# Disciples Stewards

## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time 🔷 September 8, 2024



# Who was Saint Peter Claver?

This Monday, the Church celebrates the Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, priest. Who was Saint Peter Claver?

Saint Peter Claver was a Jesuit missionary who spent his life in the service of African slaves brought against their will to South America during the 17th century.

Peter Claver was born into a farming family in the Spanish region of Catalonia during 1581. He studied at the University of Barcelona as a young man, and joined the Jesuits as a novice at the age of 20.

While studying philosophy in Tarragona, Peter developed a friendship with an older Jesuit lay brother, Alphonsus Rodriguez. Although Alphonsus spent his days doing menial work as a door-keeper, he had immense insight into spiritual matters and encouraged Peter to become a missionary in the Spanish colonies. Pope Leo XIII would later canonize both men on the same day, almost two centuries later.

In 1610, Peter Claver – now a priest – arrived in Cartagena, a (Continued on page 6)

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

### **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS**

Finance Council: Charlotte Charbonnier School Board: Adam Meyenburg Parent/Teacher Org.: Mary Grinstead Ladies Sodality: Christine Domagalski Holy Name Men's Club: Rob Hutson Men at Prayer: Tom Cholevik Funeral Dinners: Pam Ames Maintenance Team: Bud Charbonnier

> Strong in Faith since 1871

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.

### PRAYER & LITURGY

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, September 9 Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Priest No Mass

Tuesday, September 10
Tuesday of the 23rd Wk in Ordinary Time
6:00 p.m. Mass:
Nancy Gray+ by Ed Coulson

Wednesday, September 11 Wednesday of the 23rd Wk in Ordinary Time 8:15 a.m. Mass: Roberta "Bobbie" Lewis by Bret & Tracy Ware

Thursday, September 12 Thursday of the 23rd Wk in Ordinary Time 8:15 a.m. Mass:

Cheryl L. Jones+ by Norma Lesko

Friday, September 13 Memorial of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15 a.m. Mass: Diane Tyson+ by Ruth Cruse

Saturday, September 14
Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
No Mass

**Saturday-Sunday, September 14-15 24**<sup>th</sup> **Sunday in Ordinary Time** 4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass: Jim Alsop+ by Pat Alsop

8:00 a.m. Mass: **○** Lisa Dellamano+ by Janice Willaredt

10:30 a.m. Mass: Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

### 14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Santuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **the deceased priests**, **deacons**, **and religious of our diocese**.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers are in thanksgiving for 20 years of married life by Deacon Michael & Suzanne Halbrook.

Mass offerings are available (\$10), as are memorials on the 14 Day Candle / Sanctuary Lamp, and Altar Flowers (\$50). Contact the parish office.





September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September: For the cry of the Earth: We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

This Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ord. Time Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Isaiah says to the frightened: be strong and fear not! We are encouraged to show no partiality because God chose the poor in the world to be heirs of the kingdom. Jesus heals a deaf man with a speech impediment and all are exceedingly astonished.

**Next Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ord. Time** Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Isaiah prophesies of the servant of the Lord who has not turned his back but has given his back to those who beat him, believing that the Lord is his help. James argues that faith without works is dead. Jesus asks his disciples who they say he is. Peter answers, "You are the Christ." Jesus then says that anyone who wishes to follow him must take up his cross.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 9/7- Rev. James Isaaxson SJC, Rev. Adam Zawaszki, 9/8- Rev. Anthony Chowrappa, 9/9- Rev. Daniel Willenborg, 9/10- Rev. Nicholas Husain, 9/11- Rev. John Beveridge

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 9/7- Rev. A.J. Van Speybroeck, 9/8- Rev. Anthony Rustige, Rev. Vincent Jalinsky, 9/9- Rev. Frederick Neveling, Rev. Alphonese J. Bertman, Msgr. Michael F. Donohue, Rev. Francis C. Schlepphorst

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### PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Nolan Yehling- USAF, Whiteman AFB; Brandon Weidner- US Coast Guard, Sault Sainte Marie, MI; Kody Presswood- Staff Sergeant, US Space Force, Colorado Springs, CO; Nick Glasgow- USMC, CA

### FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIALS

June 2024 to May 2025

Paula G. Koliste
Pfaff & DeRuntz Families
Deceased Members of St. Elizabeth Choir
Deceased Members of St. Elizabeth Mens

Club Gene Cassy Iim Dedera Cassy Family Pieper Family Crawshaw Family Binney Family Kim Edgar Chad Sigite Jim & Lisa Fensterman Charles Dickey Louise Harrison Kenneth R. Jaimet Ann Fabisher Carol McGee Karen Romeri Ed Lyndsey Czwornog & Ostrenga Families Richard A. Willaredt Lisa Dellamano

Rosalie Boyd Jim Dittman Pawlak & Sertich Families

Kierski Family John & Theresa Straubinger Carl Williams

Joseph & Victoria Krystopa Michael & Leona Bonach Nancy Gray

Karen Winters- Weiland Alan Winters Keith Winters Bill Loftus Jim Alsop & Family Dortch Family

**Jones Family** 

Glen Hommert
Inez & Brian Foreman
Tony & Mary Bellue
Jesse & Loraine Gonterman
Lesko & Danheiser Families
Harbin & Jones Families
Angela & Ronald Briggs Jr.

