

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH



Father Mark Seiker
3301 Echo Drive
North Platte, Nebraska 69101

Rectory / Office [308-534-5461](tel:308-534-5461)
Parish Hall: 534-0511

Parish email: rectory-office@seas-np.org
Webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org>

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time ***February 26, 2017***

Welcome to St. Elizabeth's: It is our hope that you feel at home and among friends here at St. Elizabeth. If you are a visitor for a day, we pray God's speed on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would be delighted to welcome you into our parish family. Please introduce yourselves. Registration forms are available in the entry racks or contact us anytime at 308-534-5461.

Religious Services

Mass Schedule For Sunday Obligation:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays & Holy Days

As published in the Bulletin.

Rosary

Prayed **8:30 a.m.** Monday mornings, and
30 minutes before weekend Mass.

Sacrament of Confession

Offered 30 minutes before most all daily Masses
Saturday 4:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m., or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation class. This is recommended, and easiest to do before the birth of the child, but must be done before the baptism.

Sacrament of Matrimony

To assist those who plan to marry, all couples will be required to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation policy, which includes the FOCCUS & Engaged Encounter Programs. This requires a minimum of 4-6 months. The assessment process must be completed before a wedding date is set. Contact pastor early to begin the preparation.

Parish Information

Bulletin Deadline

All material is to be submitted to the parish office before noon Wednesday prior to the Sunday it is to appear. Email to: rectory-office@seas-np.org

New or Moving Parishioners

Please call the office to arrange an appointment with the Pastor to register in the Parish. Please call the office to notify us of any address change.

Your Will

Ask your attorney to include remembrance of your Church in your will.

Religious Vocations

Any young woman interested in religious life, or young man interested in a vocation to the priesthood should contact your pastor. Please pray for vocations!

Education

C.C.D. Programs

Sunday mornings (Sept-May) 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

For those interested in possibly joining the Catholic Church. Usually on Wednesdays (Sept-May), 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Please contact the parish office for more information.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday Feb. 27
 Tuesday Feb. 28 **5:30 p.m.**
 *** ** * **Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)** * ** * ** *
Ash Wednesday Mar 1 7:00 a.m.
 12:10 p.m.
 7:00 p.m.
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 Thursday Mar. 2 8:00 a.m.
 Friday Mar. 3 **5:30 p.m.**
6:00 p.m.
 Saturday Mar. 4 **8:00 a.m.**
5:00 p.m.
 Sunday Mar. 5 **10:00 a.m.**

INTENTIONS

- No Scheduled Parish Mass -
 Pamela Bellini
 Ed Rieker
 People of our Parish
 For those who struggle with addictions
 Nancy Vandenberg +
 the Portz kids
 Exposition/ Stations /All night Adoration
NO Holy Hour ... Simple Reposition
 People of our Parish
 Marinn Niesen

**Can a mother forget
 her infant, be without
 tenderness for the
 child of her womb?
 Even should she forget,
 I will never forget you.**

- Isaiah 49:15

Stewardship: February 19, 2017

Adult Envelopes:\$1,269.20
Loose Plate:\$248.76
Children: \$2.00
Total: \$1,519.96

Joy of the Gospel Campaign
 Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$3,115.82
Total Gifts Received:\$510,941.74
 Original DIAL Loan:.....1,485,000.00
 Total Received (CTTF Camp):\$1,025,440.07
 Misc Donations Received:.....\$739,940.31
 Total Payments on Loan:.....\$1,334,895.04
 Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$401,936.67

Southern NE Register:\$115.00
 Ash Wednesday:\$20.00

Parish Calendar

Sunday Feb. 26 11:00am CCD Classes
 Wednesday March 1 7:00 pm **Ash Wednesday**
 Sunday March 5 11:00am CCD Classes

Catholic School News:

Irish Fest ... February 26th is IRISH FEST! Join us for this important and FUN fundraiser for our schools. There will be games for all ages, plus a Silent Auction for our adult friends in attendance.

Students are selling Raffle tickets for the following prizes: \$1000 Cash, \$250 Cash, 50" HDTV, \$500 SCRIP of choice certificate, (2) 50 pounds of 100% ground Chuck from Lincoln Co Feedyard, and \$100 Gift Certificate to Computer Troubleshooters. Raffle Tickets are \$2.00 Each or 10 for \$15 – See a NPCS Student to get yours soon. **A Homemade Roast Beef Dinner will be served from 12:00pm - 2:30pm!**

Fat Tuesday Dine Out Event ... Join us on Tuesday, February 28th for a Dine Out Event at Dunkin' Donuts! From 5:00pm – 8:00pm Dunkin' Donuts will donate 10% of profits to the NPSF Student Council President Chase Ochs' project to benefit renovations at our Catholic Food Pantry. Please help us raise some needed funds to help replace carpet and purchase paint materials for our Catholic Food Pantry.

