

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

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The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord *January 3, 2021*

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

Family Formation Program

Sunday mornings (Sept-May) 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 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	Jan. 4	8:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Jan. 5	7:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Jan. 6	5:30 p.m.
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus		
Thursday	Jan. 7	8:00 a.m.
Friday	Jan. 8	12:10 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Jan. 9	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Jan. 10	10:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

Carolyn Cohen
For Our Parishioners (living/deceased)
Liv/Dec mem. Bode/Ruskamp families
Otto, Virginia, Lynn Weskamp +
Ned & Adela Hernandez & Family +
Martha Burbach +
Special Intention (jls)
People of our Parish
Vinette Tenopir

**Wise men and women
still seek Him!**

(Talk and Listen to Jesus!)

Unless we see the cross
overshadowing the cradle,
we will have lost
the real meaning of Christ's birth.

Stewardship: December 27, 2020

Adult Envelopes:\$2,582.50
Loose Plate:.....\$405.00
Children:\$0.00
Holy Day: (All Saints)\$10.00
Holy Day: (Imm. Conception).....\$25.00
Holy Day: (Christmas) ... **\$1,606.00**
Total:\$4,628.50

Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
Gifts last week:\$12,120.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$929,553.05
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:.....\$1,759,678.04
Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... **\$8,568.02**

Contemplative Sisters:.....\$10.00
Retired Priests:.....\$380.00

Parish Calendar

Sunday	Jan. 3	11:30am: Family Formation, Parents & Children
Monday	Jan. 4	Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (8:00am Mass and 5:30pm Mass).
Wednesday	Jan. 6	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration; 7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes in Person and via Zoom
Thursday	Jan. 7	1:00pm: Adult Bible Study (contact Teri Volesky)
Sunday	Jan. 10	11:30am: Daughters of Charity Meeting, In person in Parish Hall (<i>observing a social distance</i>) and via Zoom

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: Jan. 4: School resumes, 4:00pm- JH G & B Bball @ Hershey, Jan 5: 4:30pm- G & B Bball @ Anselmo Merna, 6:00pm- WR @ Brady, Jan 7: 5:00pm- JH B Bball vs. Perkins County, Jan. 8: 4:30pm: G & B Bball vs. Perkins County, Jan. 9: 10:00am: WR @ Franklin, 2:30pm: G & B Bball @ Cozad.

Gifts & Payments: Gifts and Payments can now be made online! The NPCCS Endowment has a new online giving website! Memorial donations, Annual Fund gifts, Campaign pledge payments, Year-End donations can all be made securely online! Please visit: <https://apps.npcschools.org/donate-now>.

Las Posadas: Our St. Pat's Spanish teacher, Ms. Felix, and her classes helped the Jr/Sr High students celebrate the Advent Season with a Las Posadas celebration. Las Posadas, (*Spanish: means inns or lodging*) typically takes place on nine nights from Dec. 16-24. Our celebration started with a prayer from Fr. Josh. Some of the students reenacted the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem, & other students sang the "Canto para pedir posada" song. What a beautiful way to remember the true Reason for this Season! ¡Feliz Navidad!

Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week will be Jan. 31-Feb. 6! This week gives us the opportunity to recognize and thank everyone for helping us keep our school successful. This week is also another opportunity for us to share all that a Catholic education has to offer. If you have ever considered NPCCS, please contact us today! A faith-based education is a decision you won't regret making!

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

Advent/Christmas Baby Shower ... You are invited to an Advent Baby Shower as we anticipate the Good News and the Great Joy of our Savior's birth. During Advent, a cradle will be in the narthex to be filled with items for the needs of the Women's Resource Center. Gift ideas for pregnant mothers and their babies are posted. (*Matthew 25:31-46*).

Christmas Poinsettias ... Anyone may donate to poinsettias for the Altar by putting donation in collection, Please mark: *for flowers*.

