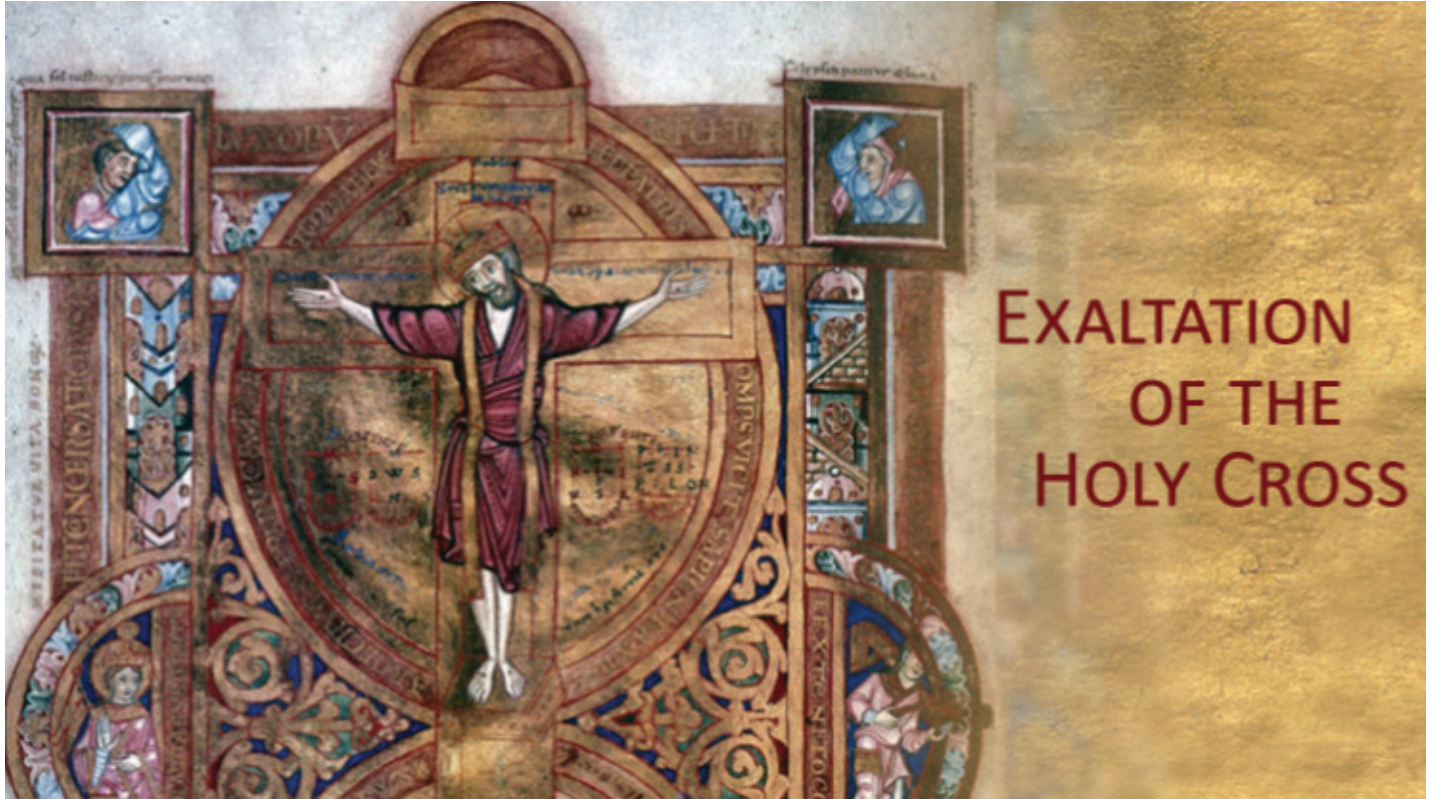


Disciples Stewards

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross ♦ September 14, 2025



THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, commemorates two historical events. It marks the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, in the 4th century. The feast also celebrates the subsequent dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the return of the cross to Jerusalem after it was captured and then recovered from the Persians in the 7th century. The feast serves as a joyous reminder for Catholics of the central role of the cross in our faith, symbolizing not only Christ's sacrifice, but also His victory over death.