Direct your Dollars to McDaid! ... Save those receipts from SunMart and turn them in to our school. Once \$150,000 in receipts have been gathered and verified, a check for \$1,000 will be awarded to our schools. *We are still collecting Box Tops for Education as well as Labels for Education.*

Congratulations to Student of the Month ... Allison Montgomery. Allison is a Junior at NPSF and is involved in Volleyball, Track, Swing Choir, Speech, One

Act, and serves as the Strutter Dance Team–Captain. All is the Junior Class President and is the daughter of Mike and Laura Montgomery.

North Platte Catholic School:
Faith and Knowledge for a Brighter Future

Confirmation for Grades 5, 6, 7 Students ... will be on Sunday, March 19, 2017 during the 10:00 am Mass.

Day of Reflection ... What a great way to start Lent by attending one of the Days of Reflection **on Ash Wednesday, March 1**, in **Hastings & Waverly**, or **March 18 in Gretna**. Take the time to prepare your hearts for remembering the sacrifice Jesus made for us and to thank Him for the suffering so that we could be saved and enter heaven. Remember that a true Lenten sacrifice is not only giving something up for Lent but also doing something extra.

Sky Camp & Leadership Camp ... Online registration is open for SKY Camp and Leadership Camp. To register your child or learn more about these camps, go to www.campkateri.org.

Camp Kateri Benefit Dinner ... Camp Kateri is hosting its annual benefit dinner on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Stone Creek Reception Hall in McCool Junction. The entertainment is The Fun Piano Show, by 176 Keys. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm. The Dueling Piano Show starts at 8:00pm. All proceeds will go to new activities for our summer camp. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$500 for a reserved table of eight. To order tickets please email CampKateriT@gmail.com or call 402-724-2596.

Married to God ... The first reading and Gospel today reveal that God loves us so much that he describes himself as our spouse. He is not content to “watch us from a distance,” nor to simply “send” his love to us. Rather, he comes radically close to us, fills us with his being, and gives himself entirely to us. We, in turn, are called to give ourselves entirely to him, as to a spouse. The marriage between God and his people, between Christ and his Church, is both permanent and fruitful. This bond of love cannot be broken. Moreover, it always brings about new life in the spirit. It is because the Church is the Bride of Christ that she proclaims the dignity of all human life, and calls us to welcome every life with generosity.

QUEST Retreat ... QUEST is a retreat for young Catholics between the ages of 14 and 16 who are freshmen and sophomores in high school. It is woven around the theme of the Three Circles of Love: Love of Self, Love of Others, and Love of God. The name QUEST implies “searching for” and “seeking out.” As such, this retreat is designed to bring young people together and invites them to search for and seek out a deeper understanding and appreciation of themselves, others, and God. Cost is \$80 for the retreat. The next QUEST Retreat is **March 23-26** at **St. Joseph Church in Auburn, NE**. For more info., call Youth Ministry Office 402-473-0625. To register, go to <http://www.lincolndiocese.org/retreats/quest>.

Cursillo Weekends ... *You have 2 weeks to sign up for the Men’s Cursillo Weekend (women have an additional week).* Cursillo Weekends will be held at St. Patrick Parish in McCook, NE, March 16-19, 2017 (Men) and March 23–26, 2017 (Women). Cursillo offers the opportunity for personal growth in your faith, thus allowing you to better share your faith with others. The Weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. If you would like to participate and/or would like more information about Cursillo, contact John Springer, Lay Director for the Lincoln Diocese (402-826-2699; email jejspringer@windstream.net) or Greg Vandenberg Coordinator for the Men’s Weekend (308-530-7587; glvandenberg@charter.net) or Kathy Springer Coordinator for the Women’s Weekend (402-826-2699; ks90710@windstream.net) or go to the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursilloregistrations.html>.

The Mother/Daughter “Growing UP and Becoming a Woman Program ... to will be held **Sunday, March 26, 2017 2:00-4:30pm** at **St Patrick Catholic Parish Hall** in North Platte, NE. The free program is designed for 9-13 year old girls and their mothers / grandmothers / guardians. This program is a time set aside to explore God’s special gift of human fertility, and the beauty & wonder of growing up and becoming a woman.

There have been many positive comments of past mother/daughter programs including “liked the openness,” “Great conversation starter with my daughter”, “helpful, fun”, “liked Christian approach”, & “helped build mother/daughter relationship”.