Delores Brinker Brinker & Soboleski Families Pattie Jackson

Ida Gragg Robert & Lorraine Joshu Lee & Connie Hayes Family Votoupal/Bursisk Family Pfaff & DeRuntz Families Deceased Members of Ladies Sodality

### **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.

### Parish Life & Hospitality

### Chicken Dinner!

Chicken, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Applesauce, Bread, Coffee & Tea, Dessert

# NEXT Sunday, September 15

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Or until sold out

# SEEKING FUNERAL LUNCHEON COOKS, BAKERS, & HELP

If you like to cook our bake, we could use your help. We are in need of volunteers to bake or cook a dish when we have a funeral luncheon for the family of a parishioner that has passed. Please call Pam Ames at 618-791-7081 to volunteer or if you have any questions.

### CLASS OF '71 REUNION INTEREST

The St. Elizabeth Class of 1971 would like to plan a class reunion. Please join us at the St. Elizabeth Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m. in the School Cafeteria for THE BEST CHICK-EN DINNER AROUND! After dinner we would like to meet at the Parish Life Center (Parish Office) at around 4:00 pm to plan our reunion. Please contact Jackie Jones at the Parish Office at 618-877-3300 or Elaine Foreman. Also, please check out our Facebook page "St Elizabeth Grade School Class of 1971" to keep up to date with all our classmates and with reunion updates.

### **SEEKING EMHCs**

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (shortened: EMHCs) are lay Catholics who are granted a "mandate" by our bishop, upon request of our pastor, to assist with the distribution of Holy



Communion in extraordinary situations when there are not enough ordinary ministers (priests, deacons, or acolytes) to effectively distribute Communion. We could use a few more EMHCs to be trained, mandated, and available at St. Elizabeth at each of the Masses. If you are interested in considering this ministry, please contact Deacon Michael at mhalbrook@dio.org or via the parish office. Thank you!

### SENIOR SPEAKER LUNCHEON

Attention all Seniors or retired persons: We hope you will grab some friends and consider joining us <u>this</u> Wednesday, September 11 at 11:15 a.m. for our Senior Speaker Luncheon. Sister Stephanie Turck will be our speaker while we enjoy a spaghetti and meatball lunch. Lunch will be served about 11:30 a.m. and the speaker will begin at Noon. RSVP to Bret in the parish office. Cost will be \$7 per person. Hope to see you there!

### **CAMPUS WORKDAY**

Join us for our next campus workday this coming Saturday, September 14 from 7 a.m. to Noon. Join us to help with more cleanup and beautification around the property. Thank you for being a part of our parish community in this way if you are able!

### THIS WEEK

### Sunday, September 8

### Harmony Cafe after all Masses

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

6 p.m. - Young Disciples Teens (PLC Upper Room + Church)

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

### Monday, September 9

6:30 p.m. - *The Chosen*, Season 3, Episodes 1 & 2 (Harmony Room)

### Tuesday, September 10

7 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Church)

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

### Wednesday, September 11

11:30 a.m. - Senior Speaker Luncheon: A lunch chat with Sister Stephanie (Harmony Room)

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

### Thursday, September 12

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

6:30 p.m. - PTO (Cafeteria)

### Friday, September 13

12:30 p.m. - Mass & Grandparents' Ice Cream Social & Book Fair (School)

### Saturday, September 14

7 a.m. to Noon - Campus Workday

### Sunday, September 15

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

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Chicken Dinner!

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER We have had to change the date for the Halloween dance/party from Friday, Oct 11th to Friday Oct. 18. Event starts at 6:30 p.m and ends somewhere around 8:30 p.m. All children of the parishes are invited. There will be an awesome d.j., musical chairs, best costume, locomotion dance, and many other fun things to participate in or just watch. There will be a lunch with Sister Stephanie on Wednesday Sept. 11 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth. Sister will be speaking about her journey before and after being called to Christ's servant as a nun. Even though our council is not sponsoring this event we felt it worthwhile to help support it. Spaghetti lunch will be served, and cost is \$7 a person. Call St. E. office to rsvp. Yours in Christ, Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight

# This Week on FORMED®



# A Bible Study on the Annunciation

In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26–38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

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.

### **Mercy Minute**

"Then I saw the Blessed Virgin, unspeakably beautiful. She came down from the altar to my kneeler, held me close to herself and said to me, 'I am Mother to you all, thanks to the unfathomable mercy of God. Most pleasing to Me is that soul which faithfully carries out the will of God... Be courageous. Do not fear apparent obstacles but fix

stacles, but fix your gaze upon the Passion of My Son, and in this way you will be victorious." (Diary, 449).



