, Parking Lot Chairperson

HELP WANTED / DIME PITCH

Dime Pitch is in great need of new or lightly used stuffed animal donations for prizes. Please bring any donations to the containers in the gathering space or to the parish office. Questions? Contact Rachel Borrer at Rachel.borrer@gmail.com.

FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIALS MAY 2024-APRIL 2025

The First Friday Memorial is a special offering made by St. Elizabeth parishioners, which lists your intentions for deceased loved ones in our bulletin, and these listed names are then remembered monthly at Mass each First Friday through the year. The Memorial names are printed each week in our Sunday Bulletin. A yearly donation of \$60.00 is requested for these intentions to be listed. This donation allows the names to be printed constantly in our bulletin, in the exact same way other bulletin ads are funded, and all the funds go to offset the cost of printing our bulletin. This is not a donation for a Mass intention since the money does not, and by Canon Law cannot, go into the Mass stipend account, as taking any money for large, so-called "collective intentions" (where multiple names are listed for the Mass intention) is explicitly forbidden. Father is happy to remember these names collectively once a month at Mass with no stipend involved. Your donation is a publishing/printing fee, ultimately paid to our printer in Godfrey, Illinois.

You are encouraged to attend this weekday Mass. You may list your intentions as one individual name: *Mary Jones*, or you may list family groupings: *The Jones Family*. You may NOT submit a litany of individual names or multiple families, as space will not permit. If you wish to continue having your past intentions remembered at these Masses, you will be asked to renew your donation each year. Please fill out this form below and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible with the requested donation.

Feel free to call the Parish Office at 877-3300 during business hours which are 8:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday. We will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding those who are remembered each First Friday.

Please clearly mark your envelope or the memo line on the check: First Friday Memorials and return by May 20, 2024.

Application for First Friday Memorials

NAME:

CONTACT INFORMATION (Phone/Email):

INTENTION:

FORMATION Growing in Knowledge of Christ & His Church

This Week on FORMED®



Beloved - Session 1: Does Marriage Matter?

Is your marriage all it can be? Beloved unlocks the sacrament of marriage in 12 sessions, showing how God designed it to fulfill you. Open to all couples, young or old. A good series to start watching, this World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

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.



Deacon Daniel and Seminarian Devin taught about Lectio Divina prayer and helped lead some of our YDS Teens through it during last Sunday's YDS Teens gathering in The Upper Room. **Teens, join us for our next gathering, next Sunday, April 28. We gather after 10:30 Mass until 1 p.m. in The Upper Room, our room in the PLC.**



Watch *The Chosen* with fellow parishioners! Join us on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Harmony Room as we journey through the life of Christ and his disciples, in the series, *The Chosen*. Enjoy light snacks, fellowship, and seasons 1-2.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SAVE THESE SUMMER DATES!



Totus Tuus July 7-12

Vacation Bible School: SCUBA! at St. Elizabeth August 5-9



Mercy Minute

"O my Jesus, although I will go to You, and You will fill me with Yourself, and that will make my happiness complete, I will nevertheless not forget about humanity. I desire to draw aside the veils of heaven, so that the earth would have no doubts about The Divine Mercy. My repose is in proclaiming Your mercy. The soul gives the greatest glory to its Creator when it turns with trust to The Divine Mercy." (Diary, 930).



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE... DON'T MISS IT!

You are invited to a once-in-a-lifetime experience, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage coming to cities in our diocese. This is an unprecedented pilgrimage in which Catholics will pray and publicly follow Jesus in their cities through Eucharistic processions. Our Diocese is excited to be included in one of the national routes July 8-12. Learn more & register: dio.org/procession

The map shows the pilgrimage route through Illinois with the following stops and dates:

- JULY 7:** Sacred Heart
- JULY 8:** Ss. Peter and Paul Collinsville
- JULY 9:** St. Francis Solanus Tolton's Grave Quincy; St. Peter Alton
- JULY 10-11:** Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen Girard; St. Francis of Assisi Campus Springfield
- JULY 11-12:** Blessed Sacrament Teutopolis; Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Effingham; St. Francis of Assisi

Logos for St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois, and St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital are also present.

For more details visit DIO.ORG/PROCESSION or scan the QR code

PARISH LIFE & HOSPITALITY, SERVICE

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY MEETING

Join us for our next Pro-Life Ministry meeting this Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the PLC.

BLOOD DRIVE MAY 3

Our next Blood Drive is Friday, May 3 in the PLC. Mark your calendar and watch this space for more information.

LADIES SODALITY KENTUCKY TRIP

Ladies Sodality is planning a fall trip to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky. The trip will begin early on September 23 with return home on the 24th. Bus is \$120.50 per person; admission tickets are \$80. Hotel reservations pending. Interested? Contact Pam Winn at 618-641-7274 ASAP.

WEBINAR ABOUT ASSISTED SUICIDE

Learn more about why legalization of assisted suicide is not good for Illinois. Join a weekly, 30-minute, informational webinar every Thursday, 12:30-1:00 pm. Email dmoore@dio.org to get a link to join the webinar.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

You never have to drink again. We can show you how. AA is a fellowship of people who come together to solve the drinking problem. It's been working since 1935. And it's free. aa.org/new-to-aa

LADIES SODALITY SCHOLARSHIP

Attention high school seniors... It's that time of year again; time to apply for the Ladies Sodality Scholarship. You need to be a graduate of St Elizabeth Catholic School, attend mass at St. Elizabeth, and be planning to attend a college or technical school. Pick up an application at the Parish office. - Joyce Alexander, Scholarship chairman.

