

*The Roman Catholic Parish of
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary*

*307 Franklin St.
Smethport, PA 16749*

*20 Division St.
Mount Jewett, Pa 16740*



Sacramental Information

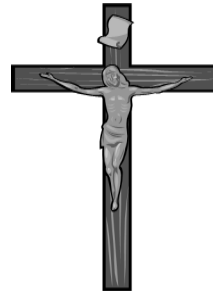
Baptism: Parents & Godparents are asked to participate in a Preparation Program prior to scheduling a Baptism.

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

FAX: 887-5271; email: stelizabethrcc@comcast.net

<http://www.stelizabethsmethport.org>

Prayer Requests: 465-3569

Prayer Requests: 814-778-5520

SAINT ELIZABETH, SMETHPORT, PA

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

Saturday, Dec. 8
 5:00 PM + George Geringer
 by Mary Jo Kreiner & Family

Sunday, Dec. 9
8:45 AM Reciting of The Rosary
 9:30 AM For The People
 10:30-11:30 Am Religious Education Students
 Penance Service
 3:00 PM Parish Penance Service

Monday, Dec. 10
 7:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament
 8:00 AM St. Joseph's Shut-ins
 St. Joseph Rosary

Tuesday, Dec. 11
 7:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament
 8:00 AM + Joseph Marquart, Sr.
 by Julie, Joe & Mary

Thursday, Dec. 13
 7:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament
 + Ed McElwee
 by Christ Tronetti

Friday, Dec. 14
 11:00 AM Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament
 12:10 PM Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
 by Mary Ann Schafer

Saturday, Dec. 15
 3:30-4:15 PM Confession
 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

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH

Sunday, Dec. 9
 8:00 AM + Ellen Forsyth
 by St. Joseph Rosary Society

Sunday, Dec. 16
 8:00 AM + Vicki & Kari Carrow
 by Bill & Dot Sluga

WEEKLY OFFERING AT ST. ELIZABETH

For the week of Dec. 2, 2018

Weekly Collection: \$1,847.00

WEEKLY OFFERING AT ST. JOSEPH

For the week of Dec. 2, 2018

Weekly Collection: \$ 542.00

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.



St. Elizabeth Christmas Party

Get your tickets for the 7th Annual Christmas Party. Only \$5.00 per person, children 5 and under are free. **TODAY is the last day for tickets sales.** No tickets

will be sold at the door.



For safety reasons, those who have registered need to come at their designated registration times. No early birds. Distribution will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11th. Volunteers are needed from **12:30-4:00 PM** when the truck arrives and when **Distribution begins at 2:00.** **Help for any amount of time is appreciated.**



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.

Religious Education News: Christmas Caroling at Lake View and Sena-Kean - Permission Slips are due **Today.** the Permission Slip is not received, your child/children cannot attend the event (no exceptions).



St. Elizabeth will have a Penance Service on Sunday, December 9th from 10:30-11:30 AM for All Religious Education Students. Parish Penance Service will be at 3:00 PM.

Families Always Matter in the Diocese of Erie

Need some ideas to help your family along the journey of life? Visit the Families Always Matter website, www.ErieRCD.org/familiesmatter, to find information/ideas for traditional, single-parent, blended, military, and adoptive/foster families. At the Diocese of Erie, families always matter! Go Families! Also Formed.org using our parish code **TRY7DX.**

Retirement Fund for Religious

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.



The second Sunday of the Advent season is on December 09, 2018. The day is called the Second Sunday of Advent. The second candle is lit on this day along with the first candle. It is the Bethlehem candle, reminding that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The theme of readings and teachings during Advent is often to prepare for the Second Coming while commemorating the First Coming of Christ at Christmas. With the view of directing the thoughts of Christians to the first coming of Jesus Christ as savior and to his second coming as judge, special readings are prescribed for each of the four Sundays in Advent.

In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30. The season of Advent lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. When Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is the last or fourth Sunday of Advent.

