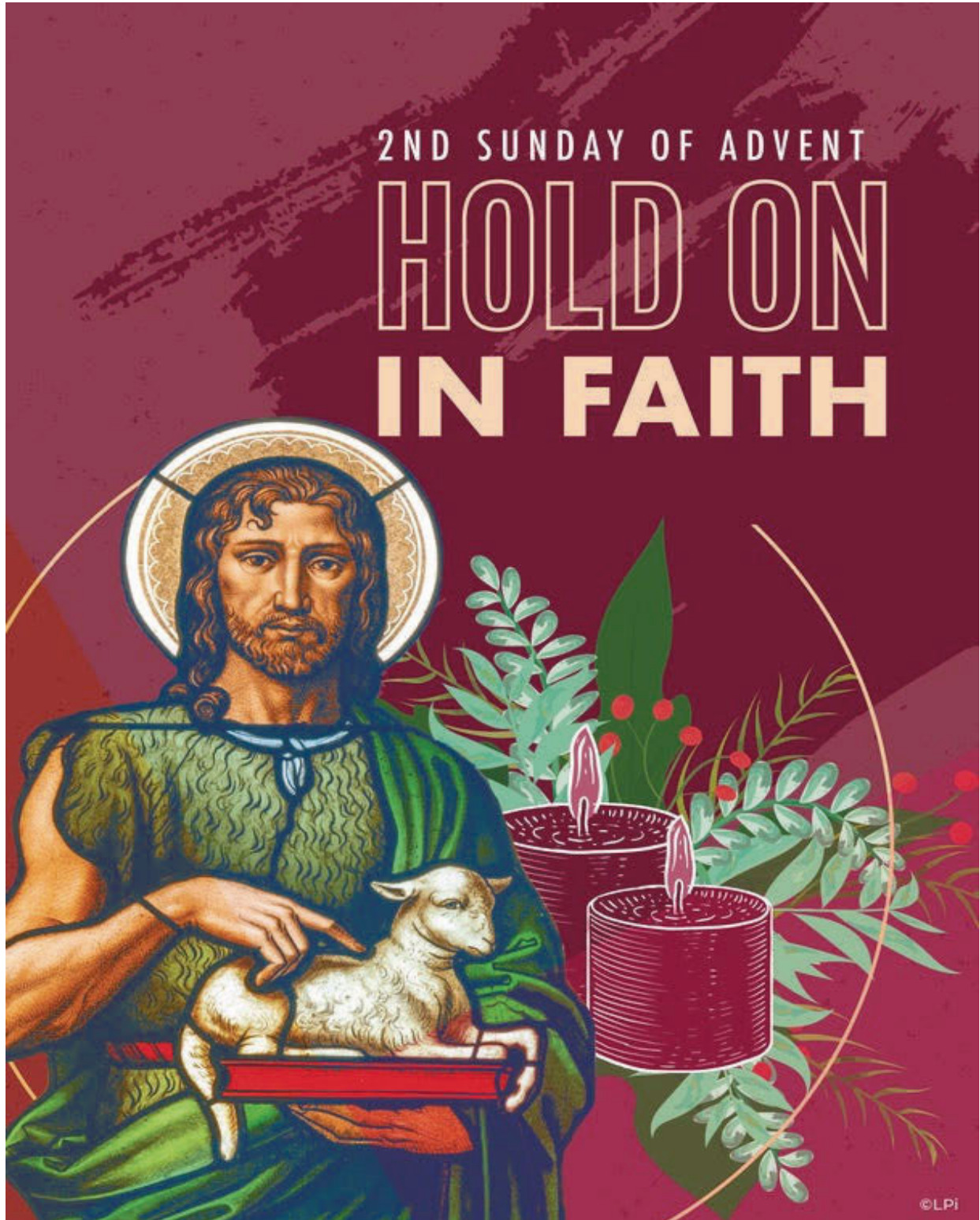




ST. ELIZABETH of the Trinity



DECEMBER 8, 2024



We all know that Advent is a time of longing and waiting. For hundreds of years the children of Israel waited for the coming of the Messiah. The last prophetic messenger to herald Christ's coming was John the Baptist who said: ***"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths"***

Archbishop Fulton Sheen made an argument that of the many reasons why we should believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and believe His message is that He is the only figure in history who was pre-announced. Many people in history have claimed to have come from God in some new and definitive way or that they have a special message from Him and that they should be listened to - Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Buddha, and Jesus of Nazareth, to name a few.

Mohammed and Joseph Smith, who founded Mormonism, came with new books and revelations they claimed came from God, but neither they nor their followers claim that the Bible pointed to them. Buddha didn't intend to even found a religion, but rather show a path of wisdom that was not anticipated by prophets or sages.

