



ST. ELIZABETH
of the Trinity



DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.

EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."

—LUKE 3:4-5

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we prepare for Christ's first coming in the beginning of the Gospel of Mark that says: ***"The beginning of the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ the Son of God."*** The good news is presented by the wild figure of John the Baptist calling people to repent of their sins so that they could be prepared for the coming of the One long foretold.

John baptized in the Jordan River which was the place where the exodus ended about 1,400 years earlier. When the Chosen people's forty years of purifying in the desert was over, they crossed the river dry shod into the Promised Land and the manna eased as they ate from the fruit of the land. God had been faithful to His covenant, but the people often were not.

Throughout the history of salvation, we see a pattern: suffering and trial are often the only way people can appreciate the Lord's blessings and grace. The Israelites grumbled and often wanted to go back to the flesh pots of Egypt and so needed purifying in the desert to cling to the Lord. When they became too comfortable in Israel, they broke the covenant with God repeatedly including through idolatry, human sacrifice, and many injustices. God sent prophets to warn them until He allowed the Temple to be destroyed and imposed a seventy-year exile in Babylon.

The first reading from Isaiah shows how God comforted the people after the exile. And at the time of John the Baptist's coming the people were suffering again under Roman occupation, but they came out in throngs to seek forgiveness and so prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. We sometimes need "rock bottom" moments as a people, a Church, or individually to wake us up to our need of God's grace.

Not long ago I heard a quote that struck me as applying to the ups and downs of salvation history and our own times: *"Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men, and weak men create hard times."* This quote is from a postapocalyptic novel by the author G. Michael Hopf although I haven't read it. While the language is not inclusive of women or children it can be for John the Baptist's spiritual point today. Our times have become hard and so let us go back to the beginning of the Gospel, the good news.

It is admittedly a hard thing to be honest that we are sinners in need of a Savior, it takes a strong person to admit when one is weak. The times have become hard in part because we as Catholics, have become too weak to confess our sins. We should not repent because we want a cushy more comfortable life as a nation or a Church but because we need to for the good of our own souls. The world will become better when we become better.

If it has been a long time since you have made a good confession, try not to be afraid, the Lord loves us and wants us to trust him. There is a good examination of conscience on our website, under the Sacramental information tab, that includes how to go to the sacrament, the Act of Contrition, and the Ten Commandments with other questions to help us reflect honestly about our sins and then trusting in Jesus' mercy in the sacrament He gave us to forgive such sins. Repentance/metanoia is a necessary part of the good news of Jesus.

***A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."***

God bless,

Fr. Mike

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD." — MK 1:3



In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family, and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the St. Vincent de Paul Society, through the parish office, so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

FEAST IN HONOR OF

Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish
6020 West Ardmore Avenue
Chicago Illinois 60646-5320



DECEMBER
12th



You are invited from December 3rd to the 12th
to celebrate the festivities of our

Blessed Mother, Queen of Mexico
and Empress of the Americas and the Philippines

Bilingual Novena

Saturday December 9th Rosary and Novena Prayer 6:30 pm.

Sunday December 10th Rosary and Novena Prayer 2:15 pm.

Monday December 11th Rosary and Novena Prayer 7:00 pm.

Tuesday December 12th Mañanitas to Our Lady 5:30 am.

Dawn Mass in Spanish 6:30 am.

School Mass in English 8:30 am.

Bilingual Mass of the Roses 6:30 pm. (Mariachi Ángeles of Puebla)
presided over by Rev. Michael Grisolano and Rev. Leonel Sepulveda.

Reception to follow after Mass in the school auditorium.

Please be advised of the following schedule changes for this Tuesday ONLY:
Confessions will be from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Benediction will be at 5:15 p.m.



