

December 22, 2024

Fourth 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

stelizabethureka.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 five days a week (March - Nov.) 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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Mass 8:30am

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Daily Mass 8:30am

Confessions 9:15am

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

Daily Mass 8:30am

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Confessions 2:30pm at the PC

Holy Rosary 3:30pm at the PC

Vigil Mass 4:00pm at the PC

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Feast of the Holy Family 8:30am

### Readings for the Week

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 20 (2a); Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Wednesday: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11); Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

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

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

Saturday: 1Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

### God's Blessings & Birthday Wishes to:

Sandy McClung - 12/22, Michelle Frey - 12/24,  
Paul Becker - 12/26,  
Fatima Treuer VanZant - 12/27

*May you have many more!*




## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### Mass Ministers



### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

4:00pm Vigil Mass at the Parish Center

**Lector:** Barb McClung

**EMCs:** see sign-up sheet

**Ushers:** The Simpson Family

**Altar Server:** Robbie Bartos

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:30am Mass at the Church

**Lector:** Cassian Heath

**EMCs:** Karen Finkeldei, Mary Szafranski, Phyllis McGuire

**Ushers:** Gary Finkeldei, Bev Wright

**Altar Server:** Dan Kees



### Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 24

For the Repose of the Soul of Vernon A. Myers

Wednesday, December 25

For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Thursday, December 26

For the Repose of the Soul of Vernon A. Myers

Friday, December 27

For the Repose of the Souls of the Planetta & Ulrich

Families

Saturday, December 28

For the Repose of the Soul of Baby Angos and the

Intentions of Thomas in San Francisco

Sunday, December 29

For Peace in the World, that We May Love One Another



Pray for us...



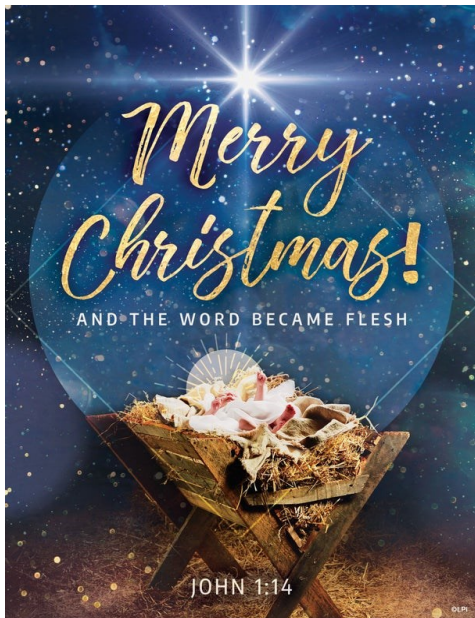
### OUR PARISHIONERS -

Connie Blazek, Sheila Fowler, Florence Giels, Helen Wright and Barbara Witkowski.

### OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS -

Mary Ann Dobrobnly, Linda Gilmore, Pam Heinzl, Marci Krieger, Joe McDaniel, Gene Ochrymowich, Eric Pederson, Dale Putrino, Leslie Scroggins, Shari Soukup, Ed Terrill, Libbie Vesekla and Connie Woolheiser

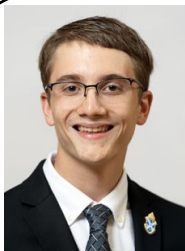




Christmas Eve: St. Elizabeth Church - 4:00pm
St. Anne Church - 7:00pm (English)

Christmas Day: St. Elizabeth Church - 8:30am
St. Anne Church - 11:00am (Spanish)

Mary Mother of God
Tuesday, Dec. 31: St. Anne Church - 6:00pm
Wednesday, Jan. 1: St. Elizabeth Church - 8:30am



Our Seminarrians
for the month of
December, 2024

Luke Parker

Contact address:

House of Formation,
1201 S. Van Buren,
Little Rock, AR 72204

For more information
on our seminarrians, go to
www.dolr.org/seminarians



Andrew
Schaefer

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

Sun., 12/22 9:30-1:00 R. McGuire

The Gift Shop will be closed until March, 2025.



