

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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4th Sunday of Advent ***December 20, 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. 21	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention (jls)
Tuesday	Dec 22	7:00 a.m.	Stacey Coppersmith
Wednesday	Dec. 23	5:30 p.m.	President-elect Joseph Biden
6:00pm–10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus			
Thursday	Dec. 24	8:00 a.m.	Sheryl Darpoli +
*** **			
Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) *** **			
Thursday	Dec. 24	3:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving
		5:00 p.m.	Beatrice Estrada +
Friday	Dec. 25	12:00 a.m.	People of Our Parish
		10:00 a.m.	Angel, Rowan, Dalton Hammond +
* **			
Saturday	Dec 26	5:00 p.m.	People of our Parish
		6:30 p.m.	In Thanksgiving
<i>(masks are required at 6:30pm Mass)</i>			
Sunday	Dec. 27	10:00 a.m.	Albert & Lucille Malsbury +

INTENTIONS

**Unless we see the
cross overshadowing
the cradle,
we will have lost
the real meaning of
Christ's birth.**

Stewardship: December 13, 2020

<p>Adult Envelopes:\$1,065.00 Loose Plate:.....\$575.00 Children:\$0.00 Holy Day: (Imm. Conception).... \$282.00 Total:\$1,922.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Joy of the Gospel Campaign</u></p> <p>Total Pledged:\$958,770.00 Gifts last week:\$15,000.00 Total Gifts Received:.....\$912,973.05 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:.....\$1,737,678.04 Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$29,536.89</p>	<p>NP Catholic Food Pantry:\$0.00 Contemplative Sisters:\$0.00</p>
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Parish Calendar

Wednesday	Dec. 23	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00pm & 5:00pm
Friday	Dec. 25	Christmas Masses: 12:00am (Midnight) & 10:00am
Sunday	Dec. 27	7:00pm: Vigil Mass of the Holy Innocents <i>[NOT a Sunday Mass ... this is the Vigil Mass for Monday's Feast.]</i>

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: Dec. 22: End of 1st Semester, Noon Dismissal
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 NPCS enrollment code 41B837676942 Contact Endowment office any time with SCRIP questions, or place your order: 308-534-5939, w.dodson@npcschools.org.

Student of the Month: Chloe Guo has been selected as the Student of the Month for December. Teachers and Student Council members vote on a student to receive this honor. Chloe, a freshman, is the daughter of Ivy Zhang and Neo Guo of North Platte. She is on the "A" Honor Roll and keeps busy with basketball, show choir, chorus, Student Council, S.A.I.N.T.S., and is on the Strutters Dance Team. Chloe has a brother, Ashton, an eleventh grader at St. Pat's High School. Congratulations, Chloe!

Christmas Food Drive: A Friendly competition = Food for others! The National Honor Society and the Student Council have joined together & organized a food drive this Christmas Season. By implementing a competition between grade levels 7th-12th, more food has arrived at school. Collecting to feed those in need has helped our students understand that giving is better than receiving!

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

Christmas Poinsettias ... Anyone may donate to poinsettias for the Altar by putting donation in collection, Please mark: *for flowers*.

Church Decorating ... Church decorating (Today)

Dec. 20. 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!**

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)*.

Nebraska Walk for Life ... The 48th 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 or call 402-438-4802.

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.

Give The Knights Your Cans ... Profit from recycling the cans used for Knights of Columbus charitable works. Place cans in the barrels in front of the storage shed (southwest corner of parking lot).

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. 28-30 (3 Day) Encounter Conference (Men / Women)
Encounter Conference with Encounter Ministries Mon-Wed, Dec. 28-30, 2020. The Encounter Conference is the flagship event for Encounter Ministries, seeking a revival in the church to encounter God's refreshment, encouragement and impartation of greater anointing for ministry.

Conference participants can expect an atmosphere of spirit-filled worship, Mass, inspiring and transforming keynote speakers, breakout sessions, Eucharistic Adoration, a healing service, fellowship and opportunities for prayer ministry and growth in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Speakers include: Fr. Mathias Thelen, Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. Dave Pivonka, Peter Herbeck, and many more!

Watch the sold-out conference taking place in Michigan, while participating in Mass and Adoration, Prayer and Fellowship at the Retreat House (plus meals and lodging).

Monday Dec. 28, 6pm to Wednesday Dec. 30, 8pm.

3-day Overnight: retreat including 2 nights, six meals, support from priests and prayer teams, and your online access fee: \$230

Commuter Retreat: includes lunch and supper, daytime rooms, full participation in all the activities, and online access fee: \$120.

After December 16, you will no longer be able to purchase online access to watch from home. But you can purchase to watch at the retreat house anytime until Dec. 28 (or COVID capacity is reached.)

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)

Jan. 23..... Kendra Von Esh **Online Retreat**.. Men / Women

"Finding Joy in Prayer" (Sat, 9:30am-2:30pm)

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.