JOB OPENINGS AT THE CURIA

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is hiring! The Diocese is looking for dynamic individuals to fill our open positions: Internal Auditor, Director, Office for Safe Environment, and Safe Environment Assistant. Please share with your community about our open positions, you can find them at dio.org/hr/employment-listings.

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 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 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



FUND A GRIFFIN

At FMCHS, we nurture our students' Catholic faith so they can go out into the world and do God's work. Make a Catholic education possible for our students and help Fund a Griffin at McGivneyGriffins.com/Annual-Appeal.



FATHER MCGIVNEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SERVIRE CULTURAE VITAE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER Membership cards are in and will be handed out at the meeting. Please attend our next meeting on April, 23rd at 730 p.m. They are very expensive to mail. Scholarship applications ended on April 15th. We are working on making the 3rd and 4th degree donations to the church's and schools. We have a short testimony to share. On Wednesday, April 10th, the Mass was offered up for healing for 2 year old baby Zoey for a liver transplant. 22 hours later at 5 a.m. she was on the operating table receiving a transplant. We thank God for this wondrous gift to her and the family. This is the result of the constant praying from many different individuals of all faiths. Men of the parishes please join us at our next meeting. God bless all of you, Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight, 618-789-0337.



ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL



Volunteers from MilliporeSigma came to do a chemiluminescence curiosity lab with grades 6-8 science this week. Thank you!



Grades 2 & 3 had a fun trip to The Magic House.



Auction Outing: Pottery & McDonald's with Preschool Mrs. Sadowski.



Auction Outing: Meme's with Mrs. Lance.



4th Grade Field Trip.

CELEBRATING SUNDAYS FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES

This is from 'Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families' by Kerri Mecke-Lazano. Please use it to help your family get more out of the Mass each week!

HEARING THE WORD:

John 10:11-18

REFLECTING ON THE WORD:

The Good Shepherd loves and cares for the sheep. He knows each of the sheep by name. He calls them and they follow his voice. How do we recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd amid the noise and competing voices in the world? We know the voice of the Good Shepherd because we have heard his. Word so often. It is in listening to him that we know about his great love for us. The great self-sacrificing love that the Good Shepherd has for the sheep reminds us of the love that the parent has for the child.

ON THE WAY TO MASS

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd. What does a shepherd do? What do sheep need?

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

The Good Shepherd calls us by name. We listen to his voice so that we can follow him. How far does his voice reach?

LIVING THE WORD

We listen to the Good Shepherd's voice and follow him. One of the ways we listen to his voice is by reading his Word. Spend time this week reading about the love and care of the Shepherd in Psalm 23. This psalm tells us that the Shepherd gives us everything we need, including comfort and courage when we are afraid. Have each member of your family illustrate a line from this psalm. Collect all the images to make a Psalm 23 booklet.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 4/21- Rev. Donald Wolford Rev. Steven Pohlman 4/23 Rev. Steven Arisman 4/24- Rev. James O'Shea 4/26- Rev. Phillip Kraft

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 4/21- Rev. G. Meillinger Rev. Joseph William Fitzpatrick Rev. Roy Bauer 4/24- Rev. Francis Zabel Rev. Patrick Longhney Rev. Francis Kehoe



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 April 21, 2024

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 43 Regular Income	\$4,786.00		
100 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$47.86			
Easter Sunday: 1 Env., Avg. Gift \$25.00	\$25.00		
One-Time Donation	\$4,203.53		
Loose	\$311.00		
Online Giving	\$729.00		
TOTAL	\$10,153.53	\$9,104.00	\$1,049.53
YTD TOTALS	\$337,520.68	\$382,368.00	(\$44,847.32)

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	\$302.00
Building Repairs & Maint.	\$276.00
Special Projects	\$2.00
Votive Offering	\$105.00
Funeral Memorials	\$30.00
Rice Bowl	\$482.69
Funeral Stipend	\$100.00
Mission & Ministry	\$1.00
Other Not Specified	\$10.00

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.
March tithe: \$4,686.00

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

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

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"I am the good shepherd... and I lay down my life for the sheep... and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

WAYS TO SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENT

Here are some ways that you might be able to share your time & talent with the parish.

- **Graphic design & layout:** Do you use Adobe InDesign? Do you have experience with page layout and design? If so, would you be interested in helping with our weekly bulletin production?
- **Greeting & ushering:** Would you be interested in helping to be a greeter or usher at our Sunday Masses, at the Mass you attend?

If any of these fit you, please contact Bret in the parish office. Thank you!

Trivia answer from page 5: TRUE! Deacon Ryan Kehoe is the third member of his extended family to serve in ordained ministry in our diocese. His grandfather, Deacon Ben Hoefler, is a permanent deacon, the most senior ordained deacon of our diocese. Deacon Ryan's uncle, Monsignor David Hoefler, is a priest of the diocese who currently serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. Monsignor Hoefler is our special guest at this weekend's Parish Appreciation Dinner.

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.



SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: In addition to Confessions offered from 3-4 p.m. on Saturdays, you can also schedule an individual time for Reconciliation.

Anointing of the Sick: 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 at least a month before your desired date. For questions or emergencies, please contact the Parish Office.

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.')

Advocates are available 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.

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