### **PSR SIGN-UPS**

Parish School of Religion (PSR) begins this week! Grab a registration form in the gathering space or online at **stelizabethgc.org/psr-registration** and sign up today! All classes are on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m.



### **COMING INTO THE CHURCH**

The Order of Christian Initiation is forming again, and many are already inquiring about coming into the Church this year and discussing their next steps.

If you or someone you know is not yet Baptized, received into the Catholic Church, or fully initiated with the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist, contact the parish office for more information.

Someone from our pastoral team will be overjoyed to meet with you and discuss your path.

Know of our prayers for you!



### THE CHOSEN: SEASONS 3 & 4

Join us for viewings of the popular television series about Jesus and his disciples, *The Chosen* Seasons 3 & 4, with fellow parishioners. We'll pick back up with Season 3 *starting this Monday*, and Season 4 in October.

Bring a friend and "Come and See," Monday evenings in the Harmony Room starting at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks are provided.

September 9: Season 3, Episodes 1 & 2 September 16: Season 3, Episodes 3 & 4 September 23: Season 3, Episodes 5 & 6 September 30: Season 3, Episodes 7 & 8 October 7: Season 4, Episodes 1 & 2 October 14: Season 4, Episodes 3 & 4 October 21: Season 4, Episodes 5 & 6 October 28: Season 4, Episodes 7 & 8

# 7 CATHOLIC TRADITIONS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

Our faith is full of rich traditions, some of which have gone away and some of which are making a comeback. Fr. Chris House breaks down seven traditions you may have never heard of and the symbolism behind them. Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.



### JOIN THE RESCUE CHALLENGE

Here's a special opportunity for anyone, but especially anyone who has taken any part in *The Rescue Project* here the last few years.

The most urgent task of our day is the compelling proclamation of the Gospel. Only when we see everything through a Biblical worldview can we experience real hope. And our minds need to be renewed repeatedly as we live in a time where despair, division and anxiety run rampant.

Join Fr. John Riccardo in *The Rescue Project Challenge*, a 14-day series where we reflect on the explosive good news that is the Gospel, pray with hope, and invite others to join on this journey.

### rescueproject.us/challenge



Join other mothers and daughters for exciting activities, bonding games, stiff competitions, as well as Mass, adoration, and delicious food! Sept. 21, 2024, Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. For any mothers with daughter(s) in grades 4-10; Lunch and dinner provided; \$50 per mother/daughter pair. \$10 per additional; 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; For questions about the event, please contact Daniel Heffernan at dheffernan@dio.org. Register at dio.org/events/

### **WELCOME SEMINARIANS!**

We are extremely excited to introduce two seminarians of our diocese who will be ministering with us at St. Elizabeth during their school year this year at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. We'll start to see them among us over the next couple of weekends. Welcome to St. Elizabeth, Seminarians Padrick Mulligan and Dennis Trickey! We'll share more information about each of them in the coming weeks.



Seminarian Padrick Mulligan



**Seminarian Dennis Trickey** 

### From Our Pastor



### Parish Vitality Study and St. E Campus Improvements Update

The St. Elizabeth Parish Vitality Study was submitted to the Springfield Diocese in March. It provided a current snapshot of our parish and school, our various committees and our faith-based outreach, among other things. The Diocese will be meeting with representatives of St. Elizabeth on Monday, Oct 7, to discuss the Study and to assist in the development of our capital campaign. We are looking at many projects across the campus, but know already that roof replacement will be a big portion of the focus of the pending capital campaign.

One portion of the school roof could not wait for the capital campaign to get underway. The north half of the school roof, including the preschool and kindergarten, experienced numerous leaks during the last school year. Several attempts have been made to patch the roof, but they have not worked. The decision was made to move forward immediately with roof replacement on that portion of the school roof. The total cost will be approximately \$575,000.

Thankfully, once again, the numerous organizations and past benefactors have allowed us the opportunity to move forward



with this project without asking the parishioners to help pay for it. Work on the school roof is scheduled to get underway on Tuesday, September 3rd and is expected to last approximately 6 weeks. The school is coordinating closely with the contractor for the relocation of classrooms while the work is underway.

Please know that we will be identifying projects and finalizing details of the capital campaign this Fall, and are counting on you to help support it, both financially and prayerfully. We have been so blessed to have great organizations within our parish and school generously support the new school windows (2023) and now the north portion of the school roof (2024). We respectfully ask that you begin to consider your personal donations to our capital campaign as our campus continues to need improvements.

