

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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3rd Sunday of Advent ***December 15, 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

Monday	Dec. 16	8:00 a.m.
Tuesday	Dec. 17	7:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Dec. 18	5:30 p.m.
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus		
Thursday	Dec. 19	8:00 a.m.
Friday	Dec. 20	1:00 p.m.
		5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Dec. 21	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Dec. 22	10:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

Ryan Bale
Elizabeth (Liz) Haag
Bishop James Conley
Raymond Barron +
Martha Burbach +
Tia Connelly
Chris & Gisele Barger
People of Our Parish

“Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.”

— Isaiah 35:10a

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

Stewardship: December 8, 2019

Adult Envelopes:\$1,348.00
Loose Plate:\$151.25
Children:\$0.00
Holy Day: (Immaculate Conception) \$405.00
Total:\$1,904.25

Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$30,725.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$867,468.05
 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:.....\$1,684,428.04
 Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$79,052.11

Contemplative Sisters: \$5.00

Parish Calendar

Sunday	Dec. 15	3:00pm: Confessions at Holy Spirit Church	4:00pm: Healing Mass, St. Patrick's, McCook
Wednesday	Dec. 18	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration	7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes in Parish Hall
Thursday	Dec. 19	1:00pm: Adult Bible Study in Parish Hall	
Sunday	Dec. 22	11:00am: Parish Potluck meal (followed by Church Decorating).	

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: 12/16- 4:00pm-JH GBB @ NPMS, 5:00pm- 9th G&B Bball @ Gothenburg, 12/17- G&B Bball vs. Ogallala, 12/18- 7:00pm- St. Pat's Christmas Program, 12/19- 4:30pm G&B Bball @ Gothenburg, 12/20- 1/2 Day of School-Noon Dismissal, End of 1st Semester.

God is Here: Liturgy and prayer are key elements of the faith life at North Platte Catholic Schools. On Sunday, December 1st, some of our St. Pat's Jr./Sr. High students took care of all the ministries at the 10:30am Mass @ Holy Spirit. This is something our students will do periodically throughout the school year. What a wonderful way to give back to our parish families. Through their participation in these ministries, students respond to the call to share their gifts and talents in service to the school community, the Church, and our loving God. Just a small thank you to our Parish for all they do for our school. Thank you to Father Sagar, all the students that participated, Deacon Davis, Jennifer Winder and Kim Schroll for organizing and preparation.

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.

8th Grade Retreat: The eighth graders went on a field trip to St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. Their day was filled with a "Cathedral" scavenger hunt that required them to answer questions about the history and beauty of the Cathedral; a tour given by Sister Jesesmaikelyn and Deacon Puhalla; and Deacon Puhalla led them in exposition, adoration and benediction. Two students, Sam Troshynski & Thomas Gale had the honor of serving on the Cathedral Altar.

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

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 Chant & Confessions.

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.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Buffet Dinner ...

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, 11:15am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall. Bring your favorite side dishes and desserts. Meat (fried chicken) will be furnished. **This is for the entire parish.** We need to celebrate St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Feast Day (actually on Jan 4). Hope to see you there!

Family Formation Parent's Meeting ... Sunday,

Jan. 5, 2020, 12:00pm ... following the Parish Buffet Dinner, beginning at 12:00pm, we will have our monthly Parent's meeting (and children will meet in classrooms). ALL Parishioners are invited and encouraged to stay and listen to the presentation ... it is NOT just for parents, but is a way to learn and deepen our knowledge and appreciation of our Faith. The topic this year is the Liturgical Year.

Nominations for Daughters of Charity ...

women of the Parish are encouraged to please pray about and consider nominating themselves or another woman to be on the ballot to be an Officer of the Daughters of Charity for 2020-2022. Please consider being active in this important group of women in our Parish!

Nominations for Parish Council ...

men and women of the Parish are encouraged to please pray about and consider nominating themselves or another parishioner to be on the ballot to be a member of the Parish Council for 2020-2022.

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; pbjbben@yahoo.com). Register right-away as a gift over to one another. This is for all three Dioceses in Nebraska.

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!

Spiritual Warfare Series ... A 3-part series will be given by Matt Simmons, Director of Spiritual Formation, on Spiritual Warfare at John XXIII Diocesan Center from 6:30-8:30pm. Ephesians 6:12 "For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens." Series will be January 21, Our Identity in Christ; February 18, Battleground of Our Minds; and March 24, Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare. The workshop is free and registration is kindly requested. For topic details and to register please visit <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/03oe-spiritual-warfare>. Questions? Call 402-473-0615 or email Annette-Wemhoff@cdolinc.net

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)

Advent and Pregnancy... As we enter the second half of Advent, the liturgy focuses more specifically on the Incarnation and birth of Jesus at the first Christmas. We think about Mary's initial fear and uncertainty in the face of her unexpected pregnancy. Then, in every Church in the world, believers spiritually rush to her side to eagerly await with her the birth of the Savior. The best way for a parish to celebrate Christmas is to rush physically to the side of those in the community who, like Mary, are uncertain and afraid about their pregnancy. We are to accompany them through their pregnancy with support and encouragement, and help them experience the fact that every birth reflects the joy of the birth of Christ. Nationwide, pregnancy centers providing alternatives to abortion can be reached through the "Option Line," 1-800-712-HELP, or at www.pregnancycenters.org.

