

*The Roman Catholic Parish of  
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary*

*307 Franklin St.  
Smethport, PA 16749*

*20 Division St.  
Mount Jewett, Pa 16740*



**Sacramental Information**

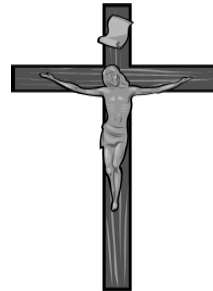
**Baptism:** Parents & Godparents are asked to participate in a Preparation Program prior to scheduling a Baptism.

**Matrimony:** An appointment with the parish priest, needs to be made at least 6 months prior to the wedding date, before the wedding can be scheduled. PreCana, Engagement Encounter, or NOVA is required.

**Sick Calls, Anointing, Communion:** Please call the parish office to arrange visits for those sick or homebound.

**New Members** are always welcome. Contact the parish office to register or use the form on back of bulletin. Moving? Please let us know.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults):** Any individual seeking information on becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith should call the parish office.



**Liturgy  
&Reconciliation**

- Daily & weekend Mass times for this week are inside bulletin
- Reconciliation held Saturdays at Saint Elizabeth 3:30-4:15 pm, after Mass at St. Joseph, or by appointment at either parish
- Holy Days: Call parish for times
- Nursing Home Masses at Sena Kean and Lakeview Homes held the first and third Thursday each month

**PASTORAL STAFF**

**Pastor Rev. Vincent P. Cieslewicz, Jr. - Saint Elizabeth Rectory— 814-887-9254**

**Mailing address for both churches: 307 Franklin St. Smethport, PA 16749**

Secretary –Patty Roesch

Parish Office 814-887-9254 : 9 AM-1 PM Mon.-Fri.

Religious Education—Jan Adamoski

814-887-4992 or [sercc.re@gmail.com](mailto:sercc.re@gmail.com)

FAX: 887-5271; email: [stelizabethrcc@comcast.net](mailto:stelizabethrcc@comcast.net)

Prayer Requests: 465-3569

<http://www.stelizabethsmethport.org>

Prayer Requests: 814-778-5520

**SAINT ELIZABETH, SMETHPORT, PA**

**LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH**

Saturday, Dec. 15  
 5:00 PM For The People

Sunday, Dec. 16  
**8:45 AM Reciting of The Rosary**  
 9:30 AM + Robert A. Nick  
 by The Eidson Family

Monday, Dec. 17  
 7:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament  
 8:00 AM + Guy Nickols  
 by Katie & Dan

Tuesday, Dec. 18  
 7:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament  
 8:00 AM St. Joseph's Shut-ins  
 by St. Joseph Rosary Society

Thursday, Dec. 20  
 2:30 PM Mass @ Lakeview  
 + Thelma Brooder

Friday, Dec. 21  
 11:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament  
 12:10 PM + Helen Comes Eckstrom  
 by The Family

Saturday, Dec. 22  
 3:30-4:15 PM Confession  
 5:00 PM A Mass of Blessings for  
 Wyatt Church  
 by The Meyer Family

Sunday, Dec. 23  
**8:45 AM Reciting of The Rosary**  
 9:30 AM For The People

**LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH**

Sunday, Dec. 16  
 8:00 AM + Vicki & Kari Carrow  
 by St. Joseph Rosary Society

Sunday, Dec. 23  
 8:00 AM + Isadore & Mary Ann Quagliani  
 by Sharon & Scott Morgan

**WEEKLY OFFERING AT ST. ELIZABETH**

**For the week of Dec. 9, 2018**

Weekly Collection: \$2,723.00  
 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$ 353.00

**WEEKLY OFFERING AT ST. JOSEPH**

**For the week of Dec. 9, 2018**

Weekly Collection: \$ 419.00  
 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$ 122.00

**Christmas Mass Schedule for St. Elizabeth**

Mon. Dec. 24 5:00 PM  
 Tue. Dec. 25 12:00 AM midnight  
 Tue. Dec. 25 9:30 AM

**Christmas Mass Schedule for St. Joseph**

Mon. Dec. 24 8:00 PM

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** A Special Intention, Pat Peterson, Rita Bidwell, Shelly Maybury, Jack & Janine Sokoloski, Dylan Lunder, John Crowley, Cathy Kaltenbach, A Special Intention, Patti Price, Caitlyn Bankovich, Elijah Waite, Penny Duncan, Malvina Weakland, Louise DeSio, Jacque Silvagni.

