

WELCOME TO ST. ELIZABETH

We Invite You To Join Us Often!

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

O Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from your sublime height turn upon me your eyes of pity. Filled with confidence in your goodness and knowing full well your power, I beseech you to extend to me your assistance in the journey of life, which is so full of dangers for my soul. And in order that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may ever live with my heart humble and pure, I entrust myself wholly to you. I consecrate my heart to you forever, my only desire being to love your divine Son Jesus. Mary, none of your devout servants has ever perished; may I too be saved. Amen.

(December is traditionally dedicated to Mary's Immaculate Conception.)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 3, 2017

PARISH DIRECTORY

MAIN
877-3300

Dial the following extensions at any time during the message

	School	5	
Mass/Confession Times	3	Pre-School	6
Parish Office	4	Location Directory	7

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Finance Council	Charlotte Charbonnier
School Board	Jennifer Wilmsmeyer
Parent/Teacher Org	Jessica Brewer
Ladies Sodality	Jennifer Hutson
Holy Name Men's Club	Rob Hutson
Men at Prayer	Dave Gensert
Funeral Dinners	Pat Loftus & Erin Ruesing
Athletic Director	Michelle Travnicke
Maintenance Team	Bud Charbonnier

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 3 – Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec 5 – 1st Tuesday Cleaning Crew after Mass

Tuesday, Dec. 5 – Ladies Sodality Advent Mass at 5:30 pm with Dinner following in the Harmony Room

Tues., Dec 5 – Men's Club Meeting 7:30 pm in Cafe

Thursday, December 7 – RCIA at 6:30 pm in PLC

Sunday, December 10 – Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!!

Thanks to all our sponsors on the back cover of our bulletin. This week we thank Guardian Savings Bank, 3800 Nameoki Road, 618-876-5544.

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

LITURGICAL ROLES December 9 & 10

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

4:30 p.m.	C. Kessler, R. Schaus, V. Schaus, M. Black, L. Black, V. Drennan, B. Schrenk
8:00 a.m.	P. Ames, D. Wright, E. & D. Mooshegian, M. Williams, S. Carr, R. Carr
10:30 a.m.	D. Fletcher, D. Hay, S. Poiter, M. Poiter, T. Cholevik, S. Dombek, M. Boschert

LECTORS:

4:30 p.m.	L. Black
8:00 a.m.	A. Loftus
10:30 a.m.	B. Shambro

SERVERS:

4:30 p.m.	M. Buckingham, R. Curry, Siena Strehl
8:00 a.m.	Wilmsmeyer's
10:30 a.m.	A Knobeloch, A Hutson, G Hale, A Brewer

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 4

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 5

8:15 a.m.	Richard Horbelt by Florence Grawe
5:30 p.m.	Mass for Ladies' Sodality

Wednesday, December 6

8:15 a.m.	Michael Chad Taylor by Friends
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Thursday, December 7

8:15 a.m.	JoAnn Macios by Joe and Rose Krystopa
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ADORATION ENDS BEFORE 6PM MASS

VIGIL: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6:00 p.m.	Loretta Krekovich by Kristy Krekovich
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Friday, December 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:00 a.m.	Betty Karr by Premo and Kay Clay
8:15 a.m.	Miles C Filer by John & Carolyn Doedtmann
3:00 p.m.	Chaplet, Rosary, Prayers for World Peace
6:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Parish Family

Saturday, December 9 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
4:30 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Parish Family

Sunday, December 3 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m.	Marian Ratermann by Paul Ratermann
10:30 a.m.	Carolyn Moske by Jim Moske

Liturgical Schedule at Holy Family for December 4 – 8

Wednesday & Thursday - 8:00am Mass & Friday - 7:00pm Mass

Liturgical Schedule at St. Mary/St. Mark for December 4 - 8

Tuesday - 8:00 a.m. Mass & Friday 8:00 a.m. Mass

Greeter's Schedule for December 9 & 10

4:30 p.m.	Team 2
8:00 a.m.	Team 2
10:30 a.m.	Team 2

FATHER EDGAR'S CORNER

Dear St. Elizabeth Parish family,

Our last bulletin went to print on Friday, Nov. 17th, due to an early deadline for Thanksgiving. So, our first order of business is to say a big "Congrats" to everyone who worked on our St. Elizabeth float that was in the parade on the 18th and won 3rd place! Thanks for sharing your time and talent and getting our message out to the wider community!

