

# 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](mailto:rectory-office@seas-np.org)  
Webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org>

## ***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)*** ***April 11, 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](mailto: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	Apr. 12	8:00 a.m.
Tuesday	Apr. 13	<b>7:00 a.m.</b>
Wednesday	Apr. 14	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours =&gt; Spend time with Jesus</b>		
Thursday	Apr. 15	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Friday	Apr. 16	<b>12:10 p.m.</b> <b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Saturday	Apr. 17	2:00 p.m. <b>5:00 p.m.</b>
Sunday	Apr. 18	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>

## INTENTIONS

Charles & Toni Barron (~Anniv)
Increased Devotion to Immaculate Heart
Anna Lee
Elizabeth (Liz) Haag
Special Intention (jls)
For our Benefactors
Wedding of Roger Farr & Pam Felix
Spencer Bale
People of our Parish

**“Mercy consists in bringing a thing out of non-being into being.”**

*St. Thomas Aquinas*

## **Stewardship: April 4, 2021**

<b>Adult Envelopes:</b> .....	\$1,120.00
<b>Loose Plate:</b> .....	\$47.00
<b>Children:</b> .....	\$0.00
<b>Holy Day:</b> (Easter Sunday)...	\$1,420.00
<b>Total:</b> .....	\$2,587.00

<b><u>Joy of the Gospel Campaign</u></b>	
Total Pledged: .....	\$958,770.00
Gifts last week: .....	\$150.00
<b>Total Gifts Received:</b> .....	<b>\$945,773.05</b>
<b>Original DIAL Loan:</b> .....	<b>1,485,000.00</b>
<b>Total Received (CTTF Camp):</b> .....	<b>\$1,025,440.07</b>
<b>Misc Donations Received:</b> .....	<b>\$739,940.31</b>
<b>Total Payments on Loan:</b> .....	<b>\$1,765,812.77</b>
<b>Balance on DIAL LOAN:</b> .....	<b>\$0.00</b>

Rice Bowl: .....	\$190.00
Holy Land: .....	\$424.00
Southern NE Register: .....	\$15.00
NP Catholic Food Pantry: .....	\$10.00
Combined Collection Non-Specified: .....	\$100.00
Catholic Communication: .....	\$0.00
Catholic Home Missions: .....	\$0.00
Retired Religious: .....	\$0.00

### **Parish Calendar**

Sunday	Apr. 11	Knights of Columbus <b>Breakfast Blessing Burritos</b> <b>12:30pm: Church Tour (for RCIA class and any interested persons)</b> <b>3:00pm: Divine Mercy Holy Hour</b>
Wednesday	Apr. 14	<b>6:00pm – 10:00pm:</b> Eucharistic Adoration <b>7:00pm – 9:00pm:</b> RCIA Classes in Person and via Zoom
Thursday	Apr. 15	<b>1:00pm:</b> Adult Bible Study (contact Teri Volesky)

## **Catholic School News:**

**Upcoming Events:** **Apr. 12:** 3:00pm- Baseball vs. Central City / Fullerton, Bill Wood Field, Tailgate Sponsored by, NebraskaLand Bank (free will donation), Double Header 3:00pm and 5:00pm, **Apr. 14:** 10:00am- JH Track @ Hershey, St. Pat's Hosting, **Apr. 15:** Golf @ Hershey, 7:00pm- Spring HS Music Concert, **Apr. 17:** Track @ Sutherland, Baseball vs Twin River, ACT Test Date.

**X-PLORE 2021: Who:** Students currently in Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, **When:** Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am - Noon, **Where:** McDaid Elementary School, **How:** Fill out & mail in Registration Form, Call the McDaid Office @ 308-532-1874 to pick up a copy, **Cost:** \$65 per student (May 3<sup>rd</sup> Deadline, T-Shirts are available for \$15). Contact Kasia Wieszorek 532-1874 with any questions.

