

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
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1st Sunday of Advent December 3, 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 Dec. 4 8:00 a.m.
 Tuesday Dec. 5 **7:00 a.m.**
 Wednesday Dec. 6 **5:30 p.m.**
 Thursday Dec. 7 8:00 a.m.
 *** **Solemnity of Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) **** ***
 Thursday Dec 7 **5:30 p.m.**
 Friday Dec 8 **7:00 a.m.**
12:10 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
8:00pm - Midnight: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Nat'l Night Prayer for Life
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 Saturday Dec. 9 **5:00 p.m.**
 Sunday Dec. 10 **10:00 a.m.**

INTENTIONS

For priestly, religious, married vocations
 Phyllis J. Beckius +
 Loretta Pilakowski +
 Pat Sexton +
 Parishioners with Birthday in December
Conception Barron + For our Benefactors
 People of Our Parish
 Margaret Baxa +
 Bryson David Rieker
 People of Our Parish

**“Be watchful!
 Be alert!
 You do not know
 when the time
 will come.”**

—Mark 13:33

Stewardship: November 26, 2017

<p>Adult Envelopes:\$2,729.00 Loose Plate:\$151.00 Children: \$0.00 Total: \$2,880.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Joy of the Gospel Campaign</u> Total Pledged:\$958,770.00 Gifts last week:\$520.00 Total Gifts Received:.....\$591,444.05 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:.....\$1,379,295.04 Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$368,758.78</p>	<p>Contemplative Sisters:\$475.00 Propagation of Faith: \$25.00 LastWk Donations "Farm" Sewer.....\$0.00 Total Donations "Farm" Sewer\$3,005.00</p>
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Parish Calendar

Sunday Dec. 3 11:00am CCD Classes
 Monday Dec. 4 **6:30pm Daughters of Charity Meeting**
 Wednesday Dec. 6 7:00pm **RCIA Class** Indianola Deanery Priest Meeting
 Friday Dec. 8 Solemnity of Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) **Nat'l Night of Prayer for Life**
 Sunday Dec. 10 **NO CCD** **11:00 am Knights of Columbus Breakfast**
1:30 pm = McDaid Christmas Program at the Neville Center
3:30 pm Cursillo Ultreya at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall
 Monday Dec. 11 **7:00pm Knights of Columbus Meeting**

Catholic School News:

REMEMBER SCRIP ... makes great gifts and helps you earn money toward your tuition for the 2018-2019 school year. Contact the Endowment office if you have questions.

Remember to use SCRIP for holiday shopping and gift-giving! Purchase gift cards after Mass in the Narthex, or at the Endowment office (601 S. Tabor) during the week. Local and national retailers available! Designate 2% back from all purchases toward your family's NPC's tuition, or for the family of your choice. Contact the Endowment with any SCRIP questions: 534-5939, w.dodson@npcschools.org.

Congratulations Marinn Niesen ... for being selected as November Student of the Month. Marinn is a Sophomore and participates in Chorus, Swing Choir, Volleyball and Track. Marinn is continuously on the A honor roll. She and her family are active members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. She is the daughter of Blake and Teresa Niesen.

IRISH Rosary Group December Schedule:

12/4 – Abby Castillo @ McDaid Chapel; 12/12 – Jacob Granger @ St. Pat's Chapel; 12/20 – Amy Honerman @ McDaid Chapel. Remember this Rosary group is open to Parents, Students, Faculty, and all school supporters and begins at 7:30am. Rosaries and prayer cards are provided.

North Platte Catholic School:

Faith and Knowledge for a Brighter Future

Daughters of Charity (Altar Society) Meeting:

will be **Monday, December 4, at 6:30pm** at the Parish Hall. All women are invited and encouraged to attend. We will be preparing cookie and fruit trays for the home bound. We are asking for donations of a plate of cookies or fruit. If you are unable to attend, you may leave your donation in the Parish Hall Kitchen. Thank you.

Knights of Columbus Meeting ... Mon, Dec. 11, 7:00pm, Parish Hall. All Knights are invited to attend.

Breakfast by Knights of Columbus ... Sunday, Dec. 10, in the Parish Hall after 10:00am Mass; serving pancakes, eggs, fixings, biscuits & gravy, coffee & juices. Free Will offering accepted ... Proceeds go to the purchase of Missalettes.

