



ST. ELIZABETH of the Trinity



JANUARY 4, 2026



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

FROM FR. DEO

January 4, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good all the time... All the time God is good! Blessings and best wishes for this New Year!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, in which Jesus is revealed not only to Israel, but to all nations. The prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, foretold the manifestation of Christ: “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” This light is not just for one people; it is meant for the whole world. St. Paul, in the second reading, proclaims that Christ’s salvation is for all: “The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

In the Gospel, after making himself known to Israel through the Holy Family and the shepherds, Jesus is revealed to the nations through the Magi. Matthew describes them as truth seekers from the East who courageously left their comfort and security to follow a special star that led them to the newborn Jesus. They worship Him and offer gold, frankincense, and myrrh, honoring Him as King, God, and Savior.

The Magi teach us to seek Christ, worship Him, and offer Him our best. Like them, finding Christ requires the courage to move beyond comfort and routine, and to persevere without losing heart. The Gospel tells us that, warned in a dream, the Magi returned home by another way. This is what happens when we truly encounter the Lord: our lives are changed, we see with new eyes, and Christ, the light of the world, leads us onto a new path of peace and truth, leaving behind our old ways.

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Leo XIV will close the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica and celebrate the Mass that marks the conclusion of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. On this occasion, he will also invite pilgrims to return to Rome in 2033 for an Extraordinary Holy Year of Redemption, commemorating the 2000th anniversary of the Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection.

This Holy Year has reminded us that hope is not wishful thinking, but trust rooted in God’s faithful love. Christ has walked with us in joy and in trial, renewing our hearts and strengthening our faith. The Jubilee sends us forth as people of hope, called to build bridges, heal wounds, welcome the forgotten, and witness to God’s mercy.

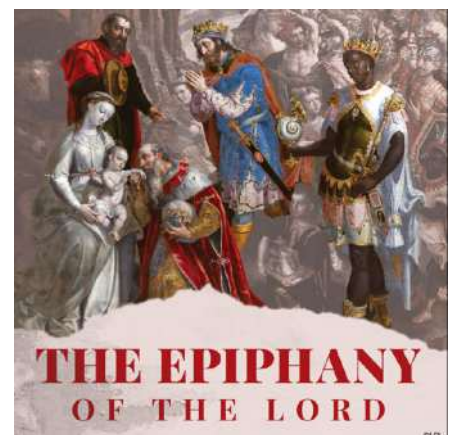
Our parish can indeed become a living sign of hope by trusting God and living the Gospel in simple ways. Hope grows through prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, adoration, and praying for one another. Hope is built through welcoming and caring for others. Hope is strengthened through service and stewardship and renewed by joyful evangelization. These are the pastoral priorities guiding our parish.

Finally, I welcome back our students, families, and parishioners as we return from the Christmas holidays. This year, let us grow in faith and love: pray daily, participate in the sacraments, welcome and serve one another, and share the joy of Christ with others.

May the joy and peace of Christ remain with us and guide our school and parish community in the days ahead.

In Christ,

Fr. Deo





Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.



The Epiphany Household Blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M, and B represent the names of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

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An Invitation to All Men of the Parish

That Man Is You - The Fight of Faith equips and enables men to engage in the cosmic, spiritual battle raging in our day. Biblical identities will emerge to inspire heroic lives of service to a calling greater than ourselves. Uncover the ultimate truth that sheds light on all things: God's own identity. Fight the good fight of faith to win an imperishable crown of glory.



Join us for a video presentation followed by deep, meaningful, personal, and safe conversations and fellowship on **Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium beginning January 20**. All men are welcome. Come and see how this experience can make you a better man!

Learn more at thatmanisyou.com.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

January 4, 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord - Matthew 2:1-12

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— Father John Muir

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INITIAL OFFERING

There is an envelope in your packet called Initial Offering. This is meant to offset the cost of printing and mailing offering envelopes.