**2021 Senior Retreat:** Last week our 2021 Senior Class went on a 3-day retreat hosted by their theology teacher, Miss Heng, along Deacon Davis. Miss Heng shared, "The seniors spent three days celebrating their last days as a class, growing in their relationship with God, and gathering the tools they need for life after they graduate."

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

**St. Pat's Breakfast ...** St. Pat's Parish Sunday Brunch is back! It is all new! Menus change each mth (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun). 8:00am-1:00pm at St Pat Hall.

**Change Your Station, Change Your Life ...** For Easter, listen to Catholic Radio for 1 hr each week. Jesus will change your life! Already a listener? Visit [www.spiritcatholicradio.com](http://www.spiritcatholicradio.com) for station near you.

**Emmaus Institute Classes ...** Looking for a way to boost your spiritual life during Lent and Easter? The Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies is accepting registrations for its **10-week Online & In-Person Course** starting March 8<sup>th</sup>. See [www.emmausinstitute.net](http://www.emmausinstitute.net) for info.

**Spousal Hearts: Renewed in Love ...** Marriage Encounter presenting **Virtual Weekend 2021: April 23-25**. Contact the Bensons, Pat 308-940-0670, Janelle 308-940-1105, [pbjbbn@yahoo.com](mailto:pbjbbn@yahoo.com).

**K of C Breakfast Blessing Burritos ...** Visit our webpage for the order form, [www.seas-np.org](http://www.seas-np.org). Pick-up will be April 11. Please submit pre-orders by April 9 at 12:00pm. Burritos are \$3.00 each, \$15.00 for 6, \$30.00 for 12, or 24 for \$50.00 (frozen). Payment is expected when picked up. Prepackaged salsa is available upon request.

**Knights of Columbus Meeting ... Mon, April 12, 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.

**Daughters of Charity (Altar Society) Meeting:** a **combined April / May Meeting** will be **Sunday, April 25,** 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.

**Retreat for Couples Experiencing Infertility ...** There will be a Day Long Retreat for couples or individual spouses experiencing primary or secondary infertility held on **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 from 9:00am-4:00pm**, led by Fr. Tim Danek with other guest speakers at John XXIII Diocesan Center in Lincoln or **virtually**. Cost is \$15 / 35 / 60 for virtual / individual / couple and in person includes Mass and brunch. Sign up / more information at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/lifetreat>.

**Camp Kateri Registration ...** Registration is now open for SKY Camp (*rising grades 5th-9th*), Catholic Adventure Camp (*rising grades 4th-6th*) and the Tekakwitha Games (*rising grades 5th-9th*). For more information, or to register for camp, go to [www.campkateri.org](http://www.campkateri.org).

**High School Volunteer Counselors Needed ...** Camp Kateri is now accepting applications for volunteer high school counselors for SKY, Catholic Adventure Camp and the Tekakwitha Games. For more information, please go to [www.campkateri.org](http://www.campkateri.org).

**Southern Nebraska Register ...** subscription rate: \$15 for one year. Make checks payable to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Thank you!

## Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats

Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com), 402-786-2705, or [goodcounsel@cdolinc.net](mailto:goodcounsel@cdolinc.net).

### April - July Schedule:

- Apr. 15-18 ..... Matt Simmons..... Men / Women  
"4-day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Thu-Sun)
- Apr. 23-25 ..... Fr. Jay Buhman..... Men / Women  
"It is God Who Invites You: Come and See"
- Apr. 29 - May 2 Fr. Gary Coulter ..... Men / Women  
"4-day Directed Spiritual Exercises" (Thu-Sun)
- May 7-8 ..... Janette Howe of Seven Sisters Apostolate .Women  
"Real Women Wear Armor" (24 hour Retreat)
- June 14-22 ..... Fr. Gary Coulter & Matt Simmons..... Men / Women  
"8-Day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Mon-Tue)
- June 14-18 ..... Fr. Gary Coulter & Matt Simmons..... Men / Women  
"4-Day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Mon-Fri)
- June 18-22 ..... Fr. Gary Coulter & Matt Simmons..... Men / Women  
"4-Day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Fri-Tue)
- June 21-25 ..... Jesu Caritas Fraternity of Priests (for Priests only)  
"Week of Nazareth"
- July 5-13 ..... Fr. Christopher Barak/Matt Simmons Men / Women  
"8-Day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Mon-Tue)
- July 5-9 ..... Fr. Christopher Barak/Matt Simmons Men / Women  
"4-Day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Mon-Fri)
- July 9-13 ..... Fr. Christopher Barak/Matt Simmons Men / Women  
"4-Day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat" (Fri-Tue)

