

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 Easter *May 3, 2020*

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	May 4	7:00 a.m.
Tuesday	May 5	7:00 a.m.
Wednesday	May 6	4:00 p.m.
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus		
Thursday	May 7	7:00 a.m.
Friday	May 8	7:00 a.m.
Saturday	May 9	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	May 10	8:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

Kelsey [Bliss] Rieker
Jacob Buhrman
Edward & Edna Rieker +
Ned & Adela Hernandez & Family +
Justin Connelly (bd)
People of our Parish
Elli (Fugate) Schmidt

***He Himself bore our sins
in His body upon the cross,
so that, free from sin,
we might live
for righteousness.***
— 1 Peter 2:24a

Stewardship: April 26, 2020

Adult Envelopes:	\$985.00
Loose Plate:	\$0.00
Children:	\$0.00
Holy Day: (Easter)	\$50.00
Total:	\$1,035.00

<u>Joy of the Gospel Campaign</u>	
Total Pledged:	\$958,770.00
Gifts last week:	\$70.00
Total Gifts Received:	\$884,903.05
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:	\$1,702,428.04
Balance on DIAL LOAN:	\$61,613.45

Southern NE Register:	\$0.00
Rice Bowl:	\$0.00
Holy Land:	\$30.00
Combined Collection (NonSpecified):	\$30.00
American Bishops Overseas:	\$0.00
Black & Indian Collection:	\$0.00
Catholic Communication:	\$0.00
RFFR Retired Religious:	\$0.00

Parish Calendar

Sunday	May 3	11:00am: Family Formation via Zoom	
Wednesday	May 6	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration	7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes ... via Zoom
Thursday	May 7	7:00pm: Lectio: Salvation (Lent/Easter Study ... via Zoom)	
Friday	May 8	7:00pm: Lectio: Salvation (Lent/Easter Study ... via Zoom)	

Catholic School News:

The doors may be closed, but a high-quality, faith-based education is still the mission of the North Platte Catholic Schools. The quote, "Tough times never last, but tough people do," has rang true on our Irish campus. To our Little Leprechaun, McDaid, and St. Patrick's families, we miss you and want to thank you for your patience, kindness, and support. To our administrators and teachers: thank you for your hard work and dedication. We are growing in faith, we are finding new ways to learn, and we are doing it together. We're looking to the future with great hope, and can't wait to open our doors to our students next fall. Enrollment is NOW open. Contact Gwen Covey, for information 308-532-1874. Many prayers from our Irish family to yours, and remember every moment is a fresh beginning.

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

Women's Care Center ... will be located in Lincoln at 5632 South 48th Street, directly across the street from the abortion clinic. To help support this life-saving pregnancy resource center coming to Lincoln, go to <https://supportwomenscarecenter.org/locations/lincoln/> or contact Sarah Kroner Women's Care Center Project Manager/Registered Nurse PO Box 6954, Lincoln, NE 68506-6954 email: kroner_sarah@yahoo.com office: 217-741-5177.

Volunteer Mowers ... We are looking for some volunteer help to mow the Catholic Cemetery on State Farm Road. We have set some dates for mowing. Sunday, ~~April 19~~, May 3, and May 17, all at 1:00pm. If you can help on other days and times, that is fine too. Questions call Mike Montgomery (530-7917).

Scheduled Liturgies: All Masses are being livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/seasnorthplatte/live>. Videos of Masses are also available on parish webpage 1 hr after Mass ends at <http://seas-np.org/covid-19-mass-videos-at-seas/>

• **Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri. all at 7:00am; Wed. at 4:00pm**

Scheduled Times for Confession (in Parish Hall):

• **Monday, Thursday, Friday ... 12:00pm-1:00pm**

OR make an appointment for confession in the Parish Hall.

Southern Nebraska Register ... subscription rate is \$15.00/1 yr. Make checks to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Thank you!

Online Reflection with Fr. Timothy Gallagher ...

renowned author and speaker, **Sat. May 9, 9:00am-3:00pm** on the topic "Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement". A free-will offering is asked for the live-streamed talks and handout by Fr. Gallagher, sponsored by Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly: www.goodcounselretreat.com, goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705.

Day of Reflection with Fr. Jim Morin ...

"Prayer for the Bored, Distracted, and Anxious" at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly, also available online (free-will donation.) **Sat. May 16, 9:00am-4:00pm**, learn to center on God through prayer: www.goodcounselretreat.com, goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705.

Family Formation Parent's Meeting ... on Sunday, May 3, at 11:00am (via Zoom).

Lectio: Salvation: Unveiling Scripture & Tradition ...

sessions via ZOOM. **To participate contact Fr. Seiker.** Please spend time sharing your faith with other Catholics & learning what "salvation" means.

	7:00pm – 8:15 or 8:30pm	7:00pm	7:00pm
#9	Not Just for Other People	<u>Thursday</u> May 7	<u>Friday</u> May 8
#10	Not Only About the Future	<u>Tuesday</u> May 12	<u>Thursday</u> May 14

Evangelium Vitae ...

