

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

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2nd Sunday of Advent *December 8, 2019*

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

INTENTIONS

**** Solemnity of Immaculate Conception (NOT a Holy Day of Obligation THIS year) ****

Monday	Saturday	Dec 9	8:00 a.m.	Conception Barron +
			12:10 p.m.	Canonization of Bp Fulton Sheen Our Benefactors
			5:30 p.m.	Parishioners with Birthday in December
* * * * *				
Tuesday		Dec. 10	7:00 a.m.	Bryson David Rieker +
Wednesday		Dec. 11	5:30 p.m.	Elli (Fugate) Schmidt
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus				
Thursday		Dec. 12	8:00 a.m.	Chris & Gisele Barger
Friday		Dec. 13	5:30 p.m.	Anna Lee
Saturday		Dec. 14	5:00 p.m.	John & Donna Bode (Anniv)
Sunday		Dec. 15	10:00 a.m.	People of Our Parish

“The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea.”

— Isaiah 11:9

Spend time with Jesus (Eucharistic Adoration)
*Are you preparing for a **Person** or for a **Day**?*

Stewardship: December 1, 2019

Adult Envelopes:	\$2,696.26
Loose Plate:	\$121.50
Children:	\$2.00
Holy Day: 0	\$0.00
Total:	\$2,819.76

Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged:	\$958,770.00
Gifts last week:	\$625.00
Total Gifts Received:	\$836,743.05
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:	\$1,648,428.04
Balance on DIAL LOAN:	\$112,052.11

Contemplative Sisters: \$562.50

Parish Calendar

Sunday	Dec. 8	11:00am: K of C Breakfast	11:30am: Daughters of Charity Meeting	3:30pm: Cursillo SW NE Ultreya=SEAS
Wednesday	Dec. 11	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration		7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes in Parish Hall
Thursday	Dec. 12	1:00pm: Adult Bible Study in Parish Hall		
Saturday	Dec. 14	9:00am: Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids, Parish Hall		
Sunday	Dec. 15	4:00pm: Healing Mass, St. Patrick's, McCook 3:00pm: Confessions at Holy Spirit Church.		

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: 12/8- Immaculate Conception, 1:30pm - McDaid Christmas Program, 12/9- JH G&B Bball @ Maywood, 12/10- 5:00pm - G&B Bball @ Creek Valley, 12/11- District D1-5 Play Production Championship, 12/12- 4:30pm- G&B Bball vs. Maxwell, 6:00pm- WR @ Kearney Catholic - Tri., 12/13- 3:00pm - WR @ St. Pat's, 12/14- 9:30am- JH G&B Bball vs. Sutherland, 2:30pm - G&B Bball vs. Hershey.

God is Here: Every month during the school year, our 2nd Graders make a trip to Linden Court Retirement Home to sing songs and visit with the residents. During their last visit, they performed a Thanksgiving program. Thank you to our teachers, Mrs. Wieszorek & Mrs. Ryland for your hard work and for creating these memories for our students.

SCRIP: Purchase SCRIP gift cards for a variety of local and national retailers, which includes everything from grocery, to dining, to gas, to clothing! SCRIP gift cards also make excellent gifts, with many retailers available in smaller denominations. Visit the SCRIP table after weekend Masses or call the Endowment office at 534-5939.

Capital Campaign: The Endowment is kicking off a new capital campaign to make necessary and urgent improvements at the North Platte Catholic Schools, including: Plumbing repair and restroom renovations at St. Patrick High Schools, Kitchen renovations at St. Patrick High School, Roof repair at McDaid Elementary, and locker room updates at St. Patrick High School. Watch for more information coming soon, or contact the Endowment office to learn more at 308-534-5939.

Year-End Donation - Be sure to maximize your tax benefits by contributing to the NPCS Endowment before the year's end. Gifts to the Endowment are 100% tax deductible, & are put to immediate use for our students & faculty. The Endowment's Annual Fund supports the general operations of the North Platte Catholic Schools by providing nearly 1/3 of the school's annual operating budget. Annual Fund donations are vital to sustaining NPCS on a yearly basis. All donations are appreciated!

Come Pray with Us: 7:00am Daily Mass in the McDaid Chapel.

