

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.)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 10, 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 10 – Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 14 – RCIA at 6:30 pm in PLC
Sat./Sun., Dec 16 & 17 – Ladies Sodality Cookie Sale after masses in the Harmony Room
Sunday, December 17– 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 Roth Law Offices, 2421 Corporate Center, 2nd Floor, Granite City, IL 618-931-5000.

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

LITURGICAL ROLES December 16 & 17

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

4:30 p.m.	R. Schaus, C. Charbonnier, J. Hutson, C. Kessler, K. Haas, V. Schaus, L. Black
8:00 a.m.	T. Lyerla, P. Ames, J. Pamatot, P. Mills, M. Loftus, B. Loftus, D. Wright
10:30 a.m.	K. Boschert, T. Mooshegian, D. Gensert, P. Heuer, F. Faulkner, D. Hay, D. Fletcher

LECTORS:

4:30 p.m.	K. Coley
8:00 a.m.	J. Mills
10:30 a.m.	A. Yurko

SERVERS:

4:30 p.m.	B. Charbonnier, R. Willaredt, T. May
8:00 a.m.	A. Friedel, J. Williams, G. Luna
10:30 a.m.	E. Wilmsmeyer, C. Folkerts, M. Adams, W. Yehling

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 11

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 12

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 13

NO MASS

Thursday, December 14

8:15 a.m. Charles Marcus by Tom & Dorothy Voloski

ADORATION

Friday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Joe Czwornog by Ann Czwornog
3:00 p.m. Chaplet, Rosary, Prayers for World Peace

Saturday, December 16– THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. Communion Service
4:30 p.m. Louie Scaturro by Ed & Christina Johnisee

Sunday, December 17 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. Herbert & Irene Wein by Denise Cook and Daughters
10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Parish Family

Liturgical Schedule at Holy Family for December 11-15

Wednesday & Thursday - 8:00 a.m. Mass & Friday – 8:30 a.m. Mass at School

Liturgical Schedule at St. Mary/St. Mark for December 11-15

Tuesday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

Greeter's Schedule for December 16 & 17

4:30 p.m.	Team 3
8:00 a.m.	Team 3
10:30 a.m.	Team 3

FATHER EDGAR'S CORNER

Dear St. Elizabeth Parish family,

Our school kids have been making Advent/Christmas/Thinking of You cards for our home-bound, nursing home, and assisted living Catholics in our area. I have 91 people on that combined list right now. Jim Bohn, Betty Lampitt, and I have delivered over 60 cards so far and everyone says a big "Thank you" to our kiddos for their thoughtfulness. They are deeply grateful for this act of kindness by our students; please remember those who aren't able to get out and celebrate the holidays like they used to in your prayers.

I am making a brief pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wisconsin for her feast day this week and I'll return Thursday. As I have mentioned at daily Mass recently, if you have any particular prayer intentions that you'd like me to take along, please let me know.

A big, big thank you to the Maintenance team for changing out the uplights in Church to LED, which will save a huge amount on our electric bills. Thanks to all who have donated many, many hours to making this happen.

We had another successful Fish Fry on the 1st, thanks to the small army of people it takes to pull that event off each time. We are blessed to have an outstanding Men's Club. Reminder that meetings are at 7:30 the first Tuesday of each month and that all men of the parish are invited.

The Ladies' Sodality installation of new officers and Mass was held on the 5th. I really enjoyed our evening together and wonderful dinner! A big thank you for all these ladies do for our parish.

I hope you enjoy the "Sacred Reading" books that are meant to give you a brief moment each day to enter into the spirit of Advent and Christmas in your personal prayer. Please let me know what you think of these. And feel free to take whatever remains at church to give to other friends and family – they are good all the way through Epiphany so it's not too late! Please also remember our free access to FORMED (that blurb with log-in information is in our bulletin every week). I also have many more great Catholic CDs about a variety of topics in my personal library (many in bulk) that I would be willing to give away. If you're going to be in the car a lot, I'm happy to give or lend any of my resources to you. Any opportunity we can get to "listen" during this busy time of year will only help us.

At the weekend Masses we have introduced Kyrie XVII during the Penitential Rite, this particular invocation of the Lord's Mercy has been used on the Sundays of Advent and Lent for centuries, so please join in singing!

Finally, **SCRIP can't be guaranteed after the 19th**, so please place your orders early! **If we are out of something on the 20th-22nd, we will not be able to get it for you before Christmas.** Thanks for supporting SCRIP!

Have a great week! God bless each of you!

~ Father Edgar

Extra Confession times during Advent in our area:

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

RIGHT TO LIFE

"If you know someone who has had an abortion, express your sympathy for her loss. Assure her of God's unconditional love, and encourage her to seek healing and forgiveness."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Bridges of Mercy for Post-Abortion Healing,"

www.goo.gl/MpC7RG

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.

