

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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3rd Sunday of Advent ***December 17, 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. 18 8:00 a.m.
 Tuesday Dec. 19 **7:00 a.m.**
 Wednesday Dec. 20 **5:30 p.m.**
 Thursday Dec. 21 8:00 a.m.
 1:30 p.m.
 Friday Dec 22 **5:30 p.m.**
 Saturday Dec. 23 **5:00 p.m.**
 Sunday Dec. 24 **10:00 a.m.**
 *** ** * *Solemnity of Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)* * ** * ** *
 Sunday Dec 24 **5:00 p.m.**
 Monday Dec 25 **12:00 a.m.**
 10:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

Cecily Anne Smock
 Margaret Baxa +
 Lucille Madsen +
 Book of Memories / Blessings
 record TV MASS for 12/31/17
 Ralph Cooper +
 Sheryl Darpoli +
 People of Our Parish
 Juan B. Ortega family +
 Sophie Wielechowski +
 People of our Parish

**Rejoice always.
 Pray without
 ceasing.**

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Stewardship: December 10, 2017

Adult Envelopes:\$1,328.80
Loose Plate:\$94.75
Children: \$1.00
Total: \$1,424.55

Joy of the Gospel Campaign
 Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$3,200.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$595,159.05
 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

Contemplative Sisters:\$0.00
 Immaculate Conception:\$398.31

 LastWk Donations "Farm" Sewer.....\$0.00
Total Donations "Farm" Sewer\$3,005.00

Parish Calendar

Sunday Dec. 17 **NO CCD** **11:00 am = Potluck Dinner and Church Decorating**
 Wednesday Dec. 20 7:00pm **RCIA Class**
 Sunday Dec. 24 **NO CCD** **Christmas Vacation**

Catholic School News:

School will be dismissed ... on Thursday, December 21st at Noon. This also marks the end of the 1st Semester and Winter Picture Day and our Retired Friends Dinner.

IRISH Rosary Group December Schedule:

12/20-Amy Honerman @ McDaid Chapel. Remember this Rosary group is open to Parents, Students, Faculty, and all school supporters & begins at 7:30am. Rosaries & prayer cards are provided.

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 NPCS tuition, or for the family of your choice. Contact the Endowment with any SCRIP questions: 534-5939, w.dodson@npcschools.org.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events at NPCS.

- Holiday Tournament is December 29 and 30th.
- School Resumes on Thursday, Jan. 4th regular times.
- Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 28th through February 2nd.
- Sunday, February 25th is IRISH FEST.

Stay up to date on all the activities of NPCS by searching North Platte Catholic Schools on Facebook or by visiting our website at NPCSCHOOLS.ORG

North Platte Catholic School:

Faith and Knowledge for a Brighter Future

Nebraska Walk for Life ... January 27, 2018, at the Capital in Lincoln, NE.

Western Catechist Retreat ... at St. Patrick, McCook, on **Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, 9:45am – 3:30pm.** **Father Jay Buhman is the Retreat Director.** **All CCD Teachers are encouraged to participate.** **The Parish will pay for the \$10 Registration Fee.** Parents are also encouraged.

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.

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*.

Christmas Poinsettias ... Any donations to poinsettias for the Altar may be put in the collection. Please mark: *for flowers*.

Annual Parish Buffet Dinner ... Sunday, January 7, 2018, 5:00pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall.

Stuff Your Bags! ... Bargain Bin. Daytime Bag Sales are the 15th and 30th of each month. If those dates fall on Sunday or Monday, it will be the preceding Saturday. Includes all you can stuff in a bag for \$3 excluding jewelry, antiques & Christmas decorations.

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.**

Christmas: A Gift of Life ... “The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as “good news” to the people of every age and culture. At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: “I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this “great joy” is the Birth of the Saviour; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21)” (Pope John Paul II, “The Gospel of Life,” n.1).

