

# 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>

## ***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*** ***December 13, 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 Dec. 14 8:00 a.m.  
 Tuesday Dec 15 7:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Dec. 16 5:30 p.m.  
**6:00pm–10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus**  
 Thursday Dec. 17 8:00 a.m.  
 Friday Dec. 18 12:10 p.m.  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday Dec 19 5:00 p.m.  
 (masks are required at 6:30pm Mass) 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Dec. 20 10:00 a.m.

## INTENTIONS

Anna Lee  
 Elizabeth (Liz) Haag  
 Ryan Bale  
 Ned & Adela Hernandez & Family +  
 Special Intention (jls)  
 For reparation and healing  
 People of our Parish  
 In Thanksgiving  
 Book of Memories / Blessings

**Rejoice in the Lord,  
 always;  
 again I say, rejoice.  
 Indeed, the Lord is near.**

*Phil 4:4-5*

## **Stewardship: December 6, 2020**

**Adult Envelopes:** .....\$2,085.00  
**Loose Plate:** .....\$100.00  
**Children:** .....\$0.00  
**Holy Day:** (Imm. Conception).... \$102.00  
**Total:** .....\$2,287.00

**Joy of the Gospel Campaign**  
 Total Pledged: .....\$958,770.00  
 Gifts last week: .....\$400.00  
**Total Gifts Received:.....\$897,973.05**  
 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:.....\$1,722,678.04  
**Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$44,536.89**

NP Catholic Food Pantry: ...\$0.00  
 Contemplative Sisters: .....\$35.00

### **Parish Calendar**

Sunday Dec. 13 11:00am: Christmas Card Writing Party in Parish Hall; 1:30pm: McDaid Virtual Christmas Program  
 Monday Dec. 14 7:00pm: Knights of Columbus Meeting in Parish Hall  
 Wednesday Dec. 16 6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm-9:00pm: RCIA Classes  
 Thursday Dec. 17 1:00pm: Adult Bible Study via Zoom (contact Teri Volesky)

## **Catholic School News:**

**Upcoming Events:** Dec. 13: 1:30pm-McDaid Virtual Christmas Program released on Facebook & NPCCS YouTube, Dec. 14: 4:00pm-JH GBB vs NPMS, 5:00pm-Res. BBall @ Gothenburg, Dec. 15: 4:30pm-G&B Bball @ Ogallala, Dec. 16: Virtual Music Concert, Dec. 17: 4:30pm-B&G BBall @ McDaid, Dec. 19: 10:00am-WR @ Sutherland.

**Free Tuition:** NPCCS is excited to announce that we are now offering transfers and new families FREE tuition for the 2020-21 2<sup>nd</sup> 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@npccschools.org.

**It's the holiday season – Purchase SCRIP:** Remember to utilize the Endowment's SCRIP program for your holiday shopping! SCRIP is your one-stop shop for gift cards! SCRIP offers both local and national retailers, with hundreds of options to choose from. Plus, 2% from all SCRIP purchases is designated for tuition assistance for families at the North Platte Catholic Schools. There are easy ways to purchase SCRIP gift cards: 1) Purchase in-person at the Endowment Office, 601 S. Tabor Ave. between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily. 2) Create an online SCRIP account at: www.shopwithscrip.com using the NPCCS enrollment code 41B837676942 Contact Endowment office any time with SCRIP questions, or place your order: 308-534-5939, w.dodson@npccschools.org.  
**North Platte Catholic School: Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future**

**Nebraska Walk for Life ...** The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Walk for Life will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2021. The outdoor event begins on the north steps of the State Capitol at 10:00am where there will be speakers and greetings from elected officials. The Walk will proceed to the Newman Center at 16th & Q Street. Keynote speaker, Sarah Zagorski will give testimony to her challenging childhood and why every life matters. For more information, go to [www.nebraskarighttolife.org](http://www.nebraskarighttolife.org) or call 402-438-4802.

## **Knights of Columbus Meeting ... Mon, Dec. 14,**

**7:00pm**, in person in the Parish Hall (*observing a Social Distance*) **and** via Zoom. All Knights are invited to participate. *If you have never used Zoom before or have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker BEFORE the meeting begins.*

## **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*).

## **Vigil Mass of the Holy Innocents at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church ...**

on **Sunday, Dec. 27**, at 7:00pm, a Memorial Mass (Mass of the Holy Innocents) will be prayed. All are invited to participate in 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 7:00pm, followed by Mass. If you would like your child's name to be remembered and placed in a book of names, please call Natalie (307-575-0027) before 5:00pm, Dec. 22.

## **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).

**Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats** Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com), 402-786-2705, or [goodcounsel@cdolinc.net](mailto: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.”

**Mass of the Holy Innocents ...** The annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated on **Monday, 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 begins=6:30pm; 7:00pm=Mass. This year, Mass is at **Cathedral of the Risen Christ Church** due= pandemic social distancing measures. The Cathedral = 3500 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln. If you would like your child’s name remembered & placed on banner, please call Family Life Office 473-0620 before Fri. Dec. 18 5:00pm. If you placed your child’s name previously, it will remain on list.