(Running this for one more week, in case you missed it.)

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

- 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**.
- The **Annual Dinner Dance Auction** will be held on **February 24, 2018** at St. Gregory Hall with Bella Milano catering. Tickets will go on sale soon. The PTO will offer an early bird special for \$40 per person. Regular price ticket (\$50 per person) sales begin January 22nd. Please plan to attend and get your tickets early! The auction committee is accepting advertisements and donations of new items for baskets, furniture, sports tickets, memorabilia and more. Contact Natasha Reidl, Cheryl Folkerts, Shawna Morris or the school office for information.

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION – We are still 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!

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest baptized member, Raina Nicole Dawn Rehg!

TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH – Thank you so much for hosting a Baby Bottle Campaign. All of you collectively raised \$1,442.62! That’s amazing and such a huge help to our moms and babies. We wanted to personally thank you so much! God Bless,
~ Erica Rogers, Fontebella Development Director

LADIES, START YOUR OVENS.....Our cookies and Sweet Treats will be on display next weekend in our Harmony Room! We will be setting up at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, the 16th of December. You can deliver your goodies then or before and after either Mass on Sunday. Should you have a problem with delivery, please call and we will gladly pick-up the cookies from your house. Looking forward to your special family recipes. Thank you in advance, Marilyn – 797-6545, Maggie – 541-9973, Carol – 876-7620 and Bootsie – 931-0418.

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.

THANK YOU – Ed Gaudreault would like to thank all the parishioners who helped him when he passed out at Mass on November 19th. May God Bless You!

MERCY MINUTES FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA – “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)

GC ROCK NEWS

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

Sunday, December 10 – Jar Sales after Masses/NO Gathering.

Saturday/Sunday, December 16/17 – Jar Sales until SOLD OUT. 6:30 – 8pm Gathering at Holy Family/Write on Christmas Cards to nursing homes and shut-ins.

December 25 – Blessed Christmas to all!

Wednesday, December 27 – Rock Christmas Lock-in at Holy Family CC! 7:30 pm – 7:30 am Thursday morning.

Sunday, December 31 – NO Gathering, Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 7 – 6:30-8pm Gathering at St. Elizabeth.

Youth and parents, PLEASE join our Facebook page, “GC Rock Youth Group”, to stay up to date with our activities! Questions, please call Rita 972-4022, Dawn 709-3565, or Woody 876-7551.

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!!!

CAN YOU STILL SPARE A PAIR? GC Rock will be leaving the “sock bins” in the back of each church to continue this ministry through the cold months. Feel free to drop a pair in whenever you can and know they will be put to good use. 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.

EVENTS IN THE AREA

WORRIED ABOUT CREDIT CARD DEBT?

Concerned about how you will pay for a child's college education? Not sure if you have enough savings for retirement?

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Plan to attend the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University. It could be the help you need and change your life! Nine sessions starting Mondays, January 8 – March 3, 2018. 6:30 pm at Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Morris Hall, Morrison & Johnson St., Collinsville, IL 62234. Cost: \$75 (payable at 1st session) To register, email your name and phone number to sspeterpaulcollinsville@gmail.com or call 618-345-4343.

ST CECILIA PARISH - 155 N. Main St., Glen Carbon, is having their annual Holiday Concert Sunday, December 10th at 2 p.m. Free but a love offering will be collected to provide Christmas gifts for a local family in need. Refreshments will be served.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

December 4

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Over/ (Short)</u>
Week 23 Regular Income	\$ 8,960.00		
190 Envelopes (Average Gift \$47.16)			
Loose	405.00		
Give Central	1,090.00		
TOTAL	<u>\$ 10,455.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,681.00</u>	<u>\$(1,774.00)</u>
YTD			
Total YTD	<u>\$175,533.57</u>	<u>\$199,663.00</u>	<u>\$(24,129.43)</u>

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	1,873.00
Annual School Fund	1,250.00
Bldg. Repair/Maintenance	222.00
Christmas Offering	125.00
Christmas Flowers	1,308.00
Solemnity of Mary	45.00
Immaculate Conception	65.00
Special Projects	41.00
Candles	81.00
Catholic Children's Home	80.00
Retired Religious	70.00
Campaign for Justice & Hope	5.00

SCRIP PROGRESS

Week ending 12/04/17

Shop n Save	Walmart	National
\$2,175.00	\$5,425.00	\$6,580.00

Total Sales: \$14,180.00

Year to Date:

Shop n Save	Walmart	National
\$81,400.00	\$118,600.00	\$152,395.00

TOTAL: \$352,395.00

APPROX. GROSS PROFIT TO DATE:	\$16,601.00
APPROX. CREDIT CARD FEES	(\$ 1,235.00)
APPROX. NET PROFIT TO DATE	\$15,366.00

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