

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
Webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org>

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph *December 27, 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

Sunday	Dec. 27	7:00 p.m.	(Vigil Mass=Holy Innocents) For renewed respect for Life
Monday	Dec. 28	8:00 a.m.	Ron & Rosemary Jones (Anniv)
Tuesday	Dec. 29		- NO Scheduled Parish Mass -
Wednesday	Dec. 30	5:30 p.m.	Scott Rieker
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus			
Thursday	Dec. 31	8:00 a.m.	For our Benefactors
*** ** Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God *** **			
Thursday	Dec. 31	5:00 p.m.	Special Intention (jls)
Friday	Jan. 1	10:00 a.m.	People of our Parish
* ** ** ** **			
Friday	Jan. 1	6:00 p.m.	[6:00pm Exposition for First Friday Adoration]
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & all night Adoration			
Saturday	Jan. 2	8:00 a.m.	William & Francis Whisler +
		5:00 p.m.	People of our Parish
Sunday	Jan. 3	10:00 a.m.	Gary Ryland + & Ryland Family

INTENTIONS

**It is Christmas every time
you let God love others
through you.**

**Yes, it is Christmas
every time you smile
at your brother and
offer him your hand.**

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

Stewardship: December 20, 2020

Adult Envelopes:\$2,530.00
Loose Plate:\$155.00
Children:\$0.00
Holy Day: (Imm. Conception).....\$100.00
Holy Day: (Christmas) \$50.00
Total:\$2,835.00

Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$4,460.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$917,433.05
 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:.....\$1,741,678.04
 Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$25,536.89

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

Parish Calendar

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>)
Wednesday	Dec. 30	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration
Friday	Jan. 1	6:00pm – 8:00am on Saturday: First Friday Holy Hours / Eucharistic Adoration
Sunday	Jan. 3	11:30am: Family Formation, Parents & Children

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: Dec. 28-29: Arapahoe Holiday Tournament

Tax Deduction: A special \$300 tax deduction helps most people give to charity this year, even if they don't itemize! This special new provision will allow more people to easily deduct up to \$300 in donations to qualifying charities. Search the link below for more information. <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/special-300-tax-deduction-helps-most-people-give-to-charity-this-year-even-if-they-dont-itemize>. Gifts and Payments can now be made online! The North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment has a new online giving website! Memorial donations, Annual Fund gifts, Campaign pledge payments, and Year-End donations can all be made securely online! Please visit: <https://apps.npcschoools.org/donate-now>

Now is the Time Update: NPCES Endowment-Trust is happy to announce that Phase One of campaign projects is officially complete, with plans in place to begin Phase Two in May 2021. The NOW is the Time Campaign launched in December 2019 with a goal just shy of \$2 million for a variety of projects, including addressing 65-year-old plumbing and restroom fixtures at St. Pat's High School. Other items on the campaign include locker rooms, relocating offices, flooring, lighting, renovations to the faculty lounge, roof repair at McDaid Elementary, and growth of the endowment for future needs of the school system. Endowment Director Wendy Dodson reports that \$1,122,083 has been received in pledges and gifts. Improvements made thus far have already made a tremendous impact on the school and students. During summer and fall 2020, renovations were completed on one set of restrooms at St. Pat's High School, flooring and lighting were replaced along in the main hallway of the school, the faculty lounge was renovated to add restrooms, the student Honor Pass room was renovated, and the roof was repaired at McDaid Elementary. Pledges and donations are still needed to reach the total campaign goal, and support at all levels is greatly appreciated.

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

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*).

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

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 & greetings from elected officials. The Walk proceed to Newman Center (16th & Q St). Keynote speaker, **Sarah Zagorski** will give testimony to her challenging childhood & why every life matters. For more information, see 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.

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.

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)

Sanctuary of Life ... This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Though he was conceived of a virgin, Jesus nevertheless lived as a son in a human family -- a family which points the way for the rest of us. The family is the sanctuary of life. There can be no life without family, and there can be no family without life. The family, above all, is where life is to be welcomed, no matter how fragile or inconvenient it may be. One of the many reasons why the Pope and bishops identify abortion and euthanasia as pre-eminent issues is because these crimes are committed by one family member upon another. May the Holy Family lead us to a Culture of Life!

