

# 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>

## ***4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*** ***December 22, 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](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. 23 8:00 a.m.  
 Tuesday Dec. 24 **7:00 a.m.**  
 \*\*\* \*\* \* *Solemnity of Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)* \* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \*  
 Tuesday Dec. 24 **5:00 p.m.**  
 Wednesday Dec. 25 **12:00 a.m.**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
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 Thursday Dec. 26 **5:30 p.m.**  
 Friday Dec. 27 **12:10 p.m.**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
 Saturday Dec. 28 **9:00 a.m.**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
 Sunday Dec. 29 **10:00 a.m.**

**INTENTIONS**

Sheryl Darpoli +  
 MaKenna Ketter  
 Frank & Florena Schneweis +  
 Book of Memories / Blessings  
 People of Our Parish  
 Bishop James Conley  
 Fr. Melvin Rempe +  
 Albert & Lucille Malsbury +  
 Infants who died & Parents  
 Margaret Baxa +  
 People of Our Parish

**“They shall name Him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”**  
*— Matthew 1:23*

**Stewardship: December 15, 2019**

**Adult Envelopes:** .....\$900.00  
**Loose Plate:** .....\$111.72  
**Children:** .....\$0.00  
**Holy Day:** (Immaculate Conception) **\$.25.00**  
**Total:** .....\$1,036.72

**Joy of the Gospel Campaign**  
 Total Pledged: .....\$958,770.00  
 Gifts last week: .....\$0.00  
**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:** ..... \$0.00

**Parish Calendar**

Sunday Dec. 22 **11:00am:** Parish Potluck meal followed by Church decorating; **3:00pm:** Confessions at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
**7:00pm:** Penance Service, St. Patrick, McCook  
 Tuesday Dec. 24 **5:00pm:** Christmas Vigil Mass  
 Wednesday Dec. 25 **12:00am:** Christmas Mass **10:00am:** Christmas Mass  
 Saturday Dec. 28 **9:00am:** Mass of the Holy Innocents at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

**Catholic School News:**

**Christmas Break:** The students are enjoying Christmas break, and classes will resume on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at the regular time. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**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.

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

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

**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

**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 Parents’ Meeting ... Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, 12:00pm ...** following the Parish Buffet Dinner, beginning at 12:00pm, we will have our monthly Parents’ 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!

**Church Decorating ...** Church decorating (Today) 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!

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

**Nebraska Walk for Life ... Jan. 18, 2020** Keynote Speakers: Jennifer and Jeff Christie.

**All Oppression Shall Cease...** The Christmas song "O Holy Night" includes the following words: "Truly he taught us to love one another. His law is love, and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease." This is a reminder that as we celebrate Christmas, we renew our commitment to ending all oppression, particularly of those who are most oppressed, the children living before birth within their mothers ... children who have been deprived of legal protection, and are oppressed by the mythology of choice. In the name of the newborn Christ, the oppression of our unborn children will cease. May Christmas give us the strength to be silent no more, and more active than ever in the pro-life cause.

**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.

**FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:**

**Advent Confession Schedule ...**

- 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!

**Parish Books Close Dec. 31, 2019 ...** please remember that the Parish books will be closed on Tue., Dec. 31 at Noon! Any contributions you want recorded on your 2019 contribution statement must be received in the parish office before Noon, Dec. 31, 2019.

**Fr. Seiker's schedule ...** Wed. Dec 25–Thu. Dec. 26, I will spend time with family in Lincoln Thu. Dec. 27 – Fri. Dec. 28; and also on Sun. Dec. 29 – Mon. Dec. 30, with family for Mom's birthday; Wed. Jan 1 – Thu. Jan 2, meeting with Jesus Caritas Priests in Hastings. If there is an emergency for which you need a Priest, please call: Fr. Bernard Kimminau, Curtis (308-367-4280), Fr. Tom Bush, Grant (308-352-4803), Fr. Josh Brown, St. Patrick(532-0942), Fr. Sauger, Holy Spirit(534-6623).

**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 \$1,579.00 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, Bonacum House, 3301 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506; 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: Spencer Hampton, Marcie Minchow, Ken Bjornstad, Diane Gregg. 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 on Jan. 12. 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 12). 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!

**Looking Back and Moving Forward ....**

The Daughters of Charity sponsored a "Retreat Day for Women" at our Parish on September 17, 2016. The retreat was led by Teresa Monaghan, AO. Her talks were on "Mary and her Mysteries." The retreat started with 8:00am Mass, followed by a continental breakfast, talks, praying the Rosary, lunch, talks and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. A group of women from as much as an hour and a half away came to the Retreat Day.

Chris Padgett at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall on September 15 spoke to adults and students. He also spoke to students in Grades 7-12 at St. Patrick School.

On Sunday, October 2, 2016, our parish celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of our new church building with a dinner that was provided for all parishioners. A very short powerpoint video about the construction of our new Church was shown.

On five Mondays during January-February, parishioners gathered in the Parish Hall for an evening meal, followed by a video talk by Fr. John Riccardo, followed by discussion. Parishioners were given the chance to share thoughts and ideas on Discipleship. We are striving to adjust our focus from being inward & maintenance based to being outward & mission-oriented. This change occurs first in our hearts, through an encounter with Christ, then in our homes as we grow in our faith, and finally in our culture as we witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some have participated in the Alpha Course, or other faith groups to encounter Jesus. Now, Discipleship Groups will help us grow as motivated & passionate disciples of Christ.

