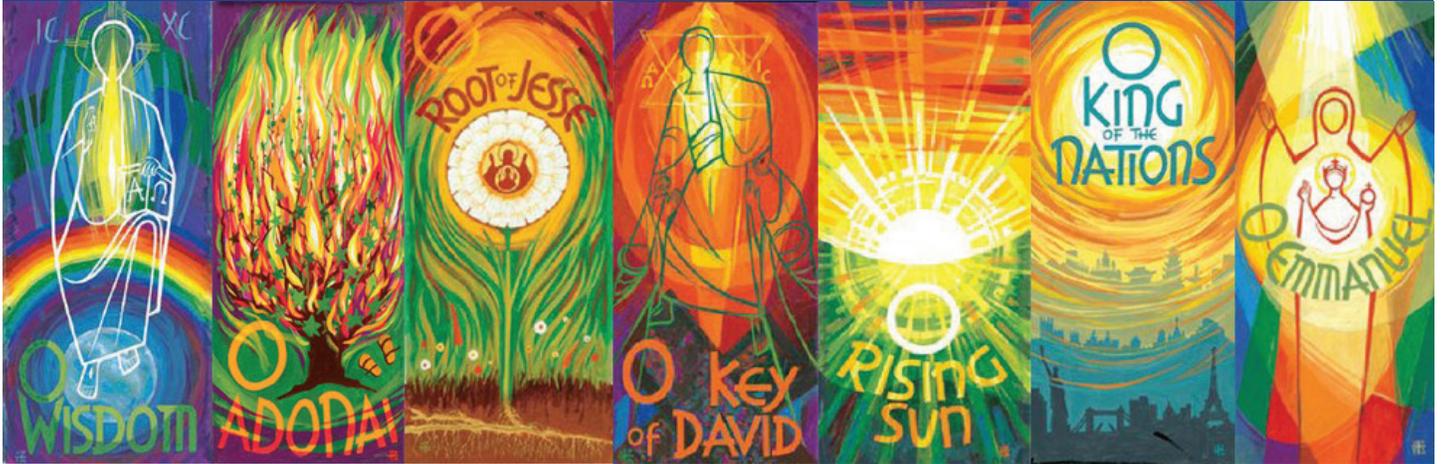


Disciples Stewards

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Third Sunday of Advent ♦ December 15, 2024



Pray the 'O' Antiphons

Most of us know the Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". The most common English version was written in 1851 by John Mason Neale, the Anglican hymn composer who also gave us "Good King Wenceslas". It was quickly paired with its well-known tune by music publisher Thomas Helmore in that same year.

But the text of the song is ancient, and is actually part of the Church's liturgy, recited in a sequence following Gaudete Sunday (the 3rd Sunday of Advent, "rejoice" Sunday), from December 17 through December 23.

As far back as the 8th Century, each night at Evening Prayer from December 17 through December 23, the antiphon for the Gospel Canticle (the Magnificat) is one of the 'O' antiphons highlighting seven biblical titles for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel.

Each one is based on a prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. The antiphons are arranged in such a fashion that if one takes the first letter of each title in order, starting with the last, the Latin phrase "Ero cras" is spelled; this translates as "Soon, I will come."

You can follow along and pray these antiphons with us as a parish this week, starting on Tuesday, at: stelizabethgc.org/emmanuel

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

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Marla Weis
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music@stelizabethgc.org

SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

School Phone: (618) 877-3300 x2
School Fax: (618) 877-3352
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Michelle Williams, Principal
mwilliams@stelizabethgc.org

Loretta Joyce, School Secretary
ljoyce@stelizabethgc.org

CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

Finance Council: Charlotte Charbonnier
School Board: Adam Meyenburg
Parent/Teacher Org.: 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, December 16

Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent

No Mass

Tuesday, December 17

Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Advent

6:00 p.m. Mass:

Ann Fabisher+ by Mary Riggs

Wednesday, December 18

Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Stephen Doroghazi+ by Premo & Kay Clay

Thursday, December 19

Thursday of the 3rd Week of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Sam Shambro+

by Anthony & Paulette Marten

Friday, December 20

Friday of the 3rd Week of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Marvin Wiedemer+

by Bud & Charlotte Charbonnier

Saturday, December 21

Saturday of the 3rd Week of Advent

No Mass

Saturday-Sunday, December 21-22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass:

Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

8:00 a.m. Mass: **C**

Nancy Gray+ by Pete & Gloria Fields

10:30 a.m. Mass:

Lee Hayes+ by Joan Roberts

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the 14-day Sanctuary Lamp reminds us to pray for **the marginalized; the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill persons in our community.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers this week are **in memory of Mary Ellen Becherer+** by Chris & Susan Glass.

