

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
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2nd Sunday of Advent *December 6, 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	Dec. 7	8:00 a.m.	For reparation and healing *** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ***
Monday	Dec 7	5:30 p.m.	Beatrice Estrada +
Tuesday	Dec 8	7:00 a.m.	Matthew Foley (-bap)
		12:10 p.m.	Conception Barron +
		7:00 p.m.	People of our Parish
8:00pm - Midnight: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Nat'l Night Prayer for Life * *** **			
Wednesday	Dec. 9	5:30 p.m.	Bryson David Rieker
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus			
Thursday	Dec. 10	8:00 a.m.	Elli (Fugate) Schmidt
Friday	Dec. 11	12:10 p.m.	Special Intention (jls)
		5:30 p.m.	For our Benefactors
Saturday	Dec 12	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention
		5:00 p.m.	People of our Parish
		6:30 p.m.	In Thanksgiving
Sunday	Dec. 13	10:00 a.m.	Eloise Kramer +

INTENTIONS

**Some people have
yet to learn that
they cannot travel
in the wrong direction
and reach the
right destination.**

*** **

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.**

Mk 1:3

Stewardship: November 29, 2020

Adult Envelopes:\$4,047.50
Loose Plate:.....\$48.15
Children:\$0.00
Holy Day: (All Saints Day) \$0.00
Total:\$4,095.65

Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$320.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$897,573.05
 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:.....\$1,712,678.04
Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$54,536.89

NP Catholic Food Pantry:..\$10.00
 Contemplative Sisters:....\$340.00

Parish Calendar

Sunday	Dec. 6	11:30am: Family Formation, Parents & Children
Tuesday	Dec. 8	8:00pm-12:00am: National Night of Prayer for Life
Wednesday	Dec. 9	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm-9:00pm: RCIA Classes
Thursday	Dec. 10	1:00pm: Adult Bible Study via Zoom (contact Teri Volesky)
Sunday	Dec. 13	11:00am: Christmas Card Writing Party in Parish Hall; 1:30pm=McDaid Virtual Christmas Program

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: Dec. 7: 2:00pm- JH G & B BB vs Maywood, 6:00pm- Res BBB @ Hershey, Dec. 8: 4:30pm- G&B Bball vs. Creek Valley, Dec. 10: 4:00pm- JH GBB @ NPMS, 4:30pm- G&B Bball @ Maxwell, 6:00pm- WR @ Kearney Catholic Tri, Dec. 11- 3:00pm- WR @ St. Pat's, Dec. 12: ACT Test Date, 9:30am- JH G&B Bball @ Sutherland, 2:30pm- G & B Bball @ Hershey, Dec. 13: 1:30pm- McDaid Virtual Christmas Program will be released on Facebook and NPCS YouTube.

Free Tuition: NPCS is excited to announce that we are now offering transfers and new families FREE tuition for the 2020-21 2nd Semester.

* Welcoming students of all Faiths

* High Average ACT--currently @ a 27

* 100% Graduation Rate ... * Numerous NSAA Activities.

An application and interview process is in place, with a deadline of December 18, 2020. The free semester will begin on January 4, 2021. We aim to educate the whole child, and promise that you will be making a priceless investment in your child's future. If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about our schools, please contact PR/Enrollment Director, Gwen Covey (308-532-1874) or g.covey@npcschools.org.

Student of the Month: November student of the month is Madison (Madi) Gifford. Teachers and Student Council members voted on a student to receive this honor. Madi, a sophomore, is the daughter of Danny and Natalie Gifford of North Platte. Her school activities include cross country, cheer, track, S.A.I.N.T.S., choir, swing choir, one-act, and the Pro-Life group. Outside of school, she finds time to volunteer at parish events and participates as a lector at Mass. She is currently attending Confirmation classes. She and her family are members of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Madi has three younger siblings – Braelyn (8th grade), Cooper (4th grade), and Hadley (pre-school), all at NPCS.

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

Family Formation Parent's Meeting ... Our December Meeting is on Sunday, December 6, 11:30am-12:30pm in Parish Hall, for all parents of School age children, and in person classes for children Grades K-6. Children, Teachers, and Parents will all be asked to wear masks during the classes (similar to what is being done in many schools). **Parents are asked to teach their children by their example ... it is important for parents to learn the faith also! Every day is a school day!**

Meal for New Parents ... Andy & Maggie Butler's new baby, Paige Therese, was born 11/11/20. A meal schedule is set for them online via TakeThemAMeal.com. If you want to make them a dinner go to <https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/DVJV9230>, or call Emily (520-6673).

Christmas Card Writing Party! ... Who: YOU – each of you! **When:** Sunday, December 13 after the 10:00am Mass. **What:** Join us for music, pre-packaged food, coffee & hot chocolate. We will be writing notes into Christmas Cards for parish members who are in Nursing Homes or "staying home" this season. The Kiddos can color bookmarks or holiday pictures while you write a Christmas wish to someone. These cards will be sent in lieu of the usual cookie / fruit plates. If you have a set or a few cards left from another Christmas season, you are welcome to bring them. All other materials will be provided. Please join us for this fun, parish activity. *Joyfully, The Daughters of Charity.*

Advent Baby Shower ... You are invited to an Advent Baby Shower as we anticipate the Good News and the Great Joy of our Savior's birth. During Advent, a cradle will be in the narthex to be filled with items for the needs of the Women's Resource Center. Gift ideas for pregnant mothers and their babies are posted. (Matthew 25:31-46).

Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House www.goodcounselretreat.com, 402-786-2705, or goodcounsel@cdolinc.net. **Upcoming in-person and online retreats including:**

December – January Schedule:

- Dec. 19 (1 Day) ... Fr. Jeff Eickhoff (Men / Women)
(9:00am – 4:00pm) God is not Socially Distant
- Jan. 1-4 Fr. Chris Barak & Fr. Gary Coulter.... Men / Women
“4-day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat” (Fri-Mon)
- Jan. 7-10 Fr. Gary Coulter Men / Women
“4-day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat” (Thur-Sun)
- Jan. 15-17 Fr. Thomas MacLean Men / Women
“Perspectives on the Gift of Life (and Jan. 16 Walk for Life)”
- Jan. 21-24 Matt Simmons..... Men / Women
“4-day Private Directed Ignatian Retreat” (Thur-Sun)

Did you know our Retreat House has a Global Outreach?

- ... Retreat from a Pandemic ... **in the First 6 months of COVID ...**
- 106 in-person laity attended smaller, socially distanced retreats
 - 1,075 signed up for virtual retreats via live-stream, and even more watched recordings.
 - 42 States from Florida to California, Texas to Michigan & District of Columbia.
 - 16 Countries from every continent; from Australia to the Philippines, as far as the Arabic country of Oman.

Together we can change lives ... Join our Family! Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. As **Psalm 27** says so well:

The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?

He will keep me safe in His dwelling.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

Take courage, be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!

Each of these verses is a prayer in itself. Remember and repeat them in any time of darkness and instability.

Thankfully, **Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House** has been able to help many people look to the Lord, continuing to carry out its mission, even in difficult times. Through inspiring retreats, we seek to provide a sanctuary & experience which leads people to encounter Jesus Christ & have been able to transform & renew the spiritual lives of many.

“The pandemic required us to adapt by holding smaller retreats with increased social distance and by providing online retreats,” said Fr. Gary Coulter, director of **Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House**. “Indeed, by holding small retreats, we were able to provide the sacraments to people who had no other access to the Eucharist or Confession when churches were closed. Our livestream retreats have enabled us to reach a much broader audience throughout the U.S. and even touch lives around the globe.”

One online retreatant **Tami Pytlik from Ceresco** shared: “Even though I was at home, I really felt connected through the prayers and talks. It was different but showed me the outreach of God, that nothing limits His love and guidance.”

“I would recommend an online retreat to anyone who cannot attend in person during COVID because the experience brought God to my home, to my family. My family reaped the benefits ... I was able to meditate on talks while better serving them!”

“Our mission has become even more essential when so many are battling anxiety & loneliness, feeling isolated & helpless,” said Fr. Coulter. “Our virtual retreats have been an answer & real godsend for many shut-ins, providing a meaningful connection to others & to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.”

Kerstin Mullen-Bagby from St. Patrick parish in Lincoln said, “I always wanted to attend a retreat in person but couldn’t afford it. So online retreats have been wonderful since they are free-will donation.”

“I love the option of going back and watching on YouTube parts that I miss. Distractions are harder unless you make a prayer corner in your home. The retreats spoke to my heart about growing closer to God and being a child of God.”

Al Zach, office manager and development director of the Retreat House explained, “Although we never turn away anyone for an inability to pay, the online retreats have certainly helped those who are currently unemployed or on a fixed income. Some of our online retreatants are now ‘locked-in’ as many nursing homes and facilities do not allow visitors. Joining online retreats has been an opportunity and blessing for them.”

National Night of Prayer ... Come let us adore Him! In the womb! The 31st Annual National Night of Prayer for Life is **Tuesday, December 8**, from **8:00pm-12:00am**. Join in unity of prayer across America and the entire world in this life-saving event asking for the Blessed Mother’s intercession. The Night of Prayer for Life includes Exposition, Adoration, silent prayer, and hymns. Each hour begins with a Mystery of the Rosary. Come and spend some time with our Lord.

Mass of the Holy Innocents ... The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated on **Monday, December 28**. All are invited to attend this Memorial Mass, especially those families who have suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. Reading of names will begin at 6:30pm with Mass at 7:00pm. This year, the Mass will take place at **Cathedral of the Risen Christ Church** due to the pandemic and social distancing measures. The Cathedral is located at 3500 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln. If you would like your child’s name to be remembered & placed on the banner, please call the Office of Family Life at 473-0620 before 5:00pm on Fri. Dec. 18. If you placed your child’s name previously, it will remain on the list.