The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents ... will be celebrated on **Thursday, December 28th**. All are invited to attend this Memorial Mass, especially those families who have suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. Reading of names will begin at **6:30pm** with Mass at **7:00pm** at **John XXIII Diocesan Center Chapel**, 3700 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln. If you would like your child’s name to be remembered & placed on the banner for this year, please call the Family Life Office (473-0620) **before 5:00pm Dec. 19th**. If you placed your child’s name previously, it will remain on the list.

Introduction to Deliverance ... Have you ever wondered what exactly deliverance is or how it fits into our Catholic Faith? The Diocesan Office of Evangelization will be hosting this free event consisting of four 20 minute talks. This is open to ALL: laity, religious, clergy, members of the Christian community & anyone who would like a better understanding of the meaning of deliverance, the Unbound ministry & how each person can benefit from it. Join us in **Beatrice at St. Joseph Parish Hall on Thursday, Jan. 4th 7:00–8:30pm**. No registration needed. Contact Matt at matthewsimmons@cdolinc.net or 402-805-9668 with questions.

Put a Retreat into Your Schedule ... register at www.goodcounselretreat.com & receive immediate confirmation or call Good Counsel Retreat House at 402-786-2705 to register now.

December – May Schedule:

- Jan 12-13 Fr. Lux & Fr. McGuire..... Women
(LDCCW Winter Symposium)
- Jan 19-21 Fr. William Holoubek Men / Women
“Unbound: Breaking Free from Spiritual Wounds”
- Feb 2-4..... Fr. Joseph Walsh Men / Women
“Stewardship: Sharing the Master’s Joy (Mt 15:21)”
- Feb 14..... LDCCW Women
Day of Reflection (10am–3pm) “Ash Wednesday”
- Feb 16-18..... Fr. Sean Kilcawley Women
“Divine Daughterhood / Merciful Motherhood”
- Feb 23-25..... Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz Men
“Lenten Outlooks on Pleasure, Power, and Possessions”
- Mar 2-4..... Fr. Joseph Faulkner Men / Women
“The Bible lets you talk to God better”
- Mar 16-18..... Magnificat with Susan Potvin Women
“Life in the Spirit Retreat”
- Mar 19-22..... Fr. Gary Coulter Men / Women
“Silent Directed Ignatian Retreat (Mon-Thur)”
- Mar 23-25 Fr. Robert Young, O.F.M. Men / Women
“Finding Peace in the Will of God”
- Mar 29-31 Marian Sisters Young Women
Triduum Retreat
- Apr 6-8 Fr. Christopher Kubat..... Men / Women
“Divine Mercy Weekend”
- Apr 20-22 Fr. Benjamin Holdren..... Men / Women
“Deepening your Prayer Life”
- May 4-6 Fr. Anthony Baetzold, CFR... Men / Women
“Totus Tuus: A Retreat with Mary, Mother of the Church”

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

CELEBRATE ADVENT ... a time of preparation and longing for Christ’s coming at Christmas. 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**. Teach the children the real meaning of Advent, & the real meaning of Christmas. Use the booklets in the Narthex & pray the Advent Wreath prayers as a family each day.

Advent Confession Schedule ...

- Sun. Dec. 17, 9:00am-9:55am
- Sun. Dec. 17, **3:00pm** (2 Priests available at St. Elizabeth)
- Sun. Dec. 17, **7:00pm** Penance Service St. Patrick, McCook
- Mon. Dec. 18, 7:30am-7:55am, & **11:00am-12:30pm**
- Tue. Dec. 19, 6:30am-6:55am
- Wed. Dec. 20, 5:00pm-5:25pm
- Thu. Dec. 21, 7:30am-7:55am, & **5:00pm-6:00pm**
- Fri. Dec. 22, 5:00pm-5:25pm
- Sat. Dec. 23, **11:00am – 12:30pm**, & 4:00pm-4:55pm
- Sun. Dec 24, 9:00am-9:55am & 3:00pm-4:00pm

If these times don’t fit your schedule, make an appointment to have your confession heard in the Rectory. Come Home for Christmas! Rejoice in the Lord’s forgiveness!