Daughters of Charity (Altar Society) Meeting:

will be **Sunday, January 10, at 11:30am** in person in the Parish Hall (*observing a Social Distance*) and via Zoom. All women are invited & encouraged to participate either in person or virtually through Zoom. All of the women (*for whom we have emails*) will receive an email invitation to join the Zoom meeting later this week. *If you have never used Zoom before or have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker BEFORE the meeting begins.*

THANK YOU ... to all those who helped with the Christmas Card Writing Party on Sunday, Dec. 13. There were 15 persons who wrote cards and 3 children who were coloring pictures to insert into the Cards. We sent 99 cards to residents at Linden Court and some homebound Parishioners. Also, thanks to those who helped with the decorating of the Church on Sunday, Dec. 22. It was a great opportunity to share in Advent joy & work together for the Lord.

Knights of Columbus Meeting ... Mon, Jan. 11, 7:00pm, in person in the Parish Hall (*observing a Social Distance*) and via Zoom. All Knights are invited to participate. *If you have never used Zoom before or have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker BEFORE the meeting begins.*

Nebraska Walk for Life ... The 48th Annual Nebraska Walk for Life will be held on Saturday, **January 16, 2021**. The outdoor event begins on the north steps of the State Capitol at 10:00am where there will be speakers & greetings from elected officials. The Walk proceed to Newman Center (16th & O St). Keynote speaker, **Sarah Zagorski** will give testimony to her challenging childhood & why every life matters. For more information, see www.nebraskarighttolife.org or call 402-438-4802.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration ... 6:00pm (after the 5:30pm Mass) - 10:00pm. We need at least one (1) person present during each of the four hours. Anyone is invited to just "drop in" to spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord ... [we need 4 persons / week].

O, Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord! ... May the words of our Christmas hymn help us to find the real meaning of Christmas and live it throughout the whole year!!

Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House www.goodcounselretreat.com, 402-786-2705, or goodcounsel@cdolinc.net. **Upcoming in-person and online retreats including:**

January Schedule:

Jan. 7-10 Fr. Gary Coulter Men / Women
“4-day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat” (Thur-Sun)
Jan. 15-17 Fr. Thomas MacLean Men / Women
“Perspectives on the Gift of Life (and Jan. 16 Walk for Life)”
Jan. 21-24 Matt Simmons Men / Women
“4-day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat” (Thur-Sun)
Jan. 23 Kendra Von Esh Online Retreat.. Men / Women
“Finding Joy in Prayer” (Sat, 9:30am-2:30pm)

Life: An “Epiphany” of God ... “Life is always a good. ... Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7, 3:19; Job 34:15; Ps 103:14; 104:29), is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory (cf. Gen 1:26-27; Ps 8:6). This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: ‘Man, living man, is the glory of God’. Man has been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself” (*The Gospel of Life*, n. 34).

Marriage Help ... *Retrouaille* (pronounced retro-vi) means ‘rediscovery’. *Retrouaille* has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. *Retrouaille* is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on February 19-21, 2021, call 1-888-317-5654 or 308-986-2351 or www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

Give The Knights Your Cans ... Profit from recycling the cans used for Knights of Columbus charitable works. Place cans in the barrels in front of the storage shed (southwest corner of parking lot).

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Christmas Thank You’s ... to those who helped with decorating the Church, arranged the flowers, set up outdoor decorations, the Cantors, Ushers, & all who gave of themselves to the Lord to make the feast day of our Lord’s birth a special day. Also thanks to all who gave cards, gifts, & Christmas goodies to me, and especially for your prayers. Your kindness is appreciated!

The Christmas Season ... lasts from the Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 10). 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 10). 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!

Children’s Envelopes ... are available for every child (we know of) from Kindergarten-Seniors in High School. If someone doesn’t receive a box of envelopes, please contact the rectory. Also, if there are pre-school children who would like to receive envelopes, please contact the rectory. We’ll give children a statement of their contributions for 2020 in Jan. 2021. **Please use these envelopes for the new year 2020, not old envelopes.** Please teach the children about giving to the Lord!!

Blessed Chalk & Epiphany Blessing ... available in Narthex of Church this week. Families are encouraged to pray together and encourage each other in living our Catholic Faith! Perhaps make a plan to include daily prayer together as a family in your daily schedule.