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

Be with Jesus

Adoration

Thursdays 9 am - 9 pm

Holy Hour

Sundays 7-8 pm



December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:

For Pilgrims of Hope: So that this Jubilee strengthens us in faith, helps us recognize Christ risen in our lives, and transforms us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

This Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

In the first reading, Zephaniah foretells the restoration of Jerusalem when the King of Israel, the Lord, will be in their midst. Paul instructs the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always, for the Lord is near. In the Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by baptizing and preaching the Good News.

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

The prophet Micah foretells that the one who is to rule over Israel shall come forth from Bethlehem-Ephrathah. In the second reading, the author writes that Christ came to do God's will and by that will we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. In the Gospel, Mary travels to visit her cousin Elizabeth and at the sound of Mary's voice, the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS

The following priests of our Diocese are celebrating birthdays soon: 12/16- Rev. Ronnie Lorilla 12/21- Rev. James Neuman Rev. David Beagles 12/23- Rev. Steven Janoski 12/29- Rev. Richard Chiola Rev. Daniel Bergbower 12/31- Rev. Charles Edwards

The following are priests and deacons of our Diocese who have died. Please remember them in your daily prayers: 12/15- Rev. Frederick Niebling Rev. Elias Koppert, O.F.M. 12/16- Rev. Patrick Ducey 12/17- Rev. John P. Harkins Rev. Anton Jaschke 12/18 Rev. Max Koch Rev. John J. Enright 12/19 Rev. William P. O'Sullivan Rev. Hugolinus Kiener, O.F.M.

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

Jim Deder

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

LADIES SODALITY

SWEET TREATS & COOKIE SALE

Parish Bakers and friends...start your ovens! It's time for the Ladies Sodality Annual Cookies and Sweet Treat Sale! Join us after each Mass this weekend December 14th and 15th, in the Harmony Room and buy a sweet treat or two! If you are a inclined to help by baking or making something, please do! Bring it to the Harmony Room Saturday before Mass or drop at the PLC during the week!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Please make note of the holiday hours for the school and parish office. School will dismiss for Christmas Break on Friday, December 20 at 11 a.m. The parish office will close on Monday, December 23 at Noon and will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will reopen at 8 a.m., December 26. The office will close again at Noon on December 31 and be closed on January 1, New Years Day. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 2. School resumes on Monday, January 6.

GET YOUR HOLIDAY SCRIP

Holiday gift giving is made easier when you purchase scrip. A percentage of the purchase goes to support our parish and school! The best part?? We now have scrip for your favorite local Mexican restaurant, SI SENOR!!! Stop by the office to grab yours!

Christmas Masses at St. Elizabeth:
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)
9:00 a.m. Christmas Day (Dec. 25)



TRIVIA NIGHT

Please join us for our another fun-filled event on Saturday, January 11, 2025! Tables of 8 are only \$160 if purchased and paid for prior to January 3rd (\$200 thereafter). ONLY 35 tables available. Sodas and snacks will be provided. Please call Loretta Joyce in the School office at (618) 877-3300 to reserve your table or become a sponsor. All net proceeds will go to assist the school with education and school improvements. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and trivia begins at 6:30 p.m. You must be 21 or older.

If you have never played, or haven't played in a long time....it is a blast! We look forward to another fun evening!

Thank you!

The St. E School Trivia Committee

CONSIDER JOINING OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

We're looking to expand our Music Ministry. Whether you are a seasoned singer, a youthful voice, or are just wanting to make a joyful noise, there's room for you in our choir! We're also in search of instrumentalists to add to our Christmas Liturgy. Join us for rehearsals Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the church. Any questions, please email Marla at music@stelizabethgc.org.

DO YOU DO INDESIGN? WE COULD USE YOUR TALENTS!