This year, the encyclical Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) is 25 years old. It was issued by St. John Paul II on March 25, 1995, the Feast of the Annunciation, because that was the event in salvation history in which Jesus became an unborn child. The encyclical draws on biblical sources to make clear the historic Christian teaching on the sanctity of life, and the obligation of families and governments to protect the smallest and weakest human beings, the children in the womb. Please be sure to read this document, and use the study guide created by Priests for Life, at www.GospelofLife.org.

P.4. Three Ways of Praying ... (by Father Gary Coulter, director, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House)

The fourth part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, on Christian Prayer, I think is the most readable and most beautiful part of the Catechism. The fourth part is divided in two halves, the first section a treatise on prayer in the Christian life, and the second section is a commentary on the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father.

In speaking about the life of prayer, the Catechism in paragraphs 2700-2724 speaks of "Expressions of Prayer." Three different kinds of prayer, all of which are to have a place in our prayer life: 1) vocal prayer, 2) meditation, and 3) contemplation. Yet all three have something in common, a recollection of the heart, a vigilance in desiring to keep the Word and dwell in the presence of God.

1) Vocal prayer is the first way we learned to pray; from the time we were little children. It is the way our Lord Jesus responded when the disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, he taught a vocal prayer, the Our Father. As human beings we communicate in words, we experience through the senses, & so our prayer should correspond; with vocal prayer we can pray with our whole being. That is also why sometimes not only finding the time and place, but also the posture for prayer is important. Simple acts like kneeling, or folding, or extending our hands, give external expression that associates our body with our interior prayer.

Vocal prayer also has the advantage of allowing people to easily pray as a group. For example, we can pray the Rosary as a family, attend Mass as a parish, and every day priests, religious and laity are united in praying the Liturgy of the Hours (try it yourself with the app: ibreviary.org). Thus, the Liturgy of the Church is founded upon vocal prayer.

Now in vocal prayer, we can start by thinking about the words we are saying and what they mean. But we do not have to be concerned if this does not always take place. I remember reading in St. Thomas how even if a person messes up the words, or doesn't fully understand what they mean, he can still pray because he has that intention to pray. I experienced this first-hand the first month I went to live in Italy. It gave me hope that despite mispronouncing the words and not always knowing what was being said, the Lord still accepted my first attempts to pray in Italian.

While vocal prayer is an essential element to our prayer life, it is only the beginning. Normally, we do not want to spend all our prayer time filling it up with words and vocal prayers, without including meditation.

2) Meditation can be defined as reflection on some religious truth. It is actively engaging the mind in thinking through some mystery of our faith. An important part of prayer is finding a time and place for meditation, in which you will take some truth, usually something found in the scriptures or other spiritual writings, and you begin to think and pray on it, expand on it, and apply it to yourself.

Meditation consists of a somewhat structured time of prayer. First there is preparation by placing ourselves in God's presence, invoking the light of the Holy Spirit, and asking God for what we desire. Then we generally choose a Scripture passage or text from a spiritual writer as the topic for our meditation. We ponder what God is saying to us through the words and how they apply to our life. These considerations ought to enlighten the mind and nourish love in such a way that it gives rise to affection, but also to resolution. For in the end, meditation draws us closer to God by strengthening our will to do His will, particularly by becoming free from our attachment to the world, sin, and lukewarmness.

We read in the Catechism, paragraph 2708: *Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in lectio divina or the rosary. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further: to the knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him.*

3) Contemplation is the final expression of prayer. Contemplative prayer is the hardest to define, and even hard to speak about, because it isn't really taught, rather it is a gift from God, a fruit of our time in prayer.

We can see how meditation should ultimately move us to contemplation, because we are moved to love and admire God because of the truth we are meditating on. When I meditate, I am thinking about things in the presence of God. When I contemplate, I am pouring out my heart in love towards God, surrendering myself to him.

St. John Vianney had a simple peasant in his congregation who would spend long times in prayer before the tabernacle. When he asked the man about how he prayed he replied: "I look at him and he looks at me." That is a great definition of contemplation – we gaze upon Christ with the eyes of our heart. It is the silent prayer of loving union with God.

When the time we have allotted for prayer is almost finished, try to have some closure by speaking to Our Lord, exactly as one speaks to another person. Perhaps asking some favor or advice, perhaps telling Him of your love or sorrow. We may make resolutions of what we want to do - it depends what the focus of your meditation was. Perhaps we can end our prayer by saying the Our Father.

Application: Prayer Exercise ... (by Father Gary Coulter, director, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House)

Making the time and place for prayer, use the preparatory steps to enter prayer: 1. Put yourself in God's presence. 2. Ask for his help. 3. Offer God this time and yourself. 4. Ask Him for what you long for and desire. 5. Offer this time for a loved one or another intention.