Several speakers will present changes in a young woman’s body, the onset of ovulation and menstrual periods, female reproductive functions, and the virtue of chastity and sacredness of human life.

The program is sponsored by all 3 North Platte Catholic parishes - St Elizabeth Ann Seton Daughters of Charity; and Holy Spirit & St Patrick Council of Catholic Women Groups and the North Platte Fertility Care Center.

Please register by March 20th by texting, calling, or email to Kathy Burr at 308-991-1880, ckburr240@gmail.com or Laurie Stadler at 308-530-3952 or mlstadler@hotmail.com.

Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids Campaign ... each year in the Fall, the Knights of Columbus gathers Coats for Kids in need. Last year at Catholic Social Services in Lincoln, more than 800 coats were distributed by the Knights of Columbus. This is a good time to buy coats while the prices are so good. Let us store them for you, and we’ll get them to the Kids (in North Platte or surrounding communities in this area) This Fall.

About Best Lent Ever 2017 ... We all know the things that make us happy, but we don’t always do them. Lent is an opportunity to change that. This year we invite you to do something different. Sign up for Best Lent Ever, a FREE, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and New York Times bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Matthew will help you identify what stands between you and happiness ... and what to do about it. Are you ready for your best Lent ever? Go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>.

Time To Sign Up To Join The Fun ... There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex Bulletin Board to bring your favorite family dessert and recipe to be auctioned in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 11 or Sunday, March 12 after Mass. Come join the fun and take home your neighbor’s favorite dessert and Recipe!!!

Funds received will be used to help defray the expense of the many things the Daughters of Charity do for the Parish (e.g. provide the Altar breads, wine, candles & the many social activities that we host). Please join in the FUN.

Parish Council Elections ... will be next weekend, **March 4-5, 2017**. The names of four parishioners who were nominated & some information about each of them is listed below. The two members elected will serve a two year term on the Parish Council.

Jim Nisley ... is a retired lawyer, & is on the City Council. He & his wife Shirley have 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren. He is a convert and has been a parishioner for about 4 years.

Philip Heimann ... is a GIS Manager for Twin Platte NRD. He and his wife Kelsey have two children. They have been parishioners for about 7 years.

Melissa Johnson ... will be the Assistant Director of Nursing at Hilltop Estates in Gothenberg on Mon., Feb. 27, 2017. She has two adult children. She is a convert, and a Parishioner for almost three years, and has been in the North Platte area for about 11 years.

Cindy Swanson ... is a Service Coordinator for the Agency on Aging. She has two adult children. She is a convert, and a Parishioner for almost three years, and has been in the North Platte area for most of her life.

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Confirmation Retreat and Practice ... will be on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. It begins with **5:30pm Mass** in the Church, followed by Pizza in the Parish Hall, followed by the Retreat to prepare for Confirmation. At **8:00pm** we will have **practice for Confirmation**. We will **conclude at 8:30pm**.

Who Am I to Judge? Responding to Relativism with Logic & Love ... begins **Sat., Feb. 25, & Friday, Mar. 3.**

Fr. Seiker gone from parish ... **Sunday, Feb. 26 – Tuesday, Feb. 28**, I will be with family, friends at the Catholic School Services Banquet in Lincoln on Sunday. On Monday, Feb. 27 – Tuesday, Feb. 28, I will be meeting with the priests in my **Jesus Caritas Fraternity** in Waverly. I will return on Tuesday afternoon.

Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Mar. 4, 5:00pm	Sun., Mar. 5, 10:00am
Lector	Loren Baxa	Shane Lowrey
Acolyte	Ed Rieker	Bob Ryland
Server	William Krondak	Nicholas Niesen
	Nicholas Krondak	Harmon Johnsen
Music	The Walz Family	Peggy Orr
Gifts	Jerry & Teri Volesky	Blake & Teresa Niesen
Ushers	Paul Nordquist	Mike Paul
	Charles Barron	Jeff Orr

Readings for the Week

Monday: Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8,14, 23; Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17;
2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-6, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17;
Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Prayers for the sick: David Bratton, John Kahl, Victoria Brenneis (Emily Krondak's niece), Mike & Kim Paul, Pat Sexton, Special Intention, Kade Folchert (grandson of Bob Folchert), Margaret Schuckert, Ella Ochoa, Eileen Boltz, Jim Beckius.

Prayers for the deceased: Phyllis Beckius, Sheryl Darpoli, Patricia Dancer (Mary Bratton's mother), Lonnie Schmid (Jon Schmid's brother), Jose Luis Rodriguez, (Fr. Rafael Rodriguez's father), Barbara Barak, (Fr. Chris Barak's mother), Alexis Heaslip, (Fr. Andrew Heaslip's mother), Gerald Wiedel, (Fr. Tom Wiedel's father), Gene Donoho (Melissa Johnson's uncle).