Deacon Michael has been providing the weekly layout and editing of our weekly bulletin, in collaboration with Bret in the parish office who manages the content, since we started self-publishing a few years ago. We need to try to find some new help to manage the weekly layout and editing. If you have Adobe InDesign skills and would be willing to help us a few hours a week with the bulletin layout and design, please contact Bret in the parish office.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15

Ladies Sodality Sweet Treats & Cookie Sale after all Masses

9 a.m. - Men at Prayer (School)

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

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

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

7 p.m. - Choir Practice (Church)

7 p.m. - School Board

7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

Wednesday, December 18

7 p.m. - BINGO (Columbus Home)

Thursday, December 19

School Christmas Concert (Gym)

1 p.m. - Matinee

6 p.m. - K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & Choir

7:15 p.m. - 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th & Choir

7 p.m. - OCIA (Parish Life Center)

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

Friday, December 20

End of school 2nd quarter

11 a.m. - Dismissal after parties

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

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

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

Monday, December 23

Parish Office closes at Noon

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER

The kids Christmas party is fast approaching, Dec. 21st. Breakfast will be served from 8:15 a.m. until 9:15ish. For those who wish to attend please text me at the number below of how many will attend. We must know a head account to prepare properly for this awesome event. Pancakes and sausage, along with drinks will be provided, along with coloring, magic show and of course Santa. Contact us by texting 618-789-0337. Yours in Christ, Tom Cholevik, Grand Knight



Knights of
Columbus®

This Week on **FORMED**



Drawing Closer to God
Journey through the Bible with the whole family! Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches children to draw different scenes from Scripture, including the Annunciation, the shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, Jesus' Passion, Resurrection, and more. With compelling storytelling, Ms. Kim points out key details from Scripture and Catholic tradition.

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

Each week, a short excerpt from St. Faustina's Diary, in which she recorded our Lord's messages to her about His Divine Mercy:

"In the evening, when I was praying, the Mother of God told me, 'Your lives must be like Mine; quiet and hidden, in unceasing union with God, pleading for humanity and preparing the world for the second coming of God.' (Diary, 625). 'Mary is my Instructress, who is ever teaching me how to live for God. My spirit brightens up in Your gentleness and Your humility, O Mary.' (Diary, 620)



FORMATION

COMING INTO THE CHURCH

If you or someone you know is not yet Baptized, received into the Catholic Church (including those who may have already been Baptized in another Christian tradition), 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!

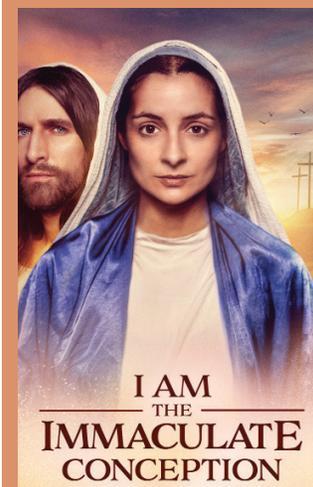


COME LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Anyone is welcome to join us any Thursday night as our OCIA team ("Order of Christian Initiation of Adults") meets to learn more about aspects of our faith.

December 12: Early Church & Church History (Deacon Michael)

December 19: Mary & the Saints (Cheryl Mangi)



"I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION" MOVIE LIMITED ENGAGEMENT IN THEATRES THIS MONTH

I am Immaculate Conception is how Mary, the Mother of God, introduced herself to St. Bernadette in 1858 in Lourdes, France. During the season of Advent and Christmas, a new documentary film invites audiences to ponder why Mary presents herself this way. In the film, a group of eminent experts, including the Marian Fathers, analyze Greek texts of the Holy Scripture, revelations and the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The result is a new interpretation of passages of the Scripture revealing Mary, the Mother of Christ, and her extraordinary role in the divine plan for the salvation of the world. "*I Am the Immaculate Conception*", via application of the latest technologies, using the virtual LED studio, and a traditional scenography, transports audiences to the eternal acts of the Holy Family - over 2000 years ago - to participate in the most crucial moments of Mary and Jesus' lives, such as the miracle at the Wedding at Cana, the Last Supper and Golgotha.

Showtimes on December 14 & 17 at

AMC Edwardsville 12 & Marcus O'Fallon Cinema

See: fathomevents.com/events/immaculate-conception/

From the U.S. Bishops' Document **Go Make Disciples...**

Part II: Goals & Strategies (¶170-74)...