The Divine Child’s Birth ... Advent leads the Church to the Silent Night when God Himself is revealed as one of us. This season leads us to the joy of His birth. If God has joined His nature to ours, how can we ever allow our nature to be despised? If He has come to bring us Divine Life, and will return to take us to the skies, how can it be all right to throw people in the garbage? May His birth shed protection on all about to be born, and as we work to end abortion, may we “wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

From NCC (Nebraska Catholic Conference) ... (text copied from NCC email) Do you have an advance directive yet? As we approach the holiday season, we are reminded to take stock of our many blessings and give thanks to God for the gift of our lives. And one thing this pandemic has taught us is that we can be quickly and unexpectedly faced with serious health challenges and difficult medical decisions.

Now is a great time to take the steps to ensure that our loved ones and medical personnel are not left without direction and knowledge of your wishes. To that end, we have recently revised our informational packet on medical decision-making (https://necatholic.org/file_download/inline/15384dbf-63c9-45cb-b52c-121cc1f60146), which includes a sample advance directive for your use (https://necatholic.org/file_download/inline/4aad0f3f-6afd-4628-b658-df2c1b2872e7).

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

New Pew Missals available ... beginning 11/29/20, new Pew Missals are available in the Church Narthex. **Parishioners are asked to pick up a new Pew Missal** and to use it during Mass for the Scriptures, Prayers, and the Music. **After Mass, Please take the Pew Missal home with you and BRING It Back each week!** This is YOUR PEW MISSAL from now until NEXT YEAR, November 26, 2021. **These New Pew Missals are for the entire Liturgical Year (from Nov. 28, 2020 – Nov. 26, 2021).** It might be appropriate to note that our cost last year fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) for missalettes from JS Paluch (recently sold to GIA) was \$1,489.60. The cost for these Pew Missals (same number) is \$1,112.50.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER (CCC) ... beginning with the 11/29/20 Bulletin, we will not be using quotes from the J. S. Paluch Co. on the Bulletin back page. **Instead, you are invited to deepen your knowledge and experience of prayer!** The Catechism of the Catholic Church (abbreviated CCC) is arranged in Four Sections: **The Profession of Faith (the Creed); The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Sacraments); Life in Christ (Morality); Christian Prayer.** Each week, we will include a paragraph or two from the 4th Section of the CCC on Christian Prayer. In addition to the text from the Catechism, the text of the footnotes will also be printed. You are encouraged to read the Catechism and then when you come to a footnote, to go down and read the footnote and integrate and/or synthesize the two together. Also pray about what you have read. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in prayer!

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Liturgical Calendar & Saints

Saturday:	Dec. 5	Advent Weekday
Sunday:	Dec. 6	2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B
Monday:	Dec. 7	St. Ambrose (<i>Memorial</i>)
Tuesday:	Dec. 8	The Immaculate Conception (<i>Solemnity</i>)
Wednesday:	Dec. 9	Advent Weekday St. Juan Diego (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Thursday:	Dec. 10	Advent Weekday Our Lady of Loretto (<i>Opt. Mem</i>)
Friday:	Dec. 11	Advent Weekday St. Damasus I (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Saturday:	Dec. 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe (<i>Feast</i>)
Sunday:	Dec. 13	3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Prayers for the sick: Vinette Tenopir (Mickie Morlang's mother), Rick Ryan, Sheila Exner, Cathy Leathers, Tucker Smith, Robert Wessell, J.D. Troyer, Cindy Ryan, Dean & Janice Large, Jennifer Schmid, Steve Haman, Sharon Beckius, Those affected with/by COVID-19, Theresa McCarthy-Garth, Troy Tickle, Iris Wyman Lloyd, Peggy Lawler, 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: Leo Walz, Bonnie Greco (Ashley Perlinger's grandmother), Shirley Lindekugel, Beatrice Estrada, **Eloise Kramer** (Monica Kramer's mother), **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: 12/5 - Cindy Swanson, Mike Paul, 12/6 - Adam Burbach, 12/7 - Leigha Burbach, Philip Heimann, 12/8 - Jessica Devore, 12/9 - Grace Ryland, 12/11 - Gabe Ryland, 12/12 - Chuck Burr, Weston Hammond.

Congratulations: to **George & Kwei Kucera** who celebrate their **30th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 7.**

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Second Edition) PART FOUR – CHRISTIAN PRAYER

SECTION ONE – PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Prayer as God's gift

2559 “Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.”² But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or “out of the depths” of a humble and contrite heart?³ He who humbles himself will be exalted;⁴ humility is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that “we do not know how to pray as we ought,”⁵ are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. “Man is a beggar before God.”⁶

2 St. John Damascene, *Defide orth.* 3,24:PG 94,1089C.

3 *Ps* 130:1. “Out of the depths I call to you, LORD.”

4 Cf. *Lk* 18:9-14. ⁹He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. ¹⁰“Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’ ¹³But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ ¹⁴I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

5 *Rom* 8:26. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

6 St. Augustine, *Sermo* 56,6,9:PL 38,381.

Pray for our Seminarians: **Dale Jonathan Alder**, from St. Peter Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2014. He is in Theology 4 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 ...

(December) Prayer intention for evangelization - For a life of prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.