

# 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>

## ***7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*** ***May 24, 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](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	May 25	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Tuesday	May 26	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
Wednesday	May 27	<b>7:00 a.m.</b>
<b>6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours =&gt; Spend time with Jesus</b>		
Thursday	May 28	7:00 a.m.
Friday	May 29	7:00 a.m.
Saturday	May 30	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
Sunday	May 31	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>

## INTENTIONS

MaKenna Ketter  
 Msgr. Dan Seiker (bap)  
 Fr. Gary Brethour (Ordin.Anniv)  
 Liv/Dec mem. Bode/Ruskamp families  
 Martha Burbach +  
 Bishop James Conley (Bp.Ordin.Anniv)  
 People of our Parish

*They have kept  
your word.*

— John 17:6b

## Stewardship: May 17, 2020

**Adult Envelopes:** .....\$1,155.00  
**Loose Plate:** .....\$0.00  
**Children:** .....\$0.00  
**Holy Day:** (Ascension Thursday) \$125.00  
**Total:** .....\$1,280.00

**Joy of the Gospel Campaign**  
 Total Pledged: .....\$958,770.00  
 Gifts last week: .....\$460.00  
**Total Gifts Received: .....\$886,373.05**  
 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: .....\$15.00

## Parish Calendar

Monday	May 25	<b>8:00am Virtual Mass for Memorial Day</b>
Wednesday	May 27	<b>6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration</b>
Saturday	May 30	<b>5:00pm PUBLIC MASS</b> <i>Those who could not be received into the Church at Easter Vigil will be received into the Church.</i>
Sunday	May 31	<b>10:00am PUBLIC MASS</b>

## Catholic School News:

CONGRATULATIONS to the CLASS OF 2020! Behind you, all your memories. Before you, all your dreams. Around you, all who love you. Within you, all you need. GOD BLESS YOU ALL! As this school year ends, it's time to start thinking about next year. A new year, a new beginning! Enroll NOW for Preschool-12<sup>th</sup> & become a part of our IRISH family where faith and commitment to academic success remains strong! We're not just a school system, we are a value system. For information contact Gwen Covey @ 308.532.1874 or [g.covey@npcschools.org](mailto:g.covey@npcschools.org).

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

## Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats ...

Good Counsel Retreat House is able to bring you online at-home Saturday Reflections. For all these virtual retreats, registration is required to receive the live-streaming, but a donation is not required. See below:

**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](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com), goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705.

**Online Retreat with Bart Schuchts ...** Online Retreat June 12-13, 2020 with Bart Schuchts of the John Paul II Healing Center, "Abiding in His Love," on John Ch. 15. A free-will offering is asked for the live-streamed talks, sponsored by Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House: [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com), goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705

**Scheduled Masses:** All Masses are being livestreamed over ZOOM. See Meeting ID at <http://seas-np.org/covid-19-mass-videos-at-seas/> Videos of Masses available on parish webpage 1 hr after Mass ends -<http://seas-np.org/covid-19-mass-videos-at-seas/>

• **Mon at 8:00am, Tue at 5:00pm, Wed, Thu, Fri at 7:00am**

## Scheduled Times for Confession (in Parish Hall):

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

**Seven Sisters Apostolate Retreat ...** We have been in contact with the speaker, Janette Howe, foundress of the International Seven Sister Movement, who was planning to come to our parish July 18. With the current unknown world conditions Janette feels it is best to cancel her trip to our parish this summer. We will be in contact again next winter and hopefully we will be able to host Janette then. So Sorry!

## 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. This Appeal is important to our Parish and our Diocese. Please be faithful to your pledges!**

## Human Life Exalted ...

Jesus prayed on the night before he died, "Father, give me the glory I had with you before the world began." How is the glory he has in the Ascension different from the glory he had "before the world began?" It differs only in that now, he has it in a human nature. Our humanity has been taken to the heights of heaven, fulfilling the destiny God intended for human life from the beginning. Revelation 3:21 declares, "To the one who gains the victory, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne." God's plan for us is not just that we will gather around the throne or fall down before the throne, but that we will sit with him on the throne! This hope extended to the human family by the Gospel is directly contradicted when the same human beings destined for the heights of heaven are attacked by violence, degraded in their dignity, or put to death by things like abortion. The human nature Jesus brings to glory in the Ascension is the same human nature you and I share, and the same human nature that the babies in the womb share. Celebrating the Ascension in daily life means treating each human life as one destined to sit with Christ on his throne.