70. Not long after Jesus was raised from the dead, a small group huddled together in a secluded room. Suddenly, the building shook, a great wind encircled them, and flames of fire, like tongues, appeared around the group.

71. We see, in the midst of this small group, two people whose lives still guide us in the work of evangelization. We see a woman, Mary, now middle-aged, who, over thirty years before, was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and became the mother of Jesus. God used the faith of this Jewish woman, her cooperation with God's way, to bring Jesus into the world. So Mary, long devoutly loved by Christians as the Mother of Jesus and Mother of God, also is a model of true discipleship and evangelization. With Mary's example and prayer, we grow as disciples, ever faithful to Jesus and ever wanting to reveal him.

72. We also see a former fisherman, now called Peter, whom Jesus chose to give as a leader to the disciples. Though weak enough to deny his friend Jesus, he is yet empowered to proclaim the faith of Jesus as Messiah. He would proclaim that message until he died in testimony for the faith. Jesus made Peter the "rock" of the Church, and his faithfulness to the Lord, in spite of his weakness, strengthens us disciples today.

73. Two people, Mary and Peter, encircled by the other disciples, received in the tongues of flame at Pentecost a confirmation of their discipleship, of their involvement in the story of Jesus, of their role in spreading God's Good News.

74. This is the fire of the Holy Spirit from whom all evangelization springs. May the Spirit that came upon Mary and filled the apostles also come upon us as we present the apostolic parts of our plan.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Donations were made to the purchase of our Christmas Flowers in memory/honor of the following:

Koliste, Gushleff, Krizak, Milcic, Thomas, Arnold, Notbury & Baker Families	Murray & Christine Ahlers & Family	June Cann
Mark James	Venditto Family	Poneta/Arth Families
Abigail Yount	Chilcutt Family	Ralph & Bertha Wesbecher
Pamela Holten	Raymond John Loftus	Norma Kessler
Sandra Bray	Thomas Joseph Loftus	Vi & Frank Kessler
Terry Wallace	William Charles Loftus	Louis & Neva Jackstadt
Dennis Almos	Paula Rae Loftus Borg	Richard & Dorothy Kerch
Jim Alsop	Patricia Ann Loftus Fultz	Ann Jackstadt Van Dyke
Mr & Mrs. Berto Cerutti	Bob & Abby Rotter	Ed & Sharon Rickert
Mr. & Mrs Tom Ganz	Karen Rotter	Lyerla & Rees Families
Bill Loftus	Dennis Caffrey	John Kulasza
Mejaski & Loftus Family Members	Carolyn Campos	Bill Loftus
Rose & Henry Kolenda	Deceased Members of the Campos Family	Mike & Emily Mejaski
Michael & Molly Kolenda	Tony & Mary Bellue	Tom & Anna Loftus
Henry Kolenda Jr.	Anne Miller	Jesse & Lorraine Gonterman
Joe Allegre Jr.	Jack Folkerts	Larry & Jean Hahn
W. Randall Smith	Dennis Folkerts	Mike & Daisy Knezevich
Edna DuFrain	Joseph & Mildred Dallas	Clark & Duffy Families
Billy Adams	Paul & Margaret Kacera	Baumann/Szczepanik Families
Nancy & Jim Gray	Harry Dortch Family	Danny & Alice Newton
Schmid Family	Gene Jones Family	Rodney Family
Sheppard Family	Deceased Members of Al & Maxine Czeriejewski	Veinot Family
Dave & Ann VanHorn	Ralph Lickenbrock Sr.	Katherine Thrasher
Carole Snider	Ralph Lickenbrock Sr.	Francis Thrasher Jr.
John & Theresa Straubinger	Virginia Lickenbrock	Gary Lofink
Melvin Wilmsmeyer	Kenneth Justice	The Domagalski Family
Helen Klenklen	Loretta Justice	Patricia Thrasher
Glen Himmert	Douglas Conrad	Laura Mullen Soderberg
Robert & Lorraine Joshu	The Weckman & Wilbur Families and Friends	John & Jamie Kindle
Ronald & Angela Briggs	Lawrence Jaros	Sylvia Vilmer
Judy Modrusic	Jim Dittman	Bob & Abby Rotter
Jerry Thompson	Melvin Wilmsmeyer	Matthew Dittrich
	Helen Klenklen	
	Lloyd Cann	