For your meditation, take a memorized vocal prayer, such as the Our Father (or Anima Christi, Hail Mary or Hail Holy Queen.) Consider it one word at a time, pondering each word, contemplating its meaning, savoring it for as long as one finds relish and consolation. Thus, you would contemplate what it means that you call the Father "Our," and how you live out that meaning, before moving on to "Father." Do not try to finish the entire prayer in one session. When your time is finished, say the rest of the Our Father, and the next day pick up where you left off.

Some possible ways to conclude your prayer: 1. Make a resolution. 2. Journal about what you lingered on/the Lord spoke to you. 3. Be grateful.

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church will NOT be "re-opening" for public Masses on either May 4 or May 9 ...

Archbishop Lucas and Priests in leadership roles in the **Lincoln Chancery** have given permission for Parishes in the Lincoln Diocese to have public Masses beginning May 4 (for daily Masses) and/or May 9 (for Saturday/Sunday Masses) in the Diocese of Lincoln. However, Bishop Hanefeldt (*Bishop of Grand Island*) has asked that Parishes in the Grand Island Diocese in **Lincoln County** (as well as Hall, Howard, Buffalo, Dawson, Custer, and Scottsbluff counties) **not to "re-open" until May 30th**.

Because St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is in the same town as St. Patrick Parish and Holy Spirit Parish (*that will both not be having Public Masses*), we want to continue to work on unity and have all three Parishes in North Platte follow the same procedures. There are many of our Parishioners who were looking forward to being able to come to Mass and to receive Holy Communion, and they will be very disappointed at this decision. However, it might also be important to notice that even though **both Bishop Hanefeldt and Father Josh Brown have said that "Catholics who live in Parishes that are not able to re-open should NOT migrate to neighboring parishes that are open"**. Still because of human weakness and effects of Original Sin, **people from North Platte (and even further away) still might come to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in larger numbers than we can safely handle at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.**

It might also be important to quote some **information from an email from our Lincoln Chancery to Priests**: One of the issues that we [*the Lincoln Chancery*] are already encountering is that local health departments have issued Directed Health Measures (DHM) for their locality that is sometimes at variance with the DHM issued by the Governor. Pastors are calling to consult on what action they should take.

- We do not have any hard and fast rule on this.
- In these cases, the local pastor has discretion on whether to open or not. The pastor has authorization from the State to do so, which trumps a local directive. We agree. We recommend you use your best judgment on this matter. If a local pastor does decide to stay closed, we ask that the pastor notify the Chancery.
- We recommend that the Deans discuss this issue in their deanery/county and come to a consensus of action. **As an example, the Lancaster County DHM was extended to May 10, so the Lincoln pastors have agreed to follow the local DHM and will wait to reopen on May 11.**
- It is best if pastors in a local area act in concert with one another to avoid people "shopping" for a Mass.

Liturgical Minister

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24 - 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday:	Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Prayers for the sick: Sharon Beckius, Those affected with/by COVID-19, Eli Skoch (nephew of Maggie [Skoch] Butler), Theresa McCarthy-Garth, Young woman (with many difficult situations), Troy Tickle, Iris Wyman Lloyd, Peggy Lawler, J.D. Troyer, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Special Intention, Carolyn Cohen, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Mary Lou Robles (Toni Barron's sister), Renate Nordquist, Mike & Kim Paul, Jim Beckius.

Prayers for the deceased: 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 Schneewis (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: 5/2 - Greg Vandenberg, 5/3 - Brent Downey, 5/7 - Beatrice Estrada, 5/10 - Loren Baxa.

Congratulations: to Mitch & Diane Gregg who celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary May 4.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... Especially during the Easter season, we are very conscious of the communal nature of baptism. We stand witness to the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil in many parishes, and countless parishes celebrate festive baptisms for infants. The rule for celebrating baptism is that it be only once a day in any parish church, a sign of the Church's desire that baptism be the work of the gathered community. "Private baptism" is therefore a misnomer, since all baptisms, even emergency baptisms for infants in danger of death, are a public act of entrance in to the Body of Christ, the Church. In an emergency, and providing the parents desire it, anyone can baptize by pouring water and saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." But then afterward the Church is encouraged to supply what is missing: the gathered assembly to proclaim and hear God's word, the promises, the naming, the anointings, the clothing with a white garment, the candle, the Lord's Prayer, and the solemn blessing of the parents at the altar. Wonderfully, this ritual often provides the opportunity for great rejoicing at the recovery of an infant who had been in danger. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD ... For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were – contrary to their popular image – very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever. – Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

COUNTING SHEEP ... When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep. —Anonymous

ENTRANCE ... How else but through a broken heart, May the Lord Christ enter in? —Oscar Wilde

MUCH-NEEDED LOVE ... No one needs love more than someone who doesn't deserve it. —Anonymous

Pray for our Seminarians: Scott Nicholas Schieuer, from St. Joseph Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2018. He is in College 2 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 ... (May)

Prayer Intention for Evangelization: For Deacons: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.