It would be fitting that if God would reveal something about Himself in a not just new, but definitive and final a way, that humanity should be able to see it coming when it happens. Car makers even let us know when a new model is coming. When the pope visits a country he doesn't just show up at the airport and say *"I'm the pope, listen to me."* There is much planning and verifying beforehand in anticipation of his coming.

The Old Testament is full of anticipation for the coming Messiah who would save His people from their sins. No one prophecy alone would convince, but taken as a whole they are unmistakable. It's amazing to think that on the human level the Old Testament was compiled over the course of centuries, and it points to, and is fulfilled by Jesus.

Here are some of the prophetic reminders - Moses spoke of a coming of a new prophet: ***"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, - it is to him you shall listen"*** (Dt. 18:15). But Deuteronomy also said that ***"Since then no prophet has arisen like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face."*** This is the passage the disciples were thinking of when they said ***"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote"*** (Jn. 1:45).

There are the numerous passages describing how the Messiah would be in the line of King David. There are other prophecies about the Messiah's birth. Isaiah says that He would be born of a virgin. Micah says that He would be born in Bethlehem.

There are passages describing how the Christ would suffer. The prophet Isaiah says things about a Suffering Servant that could easily be mistaken as coming from the New Testament; ***"He was pierced for our offenses...by His stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following His own way; But the Lord laid upon Him the guilt of us all"*** (Is. 53:6).

There are the words of Psalm 22 that Christ Himself began on the cross ***"They pierced My hands and My feet...they stare and gloat over Me; they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."*** These were all true of the Lord on his cross!

The last of the Old Testament prophets is represented by St. John the Baptist. He was also looking for the consolation of Israel and heralded His coming. He also asked the Lord ***"Are you the one is to come, or should we look for another?"*** Jesus responded by saying ***"The blind see, the lame walk...and the good news is preached to the poor."***

Of all the people in history there was only one who's coming was foretold, so let's listen to the herald's message: ***"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths."***

God bless,

Fr. Mike

***"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."
- Lk 3:4***



In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. 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 those who are suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS SHARING GIFTS TO MASS TODAY!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Because December 8 falls on a Sunday, the observance of the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over any other celebration. Therefore, the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is moved to Monday, December 9 this year. Normally this would be observed as a Holy Day of Obligation, but because several Catholic calendars were printed saying it is not a Holy Day, Cardinal Cupich has removed the obligation to attend Mass for this year in observance of the Immaculate Conception. At St. Elizabeth we will offer our usual 8:30 morning Mass.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

All items for the Dec. 15 bulletin, including Mass intentions, are due by 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 9.
All items for the Dec. 22 bulletin, including Mass intentions, are due Thurs., Dec. 12.
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



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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

Mondays, December 2, 9, 16 & 23

Holy Hour

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

Christmas

(Holy Day of obligation)

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

(No Adoration today)

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)

Baptism

Welcome

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Cali Rae & Maxi Jayne children of Samuel & Traci (Zuniga) Olivera

Isabella Giselle child of Pedro & Maria (Sanchez) Hernandez and Careli child of Alex & Joana (Torres) Alejandre

Stewardship Report		
Sunday Giving (Fiscal Year July 2024-June 2025)		
	November	
	2024	2023
Monthly Total	\$45,137	\$45,382
Yearly Total/ Fiscal YTD	\$222,593	\$233,485
YTD- FY 25 Budget	\$256,183	
Variance	-\$33,590	
Mass Attendance		
Weekly Average	848	828



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—Patryk 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)

FIESTA EN HONOR A Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Parroquia de Santa Elizabeth de la Trinidad
6020 W. Ardmore Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60646.



Invitamos a todos los feligreses a participar en esta Fiesta de Amor y Fidelidad a la Virgen de Guadalupe. Este próximo 12 de Diciembre juntos honremos a nuestra

**SANTA MADRE REINA DE MÉXICO
Y EMPERATRIZ DE AMÉRICA
Y LAS FILIPINAS**

Bajo el siguiente programa: Del 3 al 11 de diciembre, novenario bilingüe

- ◆ Martes 3 de diciembre Misa bilingüe 6:30 pm y Rosario 7:00 pm
- ◆ Miércoles 4 de diciembre Rosario 6:00 pm y Misa 7:00 pm
- ◆ Jueves 5 de diciembre Rosario 6:00 pm y Misa 7:00 pm
- ◆ Viernes 6 de diciembre Rosario 6:00 pm y Misa 7:00 pm
- ◆ Sábado 7 de diciembre Rosario 6:00 pm
- ◆ Domingo 8 de diciembre Rosario 2:15 pm
- ◆ Lunes 9 de diciembre Rosario 7:00 pm
- ◆ Martes 10 de diciembre Misa bilingüe 6:30 pm y Rosario 7:00 pm
- ◆ Miércoles 11 de diciembre Rosario 6:00 pm Misa 7:00 pm
- ◆ Jueves 12 de diciembre:

We invite all parishioners to participate in this Feast of Love and Fidelity to the Virgin of Guadalupe. This coming December 12th together let us honor our

**HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF MEXICO
AND EMPRESS OF AMERICA
AND THE PHILIPPINES**

Under the following program: From December 3rd to 11th, bilingual novena

- ◆ Tuesday, December 3rd Bilingual Mass 6:30 pm
Rosary 7:00 pm
- ◆ Wednesday, December 4th Rosary 6:00 pm and
Mass 7:00 pm
- ◆ Thursday, December 5th Rosary 6:00 pm and
Mass 7:00 pm
- ◆ Friday, December 6th Rosary 6:00 pm and
Mass 7:00 pm
- ◆ Saturday, December 7th Rosary 6:00 pm
- ◆ Sunday, December 8th Rosary 2:15 pm
- ◆ Monday, December 9th Rosary 7:00 pm
- ◆ Tuesday, December 10th Bilingual Mass 6:30 pm
and Rosary 7:00 pm
- ◆ Wednesday, December 11th Rosary 6:00 pm
Mass 7:00 pm
- ◆ Thursday, December 12th:

Mañanitas a la Virgen 5:30 am Misa de Aurora en español 6:30 am Misa con alumnos de la escuela en Inglés 8:30 am Misa bilingüe de las Rosas 6:30 pm Presidida por Pbro. Michael Grisolano y Pbro. Leonel Sepúlveda. Al término de la Santa Eucaristía convivencia en el auditorio de la escuela.

Mañanitas for the Virgin 5:30 am. Dawn Mass in Spanish 6:30 am
Mass with school students in English 8:30 am
Bilingual Mass of the Roses 6:30 pm
Presided by Father Michael Grisolano and Father Leonel Sepúlveda.
At the end of the Holy Eucharist, there will be a gathering in the school auditorium.



Holiday Festival

Morning with Santa

COME & JOIN US!

**NEXT
SUNDAY!**

We invite you to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year!
Join us after 9am Mass for pictures with Santa, crafts, treats, and Holiday fun!



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December 15th
10 AM TO 11:30 AM

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Visit retiredreligious.org/2024photos to meet the religious pictured.
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Prayer for the Second Week of Advent - Prayer of Preparation

With abiding hope as we look
forward to Jesus' arrival —
Make straight the paths, Lord!
Fill us with holy excitement,
in Your name.
Amen.

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ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY SCHOOL

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Thank you to John Garrido and Sergeant Rubble for stopping by St. Elizabeth of the Trinity recently to speak about the Garrido Stray Rescue

For our all-school service project students raised funds, food, and toys to donate to the Rescue. With their hard work, they raised \$834.53.

The Garrido Stray Rescue is a foster-based rescue that has rescued over 2,000 animals since 2014. Their primary focus is to return lost animals to their families.





“The Body of Christ.” “Amen.” As we continue our discussion of **Holy Communion**, we consider who is able to receive Communion. The Diocese of Peoria reminds us: “Holy Communion is for all who are properly disposed to receive him. To be properly disposed we must be **Catholic, in a state of grace and have fasted one hour** prior to the reception of Holy Communion” (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 19).

A Sign of Unity

Why **Catholic**? Reception of Holy Communion is the fullest sign of Christian unity. As we said previously, receiving Christ in the Eucharist binds us to him. Since there is one Christ, he draws us together as one. However, what if one person who believes Jesus is truly present receives Communion while another person who believes in only a symbolic presence receives? That would be a problem. That would be two people making an outward sign of unity which would not be true unity. This false unity would not respect the true presence of Jesus, as well as the unity he prayed for at the Last Supper. That is why reception of Holy Communion is first limited to those who believe that Christ is truly present: Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Since this is the Catholic belief, Catholics (as well as Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches which maintain valid sacraments and believe that Christ is truly present) are eligible to receive Communion. Also, limiting reception of Communion to Catholics protects the integrity of non-Catholics. When we receive Communion, we first hear: “The Body of Christ.” We respond with “Amen,” indicating that we do believe that Jesus’ Body and Blood are truly present and we wish to receive him. For non-Catholics who don’t believe the Body of Christ is really present, receiving Communion would contradict their beliefs. They would be saying “Amen” to a statement that they do not believe. So, not permitting them to receive Communion actually respects their beliefs.