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:

Luke 3:10-18

REFLECTING ON THE WORD:

John the Baptist is unsparing in his message that every person, no matter their place in society, is susceptible to and responsible for repenting of sin. Imagine what modern categories he might add to the tax collectors or Roman soldiers he addresses in today's Gospel: "He said to the stay-at-home moms in reply," or, "Then some politicians came to him, and the members of the media asked him if he might be the Christ." It sounds a little absurd, but that's the Church, isn't it? Christ's call is for every person. Do you think you would be included in a certain group? In what way would you be urged to repent?

ON THE WAY TO MASS

Crowds came to the desert to listen to John the Baptist preach. Who is someone who's encouraged you to live well? Is there anyone who makes you want to be like Jesus?

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

Do you think people liked being told the ways they were sinning and how they needed to change? What do you think they did?

LIVING THE WORD

As a family, consider what vices God might be calling you to address as you prepare for Christmas. Pick one (perhaps impatience with one another in the morning, leaving undone chores for others to finish, or a habit of sarcasm) and make an intentional plan of practicing its opposite virtue- patience, diligence in one's work, or charity in your words.

BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

Please support our bulletin advertisers! They make our bulletin possible.

We also need additional advertisers to keep producing and enhancing our bulletin. If you know of a business owner who might be interested, please recommend the opportunity to support our parish bulletin to them.

Thank you!



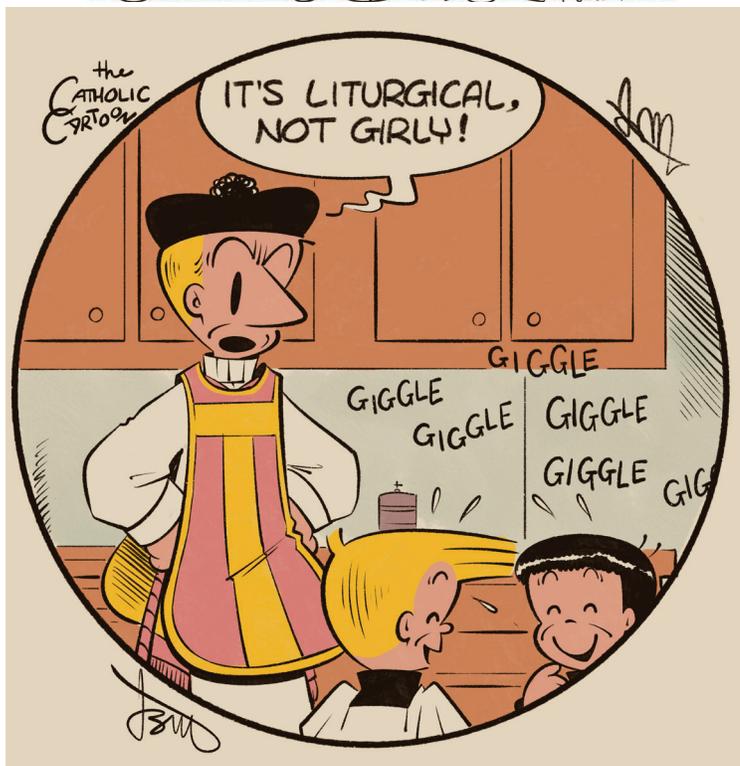
AROUND THE AREA

WOMENS EVENING OF REFLECTION

Monday, December 16, 2024, 7-8:30 p.m., St. Mary's Church in Alton, IL. As we prepare for Christmas, please join us for an Advent Evening of Recollection. Fr. Michael Geisler, a priest of Opus Dei, will guide us in prayer with a meditation, which will then be followed by a short talk on a practical virtue. Finally, the evening will end with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Confession will also be available throughout the night.



The CATHOLIC CARTOON by Joshua Morrison



YEAR-END GIVING RESOURCES & REMINDERS

STOCKS:

Consider donating stock as a way to continue supporting St. Elizabeth Catholic Church and School. Stock giving allows you to save your cash, avoid capital gains, and maximize your impact. You may also receive a tax deduction for the full value of the gift. Visit our secure stock giving site at bit.ly/ParishStock which makes stock giving easy and secure by providing the correct transfer form, helping you fill out the necessary fields, and providing clear instructions for submitting the form to your brokerage. For specific questions about how stock giving may impact your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.