Kacey Vega child of
Francisco & Vanessa
(Orozco) Vega



Liliana Hilda child of
Noel & Olga
(Dominguez) Valle

Stewardship Report			
Sunday Giving (Fiscal Year July 2023 - June 2024)			
		November	
	2023		2022
Monthly Total	\$41,152		\$38,092
Yearly Total / Fiscal YTD	\$226,771		\$229,394
Weekly Average Attendance	828		734



SICK LIST

Michele Schmidt—Maria Szumski—Gary Sowell—Jeffrey Lalowski—Jadwija Chudzynski—
 Amy Grudzinski—Bernadette Bannach—Patricia Newell—Guzman family—Angela Ross—
 Nicholas Guerrieri—Fr. Dan Fallon—Marie Brasher—Paola Estrada—Judy Biala—Eva Anderson—
 Elise Fernandez—Emery Tanski—Cary Muldoon—Pauly—Sr. Kelly Masdat MSHT—Darlene Russo—
 Constance Anderson—Dolores Nano—Roberto Druca—Doreen Ciesla-Hugglung—Steve Hovde—
 Helzing Aguilar—Flavia Langan—Dennis Cresco—Roger Doering—Alice Ward—Arthur Hamilton—
 Paul Wierdak—Anthony Pfeifer—Paul Konietzny—Kathy Burns—Joan Harriss—
 Daniel Fraczkowski—Jackie Fortier—Charles Jacobucci—Nancy Wesclitz—Ciara Czajkowski—
 Donna J. Kolinski—Richard Muench—Frank Delia—Steve Miller
 (Call the rectory office to have your name - added or removed)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



**Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.**

Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others through praying for us, ministering to us, educating the young, caring for those who are sick and more—most for little or no pay, leaving a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your donation will make a real difference by providing essential care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.

Please give at your local parish.

To donate by mail:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

retiredreligious.org

Visit retiredreligious.org/2023photos to meet the religious pictured.
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Legacy Gifts for Our Parish

Please consider one of the greatest acts of stewardship an individual can make by establishing an estate plan. These gifts help us to build a solid foundation for the Catholic formation of future generations. A well-coordinated estate plan typically includes: (1) financial power of attorney, (2) will, (3) beneficiary designations, (4) charitable beneficiary designations, and (5) health care documents, such as a living will and a health care power of attorney.

Create or update your estate plans today by contacting your estate attorney and financial advisor. For more information, please visit myimpact.archchicago.org/resources. For a free step-by-step guide to reviewing your estate plan, please contact Marguerite Q. Zappa, Philanthropy Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at: 312.848.3068 or mzappa@archchicago.org.

Wreath Lighting and a Visit from the Bishop of Myra Kick Off the First Week of Advent

At the 9:00 a.m. Mass the Teal Family lit the first candle of the Advent Wreath, the "Prophet's Candle", which symbolizes Hope and reminds us that Jesus is coming.

The Bishop of Myra (*aka St. Nicholas*) paid a visit to RE classrooms, passing out candy canes and telling the story of how he became known for his generosity to those in need.



Santa & St. Nicholas

Santa Claus is round and plump;

St. Nicholas is tall and thin.

Santa Claus wears a stocking cap;

St. Nicholas wears a bishop's hat.

Santa Claus comes December 25th;

St. Nicholas comes December 6th.

Santa Claus is often seen in stores;

St. Nicholas is often seen in churches.

Santa Claus flies through the air—
from the North Pole;

St. Nicholas walked the earth,
caring for those in need.

Santa Claus,
for some, replaces Jesus at Christmas;

St. Nicholas, for all,
points to Jesus at Christmas.

—C. Myers & J. Rosenthal

From www.stnicholascenter.org

St. Nicholas was born in the third century, dedicated his life to serving God, and was made Bishop of Myra which is in present-day Turkey.





Christmas

(Holy Day of obligation)

Masses Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.
Monday, December 25th at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. and
1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

(Not a day of obligation this year)

Masses on Sunday, December 31st at 4:00 p.m.
Monday, January 1st - 9:00 a.m.

2024 PARISH WALL CALENDARS

2024 Parish Wall Calendars are now available in the vestibule of the church. There are both English and Spanish versions.

We would like to thank **Colonial Funeral Home** for their sponsorship of these calendars.



Sharing Families-Rwanda

The background on our parish support for Station School Rwanda was described in an insert with the October 8, 2023 bulletin. Here is a link to that picture-filled report:

<https://stelizabethtrinity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Station-School-Rwanda.pdf>

Dr. Hillman and the school staff honored this year's St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Service Day on November 20th by learning about the Station School. The day started with a presentation showing how our student daily lives differ from Rwandan students. Later in the day, the older students asked questions that have been sent to the Station School students for responses. Our younger students wrote letters and are awaiting responses as well. Our students are also raising money to sponsor new students at the Station School and are interested in learning more about the well project currently under construction.