Just a few gifts for our Nursing Home Folks!



Dinner and Bingo.....best food EVER and fun bingo, made especially great due to some fantastic prizes. We even had a drawing for more prizes. It can safely be said that a fun time was had by all!

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that **“there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”** (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plaque us. We become blessed, happy and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

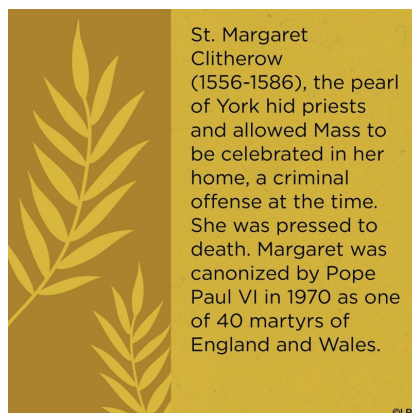
Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me to bear you faithfully to him/her.”

-Father John Muir



**A Note:** It’s the Christmas season and nothing says it better than inside St. Elizabeth Church. Gorgeous job decorating crew. You know who you are. Thank you so very much. And parishioners, thank you all for the Gift of Giving. Over 120 patients were delivered gifts for Christmas morning! Thank you, delivery drivers....Hornings, Finkeldei. Bev Wright and the McGuires. Another successful year. Bruce Wright, thank you for your restoration work on the holy water font in the rotunda. Your expertise is greatly appreciated. And last but not least, the Knights of Columbus and their partners for all the help and desserts for the Christmas party. I’ll shut up now and just say to all of your....Merry Christmas and may you have a blessed holiday and a very happy 2025!

Rod McGuire  
Parish Life Chair



## PRAYER FOR ADVENT JOY

Dear Jesus,

The news of your coming was met with boundless joy - fill us anew with the wonder of your presence. You are Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.



## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do *not* know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's *there*.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

##### Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1:43-45

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

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

Micah prophesied a "ruler" would come through the line of David ("Bethlehem-Ephrathah") and bring peace to the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel. How might you be able to promote peace this week among your family or co-workers?

### Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews reminds us that Christ makes us holy so that above all else, we do God's will. As the season of Advent draws to a close, what could be one practical way to do God's will this week?

### Gospel:

Elizabeth calls Mary "blessed" because she believed and trusted in the Lord. Are there people in your life who model such trust and faith in God?



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# Eureka Springs New Years Celebration: A Bash with a Splash

Tuesday Dec 31, 2024 Wednesday Jan 1, 2025

Basin Spring Park

4 Spring Street

Historic Downtown Eureka Springs

This is a free event



Eureka Springs earned the nickname “The City That Water Built” due to its famed healing springs, discovered by Dr. Alvah Jackson in 1858. The therapeutic properties of the mineral-rich waters quickly transformed the area into a popular resort town, attracting tourists and those seeking health remedies. Hotels, bathhouses, and businesses sprang up as the town grew. While visitors today are not encouraged to drink from the springs, the charm of this Victorian village remains, with its unique blend of history and a quirky, artistic vibe. The town is home to over sixty springs, with the most famous, Basin Spring, located at the heart of downtown and set to be the focal point of the New Year’s water drop.

Join us New Years Eve in the Basin Park from 7pm to the New Year for a celebration like no other!

## Schedule of Events:

8pm New Years Eve Carnival Style Parade

9pm Juke Boxx Party Band live in Basin Park with laser light show.

11pm Fossils of Ancient Robots live in Basin Park with laser light show.

Countdown to New Years for an epic lit up Ball Drop & SPLASH!





*The Nativity of the Lord*





Be the reason  
someone smiles  
today!



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## SPARKY'S

Great Burgers, Steaks and Chicken  
Mon.-Sat. 11:00am - 11:00pm

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