RCIA Classes ... (Inquiry class in Faith) on Wednesdays in Parish Hall 7:00pm – 9:00pm, will continue until mid-May 2021. **It is not too late to join!** Classes for Catholics & non-Catholics. Come, learn more about your faith; offered in person (with social distance) & virtually.

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: Mickey Morlang, Jeff Orr, Kanen Hammond, Spencer Hampton., 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. We have 2 veteran members & 2 new members on the parish council each year. Hopefully there will be at least 4 parishioners’ names on the ballot.

Parish Council Meeting ... Tentatively scheduled for sometime this week. Fr. Seiker will contact the members to decide on a day/time. (Members: Mickey Morlang, Jeff Orr, Kanen Hammond, Spencer Hampton. Trustees: Jerry Volesky, Duane Johnsen).

Joy of the Gospel Campaign ... The five year Combined Joy of the Gospel Campaign (Nov. 3, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2019) officially concluded on December 31, 2019. Our Parish Goal was \$750,000. We received **pledges of \$958,770.** **By December 31, 2019 we received payments/gifts totaling \$880,183.05.** At the end of last year, we still had a balance due on our DIAL Loan of \$61,613.45.

Since, December 31, 2019, some parishioners have continued to make payments/gifts to the Joy of the Gospel Campaign for a total of over \$50,000.00. Due to cash flow situations during this past year, we were not able to make many payments on our DIAL Loan. However, we were still accumulating interest on our loan.

On the opposite page of this bulletin, you will notice that in the last few weeks, some parishioners made donations to the Joy of the Gospel Campaign and/or the New Church Building Fund. **Thank you to those Parishioners who made donations!** With these donations, our DIAL Loan has been reduced to \$8,568.02. One of our Parish families said a few weeks ago that they would make a donation a few thousand larger than this remaining debt (*we are not sure about how much interest we will need to pay for October – December 2020*). With this promised donation, we should be able to retire our DIAL Loan completely. That would mean that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church will be totally debt free when this remaining balance & interest are paid sometime in the next few months!

For a Parish of about 100 families (*average over 26 years*), to do what we have done is very remarkable! **Thanks to all of our Parishioners (past and present)!**

Payments on our DIAL Loan ... We have been able to make **payments of \$1,759,678.04 on our DIAL Loan** (2012 = \$472,000.00; 2013 = \$209,600.00; 2014 = \$330,990.70; 2015 = \$187,735.50; 2016=\$114,068.84; 2017=\$132,465.00; 2018=\$176,620.00; 2019=\$80,948.00; 2020=\$55,250.00). These payments have **reduced our new Church loan from the original amount of \$1,485,000.00 to \$8,568.02.**

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Liturgical Calendar & Saints

Saturday:	Jan. 2	Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Sunday:	Jan. 3	The Epiphany of the Lord (<i>Solemnity</i>)
Monday:	Jan. 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (<i>Memorial</i>)
Tuesday:	Jan. 5	St. John Neumann (<i>Memorial</i>)
Wednesday:	Jan. 6	Christmas Weekday St. Andre Bessett (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Thursday:	Jan. 7	Christmas Weekday St. Raymond of Penafort (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Friday:	Jan. 8	Christmas Weekday
Saturday:	Jan. 9	Christmas Weekday
Sunday:	Jan. 10	The Baptism of the Lord (<i>Feast</i>)

Prayers for the sick: Carolyn Cohen, Becky Harold, Pat Wessell, Vinette Tenopir (Mickie Morlang's mother), Rick Ryan, Sheila Exner, Cathy Leathers, Tucker Smith, Robert Wessell, J.D. Troyer, Cindy Ryan, Dean & Janice Large, Jennifer Schmid, Steve Haman, Sharon Beckius, Those affected with/by COVID-19, Theresa McCarthy-Garth, Troy Tickle, Peggy Lawler, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Special Intention, Carolyn Cohen, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Renate Nordquist, Kim Paul, Jim Beckius.

