

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>

6th Sunday of Easter ***May 17, 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 18 7:00 a.m.
 Tuesday May 19 7:00 a.m.
 *** ** * * * * * **Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord** *** ** * * * * *
 Wednesday May 20 **5:00 p.m.**
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus
 Thursday May 21 7:00 a.m.
 * * * * *
 Friday May 22 7:00 a.m.
 Saturday May 23 **5:00 p.m.**
 Sunday May 24 **8:00 a.m.**

INTENTIONS

Florentino Barron +
 John Rieker
 Book of Memories / Blessings
 Clouatre, Teresa +
 Martha Burbach +
 People of our Parish
 Fr. Ferdinand Boehme (Ordin.)

***I will ask the Father,
 and He will
 give you ...
 the spirit of truth.***
 — John 14:16-17

Stewardship: May 10, 2020

Adult Envelopes:\$980.00
Loose Plate:.....\$200.00
Children:\$0.00
Holy Day: (Ascension Thursday) \$0.00
Total:\$1,180.00

Joy of the Gospel Campaign
 Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$50.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$885,913.05
 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:\$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

Wednesday May 20 6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes ... 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***

Emmaus Institute Classes ... The Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies is now accepting registrations for online summer classes. Course topics include the Gospels, the Eucharist, Mary, and the Creed. Learn more at www.emmausinstitute.net.

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.

Pro-Life Feminism ... Susan B. Anthony (1889), abolitionist and early leader of the women's suffrage movement, opposed abortion, saying: "Sweeter even than to have had the joy of caring for children of my own has it been to me to help bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so their unborn little ones could not be killed away from them."

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.

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 receive the live-streaming, but a donation is not required. See the two retreats listed below:

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.

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 5:00pm**
Scheduled Times for Confession (in Parish Hall):
 • **Mon., Thu., Fri. ... 12:00pm-1:00pm**
 OR make an appointment for confession in the Parish Hall.

Charity & Stewardship Appeal CSA 2020 (DDP) ... The results thus far are: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton goal is **\$8,630.00!** The pledges so far total \$9,260.00, and \$9,040.00 has already been paid. There were 9 persons who pledged more in 2020 than in 2019 for a total of \$1,640.00 MORE! There were 2 persons who gave less in 2020 than in 2019, for a total of \$125.00 less. There were 17 persons who gave the same that they gave last year for a total of \$3,585.00. May the Lord reward you for your contributions and for giving what you have to Him. **There are still 18 cards out! If you haven't made your pledge, please either give online at: <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/diocese/charity-and-stewardship-appeal> or contact Fr. Seiker. Please be faithful to your pledges!**

P.6. Lectio Divina: One way to pray with Scripture ...

(by Father Gary Coulter, director, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House)

In the tradition of the Church, there is an excellent and reliable method for us to read these sacred books called lectio divina. An ancient form of praying in Scripture, lectio divina literally means "sacred reading". The second Vatican Council emphasized that devotion to sacred scripture is not limited to just reading and study, but rather any bible study should be done with prayer. "Let them remember that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and man may talk together" (DV 25).

In order to make scripture reading become a prayer of meditation, we need that preparation - it is customary to pray for inspiration before reading, asking God to speak to me through the sacred scriptures. You may recall from your youth the traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit, which all members of the Church should memorize.

Lectio divina normally involves four simple stages of prayer, each summarized by a Latin word. After the preparation, one usually chooses a passage of the gospels such as that day's reading for Mass.

1. **Lectio**, the actual "reading" of the text. It is the opposite of speed-reading! Do not be in a hurry. Do not skip any words. This may seem obvious, but too often it is easy to skim through passages, saying 'I've read it before' or 'I know the story'. This approach is dangerous, because when we approach Scripture, we can never force our own meanings on the text, 'what I think it says'. Some will even want to read the passage out loud. A practical help for reading the scriptures is to read as if for the first time, with a certain newness and curiosity, savoring the words. This practice will allow us new insights and a deeper appreciation of the true meaning of the text.

We read the passage slowly, pondering what God is saying to us through the words, & how they apply to our life. We must not rush the lectio.

2. **Meditatio**, meditation on the passage. For example, if I read a whole chapter of a Gospel, I will pick out a main passage or thought that struck me - this is part of our listening. Pick only one main section, perhaps no more than ten verses, and reread them very slowly. Sometimes after that I will even pick out just one key line, verse or words. Repeat them. Think and reflect on them. Recall that some may find it helpful to involve their imagination and emotions. Imagine the scene, notice the details and feelings, listen to the dialogue, hear the questions and answers, make connections to one's life.

Thus, we pause on a particular point and "ruminate" on it as long as it nourishes our soul, turning it into a prayer or dialogue with God that is filled with gratitude or adoration. This leads us into the next stage of Lectio Divina.

3. **Oratio**. Prayer, our conversation with God. Connect the words of Scripture to Christ who is present. Open to Christ speaking to you in this passage. Sometimes, we need to be silent, listen, and let God's Word speak to us; then we will be open to the true meaning of the text, and come to a deeper understanding of God's Word. Is there a challenge, a call, an invitation in this passage? How do I need to respond? How am I to live my life?

4. **Contemplatio**, contemplation is the point of the experience of union with God, the point to which all the saints aspire. Here one moves beyond words and images to God Himself. Recall that the sacred words which are meant to lead us to Him. Jesus Christ is the mystery at the heart of the words of Scripture. They point the way to Him and inviting all to join Him in the communion of faith and love. Contemplation is not relaxation, but rather expectation, being alert to God's presence, made ready for His approach by the previous three steps.

