

Dec. 24, 2023

*4th Sunday
of Advent*

SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Contact Us...

CHURCH

30 Crescent Drive
Eureka Springs, AR
72632

PARISH CENTER

232 Passion Play Road
Eureka Springs, AR
72632

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30am
Tuesday 8:30am
Thursday 8:30am
Friday 8:30am

(except 1st Fri. of
month-12noon at PC)
Saturday 4pm at PC

OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Thurs.
10:00am-4:00pm

PHONE

479.253.2222

FAX 479.253.6616

GIFT SHOP

479.253.8045

WEBSITE

stelizabetheureka.com

OFFICE E-MAIL

secretary@stelizabeth
eureka.com

PASTOR E-MAIL

frjoseph@stelizabeth
eureka.com

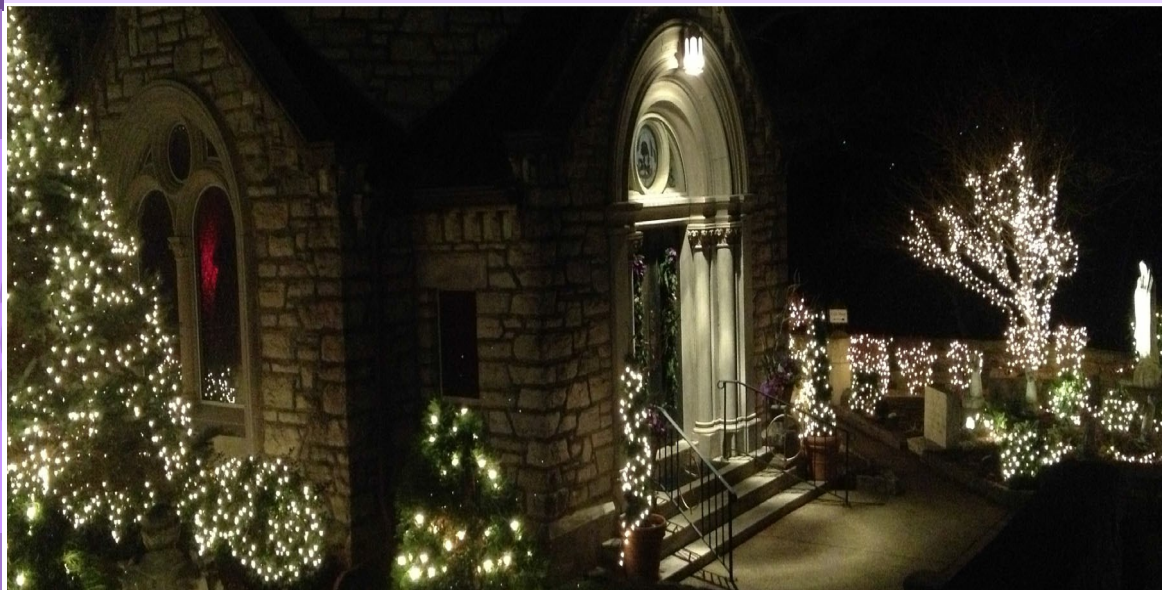
SOCIETY OF ST.

VINCENT DE PAUL

870.423.3572

ST. ANNE CHURCH

614 Main St.
Berryville, AR 72616
870.423.3927



All visitors to our beautiful town of Eureka Springs are welcome to visit our historic Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church, and to pray and worship with us. If you are Catholic, and have recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you are also invited to share in the Holy Eucharist. If you are not a practicing Catholic, we invite you to come forward with arms crossed over your chest to receive a sacramental blessing. Pray that we all continue to grow together into the body of Christ, to which the Lord calls us.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

For Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation, contact our Parish Office, and we will point you in the right direction.

MINISTRY TO SICK & HOMEBOUND

If someone in our community is at home or in the hospital, and in need of Sacramental Care, or to be placed on our prayer list, please let us know at the Parish Office.

GIFT SHOP

St. Elizabeth Gift Shop is located behind the Church in a small building. It is generally open seven days a week (March - Oct.) and weekends through the Holiday season. We carry a large selection of medals, holy cards, rosaries, crucifixes, statuary and religious art. Come on back and check us out!

TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to our Parish! If you wish to join our Parish family, please call the Parish Office, T&Th, at 253.2222. Registration forms are available in the narthex at both locations.