2300 Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040

Phone 618-877-3300

Fax 618-877-9800

After-Hours Emergencies
314-266-8387

Web: stelizabethgc.org

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PASTORAL STAFF

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

Father Godwin Muhangi, Parochial Vicar
Office x1006 | Residence x1201
FrGodwin@stelizabethgc.org

Deacon Michael Halbrook
x1005 | mhalbrook@dio.org

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Director of Religious Education
cspan@stelizabethgc.org

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Director of Liturgical Music
music@stelizabethgc.org

SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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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: Scott Jones
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: Michael Charbonnier

**Strong in Faith
since 1871**

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.

PRAYER & LITURGY

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows

8:15 a.m. Mass:

NO MASS

Tuesday, September 16

Saints Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

6 p.m. Mass:

NO MASS

Wednesday, September 17

Wednesday of the 24th Wk of Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Mass:

NO MASS

Thursday, September 18

Thursday of the 24th Wk of Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Mass:

NO MASS

Friday, September 19

Friday of the 24th Wk of Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Brian Foreman+ by Dcn. Michael & Mrs. Suzanne Halbrook

Saturday, September 20

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Paul ChongHa-sang, & Companions, Martyrs

NO MASS

Saturday-Sunday, September 20&21

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. (Saturday) Vigil Mass:

Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

8:00 a.m. Mass: Jim Dittman+ by Janice Dittman *Streamed*

10:30 a.m. Mass:

Helen DeRuntz+ by John & Paula DeRuntz & Family

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

The 14 Day Sanctuary Lamp burns this week to remind us to pray for **Jim Alsop+ by they Alsop Family**

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers this week are offered for **Harry & Kathleen Dortch+ by Dennis & Jackie Jones**

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

Reflections to help you prepare for Sunday Mass, the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions, and prayers for our priests and military are all on our website at: stelizabethgc.org/pray

Read more about preparing for Sacraments and receiving other forms of pastoral care, like anointing or communion to the Homebound, etc. at stelizabethgc.org/pastoral-care

PARISH LIFE

150 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to our 150 Club winners for August & September. They are:

August- #115 Eric & Ann Smith

September- #48 John & Katie Dimitroff

PRIEST CONVOCATION THIS WEEK

Father Alfred and Father Godwin will be away from the area September 15-18 for the Fall Diocesan Convocation. Please note that we will not have daily Mass on those days, but it should resume on Friday, September 19. Please pray for Bishop Paprocki and the priests of our diocese as they meet to pray for and discern the continued success of our diocese.

NEW CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

As a part of the ongoing changes to our office procedures, we will be changing the company that provides our contribution envelopes later this Fall. You will begin getting envelopes every two months beginning with November. Be sure not to toss the extra ones! If you wish to contribute via envelope

AROUND THE AREA

MEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN EDWARDSVILLE

Do you feel like just another guy in a pew? You're not alone. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has invited John Edwards from Just a Guy in the Pew to host a Men's Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St.) to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain and enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices for men's ministry. John is a dynamic, inspirational spiritual leader who has a powerful witness story of hard drug use to finding Christ in a radical way.

Register at dio.org/events/mens-leadership-summit. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Contact: Gracie Ortiz, Director of Marriage and Family Life at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124 for questions.

and aren't already, please call the office. If you wish to contribute online, reach out to the office as well.

LAST CALL FOR WORSHIP BOOKS

If you are interested in picking up a red Worship hymnal that were previously dedicated and in the pews, please contact the parish office immediately. Many of these were purchased in honor of friends or family members, but have gone unclaimed. We will be removing the remainder soon.

HELP WANTED

We are in need of parishioners who are looking for ways to be helpful in the life of the parish. In particular, we are looking for people willing to be trained as a sacristan, lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, join the choir, be a greeter or usher, or assist in streaming Mass. Please contact the parish office with questions or if you need more details. Thank you

2025 RESPECT LIFE MASS ROSARY WALK & LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 11 | 9 a.m. | Holy Family Catholic Church, Granite City

Join Catholics from across the Diocese of Springfield as we celebrate Respect Life Month with a morning of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration. The day will begin with the Respect Life Mass at 9 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church (2606 Washington Ave, Granite City). Following Mass, participants will take part in a Rosary Walk through the community, giving witness to the dignity of every human life. A complimentary luncheon will follow, featuring guest speaker Kristi Hofferber, Executive Director of A Beacon of Light. Kristi will share her powerful testimony and her work in helping women and families choose life, offering hope and support at every stage. This event is a beautiful opportunity to unite in prayer for an end to abortion and for a culture that embraces life from conception to natural death. All are welcome—families, youth, clergy, parish staff, and members of the community. No registration or fees are required.