**Fr. Seiker at Jesus Caritas Fraternity meeting ...** with priests at a "social distance" in Lincoln, **Mon, May 25 – Tue, May 26.**

## **Spiritual Communion/Actual Communion/Purpose of the Mass ...** (from Dr. David Anders' s 05/06/20 EWTN radio program)

The idea of Spiritual Communion is actually grounded deep in the theology of the Church and in our union with Christ. ... St. Thomas Aquinas says that it is possible to have a merely bodily reception of the Eucharist that is not actually ... spiritually fruitful, it does not bring us to Salvation. Paul talks about receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord in an unworthy manner and therefore bringing condemnation on ourselves and not spiritual life. (1 Cor 11:27) And so you have to have both. You have to have the physical reception of the Eucharist, but it must be accompanied by a union in our will, in our mind and heart with the sacrifice of Christ and with the will of God. That interior union that we seek with Jesus is a spiritual communion; that is what it is. When in our devotional life and imagination, we bring that to bear in reflection upon the Eucharistic species itself, we can combine these two acts of devotion in a very, very, powerful way in our interior life. And sometimes by necessity, if we are deprived of the physical reception of the Eucharist, we can reflect on the Eucharist in this way and unite ourselves and our will to God and to His Son, Jesus Christ, and communion with Him in spirit.

**If we can commune spiritually with the Lord, then why bother going to Mass?** What do we gain by being in the Mass that we could not gain simply by a spiritual Communion? I think the question perhaps evidences a misunderstanding of the principle purpose of the Mass.

The principal purpose of the Mass is **not** that we receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. That is not the principal purpose of the Mass. If all we want to do was to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, it is not necessary to do so in Mass. In fact, every priest who carries the Blessed Sacrament with him in a pyx, say for example he is going to the Hospital to give Communion to the sick. He can give Holy Communion out to somebody, not in context of Mass. ... If the only point of a Mass was to consecrate the species ... In other words, the Mass is a kind of real presence manufacturing facility. The priest could sit around saying private Masses all day long, consecrate a bunch of host, and then run out on the street corners and hand them out. If that is all you wanted to do was receive Holy Communion, there is no need for the faithful to go to Mass. But that is not the principal purpose of the Mass.

**The principal function of the Mass is that the entire church offers a sacrifice to God.** That is the point. Jesus says, "the Father seeks those true worshippers who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth." (Jn 4:23) St. Paul tells us in Romans 12:1 "the worship of spirit and truth is the offering of Sacrifice." ... That is the chief act in the virtue of religion. What do we offer to God in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? We offer Him the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of His Son Jesus, who is made present on the Altar. That is the point. Pope Pius XII in his Encyclical Mediator Dei says, "Our participation in this sacrifice, in the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, our intentional offering of the immaculate victim, Christ Himself, is the chief and best means of our gaining sanctity and redemption." So if you want to be saved, if you want to go to Heaven, Pius XII teaches that the best way to do this is to learn how to make the offering of Christ **in** the Mass, to God the Father, intentionally, along with the offering of your own life.

So every Catholic who learns the Morning offering, "Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, suffering and sorrows, **along with** the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, offered through the world." That's it, that is the ticket right there. And remember St. Faustina's prayer, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, "Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son Our Lord Jesus Christ." Where do we God the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ? In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. That is why we go. We go to make the offering. **And we go to make the offering as a community.** Because God deserves not simply our private interior life, but He deserves public worship. That God be adored in society, and not just in our own private life. Religion is not a private matter. It is a very public matter. ... and the Sacrifice of the Mass is the public worship of the Church. We gather in community to make this offering. That is the #1 reason we go, and a spiritual communion ... does not fulfill any of that.

Secondly, we do go to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. And a Sacrament by definition is physical. It is tangible. It is visible. Spiritual Communion is none of those things. It may be powerful, but it is not tangible, and it is not physical, and it is not visible. The point of a sacrament is that we can have a tangible point of reference to which God has attached a promise. God did not say "Whenever you intend a Spiritual Act of Communion, I promise to be there, accompanying you and to fulfill that intention." ... He says, if you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have life. He attaches the Sacramental promise to the tangible sign of the consecrated species. That is the point of the sacraments, that we can have a tangible point of reference.