Prayers for the deceased: Betty Conley (Bishop Conley's mother), Mike Paul, Sammy Medinger, Mary Lou Robles (Toni Barron's sister), Leo Walz, Ardis "Jo" Ginapp, Verna Kellogg, Bonnie Greco (Ashley Perlinger's grandmother), Shirley Lindekugel, Beatrice Estrada, Eloise Kramer (Monica Kramer's mother), Nellie Rodriguez (Toni Barron's sister), Reyes Robles (Toni Barron's brother-in-law), Margaret Ruskamp (Donna Bode's mother), Dolores Kosmicki, Patricia Zamora (Toni Barron's sister), Teresa Clouatre, Gordon Swanson (Cindy Swanson's father), Florena Schneweis (Emily Krondak's mother), Carlos Fleury (Steve/Janet Fear's son-in-law), Ruby Ramirez (Toni Barron's sister), JoAnn Bode Waters (John Bode's sister), Eileen Boltz, Leona Clouatre, Bernadine Torres, Martha Burbach, Luke Ranck.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: 1/2 - Rebecca Nordquist, 1/4 - Tessa Nordquist, 1/5 - Nicholas Krondak, Kayla Schmid, Obie Wartman, 1/8 - Kaye Plienis, Sheila Exner, 1/9 - Patrick McGrath.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Second Edition) PART FOUR – CHRISTIAN PRAYER

SECTION ONE – PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHAPTER ONE – THE REVELATION OF PRAYER

Creation- Source of Prayer

2569 Prayer is lived in the first place beginning with the realities of creation. The first nine chapters of Genesis describe this relationship with God as an offering of the first-born of Abel's flock, as the invocation of the divine name at the time of Enosh, and as "walking with God."⁵ Noah's offering is pleasing to God, who blesses him and through him all creation, because his heart was upright and undivided; Noah, like Enoch before him, "walks with God."⁶ This kind of prayer is lived by many righteous people in all religions. In his indefectible covenant with every living creature,⁷ God has always called people to prayer. But it is above all beginning with our father Abraham that prayer is revealed in the Old Testament.

5 Cf. *Gen. 4:4* while Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, Cf. *Gen. 4:26* To Seth, in turn, a son was born, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to invoke the LORD by name.

Gen. 5:24 Then Enoch walked with God, and he was no longer here, for God took him.

6 *Gen. 6:9* These are the descendants of Noah. Noah, a good man and blameless in that age,¹⁰ for he walked with God

Gen. 8:20-9:17 ²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and choosing from every clean animal and every clean bird, he offered holocausts on the altar. ²¹When the LORD smelled the sweet odor, he said to himself: "Never again will I doom the earth because of man, since the desires of man's heart are evil from the start; nor will I ever again strike down all living beings, as I have done. ²²As long as the earth lasts, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, Summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." ^{9:1}God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: "Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. ²Dread fear of you shall come upon all the animals of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon all the creatures that move about on the ground and all the fishes of the sea; into your power they are delivered. ³Every creature that is alive shall be yours to eat; I give them all to you as I did the green plants. ⁴Only flesh with its lifeblood still in it you shall not eat. ⁵For your own lifeblood, too, I will demand an accounting: from every animal I will demand it, and from man in regard to his fellow man I will demand an accounting for human life. ⁶If anyone sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed: For in the image of God has man been made. ⁷Be fertile, then, and multiply; abound on earth and subdue it." ⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. ¹¹I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." ¹²God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: ¹³I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings. ¹⁶As the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and recall the everlasting covenant that I have established between God and all living beings - all mortal creatures that are on earth." ¹⁷God told Noah: "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on earth."

7 *Gen. 9:8-16* ⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. ¹¹I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." ¹²God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: ¹³I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings. ¹⁶As the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and recall the everlasting covenant that I have established between God and all living beings - all mortal creatures that are on earth."

Pray for our Seminarians: Jacob Thomas Knutson, from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in St. Paul. He entered the Seminary in 2020. He is in Pre-Theology I at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

Pray for our Religious Sisters: School Sisters of Christ the King, Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, Sisters at the Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Pink Sisters, Sisters of Mary, Queen of Mercy.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS ... (January) Prayer intention for evangelization - Human fraternity:

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.