



ST. ELIZABETH of the Trinity



FEBRUARY 1, 2026



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter
every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be
glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." - Mt 5:10-12a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Parish Vision Statement

*We are a vibrant Catholic parish family where all are welcomed
to seek and be transformed by Christ,
and to be sent forth to radiate Trinitarian love in daily life.*

Peace to you All!

Back in June of 2024, I shared with you that I was beginning a multi-year preaching formation program through the Institute for Homiletics. I entered the program with the desire to grow as a preacher of the Word of God and to learn more deeply what it means to connect the pulpit with the pews. I wanted to explore the mystery of how God encounters each of us through His Word through the preached homily, especially at Sunday Mass.

As I write this, I am preparing to conclude the program with a final retreat and graduation during the week of February 2-6. I ask that you please keep me in your prayers during this retreat, so that the fruits of this formation time may continue to shape my ministry here at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.

This program has been rich, demanding at times, but deeply formative. It included several key elements. I was part of a peer group of ten priests with whom I met almost monthly at different parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. These gatherings allowed us to pray together, share our experiences, listen honestly to each other and support one another in becoming more faithful and effective preachers of the Gospel.

I also had the opportunity to have a parishioner support group known as St. Joseph's Preachers. I want to express my gratitude to Tony Lupinski, who led and guided the group, and to Teri Hirami, José Alamilla, Kathy O'Sullivan, Greg Siemianowski, Eric Gonsalves, Audrey Salerno, and Al Trigo who committed themselves to walking with me over the past twenty months. During the first year, this group met to learn about homiletics, that is, what preaching is, how to listen to homilies with a homiletic ear, and how to offer thoughtful, constructive feedback. During the second year, they met with me monthly to review one of my homilies, share their insights, and help me grow in my preaching.

I cannot express enough gratitude to this faithful group of parishioners who said yes: yes to walking with me, yes to learning about preaching, yes to giving me their feedback, and yes to praying for me throughout this time. Their generosity and faithfulness represent a tremendous gift to me!

In addition, the program included one-on-one coaching sessions in which I reviewed homilies, asked questions and learned from an experienced preacher coach, as well as four retreats that focused on the craft and spiritual practice of preaching. These retreats were especially fruitful, as they aided me in deepening my understanding of preparation and entering more fully into the Mystery of Faith, which is proclaimed and celebrated at every Mass. Overall, throughout this learning experience, my understanding of preaching has grown and deepened. I see preaching now as an encounter and profound connection with the Living God in the midst of His people.

And so, as part of concluding this journey, I want to invite you to participate in a final homily feedback survey which will take place next weekend on February 7-8 at the 5:00 p.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Masses. This is an opportunity for you to share your experience of my preaching and to offer feedback that will be shared with me and the Institute for Homiletics. A QR code available on the opposite page of this bulletin will link you to the online survey, and paper copies will also be available in the pews at those Masses. Filled-out surveys may be deposited in a ballot box in the vestibule after Mass or returned to the parish office during the following week.

Finally, I truly thank you for praying for me throughout this journey and for the encouragement you have shown me along the way. I am grateful to have walked this path of learning with you, the community of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. I look forward to continuing to grow along with you as a priest and preacher of God's Word. May God bless you!

Fr. Leo



In the Gospel today, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, which embody a radically alternative vision of life, and we find that God indeed calls us to blessedness.

Your gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Society proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom and brings healing to the broken hearts of those who live in poverty.

ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH

Join us today, February 1 at 9:00 a.m. for our Women's Group monthly Mass.

Our February meeting will follow hospitality at 10:45 a.m.

EVERYONE IS INVITED

After Mass, come to the auditorium for hospitality sponsored by the Women's Group.

There will also be hospitality after the 1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass.

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FINAL HOMILY SURVEY: YOUR RESPONSE TO THE HOMILY TODAY

Fr. Leo has been participating in the Preaching for Encounter Program for the last two years. He is dedicated to improving his homilies and would love to hear your feedback on his homily on the weekend of February 7th & 8th at the 5pm, 11am and 1pm Masses. Please scan the QR code and take a few minutes to let us know how it impacted you. Paper copies will also be available on February 7-8 at church. Thank you for your help in supporting him to preach better!