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).

THANK YOU ... to all those who helped with the Christmas Card Writing Party on Sunday, Dec. 13. There were 15 persons who wrote cards and 3 children who were coloring pictures to insert into the Cards. We sent 99 cards to residents at Linden Court and some homebound Parishioners. Also, thanks to those who helped with the decorating of the Church on Sunday, Dec. 22. It was a great opportunity to share in Advent joy & work together for the Lord.

Rediscover Your Marriage ... Retrouvaille simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped tens or thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on February 19-21, 2021, call 1-888-317-5654 or 308-986-2351 or www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration ...
Wednesdays of the year, 6:00pm (after the 5:30pm Mass) - 10:00pm. We need at least one (1) person present during each of those four hours. Anyone is invited to just "drop in" to spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord ... but we need 4 persons each week.

O, Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord! ...

May the words of our Christmas hymn help us to find the real meaning of Christmas and live it throughout the whole year!!

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Fr. Seiker's schedule ... Mon. Dec. 28 – Tue. Dec. 29, meeting with Jesus Caritas Priests in Lincoln. I will return Wed. afternoon.

Christmas Thank You's ... to those who helped with decorating the Church, arranged the flowers, set up outdoor decorations, the Cantors, Ushers, & all who gave of themselves to the Lord to make the feast day of our Lord's birth a special day. Also thanks to all who gave cards, gifts, & Christmas goodies to me, and especially for your prayers. Your kindness is appreciated!

Retired Priests Collection ... Attached to last week's Bulletin was an envelope for our **retired diocesan priests.** We reused 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.

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.**

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Liturgical Calendar & Saints

Saturday:	Dec. 26	St. Stephen (<i>Feast</i>)
Sunday:	Dec. 27	<u>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph</u>
Monday:	Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents (<i>Feast</i>)
Tuesday:	Dec. 29	5 th Day of the Octave of the Nativity St. Thomas Becket (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Wednesday:	Dec. 30	6 th Day of the Octave of the Nativity
Thursday:	Dec. 31	7 th Day of the Octave of the Nativity St. Sylvester I, Pope (<i>Opt. Memorial</i>)
Friday:	Jan. 1	<u>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</u> (<i>Solemnity</i>)
Saturday:	Jan. 2	Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Sunday:	Jan. 3	<u>The Epiphany of the Lord</u>

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: 12/26 - Ryan Wartman, 12/29 - Andrew Lott, 1/2 - Rebecca Nordquist.

Congratulations: to Ron & Rosemary Jones who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 28.

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

SECTION ONE – PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHAPTER ONE – THE REVELATION OF PRAYER

The Universal Call to Prayer

2566 *Man is in search of God.* In the act of creation, God calls every being from nothingness into existence. "Crowned with glory and honor," man is, after the angels, capable of acknowledging "how majestic is the name of the Lord in all the earth."¹ Even after losing through his sin his likeness to God, man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence. All religions bear witness to men's essential search for God.²

1 *Ps. 8:5* Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor.

Ps. 8:1 O Lord, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth! I will sing of your majesty above the heavens

2 *Cf. Acts 17:27* ... that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ...

2567 *God calls man first.* Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response. As God gradually reveals himself and reveals man to himself, prayer appears as a reciprocal call, a covenant drama. Through words and actions, this drama engages the heart. It unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation.

ARTICLE 1: IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

2568 In the Old Testament, the revelation of prayer comes between the fall and the restoration of man, that is, between God's sorrowful call to his first children: "Where are you? ... What is this that you have done?"³ and the response of God's only Son on coming into the world: "Lo, I have come to do your will, O God."⁴ Prayer is bound up with human history, for it is the relationship with God in historical events.

3 *Gen. 3:9* The Lord God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?

Gen. 3:13 The Lord God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, "The snake tricked me, so I ate it."

4 *Heb. 10:5-7* ⁵For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. ⁷Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

Pray for our Seminarians: Liam Sebastian O'Shea Creal, from St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2015. He is in Theology 3 at Mount Saint Mary 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.

(January) Prayer intention for evangelization - Human fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.