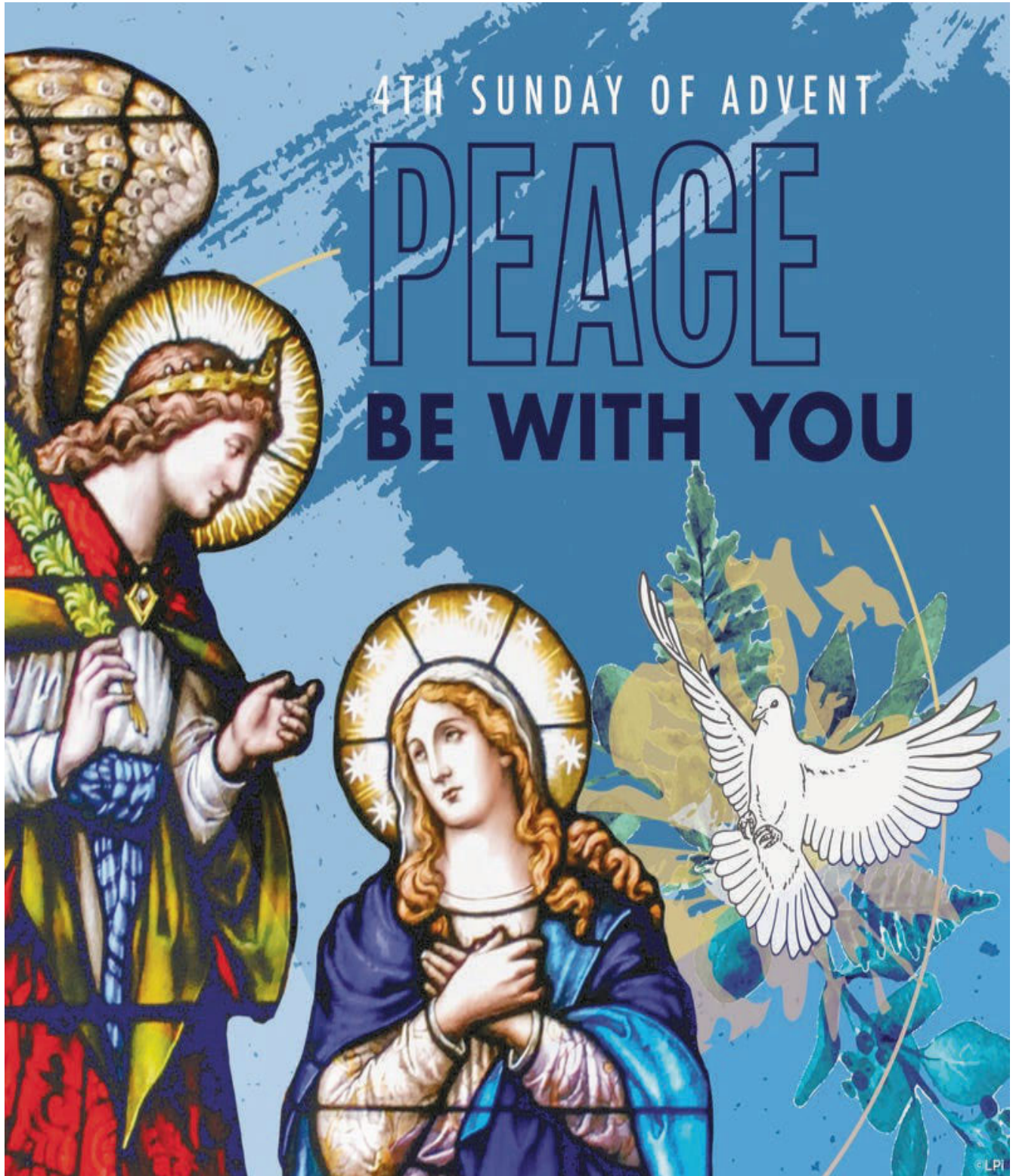




ST. ELIZABETH
of the Trinity



DECEMBER 22, 2024



As we approach Christmas, I have been thinking a lot about what it means to welcome Jesus and to await His coming again. This has taken on a special character for me this year. As many of you may know, I became a mother for the first time this past June. My little boy will be 6 months old on Christmas Eve. I would like to share with you some of the fruit of my own prayer this Advent and hopefully help you understand how it connects to evangelization.