**Christmas: A Gift of Life ...** “The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture. At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: ‘I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’ (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this ‘great joy’ is the Birth of the Savior; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21)” (Pope John Paul II, “The Gospel of Life,” n.1).

**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](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-df2cfb2872e7](https://necatholic.org/file_download/inline/4aad0f3f-6afd-4628-b658-df2cfb2872e7)).

**FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:**

**Celebrate ADVENT ...** this week we enter into the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of Advent preparation and longing for Christ’s coming at Christmas (beginning Dec. 17). During the last week before Christmas we pray the **O Antiphons**. Then we 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..

**Advent Confession Schedule ...** **[in Parish Hall]**

- Mon. Dec. 14, 7:30am-7:55am
- Tue. Dec. 15, 6:30am-6:55am
- Wed. Dec. 16, 5:00pm-5:25pm
- Thu. Dec. 17, 7:30am-7:55am
- Fri. Dec. 18, 11:30am-12:05pm; **4:00pm-5:25pm**
- Sat. Dec. 19, 4:00pm-4:55pm
- Sun. Dec. 20, **3:00pm-4:00pm**
- Sun. Dec. 20, **7:00pm Penance Service** St. Patrick, McCook
- Mon. Dec. 21, 7:30am-7:55am
- Tue. Dec. 22, 6:30am-6:55am
- Wed. Dec. 23, **11:00am – 12:30pm**, 5:00pm-5:25pm
- Thu. Dec. 24, 7:30am-7:55am, **1:00pm-2:00pm**

If these times don’t fit your schedule, make an appointment to have your confession heard in the Parish Hall. 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, 3:00pm = Vigil Mass** (overflow seating in Parish Hall,
- Dec. 24, 5:00pm = Vigil Mass** (where masks required = 3pm / 5pm)
- Dec. 25, 12:00am=MIDNIGHT MASS** (Yes, 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!

## Liturgical Ministers

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

## Liturgical Calendar & Saints

|            |         |  |
|------------|---------|--|
| Saturday:  | Dec. 12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe ( <i>Feast</i> )         |
| Sunday:    | Dec. 13 | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B</b> |
| Monday:    | Dec. 14 | St. John of the Cross ( <i>Memorial</i> )      |
| Tuesday:   | Dec. 15 | Advent Weekday                                 |
| Wednesday: | Dec. 16 | Advent Weekday                                 |
| Thursday:  | Dec. 17 | Late Advent Weekday                            |
| Friday:    | Dec. 18 | Late Advent Weekday                            |
| Saturday:  | Dec. 19 | Late Advent Weekday                            |
| Sunday:    | Dec. 20 | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B</b> |

**Prayers for the sick:** Becky Harold, Pat Wessell, 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, Peggy Lawler, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Special Intention, Carolyn Cohen, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Renate Nordquist, Kim Paul, Jim Beckius.

**Prayers for the deceased:** Mike Paul, Sammy Medinger, **Mary Lou Robles**(Toni Barron's sister), Leo Walz, **Ardis "Jo" Ginapp**, Verna Kellogg, 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 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), Eileen Boltz, Leona Clouatre, Bernadine Torres, Martha Burbach, Luke Ranck.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** 12/12 - Chuck Burr, Weston Hammond, 12/15 - Henrietta Boots, 12/16 - Jennifer Belgum, Maggie Butler, 12/18 - Kevin Boots, Jennifer Schmid, 12/20 - Jennifer Bantam.

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

### SECTION ONE – PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

**2560** "If you knew the gift of God!"<sup>7</sup> The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. **God thirsts that we may thirst for him.**<sup>8</sup>

**7 Jn. 4:10** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

**8 Cf. St. Augustine, *De diversis quaestionibus octoginta tribus* 64,4:PL 40,56.**

**2561** "You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>9</sup> Paradoxically our prayer of petition is a response to the plea of the living God: "They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water!"<sup>10</sup> Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God.<sup>11</sup>

**9 Jn. 4:10** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

**10 Jer. 2:13** Two evils my people have done: they have forsaken me, the source of living waters; They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

**11 Jn. 7:37-39** On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

**Jn. 19:28** After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. Jesus said, "I thirst."

**Isa. 12:3** With joy you will draw water from the fountains of salvation.

**Isa. 51:1** Listen to me, you who pursue justice, who seek the LORD; Look to the rock from which you were hewn, to the quarry from which you were taken...

**Zec. 12:10** I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of mercy and supplication, so that when they look on him whom they have thrust through, they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and they will grieve for him as one grieves over a firstborn.

**Zec. 13:1** On that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to purify from sin and uncleanness.

**Pray for our Seminarians:** **Peter Vincent Foley**, from St. Peter Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2018. He is in College 3 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 ... (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.