ENUESTA FINAL: SU RESPUESTA A LA HOMILÍA DE HOY

El Padre Leo ha estado participando en el Programa de Predicación para el Encuentro durante los últimos dos años. Él está dedicado a mejorar sus homilías y le encantaría escuchar sus comentarios sobre su homilía el fin de semana del 7 y 8 de Febrero durante la Misas de 5pm, 11am o 1pm. Escanea el código QR y toma unos minutos para contarnos que pensaste de su homilia. Enuestas en papel tambien estarán disponibles el 7 y 8 de Febrero en la iglesia. ¡Gracias por ayudar al Padre Leo con su predicación!



CUB SCOUT MASS

Please join St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pack 3969 for the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

Scouts —please wear your uniforms to Mass.

Welcome
OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Baptism

Innis Alban,
child of Tyler and Elizabeth
(Kelly) Fawbush



DMI Returning to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The very first step in this process involves assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, and that is where the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) comes in! The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. The Disciple Maker Index is designed to:

- Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- Help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10-15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link starting **February 18th** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.



SICK LIST

Bernadette Bannach—Elise Fernandez—Dolores Nano—Arthur Hamilton—Michele Schmidt—
Joe & Nelda Garza—Jimmy Retondo—Elizabeth Hofstede—Donna Kolinski—JoAnn Keto—Jane Berg—
MaryAnn Hermesdorf—Lidia Piper—John Kottra—Rosemary Marinello—Marion Calvino—
Giovanni Randazzo—Ann Sychowski—Rick Levins
(Call the parish office to have your name added or removed.)

Something Exciting is Coming to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity!

This Is Our Faith

This series will explore what the Catholic Church teaches and believes by studying the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

- What do we believe?
- Why do we believe what we do?
- Where do these beliefs come from?
- Why are all of them important?

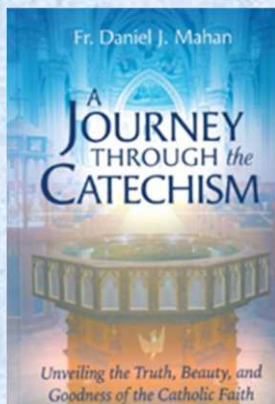
We will explore Church tradition and scripture, in addition to the Catechism. This series is ideal for life-long Catholics who want to learn more about their faith as well as seekers and newly received people into the Catholic Faith.

Sessions will be offered twice each week starting on:

Tuesday, February 24 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. through May 19

or

Wednesday, February 25 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. through May 20



Sessions will be held in the lower level of the rectory.

Reading from the book *A Journey Through the Catechism* will be required prior to each session. There will be a \$20 fee to purchase the book. Bibles and Catechisms will also be available to those who would like to purchase them.

Contact Jim Madura at (773) 763-8828 or jmadura@archchicago.org for more information or to register.

Hurry – space is limited!



DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE CANDLES AVAILABLE?

WE HAVE 6-DAY GLASS-ENCASED DEVOTIONAL CANDLES IN WHITE AND RED AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH OFFICE MON-FRI 9AM-5PM. PRICE IS 8 DOLLARS EACH.

SABIAS QUE TENEMOS VELAS DISPONIBLES? TENEMOS VELAS EN VASO DE VIDRIO ROJO O BLANCO CON UNA DURACIÓN DE 6 DÍAS. ESTÁN DISPONIBLES EN LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL DE LUNES A VIERNES DE 9AM A 5PM. EL PRECIO ES DE 8 DÓLARES CADA UNA.

A “Playground” for St. Elizabeth of the Trinity?

You may have heard that St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish is planning a new playground in the area immediately behind the Church. This project is an opportunity to bring forth investment, excitement, and hope for revitalizing our parish.

You should know, however, that “playground” is not the best word for what is being discussed.

Rather, it will be “a welcoming space” that will benefit the entire parish. Of course, it will include a place for our school children to safely play. However, in addition, plans entail creating a location that will boost the vitality of our parish by fostering community, evangelization, and worship (the three pillars of our parish vision).