A reminder to look ahead at the Holy Day Mass times listed in our area for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday evening December 7th, and Friday, December 8th. The goal of listing all these times is to best help you find something that fits your schedule. If you are ever going to be out of the area on a Sunday or Holy Day, please, if it helps you, ask me to find out about Mass times in the area you'll be traveling to and I'll be glad to help you out!

Finally, a special invitation to join me for an evening of Prayer for the Advent Season. I will be going over to the seminary I attended in St. Louis (Shrewsbury) on the evening of December 9th. Kenrick-Glennon Seminary does a 9-day Advent Novena each year before the end of the semester. December 9th will be night #4, and my friend Fr. Jason Schumer (originally from Perryville, MO) will be preaching at this 30 minute prayer service.

It is not a Mass, but this is a chance for the public to pray with the seminary community and get some quiet time for reflection in the stunningly beautiful St. Joseph Chapel at the seminary. Another friend who is still in seminary will be playing the organ that evening as well. The Springfield Diocese has 4 men in studies for the priesthood at Kenrick-Glennon and, if you come along, there should be an opportunity to meet them after the prayer service.

The Advent Novena is at 7 p.m. at 5200 Glennon Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119. I will leave the St. Elizabeth Parking lot at 6:05 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th, if anyone would like to form a caravan and follow me over to St. Louis you are most welcome to do so. I will leave no later than 6:10. It is about a 30 minute trip to Shrewsbury. There is no sign-up, just come as you are for an evening of prayer in a beautiful setting, and please do continue to pray for vocations! If you have any questions about the Novena, which runs from Dec. 6-14 this year, please email me.

Have a great week!
Hope to see you on the 7th & 8th.

~ Father Edgar

Extra Confession times during Advent in our area:

December 4th – 7:00 pm – St. Paul, Highland
December 6th – 7:00 pm – St. Mary's, Alton
December 6th – 6:30 pm – St. Paul, Highland
December 7th – 9:30 am – St. Paul, Highland
December 12th – 12:30 pm – Ss. Peter and Paul,
Collinsville

December 13th – 6:30 pm – Ss. Peter and Paul, Collinsville
December 13th – 7:00 pm – St. Jerome, Troy
December 17th – 2:00 pm – St. Boniface, Edwardsville
December 18th – 7:00 – St. Lawrence, Greenville
December 20th – 6:30 – St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DEC. 7th & 8th AREA HOLY DAY MASS TIMES

St. Elizabeth: 12/7 @ 6 pm; 12/8 @ 7am, 8:15am (all school) & 6pm

Holy Family: 12/7 (none); 12/8 @ 8 am at St. Mary's in Madison, 7 PM at Holy Family

St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon: 12/7 @ 7pm; 12/8 @ 8am

MPH, Maryville: 12/7 (none); 12/8 @ 8 am & 7 pm

Ss. Peter & Paul, Collinsville: 12/7 @ 6:30 pm; 12/8 @ 8:15 am & 6:30 pm

St. Boniface, Edwardsville: 12/7 @ 6:45 pm; 12/8 @ 8 am

The Dome @ SIU-E: 12/7 (none); 12/8 @ Noon

Holy Angels, Wood River: 12/7 (none); 12/8 @ 8 am & 7 pm

RIGHT TO LIFE

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “How to Build a Culture of Life,” www.goo.gl/yAt6Gk

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Antonio Chacon-Mendoza, IL; Lee Brown, Fort Hood, TX; Raymond Chant, Jr., Afghanistan; Arron Gray, Colorado; Pvt. Damien Mendoza, Ft. Benning, GA, James Schillinger, San Diego; Britney Stieglitz, Oujonbou, South Korea, Brandon Weidner, Juneau, AK, Dylan and Shea Niles, Lackland AFB, TX, Nolan Yehling, Qatar

CATECHISM CORNER

This section is meant to serve as a “Did You Know” or “Frequently Asked Questions” blurb about the faith.