A donation of between \$10 and \$20 from all envelope users to cover these expenses would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support!



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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

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



Catholic Schools Week

Open House
St. Elizabeth of the Trinity School

Sunday
January 25, 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

What We Have to Offer:

- Small Class Sizes
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About:

Christ-Centered • Academic Excellence • Catholic Values

Nestled in the heart of Gladstone Park, we are a top-graded school in Niche's rankings for 2025. Ranking us in the top 2.5% of all ranked schools in the country. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity provides high-quality education, strong moral values, and community for the family. Join us during Catholic Schools Week to see everything we have to offer.

Science Fair Judges Needed

The St. Elizabeth of the Trinity School Science Fair will be on Thursday, January 22, 2026 and we need 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 can volunteer (who does NOT have an 8th grade student enrolled in St. Elizabeth). If you can help on the 22nd from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., please contact Mrs. Kathy Dati. It is really a great experience, and our students love showing off their projects!

k.dati@stelizabethtrinityschool.org.

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?

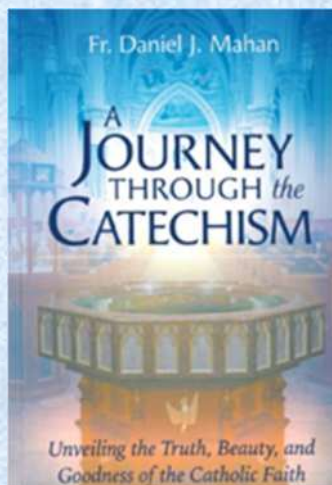
We will explore Church tradition and scripture, in addition to the Catechism. This series is ideal for life-long Catholics who want to learn more about their faith as well as seekers and newly received people into the Church.

Sessions will be offered twice each week starting on

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

or

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



Meetings 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!

Even in below-zero temps on December 14 Santa still found his way to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Last-minute requests were made, letters were written, and hot cocoa was sipped. The countdown until Christmas morning had begun.





Why the Mass Is the Biggest, Most Life-Giving Hour of Your Week

You've heard it a hundred times

If you've paid any attention whatsoever to the National Eucharistic Revival the last few years, you very well could have heard it a *thousand* times by this point: The Eucharistic sacrifice is the fount and apex of the whole Christian life (*Lumen Gentium* 11), or the *source* and *summit* to use other language you've likely heard (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1324).

The problem with hearing something so often is that it sometimes begins to lose meaning for us.

So!

Let's break this all-too-familiar phrase down just a wee bit further, shall we?

As Christians, we must understand that the fount of the Christian life is the fount of **life**. Period. The apex of the Christian life is the apex of **life**. Period. We cannot separate our "Christian life" from our "normal life," any more than we can extract an egg yolk from a baked brownie.

When the Church describes the Eucharistic Sacrifice — the Mass — as the fount or source of life, the Church is saying that nothing else in this world can give you more life than encountering Our Lord at Mass. Not that retirement fund, not that dream vacation, not that new Tempur-Pedic mattress. On a deep, spiritual level, at the core of who we are, the Mass replenishes us and restores us. Without it, we wither.

And when the Church describes the Mass as the apex or summit of life, the Church is making it clear that the Mass is the highest point of our lives on earth. In other words, *the Mass is the biggest thing we'll ever do on this side of heaven!* Bigger than walking across the stage and receiving your degree, bigger than purchasing your first home, bigger even than the day you met the love of your life, is what you get to do every Sunday — or *every day* for that matter: encounter Our Eucharistic Lord at Mass.

This is what the Church means when describing the Eucharistic Sacrifice as the fount and apex of the Christian life.

And this is why the earliest Christians dedicated themselves to "the breaking of the bread" (Acts 2:42). The earliest Christians committed to the Mass ("the breaking of the bread" is one of the most ancient titles for the Mass), knowing that the grace they needed to follow Christ was found there. They also knew that they could receive a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet that awaited them.