Getting Married?

Saint Elizabeth welcomes couples from all over the world who want to receive the Catholic Sacrament of Matrimony in our beautiful and historic Church. For more information, please contact the Parish Office, 479.253.2222.

PARISH STAFF & MINISTRY LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Archibong

Parish Secretary & Bookkeeper

Nancy Elfter

Director of Music

Sharon Parker

Parish Council Chair, Parish Life,

Gift Shop Manager Rod McGuire

Finance Council Chair

Ted Meyer

Knights of Columbus

Mike Godfrey

Liturgical Ministers & Ministry of Care

Leva Murphy

Religious Education for Youth

Contact St. Anne in Berryville

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Contact St. Anne in Berryville

Saint Joseph's Guild & Gardens

Mike Lubbers

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Mark Elworth

svdpberryville.weebly.com

THIS WEEK at Saint Elizabeth

SPECIAL EVENTS & LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Mass 8:30am

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Adoration 8:00am

Daily Mass 8:30am

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Daily Mass 8:30am

Confessions 9:15am

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Daily Mass 8:30am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Confessions 2:30pm at the PC

Holy Rosary 3:30pm at the PC

Vigil Mass 4:00pm at the PC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8:30am

Readings for the Week

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:2:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 &
8ab, 16bc & 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, k 7cd-8;
Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6;
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10;
Lk 2:36-40

God's Blessings & Birthday Wishes to:

Michelle Frey - 12/24, Paul Becker - 12/26,
Fatima Treuer-VanZant - 12/27,
Robert Bartos - 12/28, Al Selleck - 12/29

May you have many more!



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Mass Ministers



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:00pm Vigil Mass at the Parish Center

Lector: Jo Elworth

EMCs: see sign-up sheet

Ushers: Mark Elworth, Jo Elworth

Altar Server: Jim Witkowski

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30am Mass at the Church

Lector: Larry Stamps

EMCs: Karen Finkeldei, Rod McGuire, Phyllis McGuire,

Ushers: Gary Finkeldei, Mike Murphy

Altar Server: Leva Murphy

Mass Intentions



Monday, December 25

For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26

For the Repose of the Souls in Purgatory
and for the Intentions of Jeff Novakoski

Thursday, December 28

For the Intentions of Robert Wojcicki
Friday, December 29

For the Intentions of Terry LeBlanc
Saturday, December 30

For the Repose of James Fogarty
Sunday, December 31

For the Repose of the Soul of Gus Midden



Pray for us...



OUR PARISHIONERS -

Connie Blazek, Connie Breaux, Richard & Sheila Fowler,
Florence Giels, Charlotte Nowlin, Ernie & Helen Wright
and Barbara Witkowski.

OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS -

Patsy Crawford, Marci Krieger, Chuck Maxwell, Joe
McDaniel, Eric Pederson, Dale Putrino, and Libbie Vesekla

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED - Gus Midden

OUR MILITARY - Tyler Horning, George Schwender,
and Nic Smith.



Fourth Sunday of Advent (For Sun. Mass Obligation)

St. Elizabeth Saturday, 12/23, 4:00pm at the P.C.
 St. Anne Saturday, 12/23, 8:00pm (English)
 St. Anne Sunday, 12/24, 1:00pm (Spanish)

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses

St. Elizabeth Sunday, 12/24, 5:00pm at the Church
 St. Anne Sunday, 12/24, 7:00pm (English)

Christmas Day

St. Elizabeth Monday, 12/25, 8:30am at the Church
 St. Anne Monday, 12/25, 11:00am (Spanish_

NOTE: As you will notice above, there is NO Mass at 8:30am at the Church on Sunday, Dec. 24th



*Our Seminarians
for the month of
December, 2023*

Chase Feltner

Contact address:

St. Meinrad Seminary,
200 Hill Drive

St. Meinrad, IN 47577

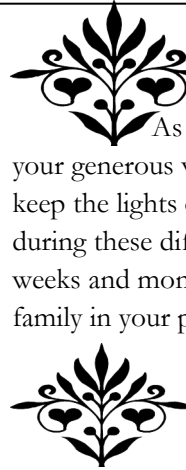
For more information

on our seminarians, go to

www.dolr.org/seminarians



**Ryan
Carlson**



STEWARDSHIP

As a parish, we are financially dependent on your generous weekly contributions to pay our bills and keep the lights on and our doors open and even more so during these difficulties times. So, as you plan for the weeks and months ahead, please remember your parish family in your prayer and in your financial planning.