Many of you have asked how the well project is going. The pipe is in place, and we should have water flowing to the Station School within the next few weeks. We are still in need of \$10,000 to complete the project.

Here is an interesting fact; we just realized one of the students front and center in our photo at the start of the project is now a scholarship winner and will be attending the University of Rwanda in January. We really do make a difference in the world!

Helping one child will not change the world, however, for that one child the world will be forever changed.

The cost to become a sponsor is \$25.00 per student, however any size donation is appreciated. You can give at any time by making a check payable to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish. Please be sure to mark on the memo portion of the check Station School. You can also donate online via Faith Direct. Follow our progress on this remarkable journey at www.stelizabethtrinity.org and see the hope and smiles in the eyes of the children. We have given the gift of a brighter future and we have received the gift of an extended family.



Bobbie DuMelle



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Step-by-Step Walk Through the Mass Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 18: Response After Readings By FR. LUKE SPANNAGEL



“The Word of the Lord.”

“Thanks be to God!”

After the First and Second Readings at Mass, we have this familiar statement and response from the congregation. As the Diocese of Peoria’s *A Study of the Mass* teaches, “At the end of the reading, the lector announces, ‘the Word of the Lord,’ which is a testament of our faith in the inspired Word of God in Sacred Scripture. We readily show our gratitude and respond, ‘Thanks be to God!’ We are thankful that God has revealed himself to us and that He continues to speak to us” (p. 7).

God Speaks to Us

Far more than just being “standard operating procedure,” these little dialogues are really powerful affirmations of what is happening during the Liturgy of the Word. While the lector proclaims God’s Word, we listen to what God wants to teach us that particular day. Even if we are generally attentive to the readings, we can easily get distracted. Perhaps we notice someone sitting nearby and think of a question we wanted to ask him or her. Sometimes, a word in the reading reminds us of another thought. Maybe our stomach growls and we start thinking about what our next meal might be. In any event, at the end of the reading, the lector helps to get us back on track if we’ve wandered astray. The lector says, “The Word of the Lord,” as if to say, “In case you forgot or didn’t notice, the Lord God of heaven and earth was just speaking to you.” It really is amazing to stop and think about: God is speaking to us, his people, through the readings at Mass!

Our response, “Thanks be to God,” acknowledges that God is truly speaking to his people through the Bible reading we just heard and that we recognize we are blessed to hear those words! Being in the habit of turning to God in thankfulness can be so helpful in our daily living as well. In the midst of our lives, we easily get our hearts turned inward, such as when we are thinking about what makes us happy or what we would enjoy for dinner. In more serious situations, when we fall into sin, we are turned inward in a way that keeps our vision away from God and others. When this happens, we can find ourselves falling into selfishness and self-seeking behavior. We can also miss opportunities for charity because we do not recognize the good in the people around us.

Practicing Thankfulness

In these latter situations, the grace of the sacraments helps strengthen us. Thankfulness is also a great remedy that helps turn our hearts as we recognize blessings that have come from God and others. Being thankful can give us a reset and help us once again to see and appreciate the gifts God has given us and the good that we can see in one another. We glimpse the wisdom behind our response to the readings at Mass. Being in the habit of regularly thanking God helps keep our hearts healthy and on track.

Not only does this dialogue help us acknowledge God and thank him for the Scriptures, but it can also help us stay in tune with what we are doing at Mass. As you may know, the word Eucharist itself means “thanksgiving.” In the Mass, we join with Christ in the perfect sacrifice of praise to God the Father. As God’s people, we are also joined together in thankful praise, recognizing the love of Christ and our invitation to share in that love. Very fittingly, after the Second Reading and response, we will praise God together in preparation for the Gospel as we sing the Alleluia!



