

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.)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17, 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	Tammi Mooshegian
Holy Name Men's Club	Rob Hutson
Men at Prayer	Dave Gensert
Funeral Dinners	Pat Loftus & Erin Ruesing
Athletic Director	Michelle Travniczek
Maintenance Team	Bud Charbonnier

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 16 & 17 – Ladies Sodality
Cookie Sale after all masses in the Harmony Room
Sunday, December 17 – Adoration/Confession 9 a.m.
Sunday, December 17 – Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 21 – RCIA at 6:30 pm in PLC
Mon-Fri, Dec 25-29 – Parish Office will be closed!

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!!

Thanks to all our sponsors on the back cover of our bulletin. This week we thank Scott's Auto Service, 4012 North Street, Granite City, 797-7812.

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

LITURGICAL ROLES December 23 & 24

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

4:30 p.m.	J. Hutson, C. Kessler, R. Schaus, V. Schaus, M. Black, L. Black, V. Drennan
8:00 a.m.	M. Williams, S. Carr, R. Carr, T. Lyerla, P. Ames, P. Mills, J. Pamatot
10:30 a.m.	D. Hay, S. Poiter, M. Poiter, T. Cholevik, S. Dombek, M. Boschert, K. Boschert

LECTORS:

4:30 p.m.	L. Black
8:00 a.m.	A. Loftus
10:30 a.m.	H. Leon

SERVERS:

4:30 p.m.	M. Smith, Siena Strehl, Liliana Strehl
8:00 a.m.	M. Pamatot, E. Travniczek, K. Smith
10:30 a.m.	A. Hutson, G. Hale, A. Brewer, C. Folkerts

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 18

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 19

8:15 a.m.	Dorothy Willaredt by Richard and Janice Willaredt
10:00 a.m.	Mass at Stearns Nursing & Rehab Center

Wednesday, December 20

8:15 a.m.	Leo Scaturro by Nina Allen
-----------	----------------------------

Thursday, December 21

8:15 a.m.	Johanna Bukovac by Norma Lesko
-----------	--------------------------------

ADORATION

Friday, December 22

8:15 a.m.	Mary Danheiser by Norma Lesko
3:00 p.m.	Chaplet, Rosary, Prayers for World Peace

Saturday, December 23 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Sunday, December 24 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m.	Ken Voss by Premo and Kay Clay
10:30 a.m.	Miles C. Filer by Ed and Bonnie Murray

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4:00 p.m.	Jack Hennrich by Billie Meier
11:20 p.m.	Christmas Carols prior to Midnight Mass

Liturgical Schedule at Holy Family for December 18-22

Wednesday - 7:00 p.m. Rorate Caeli, Thursday - 8:00 a.m. Mass & Friday - 8:00 a.m. Mass and 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Fountains
Liturgical Schedule at St. Mary/St. Mark for December 18-22
Tuesday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

Greeter's Schedule for December 23 & 24

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

FATHER EDGAR'S CORNER

Dear St. Elizabeth Parish family,

These final days of preparation for Christmas are called the Great or "Golden" Days of Advent. From December 17-23, each day at Evening Prayer an Old Testament title for the Messiah, proclaimed by one of the Prophets, is prayed by the whole Church. These prayers have come to be known as the "O Antiphons" and you most likely know a loose translation of them from the verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel. I will have a one-page prayer sheet available in Church from the 17th-23rd for you to take and pray with these Scripture passages from the Prophets as a way to have something concrete you can pray with for a few minutes each day at this very busy time.

A brief rundown of the titles (with the subsequent Scripture passages omitted) is given below:

- Dec 17: *O Sapientia* – O Wisdom
- Dec 18: *O Adonai* – O Lord
- Dec 19: *O Radix Iesse* – O Root of Jesse
- Dec 20: *O Clavis David* – O Key of David
- Dec 21: *O Oriens* – O Radiant Dawn
- Dec 22: *O Rex Gentium* – O King of the Gentiles
- Dec 23: *O Emmanuel* – O "God-with-us"

In Latin, the first letter of the titles form an acronym for Dec. 24th: ERO CRAS – literally "Tomorrow, I Will BE" – proclaiming that the long-awaited Messiah will come to us on Dec. 25th. May we prepare *daily* to be with Him.

