

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>

5th Sunday of Easter *May 10, 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 11	5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	May 12	7:00 a.m.
Wednesday	May 13	7:00 a.m.
6:00pm–10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus		
Thursday	May 14	7:00 a.m.
Friday	May 15	7:00 a.m.
Saturday	May 16	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	May 17	8:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

Parishioners with Birthday in May
Gilbert & Nadine Rieker +
Unity in the Church
Anna Lee
Elizabeth (Liz) Haag
People of our Parish
Benjamin Rieker

***I am the way and
the truth and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except through me.***

— John 14:6

Stewardship: May 3, 2020

Adult Envelopes:	\$3,482.45
Loose Plate:	\$110.00
Children:	\$0.00
Holy Day: (Ascension Thursday) ...	\$45.00
Total:	\$3,637.45

<u>Joy of the Gospel Campaign</u>	
Total Pledged:	\$958,770.00
Gifts last week:	\$500.00
Total Gifts Received:	\$885,403.05
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:	\$30.00
Rice Bowl:	\$0.00
Holy Land:	\$0.00
Combined Collection (NonSpecified):	\$0.00
American Bishops Overseas:	\$0.00
Black & Indian Collection:	\$0.00
Catholic Communication:	\$0.00
RFFR Retired Religious:	\$0.00

Parish Calendar

Tuesday	May 12	7:00pm: Lectio: Salvation (Lent/Easter Study ... via Zoom)
Wednesday	May 13	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes ... via Zoom
Thursday	May 14	7:00pm: Lectio: Salvation (Lent/Easter Study ... via Zoom)

Catholic School News:

Thank you to all who supported the North Platte Catholic Schools on North Platte Giving Day! Your generous donations will make a tremendous impact on the students and staff of Little Leprechaun, McDaid, and St. Pat's. Thank you! Enrollment is OPEN for Little Leprechaun Preschool. Please contact the school for more information 308.532.1874 or email Gwen Covey: g.covey@npcschools.org.

***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/>

• **Tue., Wed., Thur., Fri. all at 7:00am; Mon. at 5:00pm**

Scheduled Times for Confession (in Parish Hall):

• **Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. ... 12:00pm–1:00pm**

OR make an appointment for confession in the Parish Hall.

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
#10	Not Only About the Future	Tuesday May 12	Thursday May 14

Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats ...

(During this time of stay-at-home and small gatherings, Good Counsel Retreat House is able to bring you a series of online, at-home Saturday Reflections. For all of these virtual retreats, registration is required to received the live-streaming, but a donation is not required.)

See the three retreats listed below:

Day of Reflection with Fr. Jim Morin ... "Prayer for the Bored, Distracted, and Anxious" 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.

Building Family Relationships ... with Peter and Debbie Herbeck available online (free-will donation.) **Friday, May 22 – Saturday, May 23:** www.goodcounselretreat.com, goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705.

Day of Reflection with Fr. Evan Winter ... "Turning Quarantine into a Retreat with the Book of Job" (Cambiando Cuarentena a un Retiro con el Libro de Job) available online (free-will donation.) **Sat. May 30, 9:00am-4:00pm:** www.goodcounselretreat.com, goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705.

Politics and Religion Do Mix ... The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in its doctrinal note "On some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life" (2002) said about St. Thomas More: "[He] gave witness by his martyrdom to the inalienable dignity of the human conscience. Though subjected to various forms of psychological pressure, Saint Thomas More refused to compromise, never forsaking the constant fidelity to legitimate authority and institutions which distinguished him; he taught by his life and his death that 'man cannot be separated from God, nor politics from morality.'"

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

P.5. Praying with Scripture ... (by Father Gary Coulter, director, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House)

I was once given the advice to read any book whose author's name begins with "S" - authors like St. Theresa, St. Alphonsus, St. Josemaria - that is of course to read the writings of the saints, and if you want to learn about prayer I can recommend no more sure guides. Indeed, the Catechism says that there are as many ways and methods of meditation as there are saints.

But I believe if we want to enter an intimate conversation and relationship with God, we need to be reading and praying with another book whose name begins with "S" - the Sacred Scriptures. As you know, we must always remember that Sacred Scripture is inspired, and when we read Scripture, it is truly God's Word speaking to us. In reading the bible, especially in the readings of the Mass, we come to know God and His plan for our salvation. As Vatican II says, "Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit." (DV 9) The divine Scriptures "impart the word of God Himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and Apostles." (DV 21)

When it comes to reading the bible, I don't recommend you start on page 1. Haven't we all made that New Year's resolution to read the Bible, so you start at the book of Genesis, and what happens ... you give up somewhere about the book of Leviticus.

If the Scriptures are not to remain a dead letter, Christ - the eternal Word of the living God, must be at the center of our reading of the scriptures. When people ask me for help in reading the Bible, I always tell them to start with reading the four Gospels. "The Gospels ... are the principle source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word" (DV 18) - Jesus Christ. In fact, if you were to take fifteen minutes and read three chapters from the Gospels each day, you would read all four gospels in a month. Sound hard? Then take five minutes a day, if you read one chapter from the Gospels each day you could read the gospels in only three months, and then you would be reading the gospels four times in a year! But if you read no chapters a day ... at the end of the year how many Gospels have you read?