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

Daughters of Charity (Altar Society) News: On

Sunday, Dec. 8 after enjoying the Knights of Columbus breakfast, **Holiday plates for the homebound** will be assembled & delivered Dec. 8 (after **11:30am Daughters of Charity meeting**) around 12:30pm. Plates will contain a prayer card, an ornament, cookies, & a fruit cup. (**Sign up sheet on table in the Narthex**) Please place your items in K-1 classroom before Sunday, Dec. 8. If you have any questions call Jan Daniel: 308-660-9407. Thankfully, Daughters of Charity.

List of items for homeless shelter (1/2 to Lincoln and 1/2 to North Platte); please have items brought to the Church by December 15. (**Sign up sheet on table in the Narthex**)

Church Decorating ... Plan ahead! Church decorating will be Dec. 22. There will be a **potluck for all parishioners following the 10:00am Mass, then decorating.** This is a great opportunity for parish families to share in Advent joy & foster wonderful memories for your family. **Join us!**

Knights of Columbus Meeting ... Mon, Dec. 9, 7:00pm, Parish Hall. All Knights are invited to attend.

Breakfast by Knights of Columbus ... Sunday, Dec. 8, in the Parish Hall after 10:00am Mass; serving pancakes, eggs, fixings, biscuits & gravy, coffee & juices. Free Will offering accepted ... Proceeds go to the purchase of Missalettes.

Coats for Kids ... St. Elizabeth Ann Seton **Knights of Columbus Council** will give away new coats to needy kids **Saturday, Dec. 14, 9:00am** in Parish Hall. Sizes for girls 4-6 & 7-16, & for boys 4-7 & 8-18, while supplies lasts. Please come early. Thank you & God bless. *Loren Baxa, GK.*

Keep Christ in Christmas! The Knights of Columbus will sell religious Christmas cards after Mass. Send your relatives and friends a card that expresses the true meaning of the Christmas season.

Healing Mass: Sunday, Dec. 15, 4:00pm St. Patrick, McCook ... All are welcome to receive physical, spiritual, & mental healing. Celebrant: Rev. Christopher Barak, Lincoln. Come early to participate in 3:30pm=singing of Divine Mercy Chaplet & Confessions.

Advent Baby Shower: During this Advent Season, as we anticipate the good news and great joy of our Savior's birth, please express this joy with gifts for His little ones. Our parish is hosting an Advent Baby Shower. All gifts will be donated to the Women's Resource Center. Please leave unwrapped, new or gently used items in the crib in the narthex from **Dec. 1 – Jan. 12.**

Mass of the Holy Innocents ... The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated on **Saturday, Dec. 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 at **John XXIII Diocesan Center Chapel, 3700 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 (473-0620) before 5:00pm, Dec. 19. If you placed your child's name previously, it will remain on the list.

Marriage Encounter ... Enhancing our couple-love Marriage Encounter Weekend, in Kearney, Feb. 7-9. Contact Pat & Janelle Benson (Pat=308-940-0670; Janelle=308-940-1105; pjbiben@yahoo.com). Register right-away as a gift over to one another. This is for all three Dioceses in Nebraska.

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 FR. MARK SEIKER:

Celebrate ADVENT ... a time of preparation and longing for Christ's coming at Christmas. As Catholics we recognize the need to celebrate four weeks of Advent, preparing for Christmas, and then to extend the celebration of our Lord's birth throughout the **twelve days of Christmas.** Teach the children the real meaning of Advent, & the real meaning of Christmas. Use the booklets in the Narthex & pray the Advent Wreath prayers as a family each day.

Dec. 6 = Day of fasting, prayer, and reparation ... see insert in last week's bulletin (on line). You are encouraged to pray these prayers, and this intention often ... not just one day ... during Advent or longer.

Advent Confession Schedule ...