In Union of Prayers, Father Alfred

### LEARNING & LIVING AS DISCIPLES

# 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:**

Mark 7:31-37

### **REFLECTING ON THE WORD:**

When Jesus heals the deaf man with the speech impediment, he gives the man more than physical healing; he gives him the possibility of participating more fully in the life of the community. Because of what Jesus has done, this man can now hear what people say and express himself through spoken language. Jesus' healing was a gift for the deaf man, but also for the community that he was a part of. Imagine if a member of your family was unable to share their thoughts or their lives with their loved ones. What would it be like without their storytelling, without their wisdom, without their humor? In healing this man, Jesus reveals that everyone's voice matters. We are whole when each person can participate fully in the life of the community.

### ON THE WAY TO MASS

If I could ask Jesus for help today, what would I say?

### ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

If you were the man Jesus healed, what's the first thing you would do?

### LIVING THE WORD

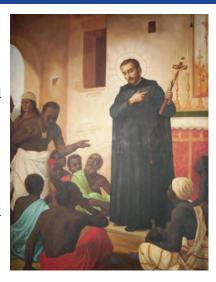
This week let's ask God to keep our hearts open to hear his voice. Maybe we'll hear him in the beautiful sounds of nature if we are quiet enough to listen, or through our family members. Let's pray that God will help us speak with love. May we give praise to God in everything we say.

"Thus says the Lord:
Say to those whose
hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!"
- Isaiah 34:4a

St. Peter Claver, continued from page 1

port city in present-day Colombia. Despite Pope Paul III's repeated condemnations of slavery during the previous century, European colonists continued importing African slaves, often sold by their own rulers, to work on plantations and in mines. Those who survived the ship journey could expect to be worked to death by their masters.

Peter was determined to sacrifice his own freedom to bring material aid and eternal salvation to the African slaves, in keeping with his vow to become "the slave of the blacks forever." The young priest made and kept this reso-



lution despite his own health problems (aggravated by Cartagena's tropical climate) and the language barrier between himself and the population he served.

Many Spanish Royal officials in Cartagena appreciated Claver's work, and made contributions toward the slaves' relief and religious education. The slave traders, on the other hand, found the priest and his interpreters to be a nuisance. Meanwhile, some Spanish expatriates who sought out the priest because of his holy reputation, refused to enter the same church or confessional as the black slaves.

In order to minister to speakers of a foreign language, Claver often employed pictorial representations of Catholic truths. He also communicated by means of generosity and expressions of love, giving food and drink to the ailing workers and visiting them during bouts of sickness that often proved fatal.

"We must speak to them with our hands," he reasoned, "before we try to speak to them with our lips."

In keeping with his vow of "slavery," Peter survived on minimal amounts of food and sleep. His life of humility and penance led to miraculous occurrences – as when he healed the sick with the touch of his cloak, or appeared surrounded by a supernatural light during his hospital visits.

St. Peter Claver's work came to an end with his death on September 8, 1654. He had baptized and taught the faith to more than 300,000 slaves during his four decades in Cartagena.

During the Vatican's Synod for Africa in 2009, Cartagena's Archbishop Jorge Enrique Jiménez Carvajal lamented the fact that his city had been the center of an "awful commerce."

But he spoke with gratitude for the fact that the same city had become the home of such a "great witness to sanctity," the "apostle of the slaves, whose body rests in our cathedral, who lived to protect them and lead them towards the faith" in which they could experience God's love.

### Saint Peter Claver is the Patron Saint of:

African Diaspora (those of African descent who have moved to various parts of the world, both voluntarily and involuntarily, throughout history), African Missions, Colombia, Interracial Justice

- From Franciscan Media: franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-peter-claver/

# Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: September 14; Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows: September 15



The books The Catholic All Year Compendium: Liturgical Living for Real Life and The Catholic All Year Prayer Companion: The Liturgical Year in Practice, by Kendra Tierney, provide a rich resource for bringing our Catholic faith and traditions to life in your own home. The below excerpts are from activities and prayers for this week of the liturgical year.

If these are interesting and engaging for you or your family, you can get the books for yourself, or explore the website **catholicallyear.com** where you can even subscribe to memberships with ongoing digital or digital + print via mail activities & prayers.

And now, to get serious for a moment, we have the mid-September feast days of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and of Our Lady of Sorrows. Most feasts on the Church calendar, even when they commemorate things such as your dad chopping your head off (St. Barbara, December 4) or your intestines being wound up on a winch (St. Erasmus, June 2), we Catholics still manage to make a party of it. But these two days, like a mini-Holy Week, don't have that same whimsical feel to them.

### The True Cross

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates the finding of the True Cross by St. Helena in 326. On this day we focus on the cross itself. We focus on how Jesus Christ transformed an instrument of torture and humiliation into a symbol of triumph and salvation. As St. Paul says, "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor 1:23-25).