In this Week’s Corner we discuss the use of incense at Mass. Why do we use incense?

The word “incense” is derived from the Latin *incendere*, which means “to burn”. It is commonly used as a noun to describe aromatic matter that releases fragrant smoke when ignited, to describe the smoke itself, and as a verb to describe the process of distributing the smoke.

The use of incense in religious worship predates Christianity by thousands of years. First in the East (circa 2000 BC in China with the burning of cassia and sandalwood, etc.), and later in the West, incense use has long been an integral part of many religious celebrations. Incense is noted in the Talmud (Jewish ritual/history book), and the Bible mentions incense 170 times. The use of incense in Jewish temple worship continued well after the establishment of Christianity and certainly influenced the Catholic Church’s use of incense in liturgical celebrations.

The earliest documented history of using incense during a Catholic sacrificial liturgy comes from the Eastern branch of the Church. The rituals of the Divine Liturgies of Saint James and Saint Mark dating from the 5th century include the use of incense. In the Western Church, the 7th century *Ordo Romanus VIII* of Saint Amand mentions the use of incense during the procession of a bishop to the altar on Good Friday. Documented history of incensing the *Evangelarium* (Book of Gospels) during the Mass dates from the 11th century. The use of incense within the liturgies developed over many years into what we are familiar with today.

In the Old Testament God commanded His people to burn incense (e.g., Exodus 30:7, 40:27, etc.). Incense is a sacramental used to venerate, bless, and sanctify. Its smoke conveys a sense of mystery and awe. It is a reminder of the sweet-smelling presence of our Lord. Its use adds a feeling of solemnity to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell reinforce the transcendence of the Mass linking Heaven with Earth, allowing us to enter into the presence of God (Revelation 8:3 speaks of an angel in heaven offering much incense with the prayers of the people at God’s altar).

The smoke symbolizes the burning zeal of faith that should consume all Christians, while the fragrance symbolizes Christian virtue. In a more practical visual sense, the fragrant smoke ascending also symbolizes our prayers rising to heaven. Psalm 141 emphasizes this very point, “May my prayer rise like incense before your face, O Lord.” The smoke rises in imitation of the direction of our prayers, which are to rise to the Face of God as a fragrant offering of praise. One of the gifts brought to the infant Jesus by the Magi was that of Frankincense – a gift befitting a God. The early Church recognized that our earthly celebration of the Mass was a sharing in the eternal liturgy of heaven and so surrounded our sacred mysteries with the sweet sight and smell of incense (cf. Rev. 5:8 and 8:3-4). In our worship we continue to use this same practice of offering incense in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Its aroma symbolizes something pleasing and

acceptable being offered to God. Burning incense is also a sign of reverence and dedication.

In his monograph *Sacred Signs*, Monsignor Romano Guardini (1885-1968), who greatly influenced the writings of Pope Benedict XVI, had these beautiful words to say about the use of incense:

The offering of an incense is a generous and beautiful rite. The bright grains of incense are laid upon the red-hot charcoal, the censer is swung, and the fragrant smoke rises in clouds. In the rhythm and the sweetness there is a musical quality; and like music also is the entire lack of practical utility: it is a prodigal waste of precious material. It is a pouring out of unwithholding love.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM, §75) says about the use of incense:

The bread and wine are placed on the altar by the priest to the accompaniment of the prescribed formulas. The priest may incense the gifts placed upon the altar and then incense the cross and the altar itself, so as to signify the Church’s offering and prayer rising like incense in the sight of God. Next, the priest, because of his sacred ministry, and the people, by reason of their baptismal dignity, may be incensed by the deacon or another minister.