Here is a glimpse of how it could support evangelization and worship:

- Community prayer, plus “theology and coffee”

- Liturgically related and recreational activities for Religious Education students

- Adoration and outdoor processions

And how it could strengthen community life through social and wellness programs:

- Movie nights

- Summer book club meetings

- Picnics and ice cream socials

- Exercise for seniors

- Fitness challenges for students

- Classic yoga for all ages

No doubt, as a parish, we’ll find additional positive uses for this outdoor welcoming space, as we seek to expand, develop, and grow as a parish community.

It will have escaped the attention of no one that this creatively designed welcoming space will not be inexpensive. That’s why the Parish Finance Council, the School Board and consultants from the Archdiocese of Chicago have been diligently assessing what is both financially responsible and doable. We will have fundraising efforts specifically dedicated to covering at least a portion of the cost of the project.

Further, we will strive to be creative in minimizing the impact on parking availability as well as finding accessibility to the ramp entrance of the church prior to groundbreaking. As we go forward, we will keep parishioners informed as to how our plans are progressing.

The envisioned welcoming space will be an energizing investment for the future that will enhance our parish campus. What’s more, it will be a safe place for our students to play and will support our school’s ability to attract and retain families.

Father Deo

HAVE YOU NOTICED CHANGES AT MASS?

Recently a few things at Mass have changed here at St. Elizabeth. Have you noticed?

- One audible change has been the ringing of a single bell at the beginning of Mass. This was instituted as a signal to the musician and the people that the Mass is about to begin. This carries over from the same practice at weekday Masses where no musician is present, and the priest rings bells as a signal that Mass is about to begin and for the people to stand.

- You may have also noticed a book being carried in the Entrance Procession and being placed on the altar before the ministers enter the sanctuary. The book is the Book of the Gospels. If a deacon is present, it is his function to carry it, since he reads the Gospel at Mass. If no deacon is present the lector carries the Book. The Book is, just as its name implies, a book that contains just the Gospels. This differs from the Lectionary, which includes all the Scripture Readings, not just the Gospel.

We place special reverence on this Book because of its contents. During the Gospel, we believe that it is Christ Himself speaking to us. That is why only a priest or deacon proclaims it. That's why we stand. That's why there's a procession before the Gospel is read. That's why candles are used. That's why we sing Alleluia before the Gospel. Because it's special!

Placing the Book of the Gospels on the altar at the beginning of Mass is a sign of the unity of the two parts of the Mass – the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Do you know why the Book of the Gospels, or the Lectionary for that matter, is not carried out in the Closing Procession? It's because, we the people, take the Word of God with us. It has been proclaimed to us, and we now are to take it and live it.

- The Lectors have also begun to read the announcements at the end of Mass. This is just another way for the lay faithful to play a greater role in the Mass.

- Also, the Extraordinary Ministers of Communion now remain in the sanctuary until the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle. Since their ministry involves a special respect and devotion to the Eucharist, this gesture is a physical manifestation of that reverence for the Eucharist. This should certainly be a model for all of us.

- Finally, one more change will be coming soon. At the beginning of Mass, we will be invited to greet each other. This is not the same as the Sign of Peace. This is a greeting and it is in line with the parish's vision that we, as parishioners of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, have a welcoming spirit and meaningful encounters with each other, recognizing the teaching that we are to see Christ in each other.

Next time when you are at Mass, I'd like to suggest that you look for these changes. Reflect on why they are important. This plays into how we are called to participate in Mass: fully, actively, consciously. It is only if we follow these three guidelines will we truly receive all the spiritual benefits that the Mass has to offer!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Thank you to everyone who braved the snowstorm and frigid temperatures to kick off Catholic Schools Week with our Open House last Sunday. We were thrilled to welcome so many new families through our doors and are excited for their next chapter at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity!

Did the weather keep you from attending? Don't worry! Call the school (773 763-7080) to schedule a private tour. Enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year is now open.

We welcome you to become part of our school known for its top-notch academics and a strong faith-filled community!





Watch St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Sunday Mass on YouTube - search for the St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish channel.

SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2026

5:00 PM — +Don Love, +Bridget Byrne, +Oliver O’Leary

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026

7:30 AM — for our parishioners
 9:00 AM — +Richard A Deck, Jack Brown, Eric & Elizabeth Gonsalves (50th wedding anniversary), souls in Purgatory
 11:00 AM — +Becky Finnerty, +Catherine Mulcrone
 2:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSIONS
 1:00 PM — +Cesar Hernandez Marin, +Pedro Lopez, +Jesus & Adrian Hernandez, +Eva Montes

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2026

8:30 AM — deceased members of the Gonsalves & D’Souza families, +John J. O’Connor
 7:00 pm — Spanish Mass

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2026

8:30 AM — Eleanor, Samuel, Grace & Joseph Holden
 11:00 - 6:00 PM - Adoration / Benediction at 6:00 PM
 5:30 - 6:00 PM - CONFESSION
 6:30 PM — for the homebound of the parish

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2026

8:30 AM — for those in our prayer garden

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2026

8:30 AM — for our school community
 11:00—6:50 PM — Adoration / Benediction
 6:00 - 7:00 PM — bilingual CONFESSION

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2026

8:30 AM — +Hector P. Magnanao

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026

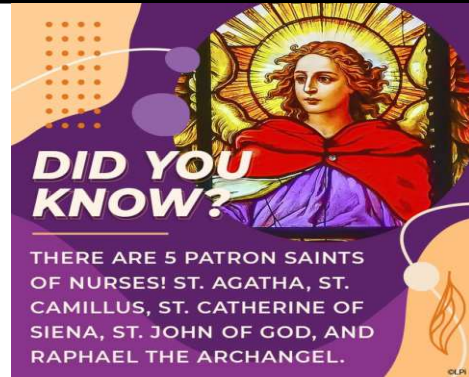
8:30 AM — Kepros & Pryst families
 3:30 - 4:30 - CONFESSION
 5:00 PM — +Don Love Jr., +Joan Tavrdes, +Lawrence Conway, +Melbourne Noel, +Kathleen Weber, +Thomas Byrne, +Susan McGrath (4th anniversary), +Dean O’Leary (anniversary), +Oliver O’Leary (month’s mind)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2026

7:30 AM — +Eugene Fraczkowski
 9:00 AM — +Fr. Edwin Pacocha, souls in Purgatory
 11:00 AM — +Margaret Mally, +Kristine Joy Dignadice (birthday), +Luisito Jimenez Capungan
 2:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSIONS
 1:00 PM — +Cesar Hernandez Marin, +Jesus & Adrian Hernandez

Presider Schedule - February 7 & 8

5:00 p.m. — Fr. Leo / *Guitar Ensemble*
 7:30 a.m. — Fr. Deo / *organ*
 9:00 a.m. — Fr. Deo / *piano / parish choir*
 11:00 a.m. — Fr. Leo / *organ*
 1:00 p.m. — (Spanish) Fr. Leo



Rev. Edward Pacocha
 Jennier Reynolds
 Madelynn Jacobs
 Ramona Giambalvo

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
 Tuesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
 Wednesday:
 Thursday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
 Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
 Saturday:
 Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day

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THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
 Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
 Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
 Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Please Make Your Gift to the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

Many families in our parish should have received the Annual Catholic Appeal mailing from Cardinal Cupich. On behalf of those served by the ministries

of the parishes and schools that receive funding from the Appeal, we thank you for your gifts. Please return your response as soon as possible. The Annual Catholic Appeal offers us an opportunity to join with others and affirm that “together we bring light.” In addition to providing for ministries and services throughout the archdiocese, the Appeal also funds services that are of great help here in our parish. As we consider God’s many gifts to us, we should also reflect our gratitude by using and sharing those gifts. Your financial support for the work of our parish, our archdiocese, and the Church throughout the world is one way to express that gratitude. Please make a donation as you are able to the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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2026 Annual Catholic Appeal



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Scan QR Code for Examination of Conscience
and a Confession Guide



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)**

Low Gluten Hosts: available from priest in center aisle at all Masses

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: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.,
Saturday: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday: 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.**
(all are bilingual)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Benediction at 6:00 p.m.)
**Thursday: starts after the 8:30 a.m. Mass until Benediction at
6:50 p.m. (in Spanish)**

Parish Office (Rectory) Hours: 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 Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)*. 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 Ashley Guinn 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