## The Chaplet ...

Today's observance of Divine Mercy Sunday is a good time to renew our devotion to the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. There is a close link between this devotion and the pro-life movement. Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, who was a principal translator of St. Faustina's diary, and the postulator of her cause of canonization, writes the following: "On at least three occasions, from 8:00-11:00 in the evening, she felt like her insides were being torn apart. She suffered so much that she thought she was going to die. The doctors couldn't figure out what was ailing her, and no medication was able to alleviate her sufferings. Later, she was given to understand that she was undergoing those pains for mothers who were aborting their children (Diary, 1276). "On another occasion, she had a vision of an angel coming with thunderbolts to destroy one of the most beautiful cities of her country. And she felt powerless to do anything about it (Diary, 474). What antidote did the Lord give her? The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. [She explained] that the city was to be chastised for its sins, primarily the sin of abortion." ("Wombs of Mercy," *Marian Helpers Bulletin*, Summer 1995, p.13). In 2003, Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Blessing to all who pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet "for mothers, that they not abort their offspring; for infants in danger of being put to death in the womb; for a change of heart of providers of abortions and of their collaborators; for human victims of stem cell research, genetic manipulation, cloning and euthanasia; and for all entrusted with the government of peoples, that they may promote the Culture of Life, so as to put an end to the culture of death."

## Renew Subscriptions to MAGNIFICAT! ...

MAGNIFICAT is a monthly publication containing a short morning, evening, & night prayer, & a short daily meditation; as well as the Scripture readings for the Daily & Sunday Masses, essays on the lives of the saints, and spiritual insight into masterpieces of sacred art. Magnificat is a good way to learn more about your faith & deepen your prayer life and your relationship with God. The **annual group subscription rate is \$23.00/each**. That is a savings of \$24.00 off regular (individual price of \$47.00). If you would like to be a part of the group / bulk subscription, please turn in payment (checks to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) to Fr. Seiker. The **group subscription** runs from **Aug. 2021-Jul. 2022**. Those in our Group may also read Magnificat either **online** or on **iphone** or **ipod**.

## Seven Sisters Apostolate Day for Reflection

**(Open to all Women) ... Thursday, May 6 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church**, for women already involved in a Seven Sisters Group and those who would like more information about the Apostolate. Any Catholic woman (or Catholic man) is welcome to participate. The theme will be "Real Women Wear Armor". Registration & Continental Breakfast will begin at 8:00am. 8:45am=Scriptural Rosary; 9:15am=Mass (celebrated by Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt), followed by Session #1. Lunch. Session #2. Q & A. and the sung Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Day Session will end at 3:00pm. There will also be an **EVENING SESSION** 6:30pm-8:30pm. **Foundress Janette Howe will be our Retreat Leader**. Suggested Fee: \$10.00. Registration is required before April 26, 2021. Bring Your Bible! **You may register at Register at: <https://seas-np.org/>**. The Day Session and Evening Session will be available on Live-Stream through ZOOM. Contact persons: Joan Ryland, 10148 West Platte Valley Rd, North Platte, NE 6910, Text: 308-520-6800, Email: [rylandjoan@yahoo.com](mailto:rylandjoan@yahoo.com).

