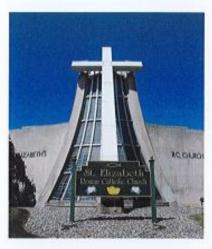
### Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church

618 Fullerton Ave, Whitehall, PA 18052



Rev. Stanley M. Moczydlowski Pastor

#### Parish Registration

Roman Catholics living in the parish boundaries should be registered with St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Registration and regular participation at Mass are required for the administration of the Sacraments, Certificate of Eligibility, and attendance in C.Y.O. and P.R.E.P. Please register at the parish office. Registration packets are also located in the church foyer and on the church website.

#### Sacraments

Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 PM and by appointment.

Baptism - First Sunday of the month. Please contact the parish office early in the pregnancy to begin arrangements. Family must be registered with the parish. Preparation class for parents is held monthly.

Marriage - Engaged couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance of their proposed wedding in order to set a date with the priest. Either the groom or bride should be a registered parishioner and practicing at St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith or become Catholic? Please contact the parish office for information and scheduling.

Anointing of the Sick - Hospitals are visited on a regular basis. Please call the parish office to report emergencies.

Godparents & Confirmation Sponsors – You must be registered with the parish, be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, must attend Mass regularly and, if married, the marriage must be recognized by the church. All requests for 'Certificate of Eligibility' are to be made well in advance to the parish office.

#### Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Weekdays: 9:00 AM (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)

Thursday: 7:00 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM (1st Saturday Only)

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Holy Days: Consult Bulletin and Website

Rev. Stanley M. Moczydlowski, M.B.A., M. Div. - Pastor

Rev. Robert J. Potts - In Residence Michael Meder Permanent Deacon

Mary Spieker Director of Religious Education

Website: www.sercc.org e-Mail: info@sercc.org Office Phone: 610-266-0695

Office Hours: 9 AM - 3 PM - Monday-Thursday



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St. Elizabeth Regional School has a strong tradition of academic excellence anchored by dedicated teachers who inspire students to use the talents and gifts God has given them. We recognize parents as the first teachers of our faith and we support them as we work together to develop happy, faithful, and active children in grades Pre-K through Grade 8.

Mrs. Kimberly Kocher – School Principal
Phone: 610-264-0143
433 Pershing Boulevard, Whitehall, PA 18052
Website: www.sercc.org/school e-Mail: school@sercc.org

#### Diocesan Office:

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. N.C.C. LPC Victim Coordinator 800-791-9209 (Direct Phone Line)

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S. - Secretary Youth Protection & CHS PO Box F - Allentown, PA 18105 610-871-5200 Ext. 2204

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service by calling 800-276-1562.

#### Wills and Donations

Please consider designating Saint Elizabeth Catholic Parish in your last will and testament so that the blessings the Lord has given you can be extended to future generations.



#### Please visit us at: sercc.org



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



God's promise and covenant with the Israelites was brought to fulfillment, through the Incarnation. God choose to take on human nature and walk among His chosen ones. The dialogue between Mary and the angel Gabriel as recorded by Luke demonstrates the intimate relationship between God and His creatures. This is clearly not a God who sits on the sidelines and watches things unfold. Our God is deeply concerned, invested and continually active in every person and situation. What God was about to do through the life of His Son in the life of Mary, and in the life of the Jewish people had been in the works from the earliest of times. It appears God had a plan from the very beginning and the fullness of that plan was soon to be realized.

It is one thing to believe that God has a plan for humankind as a whole and quite a different thing to believe he has a plan for you and me as individuals. It is important to note that when I say plan, I don't mean the little details of our day-to-day life (what we eat and wear etc.). And I caution to equate this plan with an inevitability.

You see, even though God's will for all of creation cannot be thwarted, (God has prevailed and will prevail), our individual participation and cooperation with that plan is largely up to us, (as it was for Mary), through the choices we make. To understand that and to embrace it is an act of faith, an act of gratitude for the gift of freedom. God, you see, doesn't make us cooperate, he invites us.

