



# ST. ELIZABETH of the Trinity



**DECEMBER 15, 2024**



Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete is Latin and means “Rejoice.” As we heard in the second reading: ***“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again rejoice.”*** During Advent we have heard strong exhortations like that from St. John the Baptist telling us to repent, for the Lord is near, and the fruit of his preaching is on display in today’s Gospel.

While we ask questions all the time, they are not always as meaningful and well-intended as the crowds were as John the Baptist exhorted them. They repeatedly asked him regarding preparation for the Lord: ***“What should we do?”*** They were of goodwill and let John’s hard preaching soften their hearts so that they were willing to be taught and led. This is a huge step in the spiritual life when we humble ourselves before the Lord asking the question: ***“What should we do?”***

They were very brave, and we can be too in asking the Lord for guidance and even correction! Then the tax collector’s and soldiers asked what they should do, and St. John’s response was very specific to their own state in life.

The tax collectors were told not to collect more than what was prescribed. The soldiers were told not to rob anyone through violence (extortion), not to falsely accuse anyone, and to be satisfied with their own wages. Positions of authority can easily be abused for self-advantage. The tax collectors then were known to line their pockets and soldiers, even today, can use the chaos of war and their own strength of arms to intimidate others and walk off with money and possessions that are not their own.

We all have some clout or authority over others, and we may be tempted to abuse it when we think no one is watching. Whether we work for the city, a school, a hospital, a corporation, the Church, are a stay-at-home parent, are caring for an elderly person or are a high schooler with a part-time job, we are all called to be just towards others, including our country, family members, and employers. A general sense of lawlessness can be very demoralizing and sadly, when we hear someone say: “No one follows the rules/law so why should I?” we too might want to imitate their bad example.

St. John the Baptist reminds us that justice is a precondition for love. If we really want to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s coming, the Lord wants us to begin by not doing evil. The first thing a parent wants if their children are fighting is that the children stop pushing each other’s buttons. Then they are more able to be generous and loving. If our employers could wish one thing from us it would start with matters of justice no doubt, like working the full day, that we not steal, are people of integrity, that we not harass the other staff, are dutiful in our work and so forth.

St. John the Baptist also told the crowds to do works of mercy by giving food to the hungry and clothes to the naked. The Lord probably connects love and justice because our justice towards others often tends toward selfishness where love always focuses on giving ourselves freely to others.

The Baptist’s teachings today help us to review personally, in our unique states of life, if our love towards family, friends, work, country, and Church is sincere by first reminding us of the duty we have towards others.

***Your kindness (and justice) should be known by all. The Lord is near.”***

God bless,

Fr. Mike





In today's Gospel John the Baptist says: "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

**Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Society so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.**



## ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Evening Prayer (Vespers) in church at 6:30 p.m.

Mondays, December 2, 9, 16 & 23

### Holy Hour

Monday, December 23 - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Prayer, Adoration, Benediction, Confession

### Christmas

*(Holy Day of obligation)*

Masses Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. *(livestreamed)* & 5:00 p.m.

*(No Adoration today)*

Masses Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

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

*(Holy Day of obligation)*

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Adoration – 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Confession 4:00 p.m.

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Masses Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. (English) & 11:00 a.m. (Spanish)



### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.**

This will be our Christmas gathering. Please bring a treat to share. We will not meet in January or February. Bring any items you have finished to this meeting. We have been able to give many scarves, hats, and shawls to people who need them. Come and celebrate our successful year!

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## “O” Antiphons

The O Antiphons are prayed during Vespers from December 17 to December 23. Since Advent is a time of preparation, where we recall our need for a Savior, these antiphons speak the words of the prophets who prefigure the coming of the Messiah. Each antiphon begins with the word “O,” followed by a title for the Messiah, and a petition for Jesus to come and save the people of God by fulfilling the Scriptures. Below are the O Antiphon’s for each day as well as a scriptural verse from the Old Testament that it is in reference to.

**December 17: O Sapientia** “O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!”

*Sirach 24:3: “From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and like mist covered the earth”.*

**December 18: O Adonai** “O Lord of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!”

*Micah 5:2 “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”*

**December 19: O Radix Jesse** “O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people: come to save us without delay!”

*Isaiah 11:10 “On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.”*

**December 20: O Clavis David** “O Key of David opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!”

*Isaiah 22:22 “I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open.”*

**December 21: O Oriens** “O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.”

*Malachi 3:20: “For you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”*

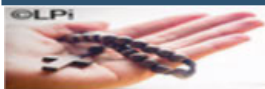
**December 22: O Rex Gentium** “O King of the Nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!”