- Sun. Dec. 15, **3:00pm** Penance Service Holy Spirit Church, North Platte (Fr. Seiker, Fr. Josh, Fr. V., Fr. Sager, & 4 other priests)
- Mon. Dec. 16, 7:30am-7:55am
- Tue. Dec. 17, 6:30am-6:55am
- Wed. Dec. 18, 5:00pm-5:25pm
- Thu. Dec. 19, 7:30am-7:55am
- Fri. Dec. 20, **4:00pm-5:25pm**
- Sat. Dec. 21, 4:00pm-4:55pm
- Sun. Dec. 22, **3:00pm-4:00pm**
- Sun. Dec. 22, **7:00pm** Penance Service St. Patrick, McCook
- Mon. Dec. 23, 7:30am-7:55am, **11:00am – 12:30pm**
- Tue. Dec. 24, 6:30am-6:55am, **3:00pm-4:00pm**

If these times don't fit your schedule, make an appointment to have your confession heard in the Rectory. Come Home for Christmas! Rejoice in the Lord's forgiveness!

***O Divine Babe of Bethlehem,
Come and take birth in our hearts!***

Christmas Mass Schedule ...

Dec. 24, 5:00pm = Vigil Mass

Dec. 25, 12:00am=MIDNIGHT MASS (Yes, Midnight Mass is at MIDNIGHT!).

Dec. 25, 10:00am=Mass during the Day. You may receive communion at the Vigil or Midnight Mass, and still receive Communion at the 10:00am Mass. Come to Mass, not just Christmas Eve, but also Christmas Day!

Looking Back and Moving Forward

In 2014, as our Parish celebrated 20 years as a parish, it was decided that we would do a new Parish Picture Directory. The most recent picture directory was done in 2010. It was been suggested that we begin a practice of doing a Picture Directory every 5 years. We used LifeTouch Picture Directory, and took pictures in July.

In July of 2014 and also July of 2015, a few parishioners volunteered to host a Catholic Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 to entering Kindergarten.

In August of 2014, Teri Volesky began offering a weekly Women's Study Group on Thursdays at 12:30pm to reflect on the Scriptures that will be proclaimed at Mass the following Saturday/Sunday. After a few years, a number of men began coming to this Bible Study. Also in August, 2014, following the example of another Pastor in our Diocese, Fr. Seiker announced to parishioners that the Parish was making a yearly donation of \$1,500.00 to Good Counsel Retreat House to cover the Registration Fee for 9 parishioners. Parishioners were encouraged to put a Retreat into their schedule each year! In September, Hanna Pieper and Emily Kroncak invited women in the our Parish and from other Catholic Parishes to join an 8 week "Momipotent" study in order to "Find Peace, Balance, & Joy in Your Vocation as a Mother."

In September, Fr Sean Kilcawley, the Director of Family Life and Evangelization for the Diocese of Lincoln, gave a presentation on "parenting in the Internet Age". This was not just for parents of school age children. All adults (married or single) are invited and encouraged to attend. Come and learn how to live in this world with your sights set on eternity and how amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

In Jan. 2013 and Feb. 2014, one of the two 18 year old furnaces in the Parish Hall needed some significant repairs. The Parish Council recommended that we replace them. Knobel Refrigeration installed 2 Carrier Furnaces in the Parish Hall in Sept and October 2014 at a cost of \$5,873, which was paid for with funds from the general parish checking account. Also, it was decided that the used copier (*purchased in February 2009*) needed to be replaced. We began a 60 month lease on to Sharp color copier machine from Eakes Office Solutions.

In February-April 2015, parishioners joined in a study by Edward Sri called: "**MARY: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother**" held two evenings each week. On March 22-24, our Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions talks were given by Fr. Sean Kilcawley on the theme "40 Hours for the Family". In March 2015, our Parish hosted a Shroud of Turin Presentation given by Jim Bertrand, an affiliate of Turin Shroud Center (TSC) (shroudofturin.com).

In March 2015, workers from Knobel Refrigeration installed new LED lights and fixtures on the outside of the Church and Parish Hall and also lights for the outdoor statue of Blessed Virgin & the flag pole at a cost of \$4,700. These LED lights will last a long time and operate very inexpensively. In May 2015, volunteers from the Parish using some equipment donated by parishioners, prepared the ground East of the parking lot for the installation of a new sprinkler system and new grass for the area that is used for our Pumpkin Festival. In July, a new sprinkler system was installed by Barr Sprinkler Systems for this new area of grass at cost of \$8,580. This will make the entire area used for our Pumpkin Festival nice & green.