Please remember that there are 2 obligations to attend Mass next weekend, one for Sunday (23rd & 24th) & one for Christmas (24th & 25th). If you can come early to the Christmas Masses, Cathy & the choir (and me) will be singing carols prior to each Mass. Just a few songs at 3:35 pm Sunday and 9:35 am Monday, and our whole program will be prior to Midnight Mass, starting at 11:20 pm on Christmas Eve. Come early and sing along with us.

Please also remember in your prayers our 2nd graders who will make their 1st Reconciliation on Tuesday the 19th.

The office will be closed the week of Christmas and the entire campus, church and school, will be shut down for the week, giving everyone a break. Our next business day after Friday, Dec. 22nd will be Tuesday, Jan. 2nd.

This year, please note, that the Obligation for the Jan. 1st Holy Day is **removed** because it falls on a Monday. So there will be no New Year's Eve or New Year's Day Masses, only regular Sunday Masses on the 30th & 31st.

Finally, one more reminder that **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 & safe travels to all who are visiting loved ones in these next days!

~ Father Edgar

Extra Confession times during Advent in our area:

December 17th – 2:00 pm – St. Boniface, Edwardsville
December 18th – 7:00 – St. Lawrence, Greenville
December 20th – 6:30 – St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon

Christmas Mass Schedule in our Area:

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 PM – ST. ELIZABETH

4:00 PM – St. Mary' s, Madison
4:00 PM – Ss. Peter & Paul, Collinsville
4:00 PM – St. Mary' s, Edwardsville
4:00 PM – St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon
4:00 PM – MPH, Maryville
4:00 PM – Holy Angels, Wood River
4:15 PM – St. Boniface, Edwardsville
6:00 PM – St. Mary' s, Edwardsville
7:00 PM – MPH, Maryville
7:00 PM – Ss. Peter & Paul, Collinsville
9:00 PM – Holy Family, Granite City
10:15 PM – St. Boniface, Edwardsville
11:00 PM – St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon

Monday, December 25th

12:00 AM – ST. ELIZABETH

8:00 AM – Ss. Peter & Paul, Collinsville
8:15 AM – St. Boniface, Edwardsville
9:00 AM – Holy Angels, Wood River
9:00 AM – St. Mary' s, Edwardsville
9:00 AM – MPH, Maryville

10:00 AM – ST. ELIZABETH

10:00 AM – St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon
10:30 AM – Ss. Peter & Paul, Collinsville
10:30 AM – Holy Family, Granite City
12:15 PM – St. Boniface, Edwardsville
(Spanish)

RIGHT TO LIFE

"He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go... Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2017-2018
Respect Life Reflection. www.bit.ly/2x31e1X

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.

Today’s Corner is about how to fulfill Mass Obligations. When Christmas falls on a Monday, there can be a lot of confusion about fulfilling one’s Mass obligation for both Sunday and the Holy Day. Sundays are always ranked the highest in the Liturgical Calendar, and their obligation is never transferred or removed. For Holy Days, of which we observe 5 in the U.S.A., the U.S. Conference of Bishops *can* choose to transfer or remove the Obligation that will normally come with a Holy Day.

In the cases of the Holy Days of the Assumption of Mary (Aug.15), All Saints Day (Nov. 1), and Mary, Mother of God (Jan.1), when these fall on a Saturday or a Monday, the U.S. Bishops *have chosen to remove* the obligation for attending Mass on back-to-back days. In the case of Christmas and the Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec. 8, our national feast day) *they have chosen to retain* the obligation. This year, we are obliged to attend Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. But the following weekend, we will attend Mass on Sunday for the Feast of the Holy Family, but have no obligation for New Year’s Eve or Day this year since Jan. 1 is a Monday.