Birthdays: 2/27 - Ed Rieker, 3/1 - Leah Bjornstad, Shane Belgium, 3/3 - Gregory Walz.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... By the early 1950s some scholars were calling for the restoration of Communion of the faithful on Good Friday, since by then only a priest received, consuming the host from the Holy Thursday repository. In 1955 the new Good Friday liturgy was timed to begin at three o'clock everywhere, and included the option of Holy Communion, but without the Precious Blood that had originally been part of the liturgy. Today, there is increasing debate among theologians. Some feel that it would be better to fast from the Eucharist on Good Friday, focusing on the mystery of the cross and highlighting the Easter Communion. Others say that this Communion infuses the sadness of the day with awareness of Christ's victory. It is not a day of mourning, of course, and the Passion according to John grounds the liturgy in a sense of Christ's victory over death and the triumph of the cross. The tradition is rich and varied, and we are still in the early stages of recovering an ancient way of doing things.

Why do we call the day "good"? The English and Dutch languages share this name, and its origin stems from the name "God's Friday." The traditional name for the day in Latin is Feria VI in Parasceve, which translates as "The Sixth Day of the Week of Preparation." Other languages make do with "Holy Friday." In another part of England, as in Denmark, the people used to call it "Long Friday," a good description for a quiet day without work and no chance for play or a good meal! —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

DON'T BE ANXIOUS ... People have, it seems, a natural penchant for misplaced emphasis on unimportant things. They can easily get caught up with what they're having for dinner or what they will wear.

Often it is a tragedy that helps people to refocus on what is really important. What I shall wear is an irrelevant question when I am facing surgery or chemotherapy. What's for dinner is immaterial to those living through grief or unemployment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us not to worry. He doesn't say, "Don't eat. Don't cook. Don't buy clothes." He says, "Don't worry." Jesus asks us not to relinquish our responsibilities but to let go of our anxiety. Anxiety betrays a lack of trust and Jesus reminds us that "Your heavenly Father knows" all that you need (Matthew 6:32). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Don Quixote ... The Don Quixote of one generation may live to hear himself called the savior of society by the next. —James Russell Lowell

Good Timing ... The best time to do something worthwhile is between yesterday and tomorrow. —Anonymous

Pray for our Seminarians: **Louden Daniel Redinger**, from Sacred Heart Parish, Shelton/Kenesaw. He entered the Seminary in 2014. He is in College 3 at St. Gregory the Great Seminary. **Alec Jeffrey Sasses**, from St. Peter Parish and St. Michael Parish, Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2012. He is in Theology 1 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS: (February) Comfort for the Afflicted: That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

(March) Support for Persecuted Christians: That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Platte, NE

2017 Lenten Schedule

Lent Mass/Confession/Stations Schedule

Sundays: (as usual, Sat 5:00pm; Sun 10:00am)
 Weekdays: check the Bulletin for Mass schedule
 Fridays: 6:00pm Stations of Cross
 Saturdays: 4:00pm-4:55pm Confessions
 Sundays: 9:00am-9:55am Confessions

Lenten Regulations

Abstinence ... means eating no meat nor any soup or gravy made from meat. Abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14. Days of abstinence are: Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting ... means eating only one full meal with two smaller meals, which together do not equal the full meal. No snacks or eating between meals. The law of fasting obliges all Catholics between the ages of 18 & 59. Days of fasting are: Ash Wednesday / Good Friday.

Sickness, hard manual labor, pregnancy, etc. automatically excuse one from these obligations. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that these are serious obligations. In cases of doubt or question, the matter should be discussed with the priest who hears a person's confession.

Daily Lenten Prayer Reflection Options

Best Lent Ever 2017: Resisting Happiness ...

We all know the things that make us happy, but we don't always do them. Lent is an opportunity to change that. This year we invite you to do something different. Sign up for Best Lent Ever, a FREE, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and New York Times bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Matthew will help you identify what stands between you and happiness ... and what to do about it. Are you ready for your best Lent ever? Go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>.

It's simple and free – the only cost is your commitment to live better each day this Lent. Each day, you'll receive spiritual coaching from Matthew Kelly; go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>

Bishop Robert Barron Lent Reflections ... Each day from Ash Wednesday (March 1) until Easter Sunday (April 16), Bishop Barron will send you a short email with an uplifting spiritual reflection. Sign up at <http://LentReflections.com>.

Magnificat Lenten Companions ... available in Church Narthex for free. Pick one up to help in your spiritual growth!

