

MASSES / SERVICES

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 6
9:00 AM	Kathleen Oswald
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 7
9:00 AM	Michele Cole
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 8
9:00 AM	Tom Kern
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 9
7:00 PM	Theresa Sumski
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 10
9:00 AM	Scott Leavitt
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 11
4:30 PM	Helen and Joseph Longone
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 12
8:00 AM	Mary Gaydos
10:00 AM	John J. Egan

READINGS FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OT

First Reading:	Isaiah 58: 7 - 10
Responsorial Psalm:	112
Second Reading:	1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 5
Gospel:	Matthew 5: 13 – 16

PARISH REGULAR EVENTS (call for updates)

Adult Choir – Wed (Sept to May) times as scheduled
Baptism Class – 3rd Sunday morning by appointment
Bible Study – Wed (Sept to May) 10 am in LMR*
Breakfast Club – 2nd Sun (Nov to Apr) 8 – 11 am Hall
Children's Choir – contact Music Director for info
Friendly Visitors – 3rd Thurs (Sept to May) 2 pm LMR*
Prayer Shawl – as scheduled
PREP – Mondays (Sept to Apr) 6 pm School
RCIA – Tues (Sept to Apr) 7 pm LMR*


*LMR = Parish office large meeting room 2nd floor

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

Karen Wasielewski	Roberta Kratzer
Joe Samanka	Erin Schoepflin
Karen Allenick	Ronnie Bair
Casey Ann Perry	Annette Gagge
Jennifer Berger	Kye Fineian
Josie Levine	Veronica Gerbe
Astrid Zelko	Judy Emery
Bob Hartzell	Fernando Colon
Kathy Wiesner	Phyllis Laky

*NOTE: If you are admitted to the hospital or ER, please call the parish if you want a priest to visit.

TO THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS

 We welcome you to Mass each weekend. If you wish to receive Holy Communion and find it difficult to join the Communion line, please let the usher know and an Extraordinary Minister will bring communion to you. Low gluten hosts are available; prior to Mass go to the sacristy to let the celebrant know to prepare the host.

Call our parish office at 610-266-0695
 Emergency and need a priest? After hours use ext. 310 for the emergency voice mailbox.

Please visit us at: sercc.org

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Elizabeth-Catholic-Church-119061511442084>

INTENTIONS

The Sanctuary Candle burned this week for school **Teachers** of the parish requested by *Saint Elizabeth Regional School and P.R.E.P.*



MASS INTENTIONS



Please pray for those who have died, especially **Ann Schlafter**, who passed away this week. May her soul and the souls of all faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

RCIA



All are welcome to attend the Rite of Christian Initiation classes held on Tuesdays each week at 7 pm. Call for details 610-266-0695 ext. 208. The topic for **February 7th** will be *Moral Issues*.

MASS INTENTION BOOK

The 2023 Mass Intention Book is now open for additional Masses. Suggested donation is \$10 per Mass. Please call the parish office for requests. 610 – 266 – 0695.

PASTOR'S NOTES

St. Paul knew that words themselves could not contain the fullness of the Christian message, nor could words alone persuade others to make Jesus the Lord of Life.

For St. Paul, his words might have been able to change someone's mind, but it would be his action and that of other followers of Christ that would have the power to change hearts. What people would be attracted to and ultimately moved by was the manifestation of the Spirit within him, his light shining for all the world to see.

Our actions need not be attached to anything else. In fact, using them as a means to something might actually have the opposite effect. Our actions stand on their own, and they, to a large extent, speak for themselves. They say more than we realize or could ever imagine.

I'm convinced that the best way to assure someone that God can fill their heart with joy is to be a joyful person. And if you want someone to understand how much God loves them, love them unconditionally. If you want someone to trust in the promises of Christ, be hopeful amid life's difficulties. And if you want to trust deeply that the Lord died to reconcile every person to the Father, be a forgiving person. It's possible that there may come a time when you will have the opportunity to tell someone what it is like to live as a new creation, as someone transformed by the Holy Spirit. But every time, every second is an opportunity to show them that loving, merciful, generous person Jesus died and rose for us to be.

And there's an added blessing in all of this. When we perform acts of goodness for others, we don't simply change them and their circumstances. We also change ourselves. Isaiah teaches us that in the first reading we heard. 'If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday'.