The bishop’s rationale is that it can create a hardship for some to attend Mass on back to back days, and since missing Mass is a mortal sin, we don’t want to place the faithful in danger of missing Mass and being incapable of receiving Communion worthily. This is a good spot to mention that if you missed Mass on the Holy Day, December 8th, you must go to confession before returning to Holy Communion or you commit the further grave sin of sacrilege each time you receive Our Lord with an unconfessed mortal sin on your soul.

Finally, it is worth noting, hopefully without creating too much confusion, that our obligation to attend Mass is tied to specific days and times and not necessarily to the prayers you hear. For instance, if you attended a wedding Mass that was after 4 PM on a Saturday or anytime on a Sunday, that liturgy would fulfill your Sunday obligation even though you may have heard wedding prayers and readings instead of the Sunday readings. Going to Mass between 4 PM on Saturday and 11:59 on Sunday is what fulfills the obligation. Prior to coming here, I’ve always been assigned somewhere with a Sunday night Mass. So when the Assumption of Mary falls on a Monday (Aug. 15) but carries no obligation, I am still supposed to say her Vigil Mass on Sunday night the 14th of August, instead of the Sunday prayers. But even though I used Mary’s prayers, that Mass still fulfills the Sunday obligation. (So yes, even in the further case if a priest were to absent-mindedly use the *wrong* prayers, your obligation would still be fulfilled.)

So this year for Dec. 23-25 we **have two obligations**, in the strict sense (the letter of the law) they are:

#1 to attend one Mass between 4 pm on Saturday the 23rd and 11:59 pm on Sunday the 24th to fulfill “Sunday”

#2 to attend an additional Mass between 4 pm on Sunday the 24th and 11:59 pm on Monday the 25th to fulfill “Christmas”

So, yes, you could technically attend a Christmas Eve Mass – since it’s still “Sunday” as far as time is concerned – and then go to a 2nd Christmas Mass after that to fulfill the Sunday and Christmas obligations. I don’t suggest it, as you’ll miss the prayers for the 4th Sunday of Advent, but if your work schedule demands it and you work Christmas day, there’s still a way to do this the correct way. Again, the point here is that obligation is technically tied to “time” and not to the prayers you may or may not hear at Mass for Sunday or a Holy Day. A bit confusing on first glance, perhaps, but this law is interpreted *broadly* to give people as much chance as possible to fulfill both obligations. In the end, hopefully the attitude is we “get” to go to Mass, not we “have” to. Hope to see you and yours at both next weekend!

PRIDE OF OUR SCHOOL

- **Look Who Demonstrated Outstanding Citizenship Traits in November:** Hayden Hutchings, Layla Juarez, Mason Costello, Leighton Hayes, Madelyn Pamatot, Mason Roseman, Jordyn Berg, Michael Adams, Autumn Hutson, Ciara Folkerts
- **Raffle Winners:**
 - ✓ 12/1 Glenn Lackey
 - ✓ 12/2 Karen Quick
 - ✓ 12/3 Linda Curless
 - ✓ 12/4 Katie Bukovac
 - ✓ 12/5 Brian Miller
 - ✓ 12/6 Carole Hemann
 - ✓ 12/7 Guadalupe Pacheco
 - ✓ 12/8 Shane Buckingham
 - ✓ 12/9 Brad Skalsky
 - ✓ 12/10 Erica and Chris Goclan
 - ✓ 12/11 Mike Krystopa
 - ✓ 12/12 Karen Meyers
 - ✓ 12/13 Kevin Noeth
 - ✓ 12/14 Mary Goodwin
 - ✓ 12/15 Debra Mohntay
 - ✓ 12/16 Brenda Brown
- 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.**

- **Trivia Night** will be held on **January 13, 2018**. Tables of up to 8 cost \$120. Please call the school office to reserve your table. (618) 877-3300 ext. 5.
- 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 – Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Toy Collection sponsored by the Catholic Charities. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

COOKIE SALE THIS WEEKEND.....Please join us this weekend in the Harmony Room before and after all masses for some Very Special Christmas Cookies & Treats. Let us help you complete your Holiday Shopping Lists.
Carol – Bootsie – Maggie - Marilyn

THE 14-DAY CANDLE by the tabernacle will be burning in memory of Theresa Gulash by Jacqueline Kolenda.

MEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE on January 21st in the school cafeteria. Doors open at 1:30pm. Food, drinks and a good time. We will be watching the Championship games for the NFC and AFC. All Men of the church and school are invited. We will also be having our 2nd Annual Chili cook-off. Let me know if you are bringing some. Thank you!

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!
MERCY MINUTES FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA – "I waste no time in dreaming. I take every moment singly as it comes, for this is within my power. The past does not belong to me; the future is not mine; with all my soul I try to make use of the present moment."
(Diary, 351)

GC ROCK NEWS

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

Watch our FB page for more dates and times....
Sat./Sun., December 16/17 – Jar Sales until SOLD OUT. Gathering at Holy Family/Write on Christmas Cards to nursing homes & shut-ins 6:30-8pm.
December 25 – Blessed Christmas to all!
Wednesday, December 27 – GC Rock Christmas Lock-in at Holy Family Community Center! 7:30 pm – 7:30 am Thursday morning. **8TH GRADERS ARE INVITED** from 7:30-10:30pm!
Sunday, Dec. 31 – **NO** Gathering, Happy New Year!
Sunday, Jan. 7 – Gathering at St. Elizabeth 6:30-8pm.
Sun., Jan. 14 – Gathering at St. Elizabeth 6:30-8pm.
Wed., Jan. 17 – Leave for March for Life in Washington DC! Board buses after school, Time TBD.
Sunday, January 21 - Return from March for Life (evening). **NO** Gathering.
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!!

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

8TH GRADERS INVITED!!! 8TH Graders, mark your calendars! You are invited to GC Rock's annual Christmas Lock-In!!! Come and have some Rockin' fun with us from 7:30-10:30 on Wednesday, December 27 at Holy Family Community Center. You'll enjoy some fun, food, and fellowship with our Rocks! Dress comfortably and wear tennis shoes. No spending the night though, until you are officially a Rock ☺. Hope to see ya'll there!!!

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOME – The mission of the Catholic Children's Home is to aid, protect and care for the needs, education and welfare of dependent, neglected, abused or otherwise hurting children and families without regard to poverty, riches, race, religion or national origin. Every year we depend on the Christmas Day collection as the most important part of our fundraising. What better day to remember the children who, through no fault of their own, are less fortunate than our own. Your monetary donation to the Catholic Children's Home is a wonderful way to ensure that we will continue to bring help to the most needy children and to ensure that they have a brighter hope for the future.

YOUNG AT HEART at Holy Family Church will not be meeting on Monday, December 18th.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

December 11

	Actual	Goal	Over/ (Short)
Week 24 Regular Income	\$ 5,538.00		
157 Envelopes (Average Gift \$35.27)			
Loose	670.00		
Give Central	115.00		
TOTAL	\$ 6,323.00	\$ 8,681.00	(\$2,358.00)
YTD			
Total YTD	\$181,856.57	\$208,344.00	(\$26,487.43)

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.

OTHER GIFTS

Tuition Assistance	160.00
Annual School Fund	1,000.00
Bldg. Repair/Maintenance	1,019.00
Christmas Offering	65.00
Christmas Flowers	175.00
Solemnity of Mary	15.00
Immaculate Conception	1,022.00
Special Projects	10.00
Candles	80.01
Catholic Children's Home	30.00
Retired Religious	727.00

SCRIP PROGRESS

Week ending 12/11/17

	Shop n Save	Walmart	National
	\$3,375.00	\$7,250.00	\$12,465.00
Total Sales:	\$23,090.00		
Year to Date:			
	Shop n Save \$84,775.00	Walmart \$125,850.00	National \$164,860.00
TOTAL:	\$375,485.00		

APPROX. GROSS PROFIT TO DATE:	\$17,733.00
APPROX. CREDIT CARD FEES	(\$ 1,316.00)
APPROX. NET PROFIT TO DATE	\$16,417.00

ACSA 2017

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

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