During March and April, parishioners joined in a study in the Parish Hall called: "Who Am I to Judge? Responding to Relativism with Logic & Love: by Dr. Edward Sri. Steve Ray was our speaker for our annual Forty Hours Eucharistic Adoration on April 2 – 4, 2017. His talks were: From Baptist to Catholic: Steve's Conversion Story; Defending the Eucharist: You are What You Eat; Swimming Upstream: Living a Catholic Life in a Pagan World.

Beginning in May 2017, the young adults from 3 Parishes in North Platte began hosting "Theology on Tap" gatherings for young adults in their 20s & 30s; & have been held almost monthly since the first meeting.

## Liturgical Minister

	Sat., Dec. 28, 5:00pm	Sun., Dec. 29, 10:00am
<b>Lector</b>	Jim Nisley	Volunteer
<b>Acolyte</b>	Volunteer	Duane Johnsen
<b>Server</b>	William Krondak	Volunteer
	Nicholas Krondak	Jace Grunden
<b>Music</b>	Volunteer	Matt & Ashley Perlinger
<b>Gifts</b>	Volunteer – Ask Ushers	Volunteer – Ask Ushers
<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteer	Volunteer
	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>Rosary</b>		

## *Readings for the Week*

Monday:	Mal 3:1-4,23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10,14; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday:	Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17; Mt 10:17-22
Friday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday:	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**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:** 12/23 - Owen Downey, 12/24 - Gary Bush, 12/25 - John Bode, 12/26 - Ryan Wartman, 12/27 - Lucia Pineda, 12/29 - Andrew Lott.

**Congratulations:** to Jerry & Sharon Beckius who celebrate their 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary Dec. 23.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ...** How many languages do you know? Most Americans might say they have a primary language, can follow the basics of another encountered in school or in the workplace, and maybe know the barest elements of a third. Yet nearly everyone is fluent in languages of symbol and ritual, languages that transcend the spoken word and may perhaps communicate more clearly. A dance, the delights of the table, the thrill of sport, the power of a painting, a shared silence on a surf washed beach or under a desert sky, a burst of delighted applause, all communicate without a single word. Sacrament empowers fluency in these languages. A little girl returning from Mass where a baby had been baptized was asked to summarize her day thus far. "I went to church, and some little baby became my brother." That's far more accurate than the adult's remark, "There was a baptism at Mass today." When we celebrate sacrament, Christ is always calling us into deeper fluency with the languages beyond speech. Sacraments open our senses to the presence of God precisely so we can respond to the depth of that love more fully. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TRUST IN GOD ...** On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel. Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to "tempt the LORD" in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord's enduring protection of God's chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel. Matthew's reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ. 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:** Jonah Alexander Brox, from St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2017. He is in College 4 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)**

**Universal:** That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.



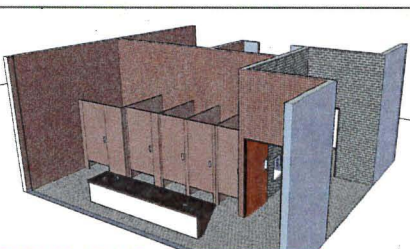
# Christmas Blessings from the North Platte Catholic Schools!

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas from the North Platte Catholic Schools. We are grateful for your prayers and support the whole year through! Remember that enrollment is always open, and the New Year is a wonderful time to experience the gift of Catholic education at Little Leprechaun Preschool, McDaid Elementary, and St. Patrick's Jr/Sr High School. Call Enrollment Director Gwen Covey at 308-532-1874 for information and to schedule a tour!

\*A reminder that the NPCCS Christmas Break runs from December 23rd through January 3rd. Classes and regular office hours resume on January 6th.

## *Now* is the Time!

The North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment, along with the NPCCS Board of Education, is excited to launch *Now is the Time!*, a capital campaign for vital improvements on the NPCCS campus. We have identified a list of projects that will ensure the viability of our campus facilities, improve efficiency, and grow the endowment for future generations of students. Campaign projects include:



Main restrooms, interior

### Plumbing and Restroom Facilities at St. Pat's High School

Update 65 year-old plumbing and renovate restroom facilities that are original to the SPSHS building.

### Roof at McDaid Elementary

Address and remedy issues that are causing water leaks in the 20-year old roof.

### Updated Kitchen Facilities at St. Pat's High School

Relocate the kitchen to provide a more efficient layout for food preparation and service, and upgrade to new kitchen equipment.

### Updated Locker Rooms

Repair and update boys and girls junior high, and girls varsity locker rooms.

### Growth of the Endowment

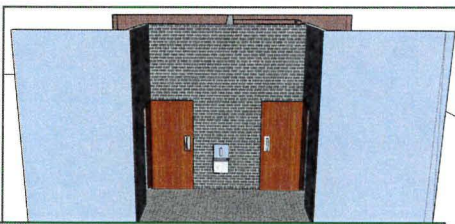
Secure the future viability of the North Platte Catholic Schools by growing the endowment. Investment earnings provide vital funds for school operations, teacher salaries, and aid in keeping tuition affordable for all families.

## *We Need You!*

With your support, we plan to move forward on these projects during summer,

2020. *Now is the Time!*, and we hope that you will strongly consider a gift in support of this campaign.

For more information, or to make a donation to the campaign, please contact the NPCCS Endowment office: 308-534-5939, [w.dodson@npcschools.org](mailto:w.dodson@npcschools.org). Year-end is a wonderful time to give!



Main restrooms, hallway entrance



Junior high restrooms