Sunday, December 16th will be the last day to turn in your flower envelopes to be included in the Christmas bulletin. Please be sure and write clearly on the envelope. Thank you.



**Families Always Matter in the Diocese of Erie**

Get resources and suggestions for your family at the Diocese of Erie's family website, [www.eriecd.org/familiesmatter](http://www.eriecd.org/familiesmatter). Feel supported, encouraged, and blessed whether your family is a traditional, single-parent, blended, military, or an adoptive/foster family. Go Families! Also Formed.org using our parish code **TRY7DX**.

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Religious give thanks. "this money is pure gift", writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters". Your gift to last week's collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

**End of Year:** Anyone needing a financial statement for the year may call the parish office. They will be printed the first week in January.

**Christian Community Services:** Thank you so much for helping meet the needs of others in our community during this Christmas season. We could not do it without you. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

**St. Elizabeth Parishioners,** Thank you all so much for donating to the Peer Helper Hat and Glove Drive! People like all of you are the reason for the drive's success! Thank you again, the Peer Helpers really appreciate your kindness! Happy Holiday, The Smethport Peer Helpers

**Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments**

**Keeping God's Children Protected and Safe:** To know that we are children of God is to live in complete love, with deep abiding security and the ability to dream, to sing, to create, to laugh, and to play with worry. As we grow older, we face a new reality-we cannot approach all God's creation with the same trust and confidence. We learn, through sometimes hurtful and damaging experiences, that some people reject the ability that God gave them to love and respect others-they ignore God's call. The Diocese of Erie's program to safeguard children helps remind us of these very facts. With the help of this program, the faithful are guided and educated about the responsibility of how to keep God's children protected and safe. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help create safe environments, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>



# The Legend of The Candy Cane

According to the legend of the candy cane, this candy was first created back in the 18th century. At that time, in certain areas of Europe, there was said to be a ban on public displays of Christianity. Christians were oppressed and no Bibles or crosses could be owned at the time. One man found this oppression distressing and wished he could share the love of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with the rest of the world. When Christmas came around, children *didn't get to see nativity scenes or enjoy learning about the truth of Christmas*. As a candy maker, this man prayed to find a way that he could offer local children a Christmas gift that would allow him to communicate the real story of Christmas.

## His prayer led to an idea--The Candy Cane

- **The Shepherd's Staff:** He chose to make the candy cane in the shape of a shepherd's staff. After all, Jesus is the shepherd to his followers and the Bible notes that the "sheep" would hear His voice and follow him (Psalm 23:1, John 10:11, John 10:27-30, Isaiah 40:11).
- **The Letter J for Jesus:** Not only was the candy cane in the shape of a staff, but when held upside down, it formed a "J," which stood for Jesus (Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21).
- **He is A Rock:** The candy maker chose hard candy for the candy cane, which was done to remind children that Jesus was our "rock," dependable and strong (Psalm 31:3).
- **By His Stripes:** Wide red stripes were added to the candy cane, representative of the crucifixion and the blood Jesus shed for our sins.
- **Red-His Shed Blood:** Through his blood, we are given salvation and life (Revelation 1:5, John 3:16, Luke 22:20).
- **White-Purification from Sin:** There are also white stripes on the candy cane, which represents the holiness, and purity of Jesus, who was sinless (I John 1:7).
- **Sweet Fragrance of Christ:** Peppermint was the flavor that the candy maker chose for the candy cane. Peppermint was very similar to hyssop, which was used for sacrifice and purification in the Old Testament, reminding us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. It also reminds us of the spices brought by the Wise Men when they came to visit Jesus (Psalm 51:7, John 10:29, Matthew 2:11).
- **Broken For Us:** Of course, when the candy cane is eaten, it is often broken, which the candy maker meant as a reminder that when Jesus was crucified, his body was broken (I Cor. 11:24).
- **Love of Christ:** The candy cane was also made to be given as a gift, representing the love of Jesus when he gave us the gift of salvation.