Keep Christ in Christmas! ... Knights sell Christmas cards after Mass. Send cards that express true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Gift for Dad or Husband ... if he belongs to the Knights of Columbus Council here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, you could pay his Membership Dues to Jim Griffin, 2401 N Buffalo Bill Ave, North Platte, NE 69101 and Jim will send your Dad's or husband's 2018 Membership Card with a Christmas Greeting from you before Christmas. Thank you and God Bless. Loren Baxa, Grand Knight, Father McGivney Council #12530. Dues are \$25 / yr.

Nebraska Walk for Life ... January 27, 2018.

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR

LIFE ... It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated Dec. 9) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and the Unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The *National Night of Prayer* bridges these two feasts. We ask our Mother to re-establish a culture of life, to restore God's law, to protect the Church & the Faithful from persecution, & to bring peace. All are invited to spend an hour of adoration from 8:00pm - Midnight on ~~Thursday~~ Friday, Dec. 8.

Catholics to Pray Rosary across U.S. to Protect Nation from 'Islamic jihad' and 'Abortion' ... (excerpts copied from www.lifesitenews.com)

There will be a mass Rosary service throughout the United States on December 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, inspired "100 percent" by the Rosary on the Borders in Poland. The "Rosary on the Coasts and Borders" is the initiative of a group of Church Militant fans, and one of the organizers is Patricia Lemmon. Patricia said: "I am in constant admiration of Poland. Over and over again, (the Poles) show their allegiance to reality. Their pro-life laws and initiatives encouraging families to have children, supporting families when a Down syndrome child is expected, welcoming Christian refugees but barring (jihadist) incomers, these are a beacon of intelligence coupled with goodness in the midst of so much truly dark news out of dying secular western Europe."

Lemmon also praised the rosary events in Italy and Ireland. The intention of the prayers will be "to ask Our Lady to save the USA from Islamic jihad, from the denial of the Christian faith, and for an end of abortion."

The USA Rosary on the Coasts and Borders will not literally surround the nation's massive territory. Instead, Lemmon said, it will put up "a prayer shield by representation."

"Here in the States we do things state by state, and we believe in representation," Lemmon said. "So (we need as representatives) one person or group from each of the 50 States, plus D.C., plus Puerto Rico, plus Guam or other territory. By December 12, that will be all 53 of us, representing the whole USA to Our Lady of Guadalupe."

In this way, the organizers hope to match a state or protectorate to each of the Hail Marys in a five decade rosary.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was chosen for a few reasons. First, the only Marian apparition in the New World pronounced authentic by the Catholic Church was witnessed in Villa de Guadalupe in 1531. Next, Pius XII named Our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Americas in 1946. Finally, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was taken by Don Juan of Austria's Christian army into the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. The Battle of Lepanto represented a major defeat to the Ottoman Empire.

"The New World's Lady sailed to confront jihad in the Old World," Lemmon said. "Is this not mindblowing? That battle, against all odds, saved Europe from imminent invasion. ... As Don Juan fought under that banner, the pope prayed the rosary." The anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7 is also the Feast of the Holy Rosary and the date chosen by the organizers of the Polish Rosary to the Borders.

"So the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, victor of Lepanto, seems the ordained date for America to link with Poland ... " said Lemmon. "Thus we will jointly block jihad and embrace faith and life." Lemmon described the lay-led event as "a Wild West Rosary."

Advent Baby Shower: Again this Advent, our parish will participate in the statewide ADVENT BABY SHOWER, from December 2 through January 8. As we anticipate the good news and great joy of our Savior's birth, you are invited to SHOWER HIS LITTLE ONES. Place the items in the bassinet at the Narthex of the church. Gifts will be donated to the *Women's Resource Center*.

Magnificat Brunch ... Sat, Dec. 9, 2017 9:00amMT, Quality Inn Hotel, 201 Chuckwagon Road, Ogallala (off 1-80 exit #126). You're invited for a morning of sustaining faith to hear Sr. Mary Brigid's faith journey as Sister, mother & grandmother. Reservations Required. Send \$15 check or money order to Julie Sestak, Box 142, Madrid, NE 69150, 308-326-4475, jsestak1971@yahoo.com

Western Nebraska Community for Life ...

