

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.)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 24, 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	Tom Cholevik
Funeral Dinners	Erin Ruesing
Athletic Director	Michelle Travnicsek
Maintenance Team	Bud Charbonnier

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon-Fri, Dec 25-29 – PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, January 1 – PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!!
Thanks to all our sponsors on the back cover of our bulletin. This week we thank St. Elizabeth School, Bingo on Wednesday Nights at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

LITURGICAL ROLES December 30 & 31

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

4:30 p.m.	B. Schrenk, J. Hutson, C. Charbonnier, K. Haas, C. Kessler, R. Schaus, V. Schaus
8:00 a.m.	M. Loftus, B. Loftus, D. Wright, S. Carr, R. Carr, T. Lyerla, D. Fletcher
10:30 a.m.	T. Mooshegian, D. Gensert, F. Faulkner, P. Heuer, D. Hay, E. & D. Mooshegian

LECTORS:

4:30 p.m.	B. Shambro
8:00 a.m.	R. Loftus
10:30 a.m.	M. A. Gensert

SERVERS:

4:30 p.m.	B. Charbonnier, R. Curry, L. Wilmsmeyer
8:00 a.m.	J. Williams, E. Williams, M. Pamatot
10:30 a.m.	M. Adams, M. Roseman, W. Yehling

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, December 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00 a.m. Lorraine White

10:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Parish Family

Tuesday, December 26

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 27

NO MASS

Thursday, December 28

NO MASS

NO ADORATION

Friday, December 29

NO MASS

3:00 p.m. Chaplet, Rosary, Prayers for World Peace

Saturday, December 30 – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

8:00 a.m. Communion Service

4:30 p.m. Lorayne Mills by Service Employees Local #98

Sunday, December 31 – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

8:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Parish Family

10:30 a.m. Anthony Ratkewicz Jr by St. Elizabeth School

NO Masses for New Year's Eve or Day – Not a Holy Day

Liturgical Schedule at Holy Family for December 25 – 29

Monday – 10:30 a.m. Mass, Wednesday-Friday – 8:00 a.m. Mass

Liturgical Schedule at St. Mary/St. Mark for December 25-29

Tuesday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

Greeter's Schedule for December 30 & 31

4:30 p.m.	Team 1
8:00 a.m.	Team 1
10:30 a.m.	Team 1

FATHER EDGAR'S CORNER

Dear St. Elizabeth Parish family,

Merry Christmas! Christ is born for us! Here is a beautiful Christmas prayer that I received in the mail recently that I'd like to share with all of you:

*O sweet child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women
this peace for which they sometimes seek so
desperately and which You alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also Your beauty, holiness, and purity.
Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for
Your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in Your love.
And give us Your heavenly peace. Amen.*
- Pope St. John XXIII

If you can come early to any of our Christmas Masses, Cathy & the choir (and me) will be singing carols prior to each Mass. Just a few carols 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! The choir has worked hard! **A complete list of area Masses is listed at right.**

The office will be closed this entire week of Christmas and the campus, church and school, will be shut down, giving everyone a break. Our next business day will be Tuesday, Jan. 2nd. Messages will not be received until then.

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 for the Feast of the Holy Family. (And we wish Fr. Jeff & our neighbors a blessed parish feast day!) See the "Catechism Corner" section of the bulletin for a further explanation.

We have had several great weeks with SCRIP in December and I am grateful you all are helping our parish and school by utilizing this gift card program. Thank you!

Please let me know how you liked the new Advent & Christmas spiritual reading books from Ave Maria Press. They all disappeared fast! I hope they have helped you find a few quiet moments each day amid all the busyness of this season. And please remember, Christmas season BEGINS on the 24th and this year ends on Monday, January 8th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Celebrate through the Epiphany! As mentioned a few weeks ago, I'll be celebrating the traditional 40 days of Christmas and keeping my lights and tree up until Feb. 2nd. I love this time of year; may you find many blessings in this holy season!

~ Father Edgar

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

"An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. Your support might be the only support she receives. Even if we never know how, the smallest things we do can change someone's life."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting,"
www.bit.ly/10WaysRespectLife

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 again since the question about Holy Days is especially pertinent to Dec. 23-25 and Dec. 30-Jan. 1st:

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 bishops’ 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 have missed 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.