## New Education Health Standards ...

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) recently released a first draft of Health Standards. These standards are meant to guide curriculum for all Nebraska schools, including public and non-public schools. (see proposed first draft at the NDE website: [https://nde.co1.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsControlPanel/File.php?F=F\\_0CYEJdJG0GZJmHs](https://nde.co1.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsControlPanel/File.php?F=F_0CYEJdJG0GZJmHs))

The Health Standards are a deeply flawed, ideologically driven document. Should such standards be adopted by schools, children will be placed in peril, many educators will find their professional judgment and conscience under attack, and the culture will move toward a further normalization of child sexualization.

Recently, the State Board of Education opened their monthly meeting for public comment. **Jeremy Ekel, Associate Director of Education Policy, gave a short presentation about the issues with the Health Standards at the meeting. You can watch them at <https://www.education.ne.gov/live/> (Jeremy's remarks begin at 19:55).**

Read the proposed standards (see link above), and be sure to give formal feedback (go to: [https://nde.qualtrics.com/jfeform/SV\\_8d11y2pRSfXIG8R](https://nde.qualtrics.com/jfeform/SV_8d11y2pRSfXIG8R)) in the survey provided by the NDE. While the committee is currently working on the second draft of the standards, it is still very important for us to give specific, constructive, and respectful feedback.

Visit the Nebraska Catholic Conference (NCC) website (<https://necatholic.org/be-an-advocate/nde-health-standards.html>) for a summary of the problematic areas of the Health Standards and more information about what you can do to make your voice heard.

## FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

**MERCY SUNDAY Holy Hour ...** please come to **Holy Hour, Sun., Apr. 11, 3:00pm-4:00pm, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church**, praying Chaplet of Divine Mercy, quiet prayer time.

Be open to the Lord's mercy, pray for an outpouring of His mercy in your life, in the lives of those you love, in all persons throughout the world.

**Church Tour ... TODAY, Sun., Apr. 11, 12:30pm-2:30pm, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.** **ALL are invited to participate in the Church Tour.** You might see some parts of the Church that you have NOT seen yet, and learn a little more about our Catholic Faith and why we do some things we do at Mass.

**Wedding of Roger Farr & Pam Felix ...** on Saturday, April 17, 2021, 2:00pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, with a Friday 6:30pm Rehearsal. Fr. Bernard Kimminau, (St. James Church, Curtis), who prepared this couple for marriage, will be the celebrant of the wedding.

**Pray for our Seminarians: Paul Charles Mach,** from St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2019. He is in College 3 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 ...

**(April) Universal intention - Fundamental rights:** We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



## Liturgical Ministers

<b>Lector</b>	
<b>Acolyte</b>	
<b>Server</b>	
<b>Music</b>	
<b>Gifts</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>	
<b>Rosary</b>	

## Liturgical Calendar & Saints

Saturday:	Apr. 10	Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Sunday:	Apr. 11	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)</b>
Monday:	Apr. 12	Easter Weekday (Wk. 2)
Tuesday:	Apr. 13	Easter Weekday (Wk. 2) St. Martin I (Opt. Memorial)
Wednesday:	Apr. 14	Easter Weekday (Wk. 2)
Thursday:	Apr. 15	Easter Weekday (Wk. 2)
Friday:	Apr. 16	Easter Weekday (Wk. 2)
Saturday:	Apr. 17	Easter Weekday (Wk. 2)
Sunday:	Apr. 18	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>

**Prayers for the sick:** Daniel Nisley, Spencer Bale, Kim Prenosil, Kerry Heskett (Ben Heskett's sister), Rick Ryan, Cathy Leathers, J.D. Troyer, Cindy Ryan, Dean & Janice Large, Jennifer Schmid, Those affected with/by COVID-19, Peggy Lawler, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Special Intention, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Renate Nordquist, Kim Paul.