Prepared to Receive

Why must we be in a **state of grace** to receive Communion? Simply put, because Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is God—all-perfect, all-holy, all-love. To receive him in a state of sin is an offense against his goodness. Charles Belmonte teaches, “We should never dare to receive the Eucharist in the state of mortal sin. To do so is to abuse sacrilegiously the mercy of God. Only a shallow and false love, based on mere sentimentality, can bring us to such a detestable course of action. This mistreatment of the sacrament is a grave offense against God. St. Paul’s warning on this issue is quite clear: ‘Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will be behaving unworthily toward the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone is to recollect himself before eating this bread and drinking this cup; because a person who eats and drinks without recognizing the body is eating and drinking his own condemnation’ (1 Cor 11:27–29). [...] Therefore, we cannot—and should not—receive our Lord with a soul dirtied by sin. If we realize we have a serious sin, even though we may seem to be contrite, we cannot go and receive the Holy Eucharist without previous sacramental confession” (*Understanding the Mass*, pp. 182–3).

Along these lines, Belmonte notes that St. Pope John Paul II taught, “The two sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist remain closely linked. Without a continually renewed conversion and the reception of the sacramental grace of forgiveness, participation in the Eucharist would not reach its full redemptive efficacy... It is not only that Penance leads to the Eucharist, but that the Eucharist also leads to Penance. For when we realize who it is that we receive in Eucharistic Communion, there springs up almost spontaneously a sense of unworthiness, together with sorrow for our own sins and an interior need for purification” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 184; John Paul II, *Letter of Holy Thursday* [1986], 8; *DC*, 7). Of course, we know we are unworthy to receive such an amazing gift, but we are obligated to do our best to be as prepared as we can be. That’s why regularly making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and striving to be in a state of grace is so important.

Hungry for God

Why **fast for an hour** before Communion? When we don’t eat, we become hungry. When we eat a lot, even if it is our favorite food, we don’t want more. Fasting is an age-old way of growing in hunger, in this case for the living God. Our hunger reminds us that we yearn to be filled up, that we yearn to have our hunger satisfied. This works for the body, but it also works for the soul. As we “clear out” room in our hearts through fasting, we realize that the empty space should be filled by God. As St. Augustine once famously said, the only one who really fills that hunger is God (“Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee”). Fasting for an hour helps ensure that we are better focused on God for our nourishment and prepared to receive him in Holy Communion. Fasting before the Mass generally covers food and non-necessary drinks such as alcohol, soda, etc. Water is allowed, as well as medicines. For those who are seriously ill (hospital, nursing home, homebound) and for those who care for them, the rule of fasting does not apply. For example, a person in the hospital who is eating lunch when the priest comes is allowed to receive Communion. The same would be true for a nurse who just finished her lunch break when the priest arrives.

Having reviewed being properly disposed to receive Communion, next time we’ll review the official guidelines for receiving Communion. These guidelines continue to emphasize our belief in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist and provide guidance for people of various backgrounds who might be present at Mass.



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 7, 2024

5:00 PM — Mary Sroka, John & Helen Ptak, deceased members of the Ognibene family, Bill & Margaret Casey, Mike, Mary & Michael Raleigh, Ralph Schmidt, Joe Rangel, Patrick Rodden

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024

7:30 AM — Ed Smythe & the Smythe family, Jerry Stemper (10th anniversary), Jim & Dorothy Taylor
 9:00 AM — Coleman McDonagh, Russell Sager, Peter Eck, Carmen Caraballo Rosario (good health), Wanda Senderak
 11:00 AM — Rachel Hernandez (3rd anniversary),
 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSION
 1:00 PM — (Spanish) Leticia Guillen-Gonzalez, Cesar Hernandez Marin, Jesus Hernandez Sanchez (birthday remembrance)

MONDAY DECEMBER 9, 2024

8:30 AM — Louis Saxon

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2024

8:30 AM — Conrad Deane
 11:00 - 6:00 PM - Adoration / Benediction at 6:00
 5:30 - 6:00 PM - CONFESSION
 6:30 PM — Bilingual Mass - Joseph & Katherine Misiuda

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2024

8:30 AM — Louis & Eleanor Saxon
 7:00 PM — Spanish Mass

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2024

6:30 AM — Spanish Mass
 8:30 AM — Carl Carlson, Frank J. Cicchetti
 7:00 PM — Bilingual Mass

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2024

8:30 AM — Sister Joyce Rankin, C.R.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 2024

8:30 AM — Lou & Josephine Strzyznski
 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

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

Presider Schedule - December 14 & 15

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



Kevin Heneghan & Kathleen Batka - I



Dolores Moore
 Agnes Needham

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Tuesday: Our Lady of Loreto
 Wednesday: St. Damasus I, Pope
 Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Friday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
 Saturday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
 ©LPi

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
 Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: 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
 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: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



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St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori

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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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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*