To repeat, in English, the four steps of **lectio divina** are 1) reading, 2) meditating, 3) praying, 4) contemplation.

We can read in full Pope Benedict's summary of the process of lectio divina in his 2010 apostolic exhortation *Verbum Domini*.

It opens with the reading (lectio) of a text, which leads to a desire to understand its true content: what does the biblical text say in itself? Without this, there is always a risk that the text will become a pretext for never moving beyond our own ideas. Next comes meditation (meditatio), which asks: what does the biblical text say to us? Here, each person, individually but also as a member of the community, must let himself or herself be moved and challenged. Following this comes prayer (oratio), which asks the question: what do we say to the Lord in response to his word? Prayer, as petition, intercession,

thanksgiving and praise, is the primary way by which the word transforms us. Finally, lectio divina concludes with contemplation (contemplatio), during which we take up, as a gift from God, his own way of seeing and judging reality, and ask ourselves what conversion of mind, heart and life is the Lord asking of us? In the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul tells us: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (12:2). Contemplation aims at creating within us a truly wise and discerning vision of reality, as God sees it, and at forming within us "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16). ... We do well also to remember that the process of lectio divina is not concluded until it arrives at action (actio), which moves the believer to make his or her life a gift for others in charity.

Thus some authors will add a fifth step: **action (actio)**, which means that growing in love for God will have concrete results in our lives. It will lead us to stronger resolution to turn from sin, it will lead us to practice virtue and especially live that same love God has shown to us, a life that is selfless, giving, and generous. God loves us too much to leave us where we're at, therefore our meditation also needs to be applied to ourselves and lived in our lives.

I also want to note that despite calling these steps, one's prayer does not always need be so structured, as lectio divina should flow naturally between each of the different steps. This does not mean, however, that any of the steps should be intentionally skipped or shortened - one needs to allot time for contemplation to occur.

Do not think, before beginning, that one needs to be an "expert" in **lectio divina**. Be patient with yourself, but do not delay in practicing it. Even if one doesn't feel they have reached contemplation, the practice of **lectio divina** will illuminate both the scriptures and our prayer. After having exhausted one point, we move on to the next or continue reading. And through prayerful reading of the Scriptures, Christ heals and frees, he leads people to conform their lives to his, so they may know him and arrive at the fullness of union with him.

Again, it will be advisable near the end of one's time in prayer to review all our considerations, to thank God for the graces and insights we have received, and to form resolutions, asking God to help us put them into action.

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:

- Call of Peter: Put Out into the Deep Luke 5:1-11
- The Woman at the Well John 4:1-42
- The Woman Caught in Adultery John 8:1-11
- The Rich Young Man Luke 18:18-30

Use some preparatory steps to enter prayer: 1. Raise your mind and put yourself in God's presence. 2. Ask for his grace to open your heart and stay focused. 3. Offer God this time and yourself. 4. Picture the scene of the Gospel story. 5. Tell God of the desires of your heart.

For your **lectio divina**, read the scripture passage three times, slowly.

1. **With eyes to see:** what word or phrase jumps out at you, speaks to you, strikes you? Take a little time to sit with that word or phrase. What is God highlighting in this passage?
2. **With ears to hear:** building on the first step, in this second reading what is God telling you? Talk to him about it. Have a small conversation about what he is saying, go further / deeper and hear more. Be silent and allow the Lord to speak.
3. **With change to make:** prayerful read a third time, asking God to show you what to change in your life. Let the encounter with His Word shape you. Is God inviting you to take a step closer to Him, especially with what you saw and heard in the first two steps? Have a conversation, ask Him about it: what will this change mean for you? Respond by ask for the grace and giving God your "yes" to His word and his will.

(Three steps summarized from a guide to lectio divina by Focus, a Catholic campus ministry.)

To conclude: Say a memorized prayer. Take some notes. Express thanks to God for any way he touched your heart or spoke to you. Examine what helped me to pray vs. what cause distractions. Write down your new resolution and some practical steps to make it happen.

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday:	Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a

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: 5/16 - Jon Schmid, 5/17 - Kyle Troyer, 5/18 - Charles Barron, 5/19 - Jarrod Connelly, Blake Niesen.

Congratulations: to Dennis & Trudy Brosius who celebrate their 56th Wedding Anniversary May 23.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... There is a geography to the liturgy of baptism that distills the journey of faith. Each part of the liturgy is assigned to a distinct part of the church building. Baptism, whether of infants carried to church by their parents or of adults following the paschal candle into a darkened church at Easter, starts at the door. First, a threshold must be crossed and a new community of meaning and memory encountered for the first time. Then, the celebration moves to the place for God's Word. Next, as the litany of the saints is sung, there is a procession to the font. Finally, the movement is to the table, the altar of the Eucharist. There, newly baptized adults are brought to the sacred meal, or the parents of infants are blessed and reminded that their child will one day share fully in the table's banquet. Many Catholic churches honor this geography by placing the font near the door, or at least small vessels with water. The doorway of our church is a place of memory, and a passageway to a new way of living. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE ... "What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LIGHT OF BELIEF ... Every believer in this world must become a spark of light. — Pope Saint John XXIII

PATRIOTISM ... Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.
— Mark Twain

Pray for our Seminarians: Mitchell Salcedo Schleiss, from Sacred Heart Parish in Shelby. He entered the Seminary in 2018. He is in Pre-Theology 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.