When we allow our light to 'shine before others', when we let the spirit within us shape how we treat each person we meet, God's light will grow even stronger within us, burn even brighter. The gifts that God showers upon us, and invites us to share with others, will never run out.

I said earlier that actions need not be attached to anything else and that is true. But it's important that our actions be attached to someone else. May the light of our actions flow from the one who is light and illuminate for others the love and compassion of our God. Before anything else, let all our actions tell the whole world how wonderful our God truly is.

God bless you. Fr. Stan.

DEACON'S THOUGHTS

This excerpt from a homily on Genesis 22 (Hom. 8,6 8. 9: PG 12, 206-209) by Origen speaks of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac on Mount Moriah. It illustrates the spiritual exegesis of the Old Testament whereby the ram and Isaac are seen as figures or types of Jesus Christ and Abraham is seen as a type of God the Father. It is used in the Roman Catholic Divine Office of Readings for Tuesday in the Fifth (5th) week of ordinary time.

Abraham took wood for the burnt offering and placed it upon Isaac his son, and he took fire and a sword in his hands, and together they went off. Isaac himself carries the wood for his own holocaust: this is a figure of Christ. For he bore the burden of the cross, and yet to carry the wood for the holocaust is really the duty of the priest. He is then both victim and priest. This is the meaning of the expression: together they went off. For when Abraham, who was to perform the sacrifice, carried the fire and the knife, Isaac did not walk behind him, but with him. In this way he showed that he exercised the priesthood equally with Abraham.

What happens after this? *Isaac said to Abraham his father: Father. This plea from the son was at that instant the voice of temptation. For do you not think the voice of the son who was about to be sacrificed struck a responsive chord in the heart of the father? Although Abraham did not waver because of his faith, he responded with a voice full of affection and asked: What is it, my son? Isaac answered him: Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust? And Abraham replied: God will provide for himself a sheep for the holocaust, my son. The careful yet loving response of Abraham moves me greatly. I do not know what he saw in spirit, because he did not speak of the present but of the future: God will provide for himself a sheep. His reply concerns the future, yet his son inquires about the present. Indeed, the Lord himself provided a sheep for himself in Christ.*

In this teaching, we see a presentation of a foreshadowing in type of Jesus as priest and sacrifice. In distress and anguish, still he followed in faith. The ultimate sacrifice was not the ram in the brush. The sacrifice was the Lord himself.

SCRUMPTIOUS PARISH BREAKFAST!



We will serve our monthly Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, February 12 from 8:30 – 11:30 AM! Come and fill-up on all your favorites of bacon, sausage,

scrambled eggs, home fries, pancakes, Danish, juice and coffee – all for only \$10.00/adult and \$5.00/child, children 3 years and under are free.



Treat your favorite Valentine!

This month's special is fresh fruit salad donated by the Spieker Family.

We are very grateful for this month's sponsors, Mary Ellen Martin and Irene Snyder.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPEN

St. Elizabeth Regional School is now accepting applications for the 2023 – 2024 school year for Pre-K through 8th Grade. Please note that enrollment in kindergarten requires that your child be 5 years of age BEFORE October 15, 2023. If you need an application, contact the school office at 610-264-0143. A non-refundable enrollment fee will be required when your application is returned to the school office.



Catholic Education

A SPIRITED TOMORROW

GIVE THE GIFT OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Complete or partial sponsorship of a student can make a difference in a student's ability to attend St. Elizabeth Regional School. Sponsorship opportunities, which combine faith with learning, create a well-rounded and prepared student. As an “**Angel of the Lord**” sponsor you provide the financial support to families who desire the spiritual, moral and intellectual growth fostered by a Catholic, faith-based school. Choose from three levels of support:

- Phanuel Angel: Donate any amount
- Seraphim Angel: Donate a half tuition (\$1,925)
- Uriel Angel: Donate a full year tuition (\$3,850)

Send donations to Mrs. Kim Kocher, Principal St. Elizabeth Regional School, 431 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall, PA 18052. Thanks for your support!

SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND

February 11 & 12



Girl Scout Troop #63403 will be collecting at the exits of the church after all the Masses over Souper Bowl Weekend. Any donation you can give would be greatly appreciated. Half of the proceeds will go to the *Diocese Chew Street Soup Kitchen in Allentown* to help feed the hungry and half to the troop to help pay for scout expenses, activities and trips. Thank you for your kind generosity!