Veneration of the cross is an ancient tradition, powerful for adults and kids alike but easy to manage. If it's not offered at your parish, you can do it at home using any large-ish crucifix or even just two pieces of wood nailed together to form a cross. The cross should be placed so that the head is higher than the foot, perhaps resting on the bottom stair or on a few books. Everyone in the family lines up behind the head of the household. He turns to the next person in line and says, "Behold the wood of the Cross." That person kneels. Placing his forehead on the wood and then his lips, he kisses the cross. Then he says, "I adore you, O Christ, and I praise you, because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world." He stands and turns to the next person in line and says, "Behold the wood of the Cross." And so on, until the last person in line says, "Behold the wood of the Cross" to the head of the household, who kisses the cross. And you're all done.

### The Sorrowing Mother

The next day, for Our Lady of Sorrows, I have a challenge activity I like to do with the kids. The Seven Sorrows of Mary are a devotion given to us by St. Bridget of Sweden, based on seven sad events that occurred in the life of Our Lady and are recorded in the Bible.

- 1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Lk 2:25-35)
- 2. The Flight into Egypt (Mt 2:13-15)
- 3. The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-51)
- 4. The Meeting of Jesus & Mary on the Way of the Cross (Lk 23:26-31)\*

- 5. The Crucifixion (Jn 19:17-18, 25-30)
- 6. The Removal of Jesus' Body from the Cross (Mk 15:43-47)
- 7. The Burial of Jesus (Jn 19:39-42)
- \* The meeting of Jesus and Mary comes to us from tradition even though it is not mentioned in Scripture. The listed verses recount the meeting of lesus with the women of Jerusalem. The two events are remembered in two different Stations of the Cross: Mary in the fourth, the women of Jerusalem in the eighth. Although she isn't named, it's possible that Our Lady was among the women of Jerusalem.

All you need for the activity is a Bible and seven pieces of something sour for each person participating. It can be lemon slices, sour candies, whatever you've got. The sourer, the better. Chewy candies are better than hard candies, since the latter take so long to eat. We look up the events in the Bible, one at a time, and read the passages aloud. For children who can read, this is a great opportunity to teach them how to look things up in a Bible, since that's not exactly intuitive. ("Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, you saddle the horse and I'll jump on.")

After we read each of the sorrows, I hand out a sour something to each kid. Then we recite a Hail Mary while meditating on the sorrow and eating the sour thing. The challenge is to think about how Mary would have felt during that experience, and be eating the sour thing, and not make a sour face. Because, as we know, she did not make faces: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). It manages to be somber and slightly hilarious at the same time.

The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is a good day to remember that Jesus, just as in the country song, never promised us a rose garden. His mother was spared original sin, but not sufering. The greatest saints have had great sorrows. Our devotion to God and our faithfulness to the Catholic Church doesn't promise us material wealth or physical health. It promises us true joy and meaning in our lives on this earth, despite our hardships (and even because of them), and eternal happiness with God in heaven when this life is over.

There is a tradition that basil grew up around the foot of the cross, where Jesus' blood and Mary's tears hit the ground. St. Helena is said to have found the True Cross hidden beneath an overgrowth of basil. So, for dinner on the feast of the Holy Cross, I like a basil-heavy meal such as caprese salad, pesto pasta with shrimp, and strawberry basil lemonade to drink. On Our Lady of Sorrows, I like to recall the bitter sweetness of Our Lady's life with a sweet-and-sour dish. We drink 7-Up in memory of her seven sorrows.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The social, spiritual, and psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected societies throughout the world. Lockdowns, social isolation, loss of jobs, and other factors have all disrupted the faith and family lives of people around the world-including in Africa, where social isolation and church closures negatively impacted the way that Catholics in Uganda lived their faith daily. In Kenya, the challenges posed by COVID-19 deeply affected marriage and family life; and conflict, poverty, and rates of death, including death from suicide, increased. The breakdown of families and many people's isolation and loss of hope formed a crisis that needed a compassionate pastoral response.

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa stood ready to assist African Church leaders who reached out for help to renew faith, strengthen families, and heal the wounds that lingered in the pandemic's aftermath. The Uganda Episcopal Conference used a grant from the Solidarity Fund to gather 250 priests, religious brothers and sisters, and laity from ten Ugandan dioceses for a series of workshops. Participants focused on understanding the pandemic and its effects on the faith of the people. They also discussed lessons learned about ways to respond to a similar future crisis so they can bring back those who might leave the Church during the crisis.

The Solidarity Fund awarded a grant of collection funds to the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops to implement its program to reinvigorate marriage and family life in the Diocese of Nakuru. Trained married couples, clergy, religious brothers and sisters, and catechists facilitated workshops for 450 participants on topics that included marriage preparation, Christian family life, and Natural Family Planning. Participants also learned how to provide pastoral care to people in isolated and vulnerable groups, including prisoners, homeless families, families of truck drivers and fishing industry workers, and prostitutes and their families. When you participate in the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, your contribution helps the Church reach out to the people most in need and bring them pastoral care.