PRAYER GATHERING Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7:00pm
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church 3301 Echo Drive

Active Waiting ... The Second Vatican Council reflects upon the relationship between the coming of Christ and our activity to prepare for it. In the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, we read, "Far from diminishing our concern to develop this earth, the expectancy of a new earth should spur us on, for it is here that the body of a new human family grows, foreshadowing in some way the age which is to come ... When we have spread on earth the fruits of our nature and our enterprise -- human dignity, brotherly communion and freedom -- according to the command of the Lord and in his Spirit, we will find them once again, cleansed this time from the stain of sin, illuminated and transfigured, when Christ presents to his Father an eternal and universal kingdom..." (GS#39). In other words, the spirit of Advent should naturally bolster our pro-life efforts, and the progress we make in promoting human dignity becomes the "building blocks" for the eternal kingdom.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD ... "It is a holy & pious thought to pray for the dead." 2 Macc 12:45. The best prayer of all is the Mass. Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Thank You ... to all those who gave gifts, cards, & offered prayers for my birthday. All are much appreciated. Thank you!

CELEBRATE ADVENT ... This Sunday we begin the season of Advent ... a time of preparation and longing for Christ's coming at Christmas. The world around us has been celebrating Christmas for many weeks already. As Catholics we recognize the need to **celebrate four weeks of Advent**, preparing for Christmas, and then to extend the celebration of our Lord's birth throughout the **twelve days of Christmas**. We can't change the world all at once, but we can make decisions about what we will do in our homes and our families. Teach the children the real meaning of Advent, & the real meaning of Christmas. The longing, waiting, & preparation for the birth of our Savior brings about a spirituality that will not come from our instant, commercial, non-Christian celebration of Christmas! Celebrate Advent in your homes. Use the booklets available on the Narthex table & pray the Advent Wreath prayers as a family each day.

Church Tour ... for those in the R.C.I.A. and for **any interested persons on Sunday, December 3, at 12:30pm - 2:30pm.** The tour will last about 2 hours. We will look at an explain the following: Tabernacle, Altar, Pulpit, Stations, Confessional, Statues, Stained Glass Windows, Baptismal Font, Vessels and Vestments used at Mass, and more ... **all are invited ...**

Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Dec. 9, 5:00pm	Sun., Dec. 10, 10:00am
Lector	Jim Nisley	Michael Lafleur
Acolyte	Rex Walz	Conrad Buhrman
Server	William Krondak	Kevin Bantam
	Nicholas Krondak	Tyler Bantam
Music	Greg Vandenberg	Peggy Orr
Gifts	Jim Griffin / Ed Reiker	Karl & Lyuba Hendricks
Ushers	Jerry Beckius	Spencer Hampton
	Sharon Beckius	Jeff Orr

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Prayers for the sick: Luke Ranck, Patti Caudillo, Leona Clouatre, Renate Nordquist, Julie (Kellogg) Buehler (Molly Walz's aunt), David Swayne (Robin Bartlett's friend), Jerry Steffes, Virginia Waechter (mother of Peggy Orr), Sharon Beckius, Frank Schneweis (Emily Krondak's father), John Kahl, Mike & Kim Paul, Special Intention, Kade Folchert (grandson of Bob Folchert), Margaret Schuckert, Eileen Boltz, Jim Beckius.

Prayers for the deceased: Mickey Kirwan (Teri Volesky's brother), Margaret Baxa, Betty Ganzel (Mike Krondak's grandmother), Bradley Folchert (nephew of Bob Folchert), Virgil Einsphar (grandfather of Derek Bantam), Loretta Pilakowski, Pat Sexton, Norma Pfeiffer (Shane Lowrey's grandmother), Mary Portz, Phyllis Beckius, Sheryl Darpoli, Lonnie Schmid (Jon Schmid's brother).

Birthdays: 12/3 - Laura Bjornstad, 12/5 - Cindy Swanson, Mike Paul, 12/6 - Adam Burbach, 12/7 - Madison Budke, Philip Heimann, 12/9 - Grace Ryland, 12/10 - Rodrigo Werle.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.

Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN ... We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

LIKE A CHILD ... One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's. —St. Nicholas

Pray for our Seminarians: **Wade Anthony Bakhit**, from Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish, Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2014. He is in Theology 1 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. **Lane Matthew Barnhill**, from Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Falls City. He entered the Seminary in 2014. He is in College 4 at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS

(December): The Elderly- That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.