Before he came, in the metaphorical Advent season that was my pregnancy, I focused a lot on getting ready to welcome the baby. I read books, took classes, decorated the nursery all in the hope that I would be ready when he came. As any of you who are parents can empathize with, my husband and I were not ready. We knew in theory what to do with a baby but that was not the same as knowing our Robert. Only once he was here with us could we know what tactics actually worked to get him to sleep or what things would make him smile. Only now do we understand how snuggly and happy our little boy is and his mostly calm personality. We know that some people's well meaning advice does not work for our baby and that the joy of seeing him smile or hearing him laugh is better than anyone could have described. In short, it is so very different now that we actually know him as the little person he is and not just the idea of what we thought he would be. These thoughts drew me to spend Advent thinking and praying about what it must have been like for Mary to know Jesus in the way I know my own son. What it was like for her to come to understand God's personality up close and to know His love in that unique and deeply personal way. Jesus wants all of God's children, and you in particular to know Him that personally. Our relationship with Him won't look exactly like Mary's because it will be unique to us, but by the Grace of God it can be deeply personal and meaningful.

This is the hope of Evangelization. We want everyone here to have a deeper, more personal relationship with Christ and to invite other people to have a similarly personal relationship. Here at St. Elizabeth, we can do that through many ways. First, we can start by building our own relationship with Christ through prayer. We can come to know Christ by spending time with Him just like we would with any other personal relationship. We can also know Him by participating in the Sacraments. Finally, hearing about how God has worked in the lives of others around us and sharing how He has worked in our own lives can greatly strengthen our relationship with Christ. To give a personal analogy, I have never met my grandfather in person because he died before I was born, but I know him through the love he showed my dad. Similarly, we can come to know Jesus through the love he has shown to others, and our stories can be a great way to introduce someone to Christ.

There are several opportunities to do that kind of sharing here including Rescue Project (starting again January 13th), That Man Is You (Tuesdays starting again Feb. 4th) and a similar opportunity for the women of the parish (coming in God's time which the team working on this are all hoping will be very soon, but I can't promise a start date right now).

I hope that you have a very blessed Christmas and can experience Jesus in a more personal relationship with Jesus as we celebrate His birth.

Ashley Guinn



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Holy Hour

Monday, December 23 - 6:30 p.m.
Evening Prayer, Adoration, Benediction, Confession

Christmas

(Holy Day of obligation)

Masses Tuesday, December 24th at 3:00 p.m. *(livestreamed)* & 5:00 p.m.
(No Adoration on Christmas Eve)

Masses Wednesday, December 25th 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 31st Adoration – 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Confession 4:00 p.m.
Mass at 5:00 p.m.

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

THANK YOU FROM THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



Our Conference is filled with gratitude for the generosity of our parishioners who donated 753 gifts and nearly \$500 in cash for our parish Christmas Sharing program. We delivered the gifts and money to the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels. Thank you. Thank you. Thank You.





PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

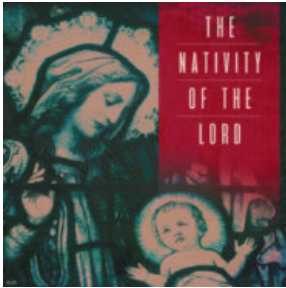
The parish office will close at 1:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. It will remain closed on Christmas and Thursday, December 26.

The office will reopen on Friday, December 27 at 9:00 a.m.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

All items for the Dec. 29 bulletin, including Mass intentions, are due by Fri., Dec. 20

All items for the Jan. 5 bulletin, including Mass intentions, are due by Tues, Dec. 24



The Nativity of the Lord

Take a moment to contemplate the symbols of the season. The crèche tells us the Gospel stories: first from Luke, which details the human birth in a lowly stable and the angels' message to shepherds; and later from Matthew, which describes the arrival of Magi who signify that



God's salvation extends to all. The angels stand as heralds of the good news, an emblem for each of us on this solemn feast of our own duty to spread the message that Christ is born and saves us from our sins. The tree stands as a symbol of life, its green branches unfading even in the winter cold, just as God's life remains in us even though our human form should die. The wreath made of evergreens reminds us that God is one, without beginning or end. The candles recall the birth of him who is forever the Light of the world. Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a beautiful, innocent infant who rejects no one. We rejoice this day in the birth of Christ! And tonight, we remember that Jesus Christ came into this world quietly, humbly, and gracefully, an example of how we should live our lives.



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 Drueca—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 Weslitz—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)

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU FROM THE PARISH

Prayer fascinates us. Studies show that even atheists and agnostics sometimes pray. But what precisely is prayer? How does it “work”? And what are some of the time-tested ways to practice it?