Operation Rice Bowl

On Ash Wednesday, our parish will begin Operation Rice Bowl. Sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, the six week Lenten program combines Prayer, Fasting, Education, and Almsgiving. Proceeds benefit the poor, both in our diocese and in the developing world. Please join this meaningful Lenten observance. "Rice "Bowl" envelopes/information are available on a table in Narthex.

2017 marks the 42nd year of CRS Rice Bowl – the largest and oldest Lenten program practiced by Catholics in the United States. As we, the global Church, continue our prayerful walk through this Holy Year of Mercy, it is especially appropriate to come together in prayer as a family this Lent, reflecting on how we can live this call to mercy more abundantly. Use your CRS Rice Bowl & Lenten Calendar to guide your Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

As a family, read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey—and motivate your Lenten giving. Prepare simple, meatless meals on Fridays throughout Lent to eat in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Be visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of people & communities whose lives your Lenten gifts are changing through CRS Rice Bowl.

Who Am I to Judge? Responding to Relativism

with Logic & Love ... during March & April, parishioners are encouraged to join in a Study by Dr. Edward Sri in the Parish Hall on various evenings & (on your own with FORMED.org).

What is "right" & "wrong"? Is what's right for you right for me? Is there a right & wrong for everyone, all the time? These are difficult questions to discuss in our culture. We live in a society that supports the opinion that each person should make up his or her own morality – that there is no moral truth that applies to everyone.

Many of us have been affected by the relativistic outlook that pervades the modern world. Maybe some of us wonder whether there really is an absolute right and wrong for everyone. Or maybe we accept that there is a moral standard for all, but we don't know how to explain our moral convictions in a convincing way. Maybe some of us are afraid of saying something is immoral because we're afraid of offending others or of being labeled intolerant. How do we talk about morality in a relativistic world? That's what we begin to explore in the opening session of this study.

	7:00pm – 8:15 or 8:30pm	7:00pm	7:00pm
#1	Don't Impose Your Morality on Me	Saturday Feb. 25	Friday Mar. 3
#2	Recovering the Basics: Virtue and Friendship	Monday Mar. 6	Thursday Mar. 9
#3	Real Freedom, Real Love	Sunday Mar. 12	Tuesday Mar. 14
#4	The Lost "Art of Living"	Monday Mar. 20	Tuesday Mar. 21
#5	Engaging Moral Relativism	Tuesday Mar. 28	Thursday Mar. 30
Will Not Meet this week - Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions (April 2 - 4)			
Will Not Meet in Holy Week (April 9 – 15)			
#6	"I Disagree" Doesn't mean "I Hate You"	Monday Apr. 17	Tue 4/18 Fri 4/21
#7	Exposing the Mask	Sunday Apr 23	Tue 4/25 Fri 4/28
#8	What is Truth? Answering Common Questions	Monday May 1	Thursday May 4

Take an Hour of Adoration During Lent

During Lent, and always, you are encouraged to spend some extra time with our Eucharistic Lord ... either by taking an hour of Adoration each week, or maybe even each day ... or by joining in the prayer of the Mass during the week.

Spending time with Jesus is one of the best ways to deepen your spiritual life, and grow closer to God. Come & rest with the Lord for an hour each week. If you take time to pray, you find you have more time!

Forty Hours Eucharistic Adoration ...

Sunday, April 2 - Tuesday, April 4. There will be a talk each evening (**Sunday 7:00pm, Monday 7:00pm, & Tuesday 7:00pm**) given by **Steve Ray**. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the Monstrance on the Altar after the 10:00am Mass on Sunday through the day and the night (except during Weekday Masses) until the Tuesday 7:00pm closing. After each evening's talk there will be cookies & refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Steve Ray was raised in a Baptist family. His wife, Janet, was raised in the Presbyterian faith. They were married in 1976 and attended various churches. Eventually they stopped attending church "because of the shallowness of what we found." Janet said "we found out the early Church was Catholic, it wasn't Protestant. We were taught it was Protestant." Steve said: "Jesus did not leave us with an authoritative Book, He left us with an authoritative Church and later, through time, that Church gave us an authoritative Book, but the Church came first."

Singles, couples and families; Catholics and other Christians are cordially invited. This is a tremendous opportunity to come to know the Lord, His Word, the Lord's Mercy, and our holy Catholic faith better, during the Season of Lent.