QCDs:

Give to St. Elizabeth from your IRA- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), also known as IRA Charitable Rollovers, are the savviest way for those age 70½ or older to use their IRAs to maximize their charitable impact. And, if you are subject to a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), an IRA gift can help you meet your RMD without increasing your taxable income. Visit bit.ly/ParishQCD to learn more about this giving option and to initiate a QCD gift to St. Elizabeth. For specific questions about how IRA giving may impact your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.

BEQUESTS:

Have you documented your final wishes? Creating your estate plan is an act of care that can help you protect your loved ones, communicate healthcare and financial decisions about the future, and establish a legacy that honors your Catholic faith. Our new estate planning tool at www.freewill.com/diocesefspringfield can help you write your legal will for free and makes it easy to make a sustaining gift to your parish home, ensuring the ministry of St. Elizabeth continues for generations to come. For specific questions about how estate planning may impact your personal situation, consult a tax advisor or lawyer.

YEAR-END GIFTS DUE BY DECEMBER 31st

Don't forget if you would like to receive a 2024 tax deduction for your gifts, they need to be post-marked to your community by December 31st, 2024. Credit card gifts and ACH online donations need to be made online and time-stamped by midnight, December 31st.

For any questions regarding year-end giving, reach out to Jackie at 618-877-3300.

CHARITABLE OUTREACH

Thank you so much for your contributions to support our efforts at reaching out to those in need in our community. Our blessing bags have been very well received and we would love your help restocking supplies as we head towards colder weather. Among the donations we are looking for are: granola bars or other small packaged snacks, small/trial bottles of shampoo or sunscreen, chapstick, bath wipes, feminine hygiene products, stocking caps, gloves, hand warmers and socks, rain ponchos, scarves, Please drop donations in the bins in the gathering space or at the PLC. Contributions can be made through envelopes or online. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP

Our Financial Stewardship December 8, 2024

	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 23 Regular Income	\$7,938.00		
106 Envelopes, Avg. Gift \$63.40			
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$400.00		
Loose	\$423.00		
One-Time Donations	-		
Online Giving	\$1,158.91		
TOTAL	\$8,701.91	\$10,947.00	(\$2,245.09)
YTD TOTALS	\$200,340.58	\$251,781.00	(\$51,440.42)

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	\$465.00
Special Projects	\$30.00
Mission & Ministry	\$30.00
Christmas Offering	\$75.00
Christmas Flowers	\$510.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$50.00
Immaculate Conception	\$891.00
Calvary Cath. Cemetery E'Ville	\$120.00
Retired Religious	\$476.00

Parish Tithing Reporting

Our parish tithes to the Diocese to support the administration, ministries, and work of our Diocese is 10% of our regular monthly income. November tithe: **\$3,795.00**

Catholic Childrens Home	\$195.00
Other Parish, Not Specified	\$130.00

NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

Please consider making your donation through Pushpay online giving. Your donation through Pushpay will help your dollar go further with our parish in comparison to giving by check or our previous online giving platform. The donations are additionally more secure than check giving and easier for administrative team processing of your giving statements at the end of the year.

In an effort to make online giving easier, faster and more secure, we are transitioning to a new online giving platform called Pushpay. It is our goal to complete this process in the next few weeks, so we need your help to move your current online giving from Give Central to the new platform, PushPay. It's a simple, two-step process that will take no more than ten minutes.

Step One: Please select one of the following links to set up either a one-time gift or a recurring gift using Pushpay:

One-Time Entry: <https://pushpay.com/g/stelizabegranitecity>

Recurring Entry: <https://pushpay.com/g/stelizabegranitecity?r=monthly> (After you set up your recurring gift, you will be prompted to complete the setup of your new account)

Step Two: Cancel scheduled gifts in Give Central

If you are currently not giving on-line and would like to make the transition, please take the above steps to start the online giving process. Thank you!

If you have questions or need help in signing up to give online, please see Bret or Jackie in the parish office.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." - **Philippians 4:6**

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God - He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

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.



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