Can you say that you're dedicated to the Mass?

Do you show up faithfully every Sunday? If your answer is "no," this is not to shame you. Not at all. This is to invite you to renew your dedication to the Mass. We want you to experience all that you're made for, and the Church reminds us that returning to the source is always a great way to do just that.

If your answer is "yes," can you show up faithfully to Mass even more often than your Sunday obligation? We want you to experience the heights of all that this life can offer, and those heights are found in your nearby parish every time Mass is celebrated.



Dedicate yourself to the Mass, and you dedicate yourself to Christ. Dedicate yourself to Christ, and you become who you were created to be.

Become who you were created to be!

In Jesus,

Tanner Kalina

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, DIRECTOR OF CONTENT



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

SATURDAY JANUARY 3, 2026

5:00 PM — deceased members of the Ognibene family, +Sylvio Carfo

SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2026

7:30 AM — for our parishioners
 9:00 AM — +Richard A. Deck, +Celia O'Malley
 11:00 AM — Daniel Chan (birthday)
 2:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSIONS
 1:00 PM — +Justiniana Pacheco, +Maria Guadalupe Rueda, +Cesar Hernandez Marin, +Jesus & Adrian Hernandez, Jose Luis Bucio

MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2026

8:30 AM — deceased members of the Gonsalves & D'Souza families, Fr. Dan McCarthy (peace)

TUESDAY JANUARY 6, 2026

8:30 AM — +Hector P. Magnanao, +Stanley Markowski, 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 those on our memorial boards and trees

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7, 2026

8:30 AM — +Hugh Johnson (11th anniversary)

THURSDAY JANUARY 8, 2026

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

FRIDAY JANUARY 9, 2026

8:30 AM — +Edward Rzendzian, Ralph & Maria Morales

SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2026

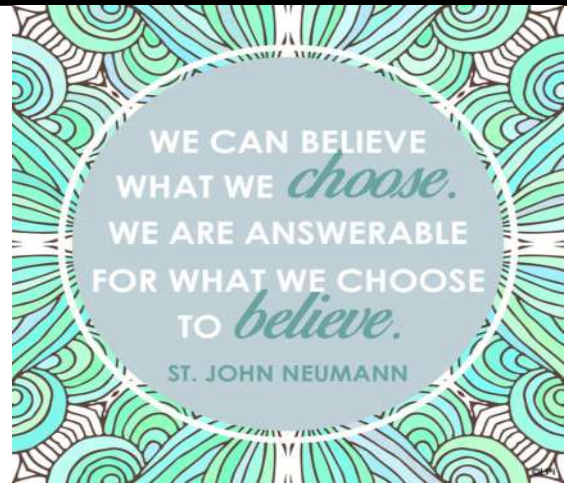
8:30 AM — +Chuck Jacobucci
 3:30 - 4:30 - CONFESSION
 5:00 PM — +Don Love, +Eugene Fraczkowski

SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2026

7:30 AM — +Helen & +Alexander Kolinski, +Rose Dyjak (birthday), +Walter Dyjak (39th anniversary), +Jo & +Ed Sanborn, +Anna, +Estelle, +Joseph & +Edward Dyjak
 9:00 AM — +Tom Gutzman
 11:00 AM — Helena Aylward (good health), +Margaret Rodden Wydra (birthday remembrance)
 2:00 PM - 12:45 PM — CONFESSIONS
 1:00 PM — +Justiniano Pacheco, Gabriel Granados, +Cesar Hernandez Marin, +Jesus & Adrian Hernandez

Presider Schedule - January 10 & 11

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



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
 Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
 Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
 Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
 Thursday:
 Friday:
 Saturday:
 Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
 ©LPi

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/ Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

ST. ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY HOLY NAME SOCIETY PRESENTS:
CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY

FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY

SUNDAY • JANUARY 25, 2026

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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