Watch St. Elizabeth of the Trinity 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass live on You Tube - search for St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish channel.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

5:00 PM — Diane Rudden, Don Love, Patrick Rodden, Ralph Schmidt, deceased members of the Raleigh family, Debbie O'Hagan, Rachel Hernandez

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

7:30 AM — for our parishioners
9:00 AM — Coleman McDonagh, Timothy Hiram, Patrick Durkin
11:00 AM — Megan Carmona
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION
1:00 PM — (Spanish) Cesar Hernandez Marin, Cirilo Pacheco, Julia Suarez

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

8:30 AM — souls in purgatory

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

5:30 AM — MANANITAS
6:30 AM — (Spanish)
8:30 AM — Carl Carlson, Conrad Deane
11:00 - 6:00 PM - Adoration / Benediction at 5:15
4:30 - 5:00 PM - CONFESSION
6:30 PM — (Bilingual) John & Katherine Misiuda, Peter Eck, Annie Eck, Joseph Guidi

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

8:30 AM — Francis McCarthy, Hildegard Holz, Sister Joyce Rankin, John Keane (2nd anniversary), Carmen Caraballo Rosario (health), Pete Eck

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

8:30 AM — Pat Cahill
6:30 PM — FIRST RECONCILIATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

8:30 AM — for peace between Israel & Hama

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

8:30 AM — John J., John H. & Jo Fergus, Peter Joseph Smith
3:30 - 4:30 PM — CONFESSION
5:00 PM — Kuss & Dziedzic families, John & Helen Ptak, Don Love Jr., Mike McLaughlin (16th anniversary), Russell Collins, Debbie O'Hagan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

7:30 AM — Betty Aguilar, Robert Trimble, Eugene Fraczkowski
9:00 AM — for our parishioners
11:00 AM — Donna Pennock, Karen Peterson, souls in purgatory
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION
1:00 PM — (Spanish) Cesar Hernandez Marin, Julia Suarez, Cirilo Pacheco

Presider Schedule - December 16 & 17

5:00 p.m.—Fr. Sepulveda/ piano
7:30 a.m. —Fr. McCarthy / organ
9:00 a.m. —Fr. Grisolano / piano / parish choir
11:00 a.m.—Fr. Grisolano / organ
1:00 p.m.—(Spanish) Fr. Sepulveda



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Damasus I, Pope
Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
©LPi

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

"If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in the Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude."

St. Angela of Foligno

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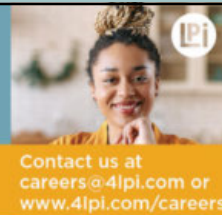
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ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY PARISH

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Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Daniel P. McCarthy

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Deacon Gregory Bzdon

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School / Parish Marketing Director

Mrs. Jenica Anderson
j.anderson@stelizabethtrinityschool.org

SERVICES

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. & Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (English) and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday through Saturday: 8:30 a.m., Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. and First Thursday: 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Rosary:

Prayed daily immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Church is open daily for private prayer until 5:00 p.m.

Confession:

Tuesday: 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., Thursday: 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. (bilingual)
Saturday: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Sunday: 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Benediction at 6:00 p.m.)

Last Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Benediction at 7:50 p.m.)

Rectory (Parish Office): Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Baptism:

Please contact Deacon Greg Bzdon to make arrangements:

gbzdon@archchicago.org

Becoming a Catholic:

Would you like to learn more about what it means to be a Catholic? The Church calls this process *The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)*. It is a small group forum where interested people learn more about initiation and membership in the Catholic Church. Please call the parish office for more information.

Marriage:

Must be arranged six months prior to the ceremony. Please contact a priest to make arrangements.

Religious Education for Public Grade School Students: Contact Peggy Bradley for more information.

Parish Registration: New parishioners are asked to register at the Rectory.

Forms are also available on our website under the Our Parish tab or in the rear of church.

Communion Visits: Ministers of Care bring Communion to the homebound. Contact Tony Lupinski through the parish office to make arrangements.

Food Pantry: Open Tuesdays - 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the lower level of the gym
For more Info email us at: food-pantry@stelizabethtrinityschool.org

Bulletin Deadline: Noon on Fridays (9 days prior to bulletin date)

Rectory: 773-763-8228
Fax: 773-774-8461
School: 773-763-7080
Website: www.stelizabethtrinity.org
Email: parishoffice@setparish.org

*"It seems to me that I have found my
heaven on earth,
because my heaven is You,
my God,
and You are in my soul.
You in me,
and I in You – may this be my motto."
St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*