*Ps. 118:22 “The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”*

**December 23: O Emmanuel** “O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!”

*Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”*

*Visit Mary’s side altar on these days to see a display for each “O” Antiphon. Through prayer, we prepare the manger of our hearts for the Lord of Hosts to dwell this Christmas.*



## SICK LIST

Michele Schmidt—Maria Szumski—Gary Sowell—Jeffrey Lalowski—Jadwija Chudzynski—  
Amy Grudzinski—Bernadette Bannach—Patricia Newell—Guzman family—Angela Ross—  
Nicholas Guerrieri—Marie Brasher—Paola Estrada—Eva Anderson—Elise Fernandez—  
Emery Tanski—Cary Muldoon-Pauly—Sr. Kelly Masdat MSHT—Darlene Russo—  
Constance Anderson—Dolores Nano—Roberto Druca—Helzing Aguilar—Flavia Langan—  
Dennis Cresco—Roger Doering—Alice Ward—Arthur Hamilton—Anthony Pfeifer—Paul Konietzny—  
Kathy Burns—Joan Harriss—Daniel Fraczkowski—Jackie Fortier—Charles Jacobucci—  
Nancy Wesclitz—Ciara Czajkowski—Donna J. Kolinski—Raffaella Mucerino—Jose A. Reyes—  
Carmen R. Reyes—Calli Olvera—Antoinette Bongiorno—Joe Banks—Eleida Flores—Paul Wierdak—  
Joe & Nelda Garza—Kenneth Payne—Gloria Spsychalski—Andrea Emilia Bernabey—  
Gustavo Caceres—Patricia Gullery—Ptryk Kozlowski—Larry Garcia—Jeanette Peterson—  
Lauren Moy—Lacey Red Anderson—Annamarie Kelly—Franklin Wolff—Owen Estep—  
Joseph Dudek—Carter Glick—James Furlong

*(Call the rectory office to have your name added or removed)*

## Sharing Families-Rwanda

If you're not familiar with the 10+ year story of our parish support for Station School Rwanda – or would like a review – please check out the insert from the October 8, 2023 Sunday Bulletin. Below is a link to the picture-filled report on our parish website.

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

**After the recent visit to the Station School in Rwanda, I am happy to report continued sustainable progress in all areas.**

### Updates-

- We now have 1,700 students (we started with 740)
- After having to order a “deep pump” from Italy coupled with a delay in the shipment of the needed solar panels arrival, the well has been installed! This means that trekking eight miles round trip to collect water will soon be a thing of the past.
- We received thank you letters and photos of the students receiving our gifts of uniforms, hygiene products, and school supplies from the last wire fund transfer.
- **Most important** students send love and prayers to all the Sharing Families of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. The students are working hard so that the Sharing Families can be proud of them. One proof of this is found in their National Test Scores which are at a record high for the Station School.

Our motto is simple: *Helping one child will not change the world however, for that one child the world will be forever changed.*

Thank you for your continued support, your gifts will never be forgotten.



Students preparing for morning prayers



Pump with solar power activation



Students excited to receive hand carried gifts for the school



Students discuss (in English) the blessings & love felt from the Sharing Families' generosity



### A few reminders:

You can sponsor a student or donate any amount 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.**) The cost for sponsorship is \$25.00 per student

You can also donate online via Faith Direct. Please select the Station School.

Follow our progress on this remarkable journey at [www.stelizabethtrinity.org](http://www.stelizabethtrinity.org) and see the hope and smiles in the eyes of the children. We have given them the gift of a brighter future and we have received the gift of an extended family. God bless,

**Bobbie DuMelle**

# Join Us for Rescue Project Starting January 13th



Why is there something  
rather than nothing?

Why is everything so  
obviously messed up?

What if anything has God  
done about it?

How should I respond?



Ever ask yourself these questions?  
We invite you to join us for The Rescue  
Project.  
Together we can discover The Story.

## How Our Past Participants Described Their Experience of Encountering Jesus in the Rescue Project:

“It was a compelling and transformative  
experience, inspiring spiritual growth and  
deepening of faith”

“ It was enlightening and thought provoking”

“ I enjoyed meeting new people and talking  
about faith openly”

“I enjoyed the interaction with my table mates  
and hearing their perspectives.”

“It was worth hearing and being reminded  
about what is really important”

Come join us each week for a meal  
followed by an engaging video and  
faith sharing conversation. If you  
want more information or to  
register please email Ashley at  
[aguinn@archchicago.org](mailto:aguinn@archchicago.org), call the  
parish office or use the QR Code



## PICTURES OF THE DECEASED

Just a reminder...if you brought pictures for the special November shrine honoring the deceased...please pick them up in the vestibule as soon as possible. Thank you.





# ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY SCHOOL

6040 W Ardmore Ave  
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Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

During Advent we are preparing for the birth of Jesus on Earth. At a recent school Mass Fr. Leo discussed how the Lord calls us to do things that will last.



## SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES NEEDED

The St. Elizabeth of the Trinity School Science Fair will be on January 23, 2025 and we are in need of judges! As a judge, you will be evaluating students on their science fair presentation while also reading their written reports. Both projects have a rubric to follow. Anyone is able to volunteer (who does NOT have an 8th grade student enrolled in St. Elizabeth) but if you have a background in education, science, or medicine, that is a bonus, but not required. If you can help out on the 23rd from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. , please contact Mrs. Kathy Dati at: [k.dati@stelizabethtrinityschool.org](mailto:k.dati@stelizabethtrinityschool.org)

It is really a great experience and our students love showing off their projects!



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

**Step-by-Step Walk Through the Mass  
Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 70,  
USCCB Guideline for Receiving Holy Communion  
by FR. LUKE SPANNAGEL**



**What are the Official Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion?** Last time, we looked at the three requirements for receiving Communion: being a Catholic, in the state of grace, and observing a one-hour fast beforehand. To help people understand and to be clear, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops put together a listing of guidelines that would cover anyone who might happen to be at Mass. Sometimes you will see these guidelines printed on programs of special Masses or often on (or inside) the cover of the Missalettes. Since we covered them a bit last time, hopefully the first two sections will sound familiar. For a closer look at the USCCB guidelines, they are listed here:

**FOR CATHOLICS:** As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible ([Code of Canon Law] canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

**FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS:** We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

**FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:** All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

**FOR NON-CHRISTIANS:** We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

What about those who are not able to receive Communion? As we can see here from the USCCB directives, we are asked to pray for true unity and a lessening of divisions. Recall that Jesus prayed for unity at the Last Supper, "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us" (Jn 17:20). It is the Lord's desire for us to be united together. It is a great challenge for us to be mindful of this prayer of Jesus and to be joined with him in praying for a true growth in unity. For those not able to receive Communion at this time, there is also what is called a prayer of Spiritual Communion. We'll take a closer look next week!





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 14, 2024**

5:00 PM — John & Helen Ptak, Joe Rangel, Dick & Peggy Lameka, Frank & Dorothy Shannon, Don Love, Malachy Byrne (birthday remembrance), Mary McDonough (19th anniversary), Teresa Heneghan, Olivia Pyne

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2024**

7:30 AM — for our parishioners  
 9:00 AM — Russell Sager  
 11:00 AM — James Furlong  
 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION  
 1:00 PM — (Spanish) Cesar Hernandez Marin, Celia Alanis

**MONDAY DECEMBER 16, 2024**

8:30 AM — Peter Joseph Smith

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2024**

8:30 AM — Betty Aguilar, Robert Trimble, Conrad Deane  
 11:00 - 6:00 PM - Adoration / Benediction at 6:00  
 5:30 - 6:00 PM - CONFESSION  
 6:30 PM — Maria Salazar, Joseph & Katherine Misiuda

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2024**

8:30 AM — Louis & Eleanor Saxon

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2024**

8:30 AM — Lou & Josephine Strzyzynski  
 7:00 PM — Bilingual Confession

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2024**

8:30 AM — Louis & Eleanor Saxon

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 21, 2024**

8:30 AM — John H., John J. & Jo Fergus  
 5:00 PM — Reynaldo & Gilda Rivera (50th wedding anniversary)

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024**

7:30 AM — Helen & Alexander Kolinski, Ed Sanborn & Stella Dyjak (birthday remembrances), Jo Sanborn, Anna, Joseph, Walter & Edward Dyjak, Eugene Frackowski  
 9:00 AM — Harry Sikora (birthday), Russell Sager, souls in purgatory  
 11:00 AM — Josephine Mruczek, Walter & Mary B. Davitt  
 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION  
 1:00 PM — (Spanish) Cesar Hernandez Marin, Celia Alanis

**Presider Schedule - December 21 & 22**

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



**HAPPY 88TH BIRTHDAY ON DECEMBER 17.**



Kevin Heneghan & Kathleen Batka - II



Winifred Blake  
 Nadia Karadsheh

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent  
 Monday:  
 Tuesday:  
 Wednesday:  
 Thursday:  
 Friday:  
 Saturday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
 Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

©LPi

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27  
 Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 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 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
 Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45  
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



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*“It’s time for faithful Catholics to stop trying to live for God.*

*Instead we should start living from him.*

*The body and blood of the Lord is the source of our life, our energy, and our joy.*

*So let’s eat and drink here and every day to our heart’s content and then let’s rush out into a starving world and tell everybody we meet, ‘Starving people, listen! We found where the food is!’”*

**Monsignor James Shea**

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# ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY PARISH

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**Email:** parishoffice@setparish.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](mailto: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 Hugo Munoz 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](mailto:food-pantry@stelizabethtrinityschool.org)

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

*"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*