The Incarnation ... "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being" (*Vatican II, GS 22*). This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (*Jn 3:16*), but also the incomparable value of every human person. The Church, faithfully contemplating the mystery of the Redemption, acknowledges this value with ever new wonder. She feels called to proclaim to the people of all times this "Gospel", the source of invincible hope and true joy for every period of history. The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel" (*Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n.2*).

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-df2cfb2872e7).

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Retired Priests Collection ... Attached to the Bulletin is an envelope for our **retired diocesan priests**. We're reusing old envelopes. Please use this envelope to help us meet our \$975.00 assessment for the support of our retired diocesan priests.

Some of those retired Priests (who have substituted here), that some of you might remember are: Msgr. Ivan Vap, Msgr. Adrian Herbek, and Fr. Nick Baker. Please give generously to these retired Priests, these other Christs, who have given of their lives to the Church. Also please remember them in prayer. If anyone would like to write to them, the addresses are: Msgr. Ivan Vap, Bonacum House, 3301 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506; Msgr. Adrian Herbek, 405 South Main Street, Friend, NE 68359; Rev. Nicholas Baker, 3301 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506. **The collection is on Christmas Eve & Day.**

Nominations for Parish Council ... are being accepted for the next few weeks. Please contact one of the current Parish Council members or Parish Trustees (Members: Mickey Morlang, Jeff Orr, Kanen Hammond, Spencer Hampton., Trustees: Jerry Volesky & Duane Johnsen) or Fr. Seiker to nominate another parishioner or yourself. Normally the terms for the parish council are for two years. We have 2 veteran members & 2 new members on the parish council each year. Hopefully there will be at least 4 parishioners' names on the ballot.

The Christmas Season ... lasts from the Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 10). It has been a custom of the Church to celebrate ADVENT during the Advent Season without any Christmas decorations, & to celebrate CHRISTMAS during the Christmas Season, by leaving the manger scene & trees up until the end of the Christmas Season (Jan 10). May we all walk the path of God, not the path of man! May each of you have a HOLY Christmas season and a Blessed New Year!

Parish Books Close Dec. 31, 2020 ... please remember that the Parish books will be closed on **Thu., Dec. 31 at Noon!** Any contributions you want recorded on your 2020 contribution statement must be received in the parish office before **Noon, Dec. 31, 2020**.

Celebrate ADVENT ... this week we enter into the 2nd period of Advent preparation and longing for Christ's coming at Christmas (*beginning Dec. 17*). During the last week before Christmas we pray the **Q 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]

- Sun. Dec. 20, 9:00am-9:55am, **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 & take birth in our hearts!

Christmas Mass Schedule ...

Dec. 24, 3:00pm = Vigil Mass (overflow seating with large screen in Parish Hall, **masks are required in Hall**)

[This 3:00pm Vigil Mass is a special permission from Bishop Conley for 2020 ONLY due to the Pandemic! The 3:00pm Vigil Mass is intended to split the persons who last year participated in the 5:00pm Mass into two smaller groups: 3:00pm and 5:00pm.]

Dec. 24, 5:00pm = Vigil Mass (overflow seating with large screen in Parish Hall, **masks are required in Hall**)

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

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Liturgical Calendar & Saints

Saturday:	Dec. 19	Late Advent Weekday
Sunday:	Dec. 20	4th Sunday of Advent , <i>Year B</i>
Monday:	Dec. 21	Late Advent Weekday St. Peter Canisius (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Tuesday:	Dec. 22	Late Advent Weekday
Wednesday:	Dec. 23	Late Advent Weekday St. John of Kanty (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Thursday:	Dec. 24	Late Advent Weekday (Christmas Eve)
Friday:	Dec. 25	Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (<i>Solemnity</i>)
Saturday:	Dec. 26	St. Stephen (<i>Feast</i>)
Sunday:	Dec. 27	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

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: Betty Conley (Bishop Conley's mother), 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: 12/20 - Jennifer Bantam, 12/23 - Owen Downey, 12/24 - Gary Bush, 12/25 - John Bode, 12/26 - Ryan Wartman, 12/27 - Lucia Pineda.

Congratulations: to Jerry & Sharon Beckius who celebrate their **52nd Wedding Anniversary Dec. 23.**

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Second Edition) PART FOUR – CHRISTIAN PRAYER SECTION ONE – PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Prayer as covenant

2562 Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the *heart* that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

2563 The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place "to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.

2564 Christian prayer is a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and ourselves, wholly directed to the Father, in union with the human will of the Son of God made man.

2565 In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Kingdom is "the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity ... with the whole human spirit."¹² Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him. This communion of life is always possible because, through Baptism, we have already been united with Christ.¹³ Prayer is *Christian* insofar as it is communion with Christ and extends throughout the Church, which is his Body. Its dimensions are those of Christ's love.¹⁴

¹² St. Gregory of Nazianzus, *Oratio*, 16,9:PG 35,945.

¹³ Cf. *Rom* 6:5 For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

¹⁴ Cf. *Eph*. 3:18-21 ...¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Pray for our Seminarians: Dominic Ian Winter, from St. Joseph and St. Mary Parishes in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2015. 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) 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.