OLD PALM COLLECTION



You may bring your old palms to church until February 19 for us to dispose of properly.

During the 1800's, both the Sacred Congregation for the Rites and the Holy Office issued various determinations concerning religious items. Here are a few examples: A chalice which becomes "unserviceable" is not to be sold, but must be used for some other sacred purpose, or melted. Vestments, etc. must be destroyed. Palms are to be burned, and the ashes then used for distribution on Ash Wednesday or returned to the ground. *In all, the underlying idea is that what has been dedicated to God should be returned to God, in a sense, the same way a person's dead body is committed to the earth. Never should one just "throw out" what has been dedicated to God.*

Therefore, the normal “rule of thumb” is that anything that has been blessed should be burned (and then the ashes buried) or simply buried.

https://www.catholicerald.com/faith/disposal_of_religious_items/

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS SIGN-UPS



Looking for a night out with friends? Our instructor, Karen Hoff, is offering **10 weeks** of aerobics on **Tuesday nights** (6:15 – 7:00 PM) from **February 21 to April 25**. **No class on**

March 21, but instead it is offered on Wed., March 22. Classes are in St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall, 435 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall. The cost is only \$25 per person **for the entire 10 weeks: *This will be 45 minutes of aerobic exercise only.*** Registration deadline is February 20 or until the maximum number of participants is reached. Please contact Mary Spieker at the parish office to register 610-266-0695 or dirreled@sercc.org. See our website at: www.sercc.org. **Bring a friend!**

BEGINNER LOW IMPACT AEROBICS CLASS

Haven't exercised in a while but ready to ease your way back in? Other classes are not a fit for you?

EIGHT WEEKS ON TUESDAYS

February 21 – April 11

from 5:30-6:00 pm

(No class on 3/21, but instead on 3/22)

At Saint Elizabeth's Parish Hall

435 Pershing Blvd

Registration is required. Only \$15 for all 8 weeks.

Call or e-mail for more information:

Mary Spieker at 610-266-0695 - dirreled@sercc.org.

See our parish website: www.sercc.org

This 1/2 hour class will help you start the process of getting back to exercise while increasing your flexibility, moves and balance. Come and check out the class and see if it is a fit for you! **Bring a friend!**



MUSIC MINISTRY YOUTH CHOIR

St. E's Youth Choir will be starting up again for the Spring '23 semester! All singers and musicians in grades 4 - 8 throughout the parish are welcome to join.

Our first practice will be on Thursday Feb 9 from 4:30-5:30 in the music room.

Please email music director Patrick Oswald (patoswald96@yahoo.com) for more details.



LENTEN ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Lent is a solemn time we practice with sacrifice and tradition the tasks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. St. Elizabeth will help again this year with opportunities of almsgiving with the annual Baby Bottle Campaign (Adult Outreach) that benefits the Cay Galgon Life House in Bethlehem and Operation Rice Bowl (Child Outreach) to benefit the Children's Missions - CRS. More information will follow in the coming weeks. Please consider these opportunities to help sustain and improve lives.



TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

Do you own a business or know someone who owns a business and pays PA state taxes? If the answer is YES...How would you like to see those tax dollars be kept at St Elizabeth Regional School? Please contact Kim Kocher, Principal, at the school, at 610-264-0143 or principal@sercc.org to learn about the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit programs (OSTC).

SAVE THE DATE

St. Elizabeth Annual Parish Festival will be held on June 9 and 10 this year. Mark your calendars and invite everyone you know!



St. Elizabeth Parish Festival

Allentown Central Catholic High School

ENROLL TODAY FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!



Outstanding academic opportunities in a faith-filled community!

Scan the QR code to take a virtual tour of our campus!

Love what you see? Call or email to schedule an in-person visit! Contact Cara Meskill, Director of Admissions at 610-437-4601 x148 or cmeskill@acchs.info. Financial aid and scholarships are available.



Academic Success. Catholic Values.

301 N Fourth Street, Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 437-4601 | www.acchs.info



“Allentown Central Catholic High School will be hosting its Winter Open House this Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. Come tour the school, meet the teachers, and talk with current students. Stop by the school at 301 N 4th St. in Allentown or visit the school website at acchs.info for more details.”