In 2010 Pope emeritus Benedict XVI released a Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Scripture, called *Verbum Domini - The Word of the Lord*. This apostolic letter is called post-synodal, because in 2008, Pope Benedict held a Synod of Bishops on the theme: *The Word of God in the Life and the Mission of the Church*. Afterwards, based on the observations and recommendations on the synod, the Pope spent two years writing *Verbum Domini - the first papal document on Sacred Scripture since Vatican II*.

And in this document on the Word of God, Pope Benedict continually comes back to one thing, *Lectio Divina* - praying the scriptures, praying the bible as a key to the spiritual life of the Church and the New Evangelization.

In the Apostolic Exhortation, Pope emeritus Benedict says: "The Synod frequently insisted on the need for a prayerful approach to the sacred text as a fundamental element in the spiritual life of every priest and nun. No, that's not what he said. Prayerful reading of sacred scripture he says, is "a fundamental element in the spiritual life of every believer, in [all] the various ministries and states in life, [not just priests and nuns] with particular reference to lectio divina. The word of God is at the basis of all authentic Christian spirituality."

As Saint Augustine puts it: "Your prayer is the word you speak to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God". Another Father of the Church and master of reading and studying the Bible, Origen, maintains that understanding Scripture demands, even more than study, closeness to Christ and prayer. As the Catechism says: "Christians owe it to themselves to develop the desire to meditate regularly, lest they come to resemble the three first kinds of soil in the parable of the sower." (2707, cf. Mk 4:4-7,15-19)

Theology of the Body Virtual Conference (May 8-10, 2020) ... [presented by the *Theology of the Body Institute*] Register for the **FREE Theology of the Body Virtual Conference** at <https://www.tobvirtualconference.com/>. This conference will be available worldwide between Friday, May 8, 2020, at 12:00pm EDT to Sunday, May 10, 2020, at Midnight.

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

Making the time and place for prayer, choose in advance a Gospel passage. Possible ideas (besides the Gospel of the day) include:

- Healing of the Paralytic Mark 2:1-12
- Jairus and Woman with Hemorrhage Mark 5:21-43
- Feeding of the Five Thousand Mt. 14:13-21
- Christ Walks on the Waters Mt. 14:22-33

Use some 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. Picture the scene of the Gospel story. 5. Tell God of your longing & desire.

- For your meditation, pray with the scripture:
- Read it slowly (the exact opposite of speed reading).
- Listen until you hear something that attracts you and is beautiful.
- Rest in that word, image or sentence; sit and stay with it.
- Talk with Jesus about what you heard.
- Write it down.

In sum: Open the gospel. Read until you hear something. Stop. Talk about it. Write it down. Pray about what you wrote. This is how God communicates in personal prayer.

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church will NOT be "re-opening" for public Masses on 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.

Catholic Love/Life Virtual Conference (May 22-24, 2020) ... [presented by Jason Evert, the *Chastity Project*, many presenters] Register for the **FREE Catholic Love/Life Virtual Conference** at <https://www.virtualcatholicconference.com/chastity/>. This conference will be available worldwide between Friday, May 22, 2020, at 12:00pm EDT to Sunday, May 10, 2020, at Midnight.

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday:	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18 or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21

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 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: 5/10 - Loren Baxa, 5/16 - Jon Schmid, 5/17 - Kyle Troyer.

Congratulations: to Randy & Rebecca Nordquist who celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary May 15.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... If there is such a thing as a Catholic “trademark” it is the sign of the cross, first traced on the senses of catechumens as they begin the journey to baptism, or on the forehead of an infant who is brought to the doors of the church at baptism. As early as the third century, Christians were tracing the sign of the cross on their bodies. At first, the cross was traced on the forehead during times of prayer and daily occupations. We use a similar small cross today as we trace the cross over on the forehead, lips, and heart at the Gospel during Mass. Much later, the full-body sign traced from forehead to heart to shoulders took shape, perhaps copying the priest’s gesture of blessing with the consecrated host during Mass. Today, this superb baptismal gift is a sign of belonging to Christ and the community, a way of focusing our attention, of asking for God’s blessing, of tracing on our shoulders a willingness to find meaning in life’s burdens. In the sign of the cross, we have an ever-available means of expressing gratitude for our baptism. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

VOCATION ... Roman Catholics in the United States spend a good deal of time speaking of “vocation” and the manner in which each of us discerns our vocation for life. In today’s apostolic letter, however, Peter gives us the “cornerstone” of our vocation, the description of what each of us is called to first and foremost by our baptism. He describes our vocation as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of [God’s] own, so that you may announce the praises” of Christ, who called us out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9). All of us, no matter what path our life’s vocation may take us down, have been chosen by God, made holy, and anointed as priests in the high priesthood of Christ through baptism. All of this, so that we may announce the praises of Christ. Vocation is given for proclamation at home, in the workplace – wherever life takes us – in service, in word, and in sacrament. – Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

HUGS ... A mom’s hug lasts long after she lets go. —Anonymous

MARY, OUR MOTHER ... What a joy to remember that Mary is our Mother! Since she loves us and knows our weakness, what have we to fear? — Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Pray for our Seminarians: Matthew James Schilmoeller, from North American Martyrs Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2016. He is in Theology 1 at The North American College in Rome.

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.