The Church in Africa joyfully lives and shares the merciful love of Jesus through its ministries to families, youth, and people made vulnerable or marginalized by poverty. Though it is rich with a spirit of missionary discipleship, it needs your help to carry out its mission. Please be generous to this collection for the Solidarity Fund through the offertory collection envelope or your parish's e-offertory platform. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/africa.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

### RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

### **RACISM & LIFE ISSUES**

In their November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote, "racism occurs because a person ignores the fundamental truth that... all [humans are] equally made in the image of God."1 Racism fails to acknowledge the dignity with which God creates each person, and it contributes to a culture of death. The Church in the United States has spoken out consistently against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other threats to human life; it is not a secret that these attacks have severely affected people of color. These brothers and sisters are targeted for **abortion**, disproportionally affected by **poverty**, have the greatest numbers on **death row**, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives through **assisted suicide** when facing serious illness.2

The feast of St. Peter Claver is an opportunity to highlight the connection between racism and various attacks against human life. As St. John Paul II reminded us, "Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good"3 (emphasis added.) Additional parish resources for combatting racism are available online.

- 1 USCCB, Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, 4.
- 3 Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 87. Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



This year's fall campaign of 40 Days for Life will be held September 25 through November 3 here in Granite City. Anyone can take part through individual prayer and fasting, or through spending time in prayer and witness at the abortion facility.

All are welcome to join us for the kickoff event here at St Elizabeth on Saturday, September 28. Participants and leaders will be commissioned at the 4:30 p.m. Mass that day, followed by a potluck in the Harmony Room at 6 p.m. with a guest speaker at 6:30.

The guest speakers are Debbie & Tim Schultz, passionate about helping others find the healing & freedom they have found in Jesus. In Unrobing the Shame: One Couple's Healing Journey After Abortion, they share how they broke free from the prison of abortion, navigated the challenges along the journey, and emerged in freedom as loved, forgiven, healed, transformed children of God.

Sign up by September 25 at **40daysgc.com**. We'll have the meat and the speaker - you bring a side and a dessert.

### SAVE THE DATE! A BEACON OF LIGHT PREGNANCY HELP CENTER ANNUAL GALA

You are invited to join A BEACON OF LIGHT

for our 2024 Annual Gala for A Beacon of Light Pregnancy Help Center Saturday, October 26, 2024, 5:30-10:00 p.m. Leclaire Room, 600 Troy Road, Edwardsville, IL

Join us for an unforgettable evening at A Beacon of Light's Annual Gala! Celebrate our mission of compassion and support for expectant mothers and families in our community. Enjoy an elegant dinner, inspiring stories of hope, and opportunities to make a difference.



A Beacon of Light is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit, life-affirming organization based on Catholic spirituality called to support families facing an unplanned pregnancy or any pregnancy loss, including abortion. Your attendance helps fund essential services like free ultrasounds, free pregnancy testing, counseling, and educational programs.



The evening will include a center update as you hear from our CEO, Kristi Hofferber, about the exciting things taking place at A Beacon of Light (ABL) and the amazing ways that families are being transformed through the programs and services that are made possible by your support!

Our featured speaker will be Kimberly Hahn, Catholic convert, apologist, and author. She and her husband, Scott Hahn, have six children together. Kimberly's educational background includes a Bachelors of Arts in Communication Arts from Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania, followed by a Masters of Arts in Theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. During past school years, Kimberly led a weekly Bible study at Franciscan University. Her studies include the Mysteries of the Rosary, Proverbs 31, Knowing the Will of God, Finances, Praying from the Hearth, Dating and Courtship, and Women of Hope.

Sponsorships and Program Ad placements are now available. Please contact Kristi directly at 618-855-9774 or khofferber@ ablpregnancyresource.org for more information.

The dinner will be catered by Bella Milano Catering, and will include a meat selection, vegetables, salad, and bread. Dietary accommodations can be made with advance notice - please note this with your registration.

For more information visit our website. For help, call (618) 855-9774 or email khofferber@ablpregnancyresource.org.

If you are interested in attending at a table Deacon Michael and Suzanne Halbrook are considering hosting, please reach out to Deacon Michael ASAP at mhalbrook@dio.org or 618-616-6587.

### St. Elizabeth School

### GRANDPARENT MASS & ICE CREAM SOCIAL - THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Preschool grandparents: 10 a.m. meet in the school cafeteria. Ice cream social ONLY.

Kindergarten-8th grade grandparents: Mass in the church with your grandchild at 12:30 p.m.

Ice cream social after Mass in the cafeteria, 1:30-2:45 p.m.

The book fair will be open to shop during your ice cream time!

### KINDERGARTEN CHURCH TOUR

Father Alfred took our Kindergarten on their annual church tour last Friday. Thank you, Father!