Read about more going on here and nearby at stelizabethgc.org/news

FORMATION & KNIGHTS CORNER

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? JOIN US FOR OCIA

Do you have a child over the age of 7 who hasn't been baptized? Were you baptized Catholic as a child, but haven't celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation? Are you seeking relationship with Christ and have questions? Contact our DRE, Chris Spanberger (cspan@stelizabethgc.org) for more information about OCIA & PSR

KNIGHTS CORNER .

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Peace be with you,

Grand Knight Alan Arakaki



Explore opportunities to learn more about your faith at stelizabethgc.org/formation

40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Granite City

During this 40-day long campaign, our members are invited to join other Christians in praying for an end to abortion.

***Do you have 1 hour
to pray for an end
to abortion?***

40 DAYS FOR LIFE- GRANITE CITY

St. Elizabeth and Holy Family are sharing a prayer vigil day on Monday, September 29th. You can help END THE DEMAND FOR ABORTION WHERE YOU LIVE! Sign up in the gathering space this week!

CHARITABLE OUTREACH NEEDS YOU!

Thank you to all who have helped our Charitable Outreach Efforts over the last couple of years. As we head to the colder months, we are in need of donations to continue offering blessing bags and laundromat assistance. Please consider a contribution to this effort or donating items like the following: detergent pods and dryer sheets, lipbalm/chap stick, hand/foot warmers, snack crackers, granola bars, small water bottles, feminine hygiene products & sample/travel size: hand sanitizer and sunscreen. THANK YOU!!

FATHER ALFRED IN CATHOLIC TIMES

Take a peek at the back page of this insert for Father's article that was recently in Catholic Times!

Future Events

**September 20-21: Catechetical
Sunday**

September 28- Priesthood Sunday!

**September 29- 40 Days for Life Prayer
Vigil**

October 3- Men's Club Fish Fry

**October 4-5- Special Collection for
Gaza**

**October 11- Respect Life Mass &
Rosary Walk**

Extra Extra!



Fundraiser for David

On Saturday October 11, our neighbors at Holy Family will have a street taco sale at Holy Family School for David, a third grade student there who is battling Leukemia. Please pray for David and his family and consider having lunch/dinner there to support this cause.



Fundraiser For David

**Saturday Oct. 11th
2-6pm or until Sold Out**

 **Holy Family Catholic School Cafeteria**
1900 St. Clair Avenue, Granite City IL 62040

Mass will be held in the gymnasium at 4pm

Street Tacos

(Pork Carnitas or Chicken)

\$15 Adult Plate
Comes with 3 tacos rice & beans

\$10 Child Plate
Comes with 2 tacos rice & beans

Includes:
Water, lemonade, or tea
and a Dessert

**Soda or bottled water
\$1**

***Come
Support!***



Disciples & Stewards



Hey, Father!

Before the consecration, the priest says, "Pray brethren (brothers and sisters) that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." I thought it was Jesus' sacrifice? Since the Mass is the re-presentation of Calvary, isn't it Jesus' sacrifice? What sacrifice are we in the pews then offering that may be acceptable to God?

— Katie in Effingham

We are familiar with the preparatory rites at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when the gifts of bread and wine and other gifts in the form of money or other things for the relief of the needs of the Church and of the poor are brought to the altar, sometimes in offertory procession and placed in an appropriate area according to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM - nos. 70, 73). We then see the priest saying prayers marking the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, elevating the gifts slightly above the altar, say-

ing a short private prayer, and washing his hands (GIRM no. 146). Then, upon returning to the middle of the altar, the priest, facing the people and extending and then joining his hands, invites the people to pray, saying, *Orate, fratres* (Pray, brethren ...) as you state in your question.