Although no one is quite sure if the legend of the candy cane is really true, **the beauty of the legend is such a reminder of God's love for us around Christmas**. In this legend, it was a way that the candy maker could tell the children the story of Christmas and still today, we have candy canes as a reminder of the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

## Sunday, Dec 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### The forgotten wrong

In an affluent society, the sin rarely referred to is avarice. We redefine it as ambition, upward mobility, or simply “doing well.” But the clutch of personal possessions is still the spiritual stranglehold it always was. The needle’s eye isn’t getting any bigger, and our modern camels still won’t pass through. John the Baptist offers several key remedies. First, share what you have with those who don’t have. Second, don’t cheat, ever. Third, don’t keep striving for more. Finally, be humble. These remedies for avarice are countercultural. They also prepare the way of the One who is coming.

TODAY’S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18 (9). *“The crowds asked John the Baptist: ‘What should we do?’”*

## Monday, Dec 17, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Trace your holy family tree

The internet has given a boost to the widespread fascination with genealogy. Any number of websites will do the research for people who want to find out more about their ancestors. Folks in the ancient world also took a keen interest in their forebears. For them, where you came from and who came before you had a lot to do with your social standing. It’s not surprising, then, that Jesus got the ancestry.com treatment not once but twice in the gospels: in Matthew and Luke. While Matthew’s version had some unexpected characters, it also traced Jesus back to David and Abraham and therefore made him worthy of great esteem. Advent is a good time to renew your acquaintance with Christian tradition. Read a good history of the church, like Paul Johnson’s now classic *A History of Christianity* (1976).

TODAY’S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”*

## Tuesday, Dec 18, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Give measure for measure

Joseph, Mary’s betrothed, is called a *righteous* man. That is an antique word best explained in terms of weights. A righteous weight is truthful in its measure. Joseph weighed the situation—pregnant fiancée, not his child—and originally determined the most generous measure of his response: to get out of the deal and protect Mary without causing scandal. God, however, asked for more from this good man: to marry the woman and raise the child as his own. This baker’s-s-dozen measure of what justice requires is still in force today. Pray that the Lord of justice will help you imitate Joseph’s brand of benevolent giving.

TODAY’S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *“This is the name they give him: ‘The Lord our justice.’”*

## Wednesday, Dec 19, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Turn your heart toward children

After hearing of a newborn king in Bethlehem, King Herod ordered the slaughter of all young male children in the village. Truth be told, it has never been easy to be a child. Historian John Boswell reveals in *The Kindness of Strangers* that child

abandonment was a common and often accepted practice from antiquity until the Renaissance. Although strides have been made in child welfare, abuse, neglect, and exploitation are still alarmingly widespread. A society that puts children first has a great future to look forward to. Be a voice for those who are still learning to speak.

TODAY’S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *“He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children.”*

## Thursday, Dec 20, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### The key to the mystery

With all the Advent talk of expectant waiting for new life, the reality for many families is that some of their sick and elderly are choosing this time of year to let go and go home to God. We hold these mysteries of birth and death together. If you are around death and the dying at this time of year—or any time—remember that a God who can bring life from Mary, a virgin, and Elizabeth, an elderly woman, can draw eternal life out of the bounds of death.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *“She was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.”*

## Friday, Dec 21, 2018

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH OR  
ADVENT WEEKDAY

### How to get things done

Have you noticed there are only four more shopping days left till Christmas? Better get moving or there won’t be enough time to put up the decorations, finish sending Christmas greetings, get the food prepared, and clean up the house for the guests. Maybe you need to beg the intercession of today’s saint, Peter Canisius (1521-97), who is known as the patron saint of getting things done. He said, “If you have too much to do, with God’s help you will find time to do it all.” Hey, it’s worth a try. Otherwise, you might need to call on Saint Jude, patron of hopeless causes!