Check out who Fr. Stan has helping him in the kitchen for this year's “Cooks with Collars” and what they are making. Please vote your donation to put St. Elizabeth on top!!!

Job Opening

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Center Valley PA has a job opening for a part time bookkeeper. Knowledge in general ledger accounting and previous experience with QuickBooks is helpful. Please call Nanette Lamparella at 610-282-1415 if interested.

St. John The Baptist (STILES) Tricky Tray

St. John the Baptist Church, Whitehall, will sponsor their 17th Annual Tricky Tray/Basket Social on Saturday, February 18th, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at their Social Hall, 3120 Chestnut St., Whitehall. Ticket entries one day only! Tickets can be purchased at the door. There will be a special raffle for big-ticket items. Plenty of parking behind the hall. You do not have to be present to win. Kitchen will be open for take-out! Winners will be called and can pick up baskets Sunday, February 19th, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Any questions, please call 610-262-2260.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Saturday February 11th, please join us at a Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn and all those involved in abortion. The pilgrimage begins with Mass at 8 am at Notre Dame Church, 1861 Catasauqua Rd., Bethlehem and continues with The Rosary at the Allentown Women's Center located at 31 S. Commerce Way, Bethlehem Industrial Park. The Mission is that through prayer, peaceful presence, and fasting we may be God's instruments in the salvation of souls, so that innocent lives will be saved from abortion. Be part of the call to bring God's everlasting, unconditional love to those involved in abortion so that their hearts may be converted and receive God's gift of life with joy.

Lenten Fish Dinner

Sacred Heart of Jesus and Knights of Columbus #14464 will be sponsoring a Lenten Fish Dinner on Feb. 24th, March 3rd and March 31st. We have soup, battered white fish, mac and cheese, taters, and more with dessert. It will be served in the auditorium at 117 Washington St., Bath from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Adults \$13, children 6-12 \$5, children under six are free.

St. Mary's Lenten Luncheons

This year for Lent we will offer you several Lenten Lunches.

Our first one will be on Friday, February 24th 11:30-1:30 in

St. Mary's Parish Center
122 Union St., Catasauqua

Enjoy a bowl of hearty, homemade vegetable soup with a grilled cheese sandwich, and beverage for \$9.00/person.



Kindly, email Kim at kim.stmarys122@gmail.com or call 610-264-0332 with the number attending or for take-out.

Meat Bonanza Bingo!

We are doing something special for Bingo this month at St. John the Baptist Social Hall located at 924 N. Front St., Allentown. On Sunday February 17th. *Regular bingo prize will be a package of FOUR different Meats from Kotsch's Meat Market and the specials will be CASH prizes.* \$15 for 20 Games, 6 Specials and Lucky 7! Doors and Kitchen Open at noon and Bingo begins at 1:00 pm. First come – first serve seating. Bring your daubers – NO HARDBOARDS. Call Bill Drost 610-432-3505



**Proceeds benefits
the St. Elizabeth
Youth Ministry.**

PAPA SARGE'S



PIEROGI SALE



Youth Ministry will be selling homemade pierogis made right here in the Lehigh Valley with the freshest ingredients. They will be sold by the dozen of fresh (not frozen) pierogies per bag. **Each bag of 12 costs \$8.00.**

Please fill out the order form below to fill your refrigerator/freezer for Lent!

They may be picked up in the parish hall on **Sunday, March 12 at the parish breakfast between 8:30 – 11:30.**

Deadline for ordering: Tuesday, February 21st



As always, we appreciate your support.

Please indicate on the order form below the number of dozen bags you wish to purchase. Only potato & cheese pierogies will be sold.

Orders & money can be dropped off at the school or church offices or in the weekend collection basket.

Order form due by Tuesday, February 21, 2023



St. Elizabeth Youth Ministry – Pierogi Sale



Name _____ Phone Number _____

Total ordered: _____ Total amount due: \$ _____

I will pick up my order on Sunday, March 12:

_____ 8:30 – 9:30 AM

_____ 9:30 – 10:30 AM

_____ 10:30 – 11:30 AM



NOTE: Extras will not be available for purchase on March 12.

Make checks payable to: *Saint Elizabeth Church*

Notes:

Office use only: AMOUNT PAID

_____ Cash

_____ Check