A Reflection on Lent

From The Church's Year of Grace (Vol. II) by Dr. Pius Parsch (p.68-71)

“At the very outset we must take positive steps to acquire the spirit of Lent. Through the vestibule of Pre-Lent we enter the sanctuary of the sacred Easter season. What is the purpose of this portion of the Church year? What can it give us? It gives divine life, and in divine life we have the essence and the end of all Christian piety. Objectively, this life was won by Christ through a hard fight in His bitter passion; subjectively, it is now bestowed in baptism, and renewed in second baptism or penance. In briefest outline this gives the high purposes of Lent.

a) Christ's passion! Already during the Christmas octave and in the Sundays after Epiphany the Church introduced the passion motif; in Pre-Lent it received greater stress and now it becomes the major theme. Christ, the divine Warrior, enters into conflict with the Prince of darkness. During the first half of Lent the interior aspect of the conflict is accentuated, while during the second the motif of physical suffering comes into the foreground and reaches its climax in Holy Week.

Recall that in the Christmas cycle we were not merely interested spectators of the mighty struggle between light and darkness; then as now the mystery is re-enacted in each person's heart: in your soul Christ is wrestling with the devil; or better, by the very fact that you are a member of the mystical Christ you are involved in this fight. At Easter we want to be ready to sing Alleluia with our Leader, but the victory can only be gained by death and crucifixion to the natural man. Therefore we must re-live our Savior's passion in Lent; as catechumens we must die with Christ; as penitents we must die with Christ; as disciples we must die with Christ in order to rise with Him as new men on Easter. Christ's passion, accordingly, is not merely the highest motive for a spiritual renewal; rather it must be, in the sense of St. Paul; re-lived by us. We must share His sufferings and death.

b) Baptism. Lent is springtime in the ecclesiastical year. From the planted and dying kernels of divine wheat a wonderful harvest will come, souls ripe for baptism. Lent is the ideal season to prepare for baptism.

In the ancient Church baptism was ordinarily administered to adults. After preliminary preparation that often extended over a period of years, select catechumens were numbered among those who desired baptism and then, as postulants, given special instruction as they participated almost daily in the first part of the Mass. Furthermore, they undertook definite penitential exercises and were the object of repeated ecclesiastical exorcisms. The older Masses of Lent come from this time and frequently were designed with special reference to those preparing for baptism. This fact easily explains the confident and at times joyous tone of the Masses; the baptism motif often loses itself in the jubilant motif of Easter. Preparation for baptism had indeed a serious side, for example, the death of the "old" man; it likewise had joyful aspects, e.g., the maternal pride of the Church, internal transfiguration, the coming Easter celebration.

For understanding the liturgy of the season this is of great importance; not the sober and serious mood of penance but a joyful anticipation of baptism is the spirit proper to the older strata of Lenten texts.

c) Lent is also the period for a second baptism, the painful baptism of penance. It is the time *par excellence*

for interior purification. In the early centuries sinners were obliged to do public penance during Lent; in a solemn penitential service they received the mourners' garb on Ash Wednesday and thereupon were excluded from community services until Holy Thursday. By way of exception they were allowed to attend the Mass of the catechumens. This third and most recent motif in the Masses of Lent (especially on Thursday) gradually found its way into the liturgy after the catechuminate had ceased to exist. Century by century greater stress was placed on penance with the result that present day Christians who most often approach Christian life from the viewpoint of overcoming sin, regard Lent simply as a time for special penitential practices.

Let us then feel ourselves as true penitents, on Ash Wednesday let us receive the cross of ashes as a dedication to mortification and self-denial; let us try to submerge ourselves in the purifying stream of Lenten penance.

Whatever our status, whether it be catechumen, penitent, or faithful member of the Church, we must never forget that the main task of the liturgy is not to impart instruction but to bestow divine life. Certainly the Masses of Lent give us advice on spiritual renewal (after the manner of retreat conferences); but the purpose of missal readings is less instruction than a demonstration of the power of grace. This is why the ancient Roman liturgy loved to portray the effect of the sacred mysteries in the Lessons at Mass, choosing scenes from the Old and New Testament which typified the action of grace. The readings, indeed the whole variable text of the Mass, were regarded as parables on the graces of redemption coming to the members of the Church from Christ's death on the Cross.

These graces are granted principally in baptism (penance) and in the holy Eucharist, the two great wellsprings of salvation. The first makes a beginning, the second brings growth and perfection; but both have essentially the same effect. On this account not only the catechumen and the penitent, but also the believer, can observe Lent fruitfully in essentially the same manner. Lent brings the graces of redemption to all; some receive incipient, germinal grace, others the grace of growth or perfecting grace.

A typical example is the Gospel about the healing of the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Here baptism, penance, and the Eucharist are represented in symbolic form. The catechumen is healed in the water of baptism, the penitent in the laver of penance, and the believer in the blood of Christ. Christ performs this miracle now during Lent on a higher level of reality by baptism, penance, and the Eucharist. Thus the symbolic character of miracles in the Old and New Testaments is of great liturgical importance.