# Remember: Catholic education <u>starts</u> at Sunday Mass!

School families, don't forget to continue submitting your Mass cards at Mass each weekend.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Monday, 9/9:

- Spirit Store closes
- Donuts at Drop Off

Wednesday, 9/11:

- Book Fair (Pre K - 8th)

Thursday, 9/12:

- Book Fair (Pre K 8th)
- PTO, Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
- Hearing & Vision testing

Friday, 9/13:

- Grandparent Mass 12:30 & Ice cream social

Saturday, 9/14:

- 7 a.m. Parish Workday

Sunday, 9/15:

- 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. -Chicken Dinner









### **BINGO - SCHOOL SOCIAL NIGHT**

Thanks to all who came out and had fun with us this Wednesday night at school social night at BINGO!



















### MIDDLE SCHOOL COW EYE DISSECTIONS

Cow eye dissections last week... Ewww!? or Cool!!!?

























### **CALLING ALL TEENS**

8th graders through high schoolers: We're grilling for you for our first Teen Night of the semester. Join us this Sunday, September 8, from 6-7 p.m. for dinner. Please consider staying for the Holy Hour afterwards from 7-8 p.m. Invite your teenage friends. Please RSVP so that we have enough food: **stelizabethgc.org/burgers** 

Other upcoming dates for 6 p.m. Sunday food & social: September 29, October 6, November 2, November 17.



TEENS: Add our public profile: STEYOUTH on Snapchat



### 6th-8th GRADERS: JOIN US FOR FIRM FOUNDATIONS

ALL 5th-8th graders of the parish are invited to join Deacon Michael for a special 3-week series called *Firm Foundations* this October.

The three-week series covers the Sunday Gospel readings taken from Mark 10. Our youth will be introduced to three basic tenets of Christian discipleship: trusting God, serving others, and asking for help. Throughout each session, they will be encouraged to examine obstacles in their lives that prevent them from living out these principles, and they will be given tools to begin to implement them in their daily lives.

Firm Foundations will be held from 9:15-10:15 in the Harmony Room (between Masses) on Sunday, October 13, 20, & 27. Oh yeah - we'll have donuts, too! Please bring & encourage our middle school & junior high youth to join us.

### VOCATIONS

### RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. Next weekends: 9/27-9/29, St. Peters, MO; 10/11-10/13, Springfield, IL.

### PRAY FOR OUR ENGAGED

Please hold Eric Falbe & Joy Santos in your prayers. They are parishioners who are engaged to be married and preparing for marriage here at St. Elizabeth. May the grace of the Holy Family surround them in this time of preparation for Holy Matrimony!

### **HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED 50+ YEARS?** TIME TO CELEBRATE!

On September 22 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, all couples married 50 years or more are invited to attend a special Mass honoring their marriage vocation! A reception will follow after Mass. Please register for the Mass by going to dio.org/events. When you register, please upload (not mandatory) a photo from your wedding day and present day, as we'll be showcasing a slide show during the reception.

### SEEKING MARRIED MENTOR COUPLES

We are considering a new model of marriage preparation at St. Elizabeth, in concert with the team from the diocesan Office for Marriage & Family Life.

The model leverages mentor couples who are willing to accompany other couples on their journey to the altar. Your marriage, imperfect as you may think it to be, has something unique to offer. When you got married in the Church, you not only received a sacrament, but you became a sacrament by which others can encounter the love of Christ. Being a mentor couple to other couples is a way you can do just that! If you're interested in learning more, please talk with Father Alfred or Deacon Michael.

**ANDREW DINNER** – Young men who are juniors in high school through their mid 30s are invited to this year's Andrew Dinner with Bishop Paprocki and our local priests, Sunday, September 15. If you know someone who you think should attend, please share this information with them:

### 2024 Annual ALTON DEANERY ANDREW DINNER

Location: **Mother of Perpetual Help** 200 N Lange Ave. Maryville, IL

Sunday, September 15, 2024 4:30 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.

For men who are juniors in high school - mid 30's

Bishop Paprocki will be present for a dinner to which young men who are interested in hearing more about the priesthood are invited. It is a low-key evening; no commitment is implied by your presence. It's called an Andrew Dinner because in John's Gospel, Andrew, a disciple of John the Baptist, met Jesus, and then introduced him to his brother Simon Peter.



DINNER SERVED FROM

12:00 noon UNTIL 5:00 p.m.