We incense the altar which represents Christ whose sacrifice we celebrate. We also incense the gifts of bread and wine which will become the Body and Blood of Christ. The book of the Gospels can be incensed because it is the Word of God. We incense the Blessed Sacrament because it is the True Presence of Christ. We incense the Easter Candle as the light of the world. We incense the priest because he stands in the Person of Christ the Head of the Church. We incense the people at Mass because they are the Body of Christ and the living stones of the Temple of God. In addition to its use at Holy Mass, incense is used at other liturgical rituals, notably Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as well as at the end of the funeral liturgy, giving honor to the temple of the Holy Spirit (our body) that held our immortal soul. Its symbolic value and transcendent character lend the same mystery and beauty to those celebrations as they do at Holy Mass.

PRIDE OF OUR SCHOOL

- Thank you to our wonderful students and volunteers who participated in the **Santa Claus Parade**. The day was cold, wet, windy and dreary, but those who participated brightened everyone’s spirits. St. Elizabeth School float took 3rd place! Special thanks to Mrs. Dimitroff who organized the project and Mr. & Mrs. Greene, owners of Greene Lawn Care, for donating/driving the trailer.



- The St. Elizabeth School **Christmas Program** will be presented, under the direction of Mrs. Davis and Mr. Cholevik, on December 18th in the school gym at 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM.
- Please pray for our **2nd grade students** as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 19th.

May God Bless our school families and staff with a wonderful Christmas. St. Elizabeth School (PreK – 8) will be **closed December 25th** – January 1st. School will remain closed on January 2nd for all students in kindergarten – 8th grade for staff development. Kid’s Klub and preschool will open on January 2nd. **All students return January 3rd.**

PARISH NEWS

ANNUAL LADIES SODALITY SPONSORED ADVENT CELEBRATION - For those attending the Annual Advent Ladies Sodality Celebration, Tuesday the 5th, just a reminder that the evening will begin with mass at 5:30 pm. Installation of officers will be immediately following. We then will go to the Harmony Room for dinner and fellowship! See you there! Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please call Patty 920-2895.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION – This weekend we will start collecting toys for the needy for Christmas. You may place your unwrapped toys in the boxes provided in the Gathering Space until Friday, December 15th. The Catholic Charities will distribute the toys to needy families in the area. Thank you for your generosity!

FREE CATHOLIC CONTENT ONLINE FOR YOU: “FORMED” – Take advantage of our parish subscription to FORMED, which is an online on-demand resource for solid Catholic content. There is no individual cost (movies, programs, talks, ebooks, etc.) Just enter our Parish Code VCR7ZM and your email address when you click on Register at formed.org - please check out this great resource!

BLESSING BOX – We are in need of hand held can openers for the Blessing Box. We try to buy pop top cans, but cannot always do so and many of the less fortunate do not have openers. Thank you in advance for your help.

150 CLUB NEWS – The winners of the 150 Club Drawing for December are #149, Jim and Lesa Jackson. Congratulations Jim and Lesa!!!

MERCY MINUTES FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA – “The moments which are most pleasant to me are those when I converse with the Lord within the center of my being. I try my very best not to leave Him alone. He likes to be always with us...”
(Diary, 1793)

GC ROCK NEWS

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH! GC Rock is for YOU!

- Saturday/Sunday, December 2 & 3** – Jar Sales!
- Sunday, December 3** – Gathering at Holy Family 6:30-8pm.
- Saturday, December 9** – 11am-2pm Help at Billie’s Kids Christmas Party (Township Hall) – Jar Sales after Mass.
- Sunday, December 10** – Jar Sales until sold out / NO Gathering.
- Sunday, December 17** - Write on Christmas Cards to nursing homes and shut-ins.
- Sat./Sun., Dec. 24 & 25** – **Blessed Christmas to all!**

GC ROCK CHRISTMAS GIFT JAR SALE NOW! Our Christmas Gift Jar sale is made possible by the generous donations of canning jars! We are selling our delicious soup and cookie mixes until they are gone! Proceeds from this sale will help us meet our goal to attend the National March for Life in January in Washington, D.C. and other activities for our high school youth! Thank you!!!