When I pause and ponder this invitation, *Orate, fratres* (Pray, brethren ...), I recall that there was a time as a child and adult when I offered nothing or paid no attention to these words or did not understand how God sought my cooperation in His Sacrifice! Probably you, who are reading this, may feel the same. However, in the context of the community's spiritual life and the communal aspect of prayer as the Body of Christ, we are much more than idle spectators. As brethren (brothers and sisters), we are part of that one Sacrifice offered once and for all at Calvary. We are the chosen people of God (Hebrews 10:10-14). We should be excited to be at Mass and by baptism, we are united to the sacrifice of Christ made present in the Mass, which belongs both to the priest and the people!

When the priest celebrant says, "Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father," this should not be taken lightly. It is a command in an imperative sense, which demands a call to attention, to which all the faithful present at that sacrifice of the Mass are to stand up (unless one has physical difficulty) in response, as a sign of readiness and reverence. This should remind us of the Passover meal as we read in Exodus 12:11, where the chosen people of God were told to offer that first Paschal Sacrifice (the Lord's Pass-over) "with your loins girt, sandals

on your feet and your staff in hand, you will eat it in a hurry."

Secondly, the faithful are not just mere spectators at the liturgy of the Eucharist (the sacrifice of Mass), but together with the priest celebrant, all the baptized are exercising their common priesthood to offer their proper sacrifices as well. This happens through both visible, external gestures and through their invisible internal disposition expressed by a humble and contrite heart at prayer. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with His total offering and so acquire a new value. Christ's sacrifice present on the altar makes it possible for all generations of Christians to be united with His offering" (CCC 1368).

Therefore, the priest's call to pray is to acknowledge that he is not alone at prayer, but it is the sacrifice of the entire assembly, priest, ministers, and people. It is therefore important and appropriate for the faithful to actively participate in the offering and the celebration of the Eucharist, when the main celebrant asks the people present that his offering and theirs may become acceptable to God the Father. Let us all offer our all, stand in readiness, as we prepare our sacrifices at every Mass and foster active participation so that "my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." ♦

Father Alfred Tumwesigye is pastor of St. Elizabeth in Granite City.

If you have a question for the **Hey, Father!** column, please send it to: catholictimes@dio.org.
Subject: Hey Father!
Please include your first name and city.

MASS SERIES

Continued from page 6

moment of silence is like making those last minute preparations in your house for that long-awaited guest, so that when Jesus arrives, He may find you ready and eager to welcome Him. ♦

Father Brian Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.



MOVING SOON?

Update subscription info
at: dio.org/catholictimes.



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Catholics we are called to live our faith not only through prayers and devotions, but also by working to build peaceful and just societies. In the Jonglei region of South Sudan, ethnic conflict, cattle raiding, revenge killing, and violence against women and young girls have impacted thousands of lives. Amid these painful divisions, the Catholic Church is a trusted voice among the region's people. Recognizing this trust, the bishops of the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference use their voice to call for peace and reconciliation among the people within their member dioceses.

The Diocese of Malakal, which includes Jonglei, is leading the way in building a sustainable and lasting peace by bringing together people in neutral locations to participate in dialogues, conflict prevention trainings, youth sports, and other relationship-building activities designed to help young people break the cycle of violence and retribution. With financial support that the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference received from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, staff from the Diocese of Malakal's Office of Justice and Peace traveled to local parishes to facilitate workshops on healing and reconciliation, conflict resolution, and domestic violence prevention, as well as dialogue sessions and peace rallies where community members could come together in safety.

The Church in Africa leads the way in healing wounds of division and conflict, preaching the Gospel, and reconciling people in hope for just and lasting peace. Your support of the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa empowers the Church to fulfill its mission as peacemaker to those who have most suffered fear and violence.

Please be generous to this collection for the Solidarity Fund through the offertory collection or your parish's e-offertory platform. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/africa.

Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Septiembre, 2025

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Como católicos, estamos llamados a vivir nuestra fe no solo a través de oraciones y devociones, sino también trabajando para construir sociedades pacíficas y justas. En la región de Jonglei en Sudán del Sur, el conflicto étnico, el robo de ganado, los asesinatos por venganza y la violencia contra las mujeres y las jóvenes han afectado miles de vidas. En medio de estas divisiones dolorosas, la Iglesia Católica es una voz de confianza entre el pueblo de la región. Reconociendo esta confianza, los obispos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Sudán y Sudán del Sur utilizan su voz para pedir paz y reconciliación entre las personas dentro de sus diócesis miembros.

La Diócesis de Malakal, que incluye Jonglei, está liderando el camino en la construcción de una paz sostenible y duradera al reunir a las personas en lugares neutrales para participar en diálogos, entrenamientos en prevención de conflictos, deportes juveniles y otras actividades de creación de relaciones diseñadas para ayudar a los jóvenes a romper el ciclo de violencia y represalias. Con el apoyo financiero que la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Sudán y Sudán del Sur recibió del Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África, el personal de la Oficina de Justicia y Paz de la Diócesis de Malakal viajaron a las parroquias locales para facilitar talleres sobre sanación y reconciliación, resolución de conflictos y prevención de la violencia doméstica, así como sesiones de diálogo y manifestaciones por la paz donde los miembros de la comunidad podían reunirse con seguridad.

La Iglesia en África lidera el camino en la sanación de las heridas de división y conflicto, predicando el Evangelio y reconciliando a las personas en la esperanza de una paz justa y duradera. Su apoyo al Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en África empodera a la Iglesia para cumplir su misión como pacificadora para aquellos que más han sufrido el miedo y la violencia.

Por favor, sea generoso con esta colecta para el Fondo de Solidaridad a través de la colecta de ofrendas o la plataforma de ofrendas electrónicas de su parroquia. Para saber más sobre la colecta y a quién apoya, visite www.usccb.org/africa.

Gracias y que Dios te bendiga.

Sinceramente tuyo en Cristo,

Su Excelencia Thomas John Paprocki
Obispo de Springfield en Illinois

ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL



Remember: Catholic education starts at Sunday Mass!
School families, don't forget to continue submitting your Mass cards at Sunday Mass.



Our Second Grade class enjoyed their visit with the GCFD this week!

Read more about the school & the weekly newsletter at stelizabethgc.org/school

STEWARDSHIP

September 7, 2025	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 10 Regular Income	\$7,600.00		
97 Envelopes, Average \$78.35			
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$246.00		
Loose	\$366.00		
Online Giving	\$981.97		
TOTAL	\$9,193.97	\$11,193.00	(\$1,999.03)

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	\$877.00
BINGO Profit	\$12,000.00
Special Projects	\$141.00
Mission & Ministry	\$31.00

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.
August 2025 Tithe: \$3,435.00

UPCOMING SPECIAL OR SECOND COLLECTIONS

September 21 - Church in Africa: The Church in Africa is vast, with over 50 countries. The Church is flourishing in Africa and many priests from the continent serve us here. Helping the Church in Africa helps the Church here and across the world. Thank you, Fr. Alfred and Fr. Godwin!

More about more ways to give time, talent, & treasure at stelizabethgc.org/stewardship

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 14

Children's Liturgy @ 10:30 a.m. Mass

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

PARISH FRIED CHICKEN DINNER!

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Cafeteria)

Young Disciples Society 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (PLC Upper Room)

Holy Hour with Vespers and Benediction 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Monday, September 15

NO DAILY MASS

Tuesday, September 16

NO DAILY MASS

Choir Rehearsal- 7-8:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Mtg.- 7 p.m. (Columbus Home)

Wednesday, September 17

NO DAILY MASS

Charitable Outreach Mtg- 6 p.m. (PLC)

BINGO- 7 p.m. (Columbus Home)

Thursday, September 18

NO DAILY MASS

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Benediction & Reposition at 9 p.m.

Friday, September 19

Saturday, September 20

Catechetical Sunday!

Pray Rosary @ Abortion Business 9 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 21

Catechetical Sunday!

Men At Prayer - 9 a.m.

Holy Hour with Vespers and Benediction 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." John 3:16

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" - the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

My Parish Prayer Almighty God, My parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and of compassion, charity, and mercy if I - who make it what it is - am filled with these same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my parish to be. Bless my journey Lord God, that I might follow Jesus and build the Church for your glory. Amen.



BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING

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