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Celebrate ADVENT ... this week we enter into the 2nd period of Advent preparation and longing for Christ's coming at Christmas. 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 ...

- 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** (2 Priests available @ SEAS)
- 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!

Mass of the Holy Innocents at St. Elizabeth

Ann Seton Church ... on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 9:00am, 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 8:45am with Mass at 9:00am. 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. 23.

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.

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**.

Looking Back and Moving Forward

In August 2015, we hired True Clean from North Platte to professionally clean the carpet in the Parish Hall, which was installed 8 years ago and is in need of some professional cleaning to help remove some stains & spots.

In August our parish became a partner in a dynamic faith formation program called *Symbolon* which in September became known as FORMED. This program is designed to help our parish form adults in the Catholic faith, and can be used in the parish and in parishioner's homes.

In August the Diocese of Lincoln hosted the first Annual Sacred Music Clinic in Lincoln. A number of our parishioners have participated in this annual clinic each year.

In the Fall of 2015 and the Spring of 2016, our Parish hosted ALPHA, a fun, relaxed, ten week process which involves shared meals, a DVD talk, and a discussion on the basics of the Christian faith.

In Nov, 2015, our Knights of Columbus Council #12530 introduced a 5th Sunday Rosary Program (*suggested by the KC Supreme Council*). At 6:00pm, we prayed the Angelus & Rosary, & following the Rosary, at 6:30pm all went to the Parish Hall to enjoy some good food provided by the Knights of Columbus.

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's in Rome marking the beginning of the Year of Mercy. In February-March 2015, parishioners joined in a study by Dr. Tim Gray called: "Lectio - Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God" held two evenings each week. From April-June 2015, parishioners joined in a study by Fr. Michael Gaitley called: "Divine Mercy: in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told" held two evenings each week. On March 6-8, our Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions talks were given by Msgr. Daniel Seiker on the theme "The Eucharist and Mercy".

On the evening of Memorial Day (May 30, 2016) at about 10:45pm, as Father Seiker was returning from a Jesus Caritas gathering in Lincoln with fellow priests, he was confronted with an overturned truck and semi trailer 7 miles west of Gothenburg on Interstate 80. With the westbound lanes completely blocked, Father's only real option after seeing the overturned vehicle shrouded in darkness, was to apply his brakes and skid into the vehicle at a bit lower speed. Father spent Tuesday through Friday morning in Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Friday morning, June 3 he was transferred from Good Samaritan Hospital to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln. His injuries consisted of fractures of his right foot and ligament injuries to his left lower leg. Additionally, Father has suffered multiple lacerations and contusions to his face and a serious concussion or closed head injury. On June 17 he moved to Bonacum House until July 6, when he returned to the Parish. He received physical therapy until September 16. With God's grace, there have not been any complications or health concerns resulting from the accident.

Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Dec. 21, 5:00pm	Sun., Dec. 22, 10:00am
Lector	Mike Krondak	Justin Pieper
Acolyte	Ed Rieker	Jerry Cooper
Server	William Krondak	Xavier Pieper
	Nicholas Krondak	Volunteer
Music	Greg Vandenberg	Buhrman/Niesen/Gregg
Gifts	Volunteer – Ask Ushers	Volunteer – Ask Ushers
Ushers	Steve Fear	Duane Johnsen
	Janet Fear	Heather Johnsen
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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 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), Fr. Paul Rutten, Fr. Brad Zitek, Eileen Boltz, Peggy Fleecs, Carol LaBrie (Loren Baxa's sister-in-law), Leona Cloutre, 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: 12/15 - Henrietta Boots, 12/16 - Jennifer Belgium, Maggie Butler, 12/18 - Kevin Boots, Jennifer Schmid, 12/19 - Vanessa Pineda, 12/20 - Jennifer Bantam.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in between moments of forgiveness and affirmation. Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and being forgiven: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REASON TO REJOICE ... Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and "the coming of the Lord." But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing. Today's first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God's saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God's presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah's prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus' presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: "The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew 11:5). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

THE LOOK OF LOVE ... What does love look like? It has feet to go to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others. —St. Augustine

PERSPECTIVE ... A mountain shames a molehill until they both are humbled by the stars. —Old adage

Pray for our Seminarians: James Michael Beran, from The Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2013. He is in Theology 3 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.