

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>

4th Sunday of Advent *December 24, 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

INTENTIONS

*** ** * *Solemnity of Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)* * ** * ** * ** *

Sunday Dec. 24 **5:00 p.m.** Juan B. Ortega family +
 Monday Dec. 25 **12:00 a.m.** Sophie Wielechowski +
10:00 a.m. People of our Parish

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Tuesday Dec. 26 **5:30 p.m.** Rev. Harold Kurtenbach +
 Wednesday Dec. 27 **5:30 p.m.** Albert + & Lucille Malsbury
 Thursday Dec. 28 8:00 a.m. Margaret Baxa +
 Friday Dec 29 - No Scheduled Parish Mass -
 Saturday Dec. 30 **5:00 p.m.** Scott Rieker
 Sunday Dec. 31 **10:00 a.m.** People of Our Parish

*** ** * *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)* ** * ** * ** *

Sunday Dec. 31 **5:00 p.m.** William & Francis Whisler +
 Monday Jan. 1 **10:00 a.m.** People of our Parish

* ** *

**The child to
 be born will
 be called holy,
 the Son of God.**

— Luke 1:35

Stewardship: December 17, 2017

Adult Envelopes:\$1,814.80
Loose Plate:.....\$154.33
Children: \$3.00
Total: \$1,972.13

Joy of the Gospel Campaign
 Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$2,370.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$597,529.05
 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**

All Saints Day:.....\$10.00
 Immaculate Conception: \$50.00

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

Parish Calendar

Sunday Dec. 24 **NO CCD** **Christmas Vacation**
 Wednesday Dec. 27 **NO RCIA Class**
 Sunday Dec. 31 **NO CCD** **Christmas Vacation**

Catholic School News:

Merry Christmas from your North Platte Catholic Schools Family!

Mark your calendars for upcoming events at NPCCS.

- 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 NPCCS by searching North Platte Catholic Schools on Facebook or by visiting our website at NPCCSCHOOLS.ORG

From the Endowment: Anytime is a good time of year to donate to the North Platte Catholic Schools ... But gifts before year-end may provide some tax benefits to YOU, the donor! All donations made to the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc. on or before (or dated) December 31st, 2017 are 100% tax deductible for tax year 2017. Donations to the Endowment directly support the students and staff of the North Platte Catholic Schools by providing for tuition assistance, school operations, & special projects. Your support is appreciated!

Legal Name: North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.
 PO Box 57
 North Platte, NE 69103 Federal Tax ID: 47-0600543
w.dodson@npcschools.org 308-534-5939

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

Nebraska Walk for Life ... Jan. 27, 2018, at the Capital in Lincoln, sponsored by the NE Right to Life.

- 9:00am Pro-Life Mass at St. Mary Church (14th & K)
- Keynote Speaker: **Ann McElhinney** of "Gosnell", Book & Movie.

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.

Advent Baby Shower: our parish is participating in the statewide ADVENT BABY SHOWER, from December 2 - January 8. As we celebrate 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 in Church Narthex. Gifts will be donated to *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.

Knights of Columbus Council #12530 ... has earned the distinction of **Star Council**, one of the organization's top awards, for the 2016-2017 fraternal year. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment, and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities. The award was presented by District Deputy Mike Stromitis to three Knights of our Knights of Columbus Council at announcement time of the 10:00am Mass on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.

The Incarnation ... “By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being” (*Vatican II, GS 22*). This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who “so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (Jn 3:16), but also *the incomparable value of every human person*. The Church, faithfully contemplating the mystery of the Redemption, acknowledges this value with ever new wonder. She feels called to proclaim to the people of all times this “Gospel”, the source of invincible hope and true joy for every period of history. *The Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel*” (*Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n.2*).

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 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 is 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 matthew-simmons@cdolinc.net or 402-805-9668 with questions.

UNBOUND Retreat ... Jan 19-21, 2018 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, with Fr. William Holoubek. This weekend retreat is geared towards men & women who have already read the book or watched the video series, & will provide opportunities to pray the five keys with a prayer team. Register <http://goodcounselretreat.com/>

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:

Advent Confession Schedule ...

- Sat. Dec. 23, **11:00am – 12:30pm**, & 4:00pm-4:55pm
 - Sun. Dec 24, 9:00am-9:55am & **3:00pm-4:00pm**
- Or make an appointment to have your confession heard. Come Home for Christmas! Rejoice in the Lord’s forgiveness!

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 ... An envelope for our **retired diocesan priests** was attached to last week’s Bulletin. **We’re reusing old envelopes.** Please use this envelope to help us meet our \$1,452.00 assessment for 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 **Sun., 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.

New Envelope Numbers for 2018 ... Envelope Numbers have been re-assigned to everyone by Alphabetical order. You may or may not have the same number. Please DO NOT USE any OLD envelopes from previous years. Thanks for all you give to the Lord!

Fr. Seiker’s schedule ... Mon. Dec 25–Tue. Dec. 26, I will spend time with family in Lincoln; Thu. Dec. 28 – Fri. Dec. 29, meeting with Priests in my Jesus Caritas group in Hastings; Fri. Dec. 29 – Sat. Dec. 30, with family for Mom’s birthday. If there is an emergency for which you need a Priest, please call: Fr. Harlan Waskowiak, Curtis (308-367-4280), Fr. Tom Bush, Grant (308-352-4803), Fr. Josh Brown, St. Patrick (532-0942), Fr. Jim Novakowski, Holy Spirit (534-6623).

The Christmas Season ... lasts from the Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 8. It has been a custom of the Church to celebrate ADVENT during the Advent Season without any Christmas decorations, & to celebrate CHRISTMAS during the Christmas Season, by leaving the manger scene & trees up until the end of the Christmas Season (Jan 8). May we all walk the path of God, not the path of man! May each of you have a HOLY Christmas season and a Blessed New Year!

Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Dec. 30, 5:00pm	Sun., Dec. 31, 10:00am
Lector	Mike Krondak	Michael Lafleur
Acolyte	Jon Walz	Jerry Cooper
Server	William Krondak	Drew Connelly
	Nicholas Krondak	Nicholas Niesen
Music	Matt & Ashley Perlinger	Matt & Ashley Perlinger
Gifts	Jerry & Sharon Beckius	John & Billie Rouzee
Ushers	Paul Nordquist	Volunteer
	Charles Barron	Duane Johnsen

Readings for the Week

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25
 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps97:1, 6,11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21;
 Lk 2:22-40

Prayers for the sick: Carol LaBrie (Loren Baxa's sister-in-law), Peggy Fleecs, Gordon Swanson (Cindy Swanson's father), Dan Homan (Cindy Swanson's son-in-law), 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 Schneewis (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, Mary Portz, Phyllis Beckius, Sheryl Darpoli.

Birthdays: 12/24 - Gary Bush, 12/26 - Ryan Wartman, 12/27 - Lucia Pineda, 12/29 - Andrew Lott, 12/31 - Dallas Grunden.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, Dec. 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

GOD'S PROMISE ... The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given – so different from what we ever could have imagined. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Pray for our Seminarians: **Robert John Froeschl**, from SS. Peter & Paul, Falls City. He entered the Seminary in 2014. He is in Theology 2 at Mount St. Mary Seminary. **Philip Thomas Hanigan**, from Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish, Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2015. He is in College 3 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.