An Introduction to Prayer offers a collection of rich yet brief reflections on prayer in the Catholic spiritual tradition from acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian Bishop Robert Barron. This book explores the answers to questions like:

- Why should I pray?
- What should I say or do when I’m praying?
- Who exactly am I praying to?
- Are there different types of prayer?
- What do the spiritual masters say about prayer?
- How can I establish a solid routine of prayer?

And many more

Perfect for beginners but filled with profound insights for those looking to further their spiritual life, *An Introduction to Prayer* will inspire you to seek out more frequent conversation—and a deeper communion—with God.



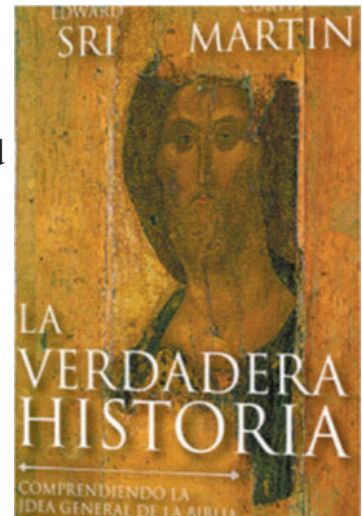
FOR OUR SPANISH PARISHIONERS

Do you know the real story of the Bible?

What do Adam and Eve, Moses, David, Jesus, and the Apostles have to do with my life?

In The Real Story, Edward Sri and Curtis Martin break open the Word to examine how all these pieces fit together into one cohesive narrative—a story of how, little by little, God has drawn His people into closer union with Himself, culminating in the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Church.

Through a closer study of the key characters and events in the larger biblical narrative, Sri and Martin show that the Bible ultimately isn’t a collection of disjointed stories, but an epic saga of God’s infinite love for us and His perfect plan for our salvation since the beginning of time.



(Please note that there are also a limited number of these books available in English)

Jubilee of Hope: Holy Door opens on December 24



Only a few days remain until the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, marking the beginning of the Holy Year 2025. The Jubilee offers a special moment for plenary indulgence, conversion, and grace to rekindle hope in the daily journey of life and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Follow the opening of the Holy Door on December 24 at 7:00 PM (Rome time) and all events of the Holy Year 2025 with Vatican News and Vatican Radio via our YouTube channel or Facebook Live.

"Hope does not disappoint."

2025 PARISH WALL CALENDARS

Parish calendars are expected to be here in early January. We have lost our past sponsor and the parish is picking up the cost for the 2025 calendars

If you know of a business that would like to sponsor our 2026 calendars, please contact the parish office.

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, call the
parish office or use the QR Code





ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY SCHOOL

6040 W Ardmore Ave
Chicago, IL 60646
(773) 763-7080
stelizabethtrinityschool.org

Thank you to everyone one who came out to 8th Grade Night to cheer on our eighth graders as they played one last game at home.



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

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



When we looked at the guidelines for receiving Communion, we noted that there are several circumstances where a person might not be able to receive Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, such as someone who doesn't share the Catholic faith or belief in the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist; someone who does believe but is unable to receive because of illness; someone who is living outside the moral teaching of the Church; or someone who needs to partake of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Communion. For many in these situations, abstaining from receiving the Holy Eucharist can be a great sacrifice. What should we do when we aren't able to receive the greatest possible gift in the world?

In the "Source and Summit of the Christian life," we encounter Jesus, God with us, who offers us the greatest gift we could ever receive: himself. Without question, not being able to receive Communion can be an incredible challenge and sacrifice. The fact that this is a hard sacrifice is a good thing! The difficulty shows us where our hearts really are and that we understand the truth of the Eucharist. If we didn't believe Jesus was really present, this sacrifice wouldn't be nearly as hard to offer. Besides the genuine reverence we show for the sacrament, not being able to receive can offer us a unique opportunity to become even more aware of God's presence in our lives and his call for us to turn away from sin and allow his grace to work in our lives. For those who are longing for the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, this time also offers the opportunity to practice making a "**Spiritual Communion**" to unite with Jesus in the Eucharist.

What Spiritual Communion Is

What is Spiritual Communion? As the *Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion* state: "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" (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1996). This practice is called a *Spiritual Communion*. While reception of Holy Communion is incredibly significant and our fullest participation in the Mass, those who are not able to receive the Eucharist sacramentally can unite themselves spiritually to Christ through prayer. We can still pray and thank God in that moment for the wonderful love of Jesus and his saving sacrifice. We can acknowledge through prayer that we believe Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. We can express true longing from our hearts that we will be able to receive the Eucharist in the future. We can express the desire in the moment of being able to receive graces from Jesus in the Eucharist, even though we are unable to receive him sacramentally. So, those who cannot receive Communion can still gain spiritual fruit from the Mass, uniting themselves to Christ through desire and prayer.

