

Disciples Stewards

Granite City, Illinois ♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church & School

Fourth Sunday of Advent ♦ December 21, 2025



Let the Lord Enter, He is King of Glory

As we enter this final week of Advent, the fourth candle of our wreath reminds us that the long-awaited dawn is finally breaking. We pause to reflect on Mary's faithful "Yes," which paved the way for the world's salvation. This week, our journey through the desert of preparation ends abruptly and joyfully at the foot of the manger. As we transition quickly from the quiet anticipation of Advent to the glorious celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, may our hearts be like the stable in Bethlehem—humble, warm, and ready to welcome the Prince of Peace. A very Blessed Christmas to you and your families!


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

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

Jackie Jones, Bookkeeper
x1003 | jjones@stelizabethgc.org

Chris Spanberger
Director of Religious Education
cspan@stelizabethgc.org

Marla Weis
Director of Liturgical Music
music@stelizabethgc.org

SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

School Phone: (618) 877-3300 x2
School Fax: (618) 877-3352

Pre-School: (618) 877-3300 x2003

Michelle Williams, Principal
mwilliams@stelizabethgc.org

Loretta Joyce, School Secretary
ljoyce@stelizabethgc.org

CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

Finance Council: 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, December 22

Monday of the 4th Wk of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Nancy Gray+ by Elizabeth Stern

Tuesday, December 23

Tuesday of the 4th Wk of Advent

6 p.m. Mass:

Mary P. Harshany+ by David Harshany

Wednesday, December 24

Wednesday of the 4th Wk of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass:

NO MASS

Vigil for Solemnity of Nativity of the Lord

4:30 p.m. Mass:

Marilyn Coulson+ by Henry Mulnik

10:30 p.m. Mass:

Deceased Members of the Trtanj Family+ by Dr.

Albert Trtanj

Thursday, December 25

Solemnity of Nativity of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Mass:

George Smolich+ by Peg Law

Friday, December 26

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Henry Mills+ by Paul & Joyce Mills

Saturday, December 27

Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:15 a.m. Mass:

Nancy Rosales+ by Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday-Sunday, December 27- December 28

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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

Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth

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

Dorothy Willaredt+ by Janice Willaredt 10:30 a.m.

Mass: Helen Withers+ by St. Elizabeth Choir

14 DAY SANCTUARY LAMP

The 14 Day Sanctuary Lamp burns this week to remind us to pray for **the marginalized; the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill persons in our community**

ALTAR FLOWERS

There is no flower memorial this week. Please contact the office to consider an altar flower memorial for your loved one.

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

WELCOME THEM HOME

As we begin this most joyous Christmas season, please remember to be kind, considerate and welcoming to our parishioners, families, friends and neighbors who may be joining us for Mass for the first time or after a long absence. The message is one of welcoming and understanding. We need everyone who visits our parish to feel welcome and that there is a reason to return! So if someone new is in 'your' pew, say hello and welcome them! Pray for their intentions and that they return soon!

HOLIDAY REMINDERS

As we head into the winter/holiday months, please be reminded that the food donations we collect to support those less fortunate in our community will perhaps be even more important than ever this year considering the current federal government shutdown. Please consider buying extra to donate to the Catholic food pantry managed by our

AROUND THE AREA

NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center

From November 21 through December 31, 2025, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Indoor activities are closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

The Way of Lights Display, using over 1.5 million beautiful lights, depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem. With new and beautiful colored lights, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for all to enjoy!

Cost: No charge for display; donations accepted; additional charges for some activities.

For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayoflights>

neighbors at Holy Family. Our Charitable Outreach group is still filling bags for our unhoused community and can use donations of small snacks, hand warmers and small or sample sizes of hygiene products. These can be dropped in the gathering space tubs or at the PLC. Thank you for your generosity to this pressing need!

COME TO THE CHURCH TO PRAY

We have heard from a few of our parishioners about the option to visit the church on days other than Adoration Thursday to pray. The code that we use to operate the front door will be active on days that the office is open from about 9:15 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. If you know the code, feel free to use it. If you need the code, please see the office for more info.



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

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

John 3:16

Peace be with you,

Grand Knight Alan Arakaki



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



Disciples & Stewards

Extra & Extra!



**ST. ELIZABETH
MEN'S CLUB**

FISH FRY

Friday, January 2, 2026

**4 TO 7PM
ST. ELIZABETH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CAFETERIA**

**EAT IN OR CARRY
OUT, YOU CHOOSE!**



BLOOD DONATIONS
ARE
Essential



Blood Drive

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

2300 Pontoon Rd, Granite City, IL 62040

**Friday, January 9, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter sponsor code: StElizabethCC
or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

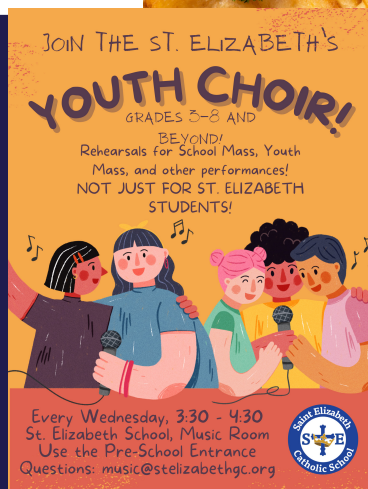
Come to give Jan. 1-25 for
chance to win trip for 2 to
Super Bowl LX in Calif!
rcblood.org/SuperBowl
2025-APL-0075



Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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SCRAP METAL COLLECTION

Please contact the parish office if you have any scrap metal in your garage, attic, backyard or basement. We will make arrangements with our team to pick up your items and recycle the metal. Most of the proceeds go for school and parish campus repairs or maintenance. Call the office at 618-877-3300.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REMINDER

Our Capital Campaign was launched about a month ago and we already have a number of parishioners who have made a pledge. Thank you so much to those who have answered the call. We still have much work to do so please prayerfully consider what you and your family can pledge, fill out a card and return it to the office or collection basket. There are extra cards and envelopes available in the gathering space or at the office.