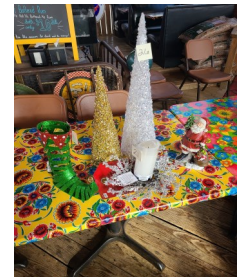
GIFT SHOP



December Gift Shop Schedule

The Gift Shop will be closed from December 24th until the middle of March. Thanks to all of our wonderful Volunteers for helping to make it such a huge success this year.

Rod McGuire



The Gift Shop Lunch was a success and so much fun! The gifts at the right are just a small example of the gifts the volunteers were given. We're always recruiting new volunteers. If interested, please call.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Servant of God **Michelle Christine Duppong** worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to God and social justice work. She died at age 31 in 2015 but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.

PRAYER

Jesus, I praise and thank you for the life of your servant Michelle Duppong in her life and suffering, she joined you in your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of personal intercession and if it brings you greater glory, that she be honored by your Church. Jesus, I ask this in your holy name. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

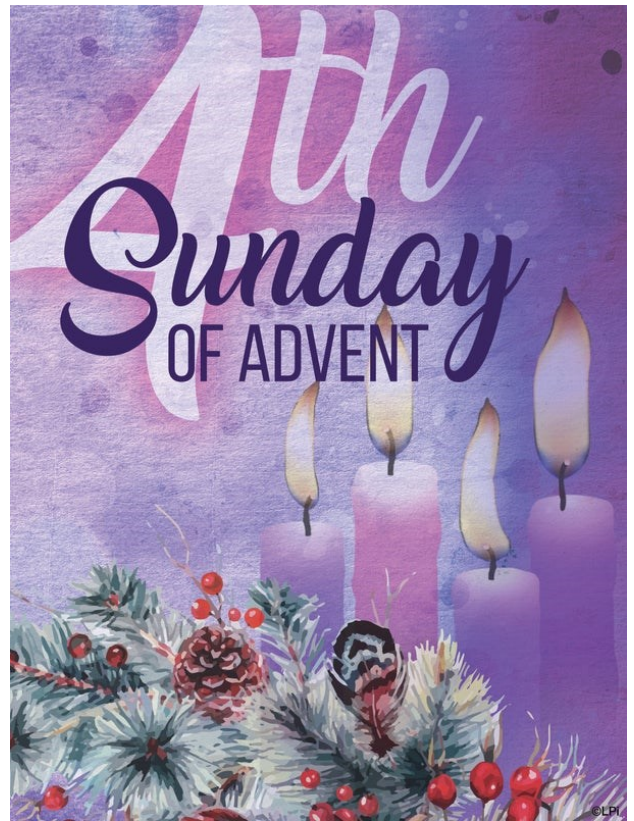
GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, **"But she was greatly troubled at what was said."** An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in - especially in - troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing. Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, **"Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."**



JANUARY RETREATS

Br. Ambrose of Subiaco Abbey will lead a retreat Monday, Jan. 15 through Friday, Jan. 18, on **"New Year: What Has Changed? Faith and Hope in Chaotic Times"** at Coury House in Subiaco. Cost for the three-night retreat is: \$310 for a private room and \$250 per person in a shared room. Commuter cost is \$140 for conferences and meals. Call 479-934-1290 or email couryhouse@subi.org to register or for more information.

Fr. Patrick of Subiaco Abbey will lead an overnight retreat on **"A New Walk on an Old Path: C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters"** Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 21. The retreat begins with dinner at 6:00pm Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. Cost of the retreat is \$220 for a private room and \$180 per person in a shared room. Commuter cost is \$90. Cost covers conferences, six meals and two nights' accommodations. Call 479-934-1290 or email couryhouse@subi.org to register or for more information.

Christmas Children

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

-Charles Dickens

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all of the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.



Those
whose hearts
are pure are the
temples of the
Holy Spirit.

- St. Lucy



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:3-4



BLESSED
Christmas!

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someone smiles
today!



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