In Eastern Orthodox churches, which use the Julian calendar, Advent begins earlier, on November 15, and last 40 days, rather than 4 weeks. For denominations that celebrate Advent, the holiday marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Advent is primarily observed in churches that adhere to an ecclesiastical calendar of liturgical seasons, feasts, memorials, fasts, and holy days. Those churches include Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican/Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian. The season of Advent is a period of both repentance and celebration. Christians spend time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Believers remember not only Christ's first coming to earth as a human baby but also celebrate his continued presence with us today through the Holy Spirit. Advent is also a time for worshipers to anticipate his return at the Second Coming of Christ.

The word "advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming", particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. The lighting of an Advent Wreath is a traditional custom that originated in 16th century Germany. On the branches of the wreath are four candles: three purple and one pink candle. In the center of the wreath sits a white candle.

The Candles of the Advent Wreath

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This is called the "Prophecy Candle" and recalls the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. It represents hope or expectation of the coming Messiah. Each Sunday following, an additional candle is lit. On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle called the "Bethlehem Candle", is lit. The candle represents love and symbolized Christ's manger. On the third Sunday of Advent, the pink candle is lit. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word meaning "rejoice". The change from purple to pink signifies the transition in season from repentance to celebration. The pink candle is called the "Shepherds Candle" and represents joy. The last purple candle is called the "Angels Candle". It is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent and represents peace. Traditionally, on Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This "Christ Candle" represents the life of Jesus Christ that has come to light the world. It represents the life of Jesus Christ that has come to light the world. It represents purity.

Sunday, Dec 09, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A guide to keep us safe

If you've ever traveled to previously unknown places, you appreciate the importance of having a reliable guide. A good guide speaks the language, knows the lay of the land, and anticipates obstacles along the way. John the Baptist is such a guide for our Advent journey. He cautions us to prepare the way for deeper access to the divine mystery we approach in this season. John tells us that the right spirit for this encounter is repentance: a turning around, a fresh effort. Some of us may need to be forgiven. Others have some forgiving to do. Heed this guidance!

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6). *"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"*

Monday, Dec 10, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

In praise of caretakers

When a person is seriously ill or injured, it is easy for the caretakers to get overlooked as we focus our sympathies and attention on the stricken person. But even when it is a labor of love, caretaking is hard work, unending and exhausting in many cases. Next time you visit an ill person, make it a point to offer the caretaker some concrete help: bring along a home-cooked meal, do the laundry, or relieve them for an afternoon so they can run some errands or simply take some personal time. Let's take care of the caretakers in our midst—we will need them ourselves some day!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). *"Some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed."*

Tuesday, Dec 11, 2018

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

Don't get too comfortable

When Saint Damasus rose to the position of pope in the fourth century, the church faithful were in the midst of coming to terms with their legalization into the Roman state and the subsequent decline of their persecution. It was within this context that Damasus led the church to a veneration for the local martyrs of their past. Enjoying now a state of legal security, Damasus believed that honoring local martyrs and seeking their intercession and protection would instill in Catholics an appreciation for their distinctive spiritual identity. Today in America, Catholics enjoy a freedom and comfort in their faith as few ever have, yet across the globe faithful people continue to be martyred. Look to the figure of these martyrs today as a reminder of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). *"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray?"*

Wednesday, Dec 12, 2018

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Hail Mary, who is with us

"Where are you going, my son?" With these words, the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have greeted the indigenous *campesino* (and now, saint) Juan Diego when she appeared to him in 1531, an event the people of the Americas celebrate today. The image the Virgin of Guadalupe impressed on Juan Diego's cape shows a

mestizo woman who wears the band of a pregnant indigenous woman and a flower, symbol of renewal. Mary came to all the peoples of the Americas in the form of a Native American. It is her way of saying she is with us. Put yourself in the care of Guadalupe.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."*

Thursday, Dec 13, 2018

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR

She saw clearly

The church celebrates the memorial of Saint Lucy, who was killed in a Roman persecution in the year 304. Her name means "bringer of light" and reminds us of the promise of the birth of the Christ, the light of the world. Try saying this prayer to Lucy: "Saint Lucy, you did not hide your light under a basket, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see. We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illumine our daily lives. Please help us to have the courage to bring our Christianity into every corner of our day. Amen."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist."*