VISION BOARD WORKSHOP

Join Madison County Catholic Charities on Saturday, January 10th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for an afternoon of guided collaging as we create vision boards and celebrate new beginnings. This workshop perfect for anyone ready to start the new year with focus and joy. Tickets are \$25 each and include all materials and light snacks. Bring your goals and good energy. Contact Amy Blankenship for details, 618-462-0634, ext. 233.

TO THE HEIGHTS

Calling all teens! Gather your friends and join us on Sunday, January 11th for our next gathering. We are doing a bit of a reboot with prayer, a speaker and more. Come join us!

CHRISTMAS MASS INFORMATION AND CARD LIST

Below you will find our parish Mass schedule for Christmas and the New Year.

***The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, are all Holy Days of Obligation**

Wednesday, December 24- NO Morning Daily Mass; Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord @ 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (with carols beginning 30 minutes prior to each)

Thursday, December 25- Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord: Mass at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31- Daily Mass at 8:15 a.m.; Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God @ 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1: Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God @ 9 a.m.

There are copies of the recently published Christmas Card list in the gathering space.



Holiday OFFICE SCHEDULE

December 23

OPEN

December 24 & 25

Closed

December 31 @ NOON

Closed

January 1, 2025

Closed

Regular office hours:

December 26 & January 2

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CALLING ALL TEENS

8th-12th Grades

6-8 p.m. Sunday Evenings

St. Elizabeth Harmony Room & Church

Sunday, January 11

Sunday, February 8

Sunday, March 8

Sunday, April 12



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Christmas Week Mass Schedule

December 24

Prelude Choral Concert @ 4pm and 10 pm

**Vigil Mass for Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

@ 4:30pm & 10:30 pm

**December 25- Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Mass @ 9am

December 31

Daily Mass @ 8:15am

**Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation) 4:30 pm**

January 1

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of
Obligation)**

Mass @ 9am

**Disciples
&
Stewards**



2026 Lenten Mission

Featuring : Patty Schneider

Theme: See the Beauty. Discover the Joy.



Monday, March 9, Tuesday, March 10 &
Wednesday, March 11
6:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

Babysitting Provided

Reception Following Wednesday Evening



ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL



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

We were blessed by a visit this week from Blue Santa and a few of our Alumni that are students at Marquette Catholic High School!!



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

STEWARDSHIP

December 14, 2025	Actual	Goal	Over/(Short)
Week 24 Regular Income	\$8,529.00		
93 Envelopes, Average \$91.71			
Loose	\$306.00		
Building Repair/Maintenance	\$685.00		
Online Giving	\$852.52		
TOTAL	\$10,372.52	\$11,193.00	(\$820.48)
YTD TOTALS	\$213,221.96	\$268,632.00	(\$55,410.04)

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/Fund A Royal	\$832.00
Christmas Flowers	\$355.00
Mission & Ministry	\$116.00
Special Projects	\$136.00

Parish Tithing Reporting

Our parish tithe to the Diocese to support the administration, ministries, and work of our Diocese is 10% of our regular monthly income.
November 2025 Tithe: \$4,159.00

UPCOMING SPECIAL OR SECOND COLLECTIONS

If you are giving on-line, or are not getting envelopes, please take note of the following Diocesan and Parish Special Collections. Remember to log in to your PushPay account every month to check on any upcoming Special Collections. If you are receiving envelopes, we strongly encourage you to use them to make sure your contributions are properly reported to your account or use your Giving ID # on your check or other envelope. **December 25, Christmas Day - Catholic Children's Home -**

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 28

Children's Liturgy @ 10:30 Mass

Mass - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Men at Prayer- 9 a.m.

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

Monday, December 29

Daily Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Servers Christmas Party- 3 p.m. (Atomic Pinball)

Tuesday, December 30

Daily Mass- 6 p.m.

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

Wednesday, December 31

Daily Mass- 8:15 a.m.

Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- 9 a.m

Friday, January 2

Daily Mass- 8:15 a.m.

Saturday, January 3

HARMONY CAFE!

Daily Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Pray @ Abortion Business - 9 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation 3 p.m.

Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 4

HARMONY CAFE!

Mass - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.



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

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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 <p>Christopher T. Layloff Partner, Gori Law Former St. Elizabeth Student Personal Injury, asbestos litigation, lung cancer, medical malpractice, workers compensation, railroad 618-744-6927 clayloff@gorilaw.com www.gorilaw.com</p>		<p>COME JOIN Knights of Columbus Tri-Cities Council # 1098 4225 OLD ALTON ROAD 618-877-4250 MEETINGS 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY 7:30 P.M.</p>
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