TODAY’S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *“Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”*

## Saturday, Dec 22, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Generous Christmas to you

The constant jingle-jangle of ads this time of year reminds us that it is not too late to get into the “spirit of giving.” Most of the time those words are followed by encouragement to run to the local mall for last-minute shopping, but there are many other ways to give as well. We can give of our time, lend an ear, share our table, make a donation, deliver a gift to those who are less fortunate. There are many ways to experience the special feeling that comes from an act of generosity. If there is magic to the season, that is surely it.


TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). *“He has filled the hungry with good things.”*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



©2018 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**



 **At Saint Elizabeth's:**


Sun. Dec. 16 1:00-3:00 Hall in Use  
Parish Christmas Party

Fri. Dec. 21 5:00 PM Hall in Use

Sat. Dec. 22 6:00 PM Hall in Use

 **At Saint Joseph's:**

**St. Joseph's**  
**For the month of December**

 **SANCTUARY LIGHT** is In Loving Memory of  
George & Helen Peters

**INFANT OF PRAGUE** is In Loving Memory of  
The Kaye Family

Pray for Priest-December 16-22

Dec. 16th Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Riccardo, V.F.

Dec. 17th Rev. Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie


Dec. 18th Rev. John E. Santor

Dec. 19th Rev. Paul A. Schill

Dec. 20th Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Smith

Dec. 21st Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Stack

Dec. 22nd Rev. Matthew J. Strickenberger



**St. Joseph** parishioners: Now is the time to reserve your Sanctuary Light or Infant of Prague for 2019 if you wish to keep the same month. Drop payment if the collection basket or call the parish office Monday-Friday 9-1.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 23, 2018  
FOR ST. JOSEPH**

**Lector:** Patricia Marrero

**Ministers:** Carole Walker  
Holly Hamilton  
Kevin Housler

**Server:** Mackenzie

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24, 2018  
St. ELIZABETH-CHRISTMAS EVE-5:00 PM**

**Ministers:** Heather Costa  
Heather Murphy

**Lector:** Paul Costa

**Servers:** Noah  
Chloe

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24, 2018  
FOR ST. JOSEPH –CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Lector:** Mary Smith

**Ministers:** Patricia Marrero  
Carole Walker  
Lois Housler

**Server:** Raychel

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 25, 2018  
St. ELIZABETH-CHRISTMAS EVE-12:00 AM**

**Ministers:** Marian Bush  
Patty Green

**Lector:** Steve Eidson

**Servers:** Sabrina

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Please be sure to check before visiting for any changes or additions. Let us know of changes in the resident list at the nursing homes. Thank you.

**All Ministries:** Please remember to find a substitute if you cannot serve during the Mass scheduled.

Anyone who didn't receive envelopes let the parish office know and I will get them for you.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 22-23, 2018**

St. Elizabeth	Sat. 5:00 PM	Sunday 9:30 AM
Eucharistic Ministers	Carolee Learn Heather Costa	Vickie Bickford Steve Eidson Margaret Vandermark
Lectors:	Ray Learn	Tom Kreiner
Altar Servers:	Isabella Nick	Elizabeth Zachery

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**  
Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give necessities to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.

**MARRIAGE MOMENTS**  
"Rejoice in the Lord always...The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5) Sometimes pressure preparing for Christmas can blind us to what's really important. Start by remembering that Christ lives in your beloved. Pause. Take time to rejoice in each other today.

Eucharistic Ministers- Homebound: Lu Vandermark  
Sena Kean Visits: Vickie Bickford  
Lakeview:

**THINGS HAPPENING AROUND US**

**Consider Engagement Encounter!**  
Planning for your marriage in 2017? An Engagement Encounter is scheduled for January 25th through 27th at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. EE satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage in the Church. Space is limited, so please register early by calling 814-824-1261 or by email at: [familylife@erieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@erieRCD.org). Visit our Web Site at <http://www.eriecd.org/ee.htm> for more information or to register. Remember, "A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime". Catholic and