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
First Friday/Saturday
9:00 am Friday through 8:00 am Saturday

Would you like to DEVELOP A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS? When we want to get to know someone what is the first thing we do? We look to spend more time with them, conversing with them often. We become closer to someone by sharing our feelings, thoughts, hopes and aspirations for the future and we listen to them. When one person loves another, they want to be with this person whom they love. This is true for whatever type of relationship one may think of. A mother and her newborn infant, a father and his child, two friends, sweethearts, husband and wife. Love seeks to be with the object of its love. This helps us to understand the great mystery of our faith. If we want to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, we have to make an effort just as we would in our relationship with Jesus. We have to make an effort just as we would in our interactions with others. Spend some time with Jesus in EUCHARISTIC ADORATION and watch your life change. On Thursday, we need you for the hours: 12-1; 1-2; 4-5; & 5-6. On First Friday, the hours most needed are 5-6; 7-8; 8-9; 9-10; 2-3am, 5-6 and 6-7. Call Norma at 931-1537 or the parish office.

Cast all your anxieties upon the Lord who cares for you.

Special Projects	480.00
Candles	122.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	181.00

November 27			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Over/ (Short)</u>
Week 22 Regular Income	\$ 6,326.00		
175 Envelopes (Average Gift \$36.15)			
Loose	411.55		
Give Central	<u>215.00</u>		
TOTAL	\$ 6,952.55	\$ 8,681.00	\$(1,728.45)
YTD			
Total YTD	\$165,078.57	\$190,982.00	(\$25,903.43)

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

<u>OTHER GIFTS</u>	
Tuition Assistance	146.00
Bldg. Repair/Maintenance	281.00
Christmas Offering	5.00
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Solemnity of Mary	5.00
Immaculate Conception	5.00
Special Projects	328.00
Candles	116.01
Catholic Children's Home	20.00
Retired Religious	20.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	7.00

EVENTS IN THE AREA

ANNUAL SMORGASBORD & BAZAAR, Sunday, December 3, 11:00am-3:00pm, at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, School Gym, 132 Butcher St, Bethalto. Please join us for a delicious dinner including the following menu items: Turkey & Dressing, Famous Knights of Columbus Fried Chicken, Pigs in the Blanket, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, and vegetables, tossed salad, desserts & beverages. Adults - \$12.00; Children (5-10) - \$5.00; under 5 - Free. Carry-outs available. PLEASE COME!

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

November 20

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Over/ (Short)</u>
Week 21 Regular Income	\$ 5,799.00		
170 Envelopes (Average Gift \$34.11)			
Loose	421.11		
Give Central	<u>815.00</u>		
TOTAL	\$ 7,035.11	\$ 8,681.00	\$(1,645.89)
YTD			
Total YTD	\$158,126.06	\$182,301.00	(\$24,174.94)

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

OTHER GIFTS

Tuition Assistance	350.00
Bldg. Repair/Maintenance	85.00
Christmas Flowers	25.00

SCRIP PROGRESS

Week ending 11/27/17

Shop n Save	Walmart	National
\$ 825.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,240.00

Total Sales: \$5,465.00

Year to Date:

Shop n Save	Walmart	National
\$79,225.00	\$113,175.00	\$145,815.00

TOTAL: \$338,215.00

APPROX. GROSS PROFIT TO DATE:	\$15,943.00
APPROX. CREDIT CARD FEES	(\$ 1,186.00)
APPROX. NET PROFIT TO DATE	\$14,757.00

ACSA 2017

Goal	\$55,973.00
Pledged	\$23,095.00
Pledge Payments	\$16,120.00
Summer Donations	
Balance Owed	<u>\$39,853.00</u>

99 of 882 Families Pledged
Average Pledge - \$233.28

NEW PARISHIONER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ MOBILE _____

EMAIL: _____

Place in the collection basket

REQUEST VISIT

NAME _____

PLACE _____

PERSON REQUESTING _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Place in the collection Basket