**FRIED CHICKEN** DRESSING **MASHED POTATOES** GRAVY CORN **GREEN BEANS** DESSERT BEVERAGE

Dine-In and Carry Outs Available **ADULTS AND CARRY OUTS \$13.00** Children 5-10 \$6.00; Under 5 FREE

# ENTERTAINMENT RAFFLE GAMES FELLOWSHIP **BOUNCE HOUSE**

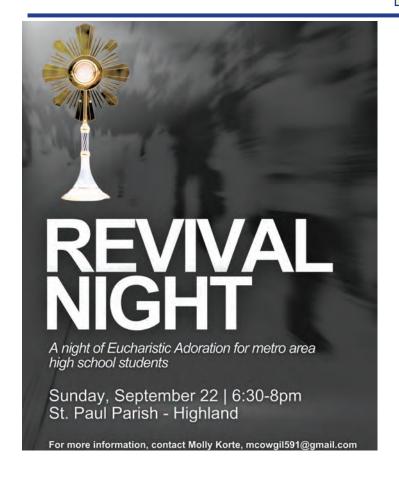


155 N. Main

Presented by the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows and the St. Clair County Suicide Prevention Alliance. Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Suicide Prevention Training 5:30-6:30 p.m., "We Remember You" Candlelight Vigil at 7 p.m. at the Shrine's Lourdes Grotto. Concerned about a loved one or dealing with the loss of a loved one to suicide? Please join us. No charge. Call 618-394-6281 or visit snows.org.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING & VIGIL







# WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

JESUS. Bringing Jesus to you.

A group of Catholic young adults from the local area has been gathering and planning this series of events to help our Catholic high school students revive or ignite their relationships with Jesus, present in the Holy Eucharist.

This inaugural Revival Night will be hosted by St. Paul Parish in Highland and will feature Eucharistic Adoration, opportunities for individual prayer, Reconciliation, and praise and worship music before the Blessed Sacrament.

For more information, contact Molly Korte mcowgil591@gmail.com

### **CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

### OPEN HOUSE AT ALTON MARQUETTE

Open House at Marquette Catholic High School, today, September 8, 2024, 1-3 p.m. Middle school students and parents, stop by to take a tour and meet some of our faculty and students!





### PREVIEW DAY AT FMCHS

All families of all grade levels are invited to attend Father McGivney Catholic High School's Preview Day on Saturday, September 28 at 1 p.m. RSVP is not required. The afternoon will begin with a short presentation in the gym followed by student-led

school tours and opportunities to explore and ask questions. Find out why it's Great to be a Griffin! For any questions regarding enrollment, please contact our Enrollment Director, Lindsey Jones, at ljones@mcgivneygriffins.com

### **KUDOS TO AARON BROADWATER**

Congrats to St. Elizabeth parishioner Aaron Broadwater, FMCHS senior & Varsity soccer player, who was highlighted this summer as the Edwardsville Intelligencer's MVP for small school boys soccer. Coach Matt McVicar said,

"He's just a great example of what Father McGivney is trying to have its student-athletes be. I couldn't ask for a better individual on the soccer team." Congrats, Aaron! (Photo: Billy Woods, The Intelligencer)







**Holy Leisure** 





### CNIC WRAP UP MEETING

Greetings Everyone,

Hope you all had a great relaxing summer, especially after a long busy 3-day parish picnic fundraiser back in June.

I know it seems like a long time for some, a month or two ago for others and like yesterday for some. But we are ready to put our 2024 results, thoughts, and new ideas together at our upcoming Chairman Picnic Wrapup meeting in the school cafeteria on Sunday, September 22nd @ 6:00pm.

We had another successful picnic "thanks" to all of you and your teams. This is your time to discuss your booths results, issues and ideas moving forward. Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

See you all very soon,

Tim Domagalski St. Elizabeth Parish Picnic Chairman 2024

### **STEWARDSHIP**

### Our Financial Stewardship September 1, 2024

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 9 Regular Income	\$8,709.00		
115 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$75.73			
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$416.00		
Loose	\$473.54		
One-Time Donations	-		
Online Giving	\$1,455.00		
TOTAL	\$11,053.54	\$10,947.00	\$106.54
YTD TOTALS	\$80,526.91	\$98,523.00	(\$17,996.09)

Weekly and YTD Goals are calculated based on our annual fiscal year budget submitted to the Diocese and what is required to break even.

**Parish Tithing Reporting** 

July tithe: \$6,214.00

Our parish tithe to the Diocese to support the

Diocese is 10% of our regular monthly income.

administration, ministries, and work of our

### Other Gifts:

 Tuition Assistance
 \$867.00

 Special Projects
 \$226.00

 Mission & Ministry
 \$136.00

 Votive Offering
 \$52.59

 Assumption of Mary
 \$32.00

 BINGO Profit
 \$12,000.00

 BINGO School Roof Project
 \$160,000.00

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree - School Roof Project \$50,000.00

Other Parish Not Specified \$471.00



### **ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS**

Tired of writing a check or remembering to have your envelope when you head to Mass? Concerned about how to support the parish when you are out of town? There are online options to maintain your stewardship, returning to God a portion of his blessings. Consider online giving through GIVE CENTRAL. For more information or to register, visit: https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/412/allevents

### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" - James 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

### 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.

**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.



### **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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### St. Elizabeth Ladies Sodality

Meetings in the Harmony Room 4th Tuesday After the 6 p.m. Mass

except June, July, & December ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME

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