So also, we go to Mass and receive Holy Communion, to be drawn together into community. The end of our redemption is not simply a private relationship with God, my personal relationship with Jesus, but is a corporate relationship with his body the Church. Christ said to St. Paul on the road to Damascus: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? He didn't say why are you persecuting my followers? He said why are you persecuting me? The identification of Christ with His Mystical Body, the Church, is profound, and our salvation comes in union not just with the incarnate Lord but with His Mystical Body the Church. That is why St. Cyprian can say: "Outside the Church, no salvation." If you don't acknowledge your unity with the Mystical Body of Christ that is the Church, you don't understand what it means to be saved. *[I just need me and Jesus, don't need any Priests, don't need any Bishops. Don't need the guy next to me with the squeaky boots and the bad breath.]* Wrong you do. You absolutely need those guys. Because it is reconciliation with your neighbor. Blessed are the peacemakers ... that is integral to the redemption that we have in Christ. The Mass and the Eucharist are both the expression and the instrument of bringing that union to pass.

I have made friends with all kinds of people that I would have never known outside the Catholic Church. I would just hang out with people like me. ... The Catholic Church kind of forces you into fellowship with "those people"; whoever "those people" are. You got to shake hands with people that you wouldn't otherwise shake hands with. And that is good for us.

Finally, our reception of Holy Communion in Mass is subject to (*because it is a public act*) the jurisdiction of the Church, who excludes some people from Holy Communion: you can't come up, you are not allowed in, because you are doing something that you ought not to do. When we go forward and receive Communion in a public manner, with the approbation of the Church, it is a witness from an authority that is not me, that I am actually in that communion. That the Church is not excluding me from the Mass means that they are intentionally including me in it, counting me as one of the members of Christ's flock. That is another mode in which my public participation in the Mass signals my inclusion in the people of God.

## **FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church will "re-open" for Public Masses on May 30** ... Mass will continue to be live streamed!

### **General Guidelines:**

- The dispensation from the Sunday obligation remains in place.
- All forms of public liturgies in Churches are permitted.
- All other parish and school activities remain restricted, including after-Mass gatherings such as coffee and rolls, funeral luncheons, wedding receptions, etc. The Bishop has restricted outdoor Mass.

### **The following are encouraged to stay at home:**

- The sick and elderly and people with underlying medical conditions
- Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk
- People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions
- People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
- People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
- People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19
- People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

### **Requested "Containment Practices" for those attending Mass:**

- Family members sit together
- Sit in every other pew; Cough in your sleeve
- Place your contribution envelope in basket provided in the Narthex
- Form a single file line with 6-foot intervals when processing forward to receive Holy Communion

## Liturgical Ministers

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

## *Readings for the Week*

Monday:	Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
Sunday:	Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

**Prayers for the sick:** Steve Haman, 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:** 5/25 – Brock Devore, 5/27 - Leo Hampton, 5/28 - Alice Robinson, 5/29 - Cody Leathers, 5/30 - Jerry Beckius.

**Congratulations:** to Dennis & Trudy Brosius who celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary May 23.

**Congratulations:** to Duane & Heather Johnsen who celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary May 27.

**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.

**DEVOTED TO PRAYER ...** Today, as we await Pentecost, we come to the end of the baptismal homily from Peter that we have heard over the past few weeks. This homily was written by a realist who knew the joy and the glory of a Resurrection faith, but also knew that the strength of that faith would be put to the test and tried in suffering. Earlier this year we heard Jesus preach, "Blessed are you when they insult you ... because of me" (Matthew 5:11) and this is echoed today by Peter. These words are also formed in the image of Christ who prays to the Father in heaven today, a prayer that is placed in John's Gospel right before Jesus endures his suffering and death. Our awaiting the Spirit, awaiting our mission for Christ means that we are, most likely, awaiting some sort of trial and suffering. We don't endure the same degree of persecution that Peter and John knew, but each of us has our faith put to the test eventually. And it is for this reason that we, like Jesus and like those faithful followers gathered in the upper room, devote ourselves to prayer. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**HEAVEN...** The world is only peopled to people heaven. — St. Francis de Sales

**Memorial Day ...** "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

**Pray for our Seminarians:** Tony Clint Schukei, from St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2016. He is in Theology 2 at St. Charles Borromeo 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.