Lent, then, is the time of salvation *par excellence* not only for catechumens and penitents, but for the faithful as well. The catechumens attain their goal in baptism on Holy Saturday, the penitents theirs in the reconciliation of Holy Thursday. Lent is designed to aid them in preparing. And through daily Mass the faithful have the divine life within them enriched and perfected. By Holy Thursday they should be free from all sin and cleansed of guilt so as to appear in the full maturity and perfection of grace on Holy Saturday.”



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

March 2017

3301 Echo Drive
North Platte, NE 69101
Phone: 308-534-5461

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8th Sunday in Ordinary Time CCD 11:00 Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (Men) Fr. Sean Kilcawley Retrouvaille — Schuyler, NE CSS Celebration of Caring Dinner in Lincoln</p>			<p>1 Ash Wednesday Day of Fast & Abstinence 7:00am Mass 12:10pm Mass 7:00pm Mass</p>	2	<p>3 Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Msgr. Joseph Nemeec 5:30pm First Friday Mass <i>All night Adoration</i> Who Am I To Judge? #1 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>4 ALPHA Day Away 8:30am-4:00pm Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Msgr. Joseph Nemeec</p>
<p>5 1st Sunday of Lent CCD 11:00 Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Msgr. Joseph Nemeec</p>	<p>6 10:00am Meeting of Daughters of Charity Who Am I To Judge? #2 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>7 Confirmation RETREAT & Practice: 5:30pm=Mass; 6:00pm=Retreat; 8:00pm=Practice; 8:30pm=end.</p>	<p>8 RCIA 7-9pm</p>	<p>9 Who Am I To Judge? #2 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>10 Cursillo Practice Weekend at McCook</p>	<p>11 Cursillo Practice Weekend at McCook Family Favorite Dessert Recipe and Auction</p>
<p>12 2nd Sunday of Lent NO CCD K of C Breakfast Family Favorite Dessert Recipe and Auction Who Am I To Judge? #3 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>13 7:00pm Knights of Columbus Meeting</p>	<p>14 Who Am I To Judge? #3 7:00pm — 8:30pm 7:00pm Western Nebraska Community for Life Prayer Service</p>	<p>15 Indianola Deanery Priests Meeting RCIA 7-9pm</p>	<p>16 Men's Cursillo Weekend at McCook 7:00pm Western Nebraska Community for Life Organizational Meeting</p>	<p>17 Men's Cursillo Weekend at McCook</p>	<p>18 Men's Cursillo Weekend at McCook</p>
<p>19 3rd Sunday of Lent 10:00am=Confirmation NO CCD Men's Cursillo Weekend at McCook</p>	<p>20 Who Am I To Judge? #4 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>21 Catholics at the Capitol in Lincoln Who Am I To Judge? #4 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>22 RCIA 7-9pm</p>	<p>23 Women's Cursillo Weekend at McCook</p>	<p>24 Women's Cursillo Weekend at McCook Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Fr. Mark Czyz</p>	<p>25 2:00pm Wedding of Spencer Rowley & Ashton Colton Women's Cursillo Weekend at McCook Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Fr. Mark Czyz</p>
<p>26 4th Sunday of Lent CCD 11:00 Women's Cursillo Weekend at McCook Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Fr. Mark Czyz</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Who Am I To Judge? #5 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>29 RCIA 7-9pm</p>	<p>30 Who Am I To Judge? #5 7:00pm — 8:30pm</p>	<p>31 Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Sr. Ann Shields</p>	<p>Retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly (M / W) Sr. Ann Shields</p>

USHERS

If you cannot make your assigned hour please call a sub. Thanks!!

Charles Barron	530-0042
Jerry & Sharon Beckius	532-0763
Steve & Janet Fear	534-6397
Duane Johnsen	386-8944
Heather Johnsen	386-8530
Shane Lowrey	529-0249
Paul Nordquist	532-0159
Jeff Orr	532-0114
Mike Paul	530-9315
Alice Robinson	368-7469
Cindy Swanson	660-2065

Substitute when Schedule allows:

Kevin Budke 532-4789

Coffee & Rolls List

Saturday

March 4 Alice Robinson
March 11 Volunteer
March 18 Kristie Walz
March 25 Renate Nordquist

To volunteer for Saturday night,
please call Renate Nordquist 532-0159

Sunday

March 5 Volunteer
March 12 Knights of Columbus
March 19 Volunteer
March 26 Estrada Sisters

To volunteer for Sundays,
please call Rectory 534-5461.