On June 21, 2015 (Father's Day), parishioners rode in a "Party Bus" to Omaha to watch and participate in the first I-80 Collar Series: a softball match between priests of the Diocese of Lincoln and the Archdiocese of Omaha. The ticket sales proceeds went to vocations in the two dioceses to assist in promoting vocations to the priesthood, consecrated & religious life in the Archdiocese of Omaha & the Diocese of Lincoln.

Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Dec. 14, 5:00pm	Sun., Dec. 15, 10:00am
Lector	Mike Krondak	Volunteer
Acolyte	Jerry Volesky	Duane Johnsen
Server	Volunteer	Brock Johnsen
	Volunteer	Harmon Johnsen
Music	Greg Vandenberg	Matt & Ashley Perlinger
Gifts	Volunteer – Ask Ushers	Volunteer – Ask Ushers
Ushers	Cindy Swanson	Volunteer
	Alice Robinson	Spencer Hampton
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3,10ac,11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde,19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19; Mt 17:9a,10-13
Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a,10;Ps146:6-10;Jas5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Prayers for the sick: Dolores Kosmicki, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Margaret Ruskamp (Donna Bode's mother), Special Intention, Carolyn Cohen, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Mary Lou Robles (Toni Barron's sister), Renate Nordquist, Sharon Beckius, Mike & Kim Paul, Jim Beckius.

Prayers for the deceased: Patricia Zamora (Toni Barron's sister), Teresa Clouatre, 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), Fr. Paul Rutten, Fr. Brad Zitek, Eileen Boltz, Peggy Fleecs, Carol LaBrie (Loren Baxa's sister-in-law), Leona Clouatre, Virginia Waechter (Peggy Orr's mother), Bob "Junior" Barron (Toni Barron's brother), Bernadine Torres, Father Jim Novakowski, Martha Burbach, Luke Ranck, Margaret Baxa, Mary Portz, Phyllis Beckius.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: 12/7 - Leigha Burbach, Philip Heimann, 12/8 - Jessica Devore, 12/9 - Grace Ryland, 12/11 - Gabe Ryland, 12/12 - Chuck Burr, Weston Hammond.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... "People in love make signs of love," wrote our bishops in a document guiding the renewal of liturgical music. They were not merely urging us to sing at Mass, but suggesting that the song itself is a sign of the love of Christ. Love never expressed dies, as we know from experience. Flowers for no special reason, a caress, a hug, a turn around the dance floor, a note on the pillow or in the lunchbox, the aroma of fresh bread in the kitchen, all are signs of love's vitality. A significant treasure in our Catholic tradition is the place of the sacraments as signs of Christ's love. We can trace the sacraments back to scriptural sources, through centuries of history. They are woven through family tradition and our own life story. Sacraments are the way Christ makes signs of love for the Church. For twenty centuries, God has spoken to us in the arena of the sacraments, and we have responded. For the next year of "Treasure" essays, we will explore the story of sacraments: their sources, their signs and rituals, and the way Christ nurtures and sustains us as we encounter him, the companion on our journey who loves us and faithfully makes signs of that love. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... "Outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace" is the often-memorized definition of sacrament, but through more than five decades of reform we have rediscovered the power of sacrament to bestow grace by reshaping our lives as individuals and communities. Not so long ago, most people were not attentive to the nature of sacrament as an act of the Church, a power that flows from the Body of Christ. Fifty years ago, we were inclined to see a sacrament as an encounter between Christ and an individual.

Today, we see that definition does not go far enough. God's grace is not a trickle, but a gushing torrent washing over the whole Church. Like a photographer pulling back the camera for a broader picture, today we are not only interested in the person who is being baptized, reconciled, or anointed. We think about how celebrating a sacrament transforms a community. We think about the grace given by Christ to the community that baptizes or marries or ordains or confirms. Sacraments are for the good of the community. Even when it appears to be a private, hidden moment, as in individual confession, a sacrament is always for the sake of the whole body, always more than "meets the eye." —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

THE LONG-AWAITED ONE ... As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace. After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

JUSTICE AND OBEDIENCE ... Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it. —William Penn, English Quaker

POSSIBILITIES ... Nothing is impossible for God and His Blessed Mother. —Don Bosco

Pray for our Seminarians: Joseph Nicholas Allen, from St. Mary Parish in Nebraska City. He entered the Seminary in 2013 and 2017. 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 ... (December) Universal: That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.