At various times in our Church history, Spiritual Communion was really more the norm than the exception. Many saints lived during eras when reception of Communion was very rare, arising from many factors such as the legality of Christianity, the availability of priests, or a humble sense of unworthiness to receive our Lord. In his book *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*, Fr. Michael Muller talks about spiritual union with the Mass even from a distance: "It is well for those who can do so in the course of the morning to retire to their room nearly at the time which they know to be the hour when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered in the Church, and, after having implored the grace of God, to perform with recollection and fervor the duty of religion, to kneel down before the Crucifix, and with all the sentiments of devotion possible to unite heart and soul to the Heart of Jesus in the holy Mass, and then read or say the same prayers which they would have said had they been actually present in the church, never forgetting to make the spiritual Communion, which may be made in any place, and at any hour of the day or night" (*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*, p. 392).

How to Make a Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion allows us all to be participating in the prayer of the Mass, either from our pew or from a distance. If you are unable to receive the Eucharist, just after the priest receives Communion (at what would be the normal time people come forward for Communion), you can tell Jesus in your heart of your desire to receive him. This can be in your own words or, if you prefer, this commonly known prayer from St. Alphonsus Liguori:

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Let me not be ever separated from You. Amen.

Our faith tells us that, by the grace of Christ, we will navigate the challenges of our lives. Let's unite ourselves in mind and heart to Jesus this day, trusting in him and his love for us!



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 21, 2024

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 Fraczkowski
 9:00 AM — Harry Sikora (birthday), Russell Sager, souls in purgatory
 11:00 AM — Josephine Mruzcek, Walter & Mary B. Davitt
 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION
 1:00 PM — (Spanish) Cesar Hernandez Marin, Celia Alanis

MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 2024

8:30 AM — Jo Fergus, Frank & Ann Tadeusiak, Frank & Victoria Zelazo, Mike Harriss

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2024

8:30 AM — Mary Ann Joks, John Strisczek, Conrad Deane
 3:00 PM — Richard Bartuce, Jason Mencarini, John Strisczek
 5:00 PM — Paul & Rita Lombardi, Dominic Zurlo, Joseph & Katherine Misiuda

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 2024

7:30 AM — Vasil & Carlson family
 9:00 AM — Charles Boyd, Carmen Rosario Castro, deceased members of the Klosinski, Lukaski, Bellen, Petykowski & Budzynski families
 11:00 AM — Frank, Theresa, Louis & baby Louis Cicchetti, Robert Coffman, Kathleen & Declan Davitt, Kathleen Clarke, Irene & Eugene Chmielowski, Catherine & James Holden, Tom MacMichael
 1:00 PM — (Spanish)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26, 2024

8:30 AM — Diana Calderon, John Strisczek, Susan Quinn Staten

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27, 2024

8:30 AM — Lou & Josephine Strzyzynski

SATURDAY DECEMBER 28, 2024

8:30 AM — George Alex, Zofia Kalembe
 2:30 PM — WEDDING - Kevin Heneghan & Kathleen Batka
 5:00 PM — Don Love, Jr., deceased members of the Ognibene family, John Gibata, Joe Rangel, Nancy & Kevin Piczkowskyj, Lorraine & Ralph Schmidt

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 2024

7:30 AM — for our parishioners
 9:00 AM — Russell Sager, Carmen Rosario Castro (health)
 11:00 AM — Rose Carlson, Maria Ortiz
 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION
 1:00 PM — (Spanish) Diana Calderon, Cesar Hernandez Marin, Celia Alanis

**Presider Schedule
December 24 & 25**

3:00 p.m. - Fr. Grisolano
 5:00 p.m. - Fr. McCarthy
 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Sepulveda
 9:00 a.m. - Fr. McCarthy
 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Grisolano
 1:00 p.m. - (Spanish) Fr. Sepulveda

December 28 & 29

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



Kevin Heneghan & Kathleen Batka - III



Thomas Gutzman

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
 Tuesday: Christmas Eve
 Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord
 Thursday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
 Friday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
 Saturday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 Next Sunday: The Holy Family

©LPi

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
 Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
 Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 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 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



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He loves you,
and he sees you,
and he’s not deterred by anything.”*

— Sister Miriam James Heidland

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ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY PARISH

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mgrisolano@archchicago.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Leonel Sepulveda
lsepulveda@archchicago.org

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Daniel P. McCarthy

Permanent Deacons

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Deacon Gregory Bzdon

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Mrs. Ashley Guinn
aguinn@archchicago.org

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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

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

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*