**Prayers for the deceased:** Theresa McCarthy-Garth, Jim Beckius, Vinette Tenopir (Mickey Morlang's mother), Ginger Daigger Smith, Troy Tickle, Carolyn Cohen, Steve Haman (Matt Perlinger's uncle), 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 Cloutre, 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 Cloutre, Bernadine Torres, Martha Burbach, Luke Ranck.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** 4/10 - Laura Dickinson, Teresa Niesen, 4/11 - Mike Mohr, 4/11 – Kay Cooper, 4/14 - Gianna Pieper, 4/18 - Rosie Nisley.

**Congratulations:** to Charles & Toni Barron who celebrate their 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary April 11.

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

#### SECTION ONE – PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CHAPTER ONE – THE REVELATION OF PRAYER

#### The Psalms, the prayer of the assembly

**2585** From the time of David to the coming of the Messiah texts appearing in these sacred books show a deepening in prayer for oneself and in prayer for others.<sup>37</sup> Thus the psalms were gradually collected into the five books of the Psalter (or "Praises"), the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament.

**37** *Ezra 9:6-15* <sup>6</sup>I said: "My God, I am too ashamed and confounded to raise my face to you, O my God, for our wicked deeds are heaped up above our heads and our guilt reaches up to heaven. <sup>7</sup>From the time of our fathers even to this day great has been our guilt, and for our wicked deeds we have been delivered over, we and our kings and our priests, to the will of the kings of foreign lands, to the sword, to captivity, to pillage, and to disgrace, as is the case today. <sup>8</sup>And now, but a short time ago, mercy came to us from the LORD, our God, who left us a remnant and gave us a stake in his holy place; thus our God has brightened our eyes and given us relief in our servitude. <sup>9</sup>For slaves we are, but in our servitude our God has not abandoned us; rather, he has turned the good will of the kings of Persia toward us. Thus he has given us new life to raise again the house of our God and restore its ruins, and has granted us a fence in Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>But now, O our God, what can we say after all this? For we have abandoned your commandments, <sup>11</sup>which you gave through your servants the prophets: the land which you are entering to take as your possession is a land unclean with the filth of the peoples of the land, with the abominations with which they have filled it from one end to the other in their uncleanness. <sup>12</sup>Do not, then, give your daughters to their sons in marriage, and do not take their daughters for your sons. Never promote their peace and prosperity; thus you will grow strong, enjoy the produce of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever. <sup>13</sup>After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt-though you, our God, have made less of our sinfulness than it deserved and have allowed us to survive as we do – <sup>14</sup>shall we again violate your commandments by intermarrying with these abominable peoples? Would you not become so angered with us as to destroy us without remnant or survivor? <sup>15</sup>O LORD, God of Israel, you are just; yet we have been spared, the remnant we are today. Here we are before you in our sins. Because of all this, we can no longer stand in your presence."

*Neh. 1:4-11* <sup>4</sup>When I heard this report, I began to weep and continued mourning for several days; I fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>I prayed: "O LORD, God of heaven, great and awesome God, you who preserve your covenant of mercy toward those who love you and keep your commandments, <sup>6</sup>may your ear be attentive, and your eyes open, to heed the prayer which I, your servant, now offer in your presence day and night for your servants the Israelites, confessing the sins which we of Israel have committed against you, I and my father's house included. <sup>7</sup>Grievously have we offended you, not keeping the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances which you committed to your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>But remember, I pray, the promise which you gave through Moses, your servant, when you said: 'Should you prove faithless, I will scatter you among the nations; <sup>9</sup>but should you return to me and carefully keep my commandments, even though your outcasts have been driven to the farthest corner of the world, I will gather them from there, and bring them back to the place which I have chosen as the dwelling place for my name.' <sup>10</sup>They are your servants, your people, whom you freed by your great might and your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>LORD, may your ear be attentive to my prayer and that of all your willing servants who revere your name. Grant success to your servant this day, and let him find favor with this man" – for I was cupbearer to the king.