Friday, Dec 14, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

How to see light in the dark

Locked in a stifling-hot prison cell, Saint John of the Cross produced "The Spiritual Canticle," an exquisite poem of divine praise. It wasn't that John was exempt from suffering. On the contrary, says Thomas Merton about his favorite saint, "For the saint, suffering continues to be suffering, but it ceases to be an obstacle to his mission, or to his happiness, both of which are found positively and concretely in the will of God." Another Saint John—the Baptist—also kept sight of his divine mission during his painful imprisonment. Advent represents a time when we, too, are in captivity. The wait for our salvation can be excruciating. Follow the way of saints and focus on your mission—to love and serve the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *"To what shall I compare this generation?"*

Saturday, Dec 15, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Stop and look around

Advent invites you to see ordinary life with special eyes, deeply enough that ordinary people and experiences are holy, the stuff of salvation. Advent is a time—stop there! A time. Snag it! Hold it! Use it! Discover that your daily life and the people in it are all messengers of God so that one day you will not have to say, "If only I had seen. If only I had slowed down. If only I hadn't hustled past Jesus as I rushed through my day—and my life."

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased."*

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



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At Saint Elizabeth's:

Sun. Dec. 9 10:30-11:30 AM Religious Education Students Penance Service
 Sun. Dec. 9 3:00 PM Parish Penance Service
 Tues. Dec. 11 12:30-4:00 PM Second Harvest
 Fri. Dec. 14 All Day Hall in Use
 Sat. Dec. 15 All Day Hall in Use
 Sun. Dec. 16 9:00-6:00 Hall in Use

St. Elizabeth's Christmas Party



At Saint Joseph's:

Pray for Priest-December 9-15
 Dec. 9th Rev. George E. Strohmeier
 Dec. 10th Rev. Msgr. John W. Swoger
 Dec. 11th Rev. Richard C. Tomasone
 Dec. 12th Rev. Thomas N. Trocchio
 Dec. 13th Rev. Glen R. Whitman
 Dec. 14th Rev. Jerry S. Priscaro
 Dec. 15th Pray For Vocations



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 16, 2018 FOR ST. JOSEPH

Lector:
Tony DeSio

Ministers:
Mary Smith
Holly Hamilton
Lois Housler

Server:
Raychel

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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 15-16, 2018

St. Elizabeth	Sat. 5:00 PM	Sunday 9:30 AM
Eucharistic Ministers	Rose Campbell Vicki Alfieri	Margaret Vandermark Kelli Swanson Marian Bush
Lectors:	Debbie Babcox	Fran DeLancey
Altar Servers:	Noah	Gavin

Eucharistic Ministers- Homebound: Kelli Swanson
 Sena Kean Visits: Marian Bush & Steve Valenti
 Lakeview: Mary Norgrove



**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

Parish Development Memorial Fund

Patrick Eaton
Patrick Eaton

by Jim & Lois Barnhart
by Norma Batista

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Marital arguments sometimes go round in circles with each spouse trying to prove they were right. Sometimes you are right, but that's not the point. If you can recognize part of the argument that you were wrong in, simply saying "I was wrong." can help. Resist following it with, "But..."

THINGS HAPPENING AROUND US

Today is the last day to turn in your gifts for the "Angel Tree". All gifts need to be wrapped. If you have any questions please contact Tim and Mary Beth Holohan at 465-2229 or 558-5684.



Planning Your Wedding?

An Engagement Encounter weekend is scheduled for January 25th through 27th at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. EE satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage in the Church. Catholic and interfaith couples are encouraged to attend. Partial scholarships are available for those who qualify. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261, or by email at familylife@erieRCD.org or visit our Web site at <http://www.eriegcd.org/ee.htm> for more information or to register. Remember, "A wedding is one day, marriage is for a lifetime".

A Christmas Worship Musical, "THE KING IS HERE" by Cliff Duren

Perfected Praise (40 voice community choir / 25 local churches) directed by Kelly J. Card featuring: School Street Elementary Children's Ensemble. Bradford Area High School, Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 2 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center