A reminder that Jan. 1 is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, but if you would still like to go to a Mass in the area for Mary, Mother of God, here are some options:

8:00 AM – St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon

9:00 AM – MPH, Maryville

10:30 AM – Holy Family, Granite City

PRIDE OF OUR SCHOOL

- As we reflect on our memories of 2017 and prepare to begin a New Year, may we always remember that “God is with us.” Some had a difficult year, many faced changes and challenges, some have struggled and others have walked through a great year. People and events may change, but our God never changes. May we find courage and strength to face challenges in the road ahead. May we have a renewed compassion for those in need and offer forgiveness for past disagreements. May we look for Christ in others and ourselves. May we make a difference of peace, hope and compassion with the Lord leading us with purpose. We celebrate the birth of our king and we begin anew. God bless you all with a beautiful Christmas. May your new year be filled with goodness, Mrs. Jakich
(See you “back at school” on January 3, 2018)
- St. Elizabeth Preschool has openings in the 3yr. old class for the spring session. Please call the office at (618) 877-3300 ext. 5 for information.
- **Raffle Winners**
 - ✓ 12/17 JoAnn Suemnicht
 - ✓ 12/18 Ben Pilcic
 - ✓ 12/19 Harry Parker

- ✓ 12/20 Joseph Mangi
- ✓ 12/21 Brenda Cole
- ✓ 12/22 Valerie Schobert
- ✓ 12/23 Jeanne Grinstead
- ✓ 12/24 Doug Schmelzle

Thanks to all who purchased St. Elizabeth Christmas Cash Raffle Tickets!!!

PARISH NEWS

GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES –

Greeters, we would like to have 2-4 greeters at each mass. Please plan on arriving early at the mass you are attending. Check in with Father Edgar or Howard to see if there are special handouts for your mass. Thank you for your commitment throughout the year and for the upcoming weekend.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE COOKIE TEAM –

Ladies we would like you to know that many of our customers commented on how delicious your cookies were and returned to purchase more as gifts. We are also grateful to those who so kindly gave monetary gifts to our event. Our goal of surpassing last year's totals was accomplished through your generosity. Wishing all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. God Bless, Carol ~ Bootsie ~ Maggie ~ Marilyn

FUNERAL MEALS – Ladies Sodality is looking for someone to take on the funeral meals. After many funerals and wonderful compassion for all of the families that have lost loved ones in our parish, Pat Loftus has turned in her keys and is unable to continue in this role. We are looking for someone who can organize the meal, pick up the meat and bread, take care of contacting others for dishes, and to work the day of the funeral making sure there is enough coffee, ice water, paper products, and to facilitate clean-up of the Harmony Room. This can be a wife/husband team or a team of two or three ladies. Please consider this mission and pray about your commitment to serve in this role. Contact Tammi Mooshegian at 618-920-1792 for questions or to say YES.

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

HELP NEEDED AT FISH FRY – We are looking for volunteers to help getting the cafeteria ready before the fish fry and help afterwards getting the cafeteria put back together for the school. All help is greatly appreciated! Thank you very much for your consideration!

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 – "O Jesus, I want to live in the present moment, to live as if this were the last day of my life. I want to use every moment scrupulously for the greater glory of God, to use every circumstance for the benefit of my soul. I want to look upon everything, from the point of view that nothing happens without the will of God." (Diary, 1183)

GC ROCK NEWS

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

Watch our FB page for more dates and times....

Saturday, December 23 – Last day of Christmas Gift Jar Sales

Monday, 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 – MOSAIC Baby bottle Campaign begins at Holy Family. 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 Washing-

ton 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.

MINISTERS OF PRAYER

The prayer intentions for January are on the table in the Gathering Space. God Bless 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!!!

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

December 18

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Over/ (Short)</u>
Week 25 Regular Income	\$ 6,074.00		
179 Envelopes (Average Gift \$33.93)			
Loose	596.00		
Give Central	760.00		
TOTAL	\$ 7,430.00	\$ 8,681.00	\$(1,251.00)
YTD			
Total YTD	\$189,286.57	\$217,025.00	\$(27,738.43)

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	401.00
Bldg. Repair/Maintenance	581.00
Christmas Offering	166.00
Christmas Flowers	206.00
Solemnity of Mary	16.00
Immaculate Conception	76.00
Special Projects	448.00
Candles	71.00
Catholic Children's Home	56.00
Retired Religious	66.00

SCRIP PROGRESS

Week ending 12/18/17

Shop n Save	Walmart	National
\$ 875.00	\$5,500.00	\$10,770.00
Total Sales: \$17,145.00		
Year to Date:	Walmart	National
Shop n Save	\$131,350.00	\$175,630.00
\$85,650.00	TOTAL: \$392,630.00	
APPROX. GROSS PROFIT TO DATE:		\$18,591.00
APPROX. CREDIT CARD FEES		(\$ 1,376.00)
APPROX. NET PROFIT TO DATE		\$17,215.00

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