*Jon. 2:3-10* <sup>3</sup>Out of my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me; From the midst of the nether world I cried for help, and you heard my voice. <sup>4</sup>For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the flood enveloped me; All your breakers and your billows passed over me. <sup>5</sup>Then I said, "I am banished from your sight! yet would I again look upon your holy temple." <sup>6</sup>The waters swirled about me, threatening my life; the abyss enveloped me; seaweed clung about my head. <sup>7</sup>Down I went to the roots of the mountains; the bars of the nether world were closing behind me forever; but you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God. <sup>8</sup>When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; My prayer reached you in your holy temple. <sup>9</sup>Those who worship vain idols forsake their source of mercy. <sup>10</sup>But I, with resounding praise, will sacrifice to you; What I have vowed I will pay; deliverance is from the LORD.

*Tob. 3:11-16* <sup>11</sup>At that time, then, she spread out her hands, and facin the window, poured out this prayer: "Blessed are you, O Lord, merciful God! Forever blessed and honored is your holy name; may all your works forever bless you. <sup>12</sup>And now, O Lord, to you I turn my face and raise my eyes. <sup>13</sup>Bid me to depart from the earth, never again to hear such insults. <sup>14</sup>You know, O Master, that I am innocent of any impure act with a man. <sup>15</sup>And that I have never defiled my own name or my father's name in the land of my exile. "I am my father's only daughter, and he has no other child to make his heir, nor does he have a close kinsman or other relative whom I might bide my time to marry. I have already lost seven husbands; why then should I live any longer? But if it please you, Lord, not to slay me, look favorably upon me and have pity on me; never again let me hear these insults!" <sup>16</sup>At that very time, the prayer of these two suppliants was heard in the glorious presence of Almighty God.

*Jdt. 9:2-14* <sup>2</sup>LORD, God of my forefather Simeon! You put a sword into his hand to take revenge upon the foreigners who had immodestly loosened the maiden's girdle, shamefully exposed her thighs, and disgracefully violated her body. This they did, though you forbade it. <sup>3</sup>Therefore you had their rulers slaughtered; and you covered with their blood the bed in which they lay deceived, the same bed that had felt the shame of their own deceiving. You smote the slaves together with their princes, and the princes together with their servants. <sup>4</sup>Their wives you handed over to plunder, and their daughters to captivity; and all the spoils you divided among your favored sons, who burned with zeal for you, and in their abhorrence of the defilement of their kinswoman, called on you for help. <sup>5</sup>O God, my God, hear me also, a widow. It is you who were the author of those events and of what preceded and followed them. The present, also, and the future you have planned. Whatever you devise comes into being; <sup>6</sup>the things you decide on come forward and say, 'Here we are!' All your ways are in readiness, and your judgment is made with foreknowledge. <sup>7</sup>Here are the Assyrians, a vast force, priding themselves on horse and rider, boasting of the power of their infantry, trusting in shield and spear, bow and sling. They do not know that <sup>8</sup>"You, the Lord, crush warfare; Lord is your name. Shatter their strength in your might, and crush their force in your wrath; for they have resolved to profane your sanctuary, to defile the tent where your glorious name resides, and to overthrow with iron the horns of your altar. <sup>9</sup>See their pride, and send forth your wrath upon their heads. Give me, a widow, the strong hand to execute my plan. <sup>10</sup>With the guile of my lips, smite the slave together with the ruler, the ruler together with his servant; crush their pride by the hand of a woman. <sup>11</sup>Your strength is not in numbers, nor does your power depend upon stalwart men; but you are the God of the lowly, the helper of the oppressed, the supporter of the weak, the protector of the forsaken, the savior of those without hope. <sup>12</sup>Please, please, God of my forefather, God of the heritage of Israel, Lord of heaven and earth, Creator of the waters, King of all you have created, hear my prayer! <sup>13</sup>Let my guileful speech bring wound and wale on those who have planned dire things against your covenant, your holy temple, Mount Zion, and the homes your children have inherited. <sup>14</sup>Let your whole nation and all the tribes know clearly that you are the god of all power and might, and that there is no other who protects the people of Israel but you alone."