***O Divine Babe of Bethlehem,
Come and take birth in our hearts!***

Christmas Mass Schedule ...

Dec. 24, 5:00pm = Vigil Mass

Dec. 25, 12:00am=MIDNIGHT MASS (Yes, Midnight Mass is at MIDNIGHT!).

Dec. 25, 10:00am=Mass during the Day. You may receive communion at the Vigil or Midnight Mass, and still receive Communion at the 10:00am Mass. Come to Mass, not just Christmas Eve, but also Christmas Day!

Retired Priests Collection ... Attached to the Bulletin is an envelope for our **retired diocesan priests**. We’re reusing old envelopes. Please use this envelope to help us meet our \$1,452.00 assessment for the support of our retired diocesan priests.

Some of those retired Priests (who have substituted here), that some of you might remember are: Msgr. Ivan Vap, Msgr. Adrian Herbek, and Fr. Nick Baker. Please give generously to these retired Priests, these other Christs, who have given of their lives to the Church. Also please remember them in prayer. If anyone would like to write to them, the addresses are: Msgr. Ivan Vap, Bonacum House, 3301 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506; Msgr. Adrian Herbek, Bonacum House, 3301 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506; Rev. Nicholas Baker, 3301 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506. **The collection is on Christmas Eve & Day.**

Parish Books Close Dec. 31, 2017 ... I ask you to please remember that the Parish books will be closed on **Thur., Dec. 31 at Noon!** Any contributions that you want to be recorded on your 2017 contribution statement must be received in the parish office before **NOON, Dec. 31, 2017.**

Nominations for Parish Council ... are being accepted for the next few weeks. Please contact one of the current Parish Council members or Parish Trustees (Members: Jerry Beckius, Shane Lowrey, Philip Heimann, Jim Nisley, and Trustees: Jerry Volesky & Duane Johnsen) or Fr. Seiker to nominate another parishioner or yourself. Normally the terms for the parish council are for two years. Jerry Beckius and Shane Lowrey are finishing their terms. Philip Heimann and Jim Nisley are completing the first year of their two year term. We have 2 veteran members and 2 new members on the parish council each year. Hopefully there will be at least four parishioners’ names on the ballot.

Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Dec. 23, 5:00pm	Sun., Dec. 24, 10:00am
Lector	Mike Krondak	Justin Pieper
Acolyte	Jon Walz	Duane Johnsen
Server	William Krondak	Harmon Johnsen
	Nicholas Krondak	Lakeland Lowrey
Music	Volunteer	Buhrman/Niesen/Gregg
Gifts	Volunteer	Volunteer
Ushers	Steve Fear	Shane Lowrey
	Janet Fear	Volunteer

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Prayers for the sick: Bernadine Duryea (Ben Heskett's mother), Luke Ranck, Patti Caudillo, Leona Cloutre, 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: Gerald Vap (Msgr. Ivan Vap's brother), Robert Inlow (Joanne Bollish's son), 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: 12/16 - Jennifer Belgum, 12/18 - Kevin Boots, Jennifer Schmid, 12/19 - Vanessa Pineda, 12/20 - Jennifer Bantam, Vanessa Vaught, 12/24 - Gary Bush.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presepio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows – the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REJOICE ... Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings! Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PROPER UNDERTAKING ... Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven. —Georg C. Lichtenberg

Pray for our Seminarians: **Rev. Mr. Douglas Allen Daro**, from St. Mary Parish, David City. He entered the Seminary in 2011. He is in Theology 4 at Mount St. Mary Seminary. **Rev. Mr. Luke Joseph Fleck**, from St. Joseph Parish, Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2010. He is in Theology 4 at St. Charles Borromeo 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.