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH, NORTH PLATTE, NE --- LAY MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

MARCH 2017

March 1, 2017 (Ash Wednesday)

	Wed 7:00am	Wed 12:10pm	Wed 7:00pm
Lector	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Acolyte	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Server	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Music	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Gifts	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Ushers	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Rosary			

March 4 – 5, 2017 (1st Sunday of Lent)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector	Loren Baxa	Shane Lowrey
Acolyte	Ed Rieker	Bob Ryland
Server	William Krondak	Nicholas Niesen
	Nicholas Krondak	Harmon Johnsen
Music	The Walz Family	Peggy Orr
Gifts	Jerry & Teri Volesky	Blake & Teresa Niesen
Ushers	Paul Nordquist	Mike Paul
	Charles Barron	Jeff Orr
Rosary		

March 11 – 12, 2017 (2nd Sunday of Lent)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector	Jim Nisley	Michael Lafleur
Acolyte	Rex Walz	Conrad Buhrman
Server	Harmon Johnsen	Jace Grunden
	Brock Johnsen	Lakeland Lowrey
Music	Sharon Beckius	Greg Vandenberg
Gifts	Steve & Janet Fear	Jeff & Peggy Orr
Ushers	Jerry Beckius	Duane Johnsen
	Sharon Beckius	Heather Johnsen
Rosary		

March 18 – 19, 2017 (3rd Sunday of Lent)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector	Jerry Beckius	Chuck Burr
Acolyte	Jerry Volesky	Duane Johnsen
Server	William Krondak	Nicholas Niesen
	Nicholas Krondak	Kevin Bantam
		Nicholas Krondak
		Brock Johnsen
Music	Sharon Beckius	Choir
Gifts	Cindy Swanson/Alice Robinson	Confirmation Class
Ushers	Cindy Swanson	Jeff Orr
	Alice Robinson	Charles Barron
Rosary		

March 25 – 26, 2017 (4th Sunday of Lent)

	Saturday 5:00pm	Sunday 10:00am
Lector	Mike Krondak	Justin Pieper
Acolyte	Jon Walz	Jerry Cooper
Server	Volunteer	Drew Connelly
	Volunteer	Lakeland Lowrey
Music	Sharon Beckius	Buhrman/Niesen/Gregg
Gifts	Rex & Kristie Walz	Stephen/Corinne Smock
Ushers	Steve Fear	Shane Lowrey
	Janeet Fear	Duane Johnsen
Rosary		

Counters:

- Mar. 5: Bob Ryland; Jerry Cooper
- Mar. 12: Philip Heimann; Alice Robinson
- Mar. 19: Shirley Nisley; Don Exner
- Mar. 26: Greg Vandenberg; Jarrod Connelly

SERVERS: Please call another Server if you can't make your assigned hour.

Kevin Bantam 308-367-6475
 Drew Connelly 532-9436
 Harmon Johnsen 386-8530
 Brock Johnsen 386-8530

Nicholas Krondak 520-6673
 William Krondak 520-6673
 Lakeland Lowrey 308-529-0249
 Tyler Masek 534-1214
 Nicholas Niesen 532-4151

LECTORS: Please call another Lector if you cannot make your assigned hour. Thanks!!

Jerome Beckius 532-0763
 Chuck Burr 308-991-3064
 Jerome Cooper 963-4477
 Jim Griffin 340-0564
 Mike Krondak 520-4353
 Michael Paul 530-9315
 Justin Pieper 660-0435
 Robert Ryland 520-0046

ACOLYTES: Please call another acolyte if you can't make your assigned hour. Thanks!!

Conrad Buhrman 532-6947
 Jerome Cooper 963-4477
 Robert Folchert (Sub) 532-1217
 Duane Johnsen 386-8944
 Michael Paul 530-9315
 Edward Rieker 534-9211
 Robert Ryland 520-0046
 Greg Vandenberg 530-7587
 Jerry Volesky 530-2195
 Jon Walz 636-6211
 Rex Walz 530-5512

Music Leaders: Please call another Music leader if you cannot make your assigned hour. Thanks!!

Gisele Barger 308-414-2119
 Sharon Beckius 532-0763
 Carmen Buhrman 532-6947
 Diane Gregg 530-6079
 Teresa Niesen 532-4151
 Marcie Minchow 660-7867
 Peggy Orr 520-7843
 Matt Perlinger (308) 289-3187
 Ashley Perlinger (402) 202-9214
 Greg Vandenberg 530-7587
 Rex & Kristie Walz 636-8399

Loren Baxa 308-390-8891
 Michael Lafleur 402-992-4396
 Shane Lowrey 308-529-0249
 Jim Nisley 530-3260