

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>

Pentecost Sunday ***May 31, 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 June 1 8:00 a.m.
 Tuesday June 2 7:00 a.m.
 Wednesday June 3 5:30 p.m.
 Thursday June 4 8:00 a.m.
 Friday June 5 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday June 6 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday June 7 10:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

-- NO Mass -- (Fr. Seiker on
 -- NO Mass -- Priests Retreat at
 -- NO Mass -- Good Counsel Retreat
 -- NO Mass -- House in Waverly)
 Jacob Buhrman
 Steve & Kathy Haman
 People of our Parish
 Michael & Adel Fischer & Family

NO Eucharistic Holy Hours with Blessed Sacrament Exposed this week

followed by: *Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & all night Adoration*

*There appeared to them
 tongues as of fire,
 which parted and
 came to rest
 on each one of them.*

— Acts 2:3

Stewardship: May 24, 2020

Adult Envelopes:\$1,145.00
Loose Plate:\$10.00
Children:\$0.00
Holy Day: (Easter)..... \$20.00
Holy Day: (Ascension Thursday) . \$130.00
Total:\$1,305.00

Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$250.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$886,623.05
 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

Parish Calendar

Sun., May 31 – Thur. June 4 Fr. Seiker on **Annual Priest Retreat** at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly
 Wednesday June 3 **NO Eucharistic Holy Hours with Blessed Sacrament Exposed this week** (Fr. Seiker on Priest Retreat)
 Thursday June 4 1:00pm: Adult Bible Study via ZOOM (contact Teri Volesky)
 Friday June 5 6:00pm – 8:00am (on Saturday): First Friday Holy Hours / Eucharistic Adoration

Catholic School News:

SCRIP sales have resumed after weekend Masses! Visit the table in the gathering area to purchase gift cards in support of the North Platte Catholic Schools. A variety of local and national retailers available. You pay nothing extra! All purchases help support tuition assistance for families at NPC. SCRIP is sold after weekend Masses at St. Pat's and Holy Spirit, and during the week at the Endowment Office (601 S. Tabor). The office is open 10:00am-3:00pm daily.

*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:

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, goodcounsel@cdolinc.net, 402-786-2705.

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. We're so sorry!

Crossroads Walkers ...

to be in North Platte Jun 27-28, 2020. Please pray for them as they walk across the country for the right to life.

"How to Pray" Series ...

(by Father Gary Coulter, director, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House). If you missed any of the How to Pray Series. They are available on our webpage in one pdf file under the Resources Tab under COVID-19 Resources and also under the Faith Resources. The Application: Prayer Exercises Series is also available there.

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!**

Pentecost Voice ...

The Holy Spirit, who came on Pentecost, gave voice to the apostles to proclaim the truth of the Gospel. The Spirit, the Soul of the Church, continues to enable the Church to speak, and enables us to speak in our individual capacity. As Cardinal Elio Sgreccia, President Emeritus of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life has said, "The Church must speak out in today's context on fundamental rights, the right to justice, the right to peace, but above all and in the first place, the right to life. If the Church did not speak, did not proclaim the truth, it would be abandoning its duty; it would be unfaithful to society, to the good of society. Therefore, its precise duty is the very liberty to intervene with word, and also with example – the example of promoting human life, of intervening for the salvation of mankind."

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Fr. Seiker on Retreat ... I will be gone from the Parish **THIS WEEK**, Sunday to Thursday (**May 31 – June 4**) for my annual retreat at Good Counsel Retreat House (the Retreat is from Sunday evening – Thursday evening). I will be at my parents Thursday evening & return Friday afternoon.

Spiritual Communion/Actual Communion/Purpose of the Mass ... (from Dr. David Anders' 05/06/20 EWTV 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 offer to 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.

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
- Avoid gathering in Narthex or near the doors of church after Mass

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday:	2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Ps 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16; Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday:	2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 123:1b-2; Mk 12:18-27
Thursday:	2 Tm 2:8-15; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Mk 12:28-34
Friday:	2 Tm 3:10-17; Ps 119:157,160,161,165,166,168; 1-6; Mk 12:35-37
Saturday:	2 Tm 4:1-8; Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22; Mk 12:38-44
Sunday:	Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52-55; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

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 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: 5/30 - Jerry Beckius, 6/4 - James Barger, 6/5 - Tim Behm.

Congratulations: to Michael & Carissa Lafleur who celebrate their 5th Wedding Anniversary June 6.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... Before there was water, there was fire. Once in a while, a volcano hints at the sizzling magma upon which the whole human enterprise floats. Over eons, the surface cooled off a bit, and rain sizzled down for thousands of centuries, filling the oceans and sculpting the earth. We Christians can catch God's glory in a shimmering pool of water, but we can also capture God's burning desire to fan the tiny flames of our baptismal candles into something that will make a difference. In Sicily to this day, there is a custom of scattering rose petals down from the ceiling of church on the heads of the faithful, an effective reminder of the "tongues of flame" descending on the apostles, and a sign that the Holy Spirit still is poured out on the baptized. It is not merely a quaint custom, but a fairly potent sign of what baptism does. An interesting sidebar: if you have traced the Epiphany blessing on your doorway in chalk, Pentecost is the day to erase it. From now on, no need to rely on the "wise men" – you are alive in the Spirit!

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THE RICHNESS OF THE SPIRIT ... Students, and most adults recalling their school days, are familiar with the phrase "compare and contrast" that shows up from time to time on tests. Today we hear two different accounts of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church. Let's contrast, then compare. Luke's account from Acts is filled with arresting details: the mighty wind from heaven, the tongues of flame, the miracle of different languages. John's account seems timid: fearful disciples, the wounded Christ, the expelling of breath from his risen body, not from the sky. Our literal, modern minds wonder which way it happened; our noisy culture probably makes us prefer the former. But if we compare the two, we find that the dazzling richness of the Spirit fills both accounts, for it is the very breath of the risen Christ, ascended to the sky in Luke, that appears to his disciples in John and sends his followers forth to carry on his mission of forgiving sin and proclaiming the mighty acts of God.

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PENTECOST ... Unless the eye catch fire, God will not be seen. Unless the ear catch fire, God will not be heard. Unless the tongue catch fire, God will not be named. Unless the heart catch fire, God will not be loved. Unless the mind catch fire, God will not be known. — St. Francis de Sales

Pray for our Seminarians: Christian Thomas Schwenka, from Holy Family Parish in Heartwell. He entered the Seminary in 2016. He is in Theology 2 at Mount Saint Mary 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.

(June) Prayer Intention for Evangelization: The Way of the Heart: We pray that all those who suffer may find their way of life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.