And so there are many things that can happen in our lives that have no place in God's plan; sin being the most obvious; which means our lives are not predetermined. They are unfolding through the action of God's grace, blended with, in a certain sense either with our cooperation or obstruction to God's life-giving action. And that means each of us has a critical role to play. God could, but he does not, force himself on us. Rather he does everything he can then patiently waits for our 'yes'.

And so as we journey toward Christmas (this last week/day of Advent), as we prepare to celebrate the Lord breaking into the World (with a capital W) in a profound way, let's be sure to invite him also to break into our own little corner of the world (with a small w), allowing his grace to carry out his plans for you, me, and the relationships and circumstances in which we find ourselves. We do that through the choices we make.

Who knows what God has in store for us, for our families, and for all whose lives are intertwined with ours? Wouldn't it be wonderful to find out? There is only one way to find out, by being channels of God's grace rather than being barriers to it. When we choose God in every step we take, we let God's plan unfold as He sees fit.

The Incarnation assures us of that possibility. It is a wonderful life. Plan on it.

Have a blessed Christmas, Fr. Stan

#### **OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS\***

If admitted to the hospital or ER, please call the parish if you want a priest to visit or need an Anointing.

Maureen Calder Maribeth Kuhn Joe Samanka Annette Susko Mckayla Pavie Craig Wilber Terry Kichline Tim O'Neill Mary Louise Gnall

Chris Schoepflin Iolanda Loffredo



#### **INTENTIONS**



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for **Bill & Anne Speicher** requested by *Anne Stahley & Sue Speicher*. The bells will ring this for **Bill & Anne Speicher** requested by *Anne Stahley & Sue Speicher*.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who have died, especially **Hilda Koetting and Albert Roma** who passed away this week. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

ADVENT On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."





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## PRAYING...as Disciples

LITURGY SACRAMENTS DEVOTIONS

### Masses / Services

MONDAY	DECEMBER 25	8:00 AM	Christmas Memorials
		10:00 AM	Christmas Memorials
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 26	9:00 AM	Leonard Gutman
WEDNESDAY	Y DECEMBER 27	9:00 AM	Mary Reinsmith
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 28	7:00 PM	Josephine Oliveria
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 29	9:00 AM	Theresa Pinter
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 30	4:30 PM	Martin Anthony DiMann
SUNDAY	<b>DECEMBER 31</b>	8:00 AM	Jack Schuster
			People of the Parish
		10:00 AM	Julia Krempasky
		4:30 PM	Jim Susko

#### 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 so the host can be prepared.

### RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

Reconciliation is available before weekend Masses. Saturday 3:30-4:15, Sunday 7:15-7:45 am, 9:15-9:45 am and by appointment during weekdays.

EMERGENCY and need a priest? Please call 610-266-0695. After hours use ext. 310, the emergency voice mailbox.

#### RCIA TOPIC THIS WEEK

There will be no class this week for the Christmas holiday. January 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the next class. All are welcome to attend the Rite of Christian Initiation on Tuesdays each week at 7 pm in the large meeting room on the second floor of the Parish Office. The topic on January 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Epiphany & Vocations.

#### ST. ELIZABETH REGIONAL SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2024 - 2025

Registration is open for the 2024 – 2025 school year for those currently enrolled in the 2023 – 2024 school year. The early bird registration discount is \$50. Registration will open in January for new students and registration will be \$100 at that time. Please call the school office for more information.



Parish Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26.

## f

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### OFFICE - 610-266-0695

#### PASTOR

Rev. Stanley M. Moczydlowski x100 • pastor@sercc.org

#### **DEACON**:

Mike Meder x 202 Servantmike1@yahoo.com

#### IN RESIDENCE:

Rev. Robert Potts x 323

### DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS

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#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

Patrick Oswald x 320 patoswald96@yahoo.com

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Joan Glover jglover@ptd.net

#### WEDDING COORDINATOR:

Wendy Ohlsen info@sercc.org

#### BOOKKEEPER:

Wayne Nicklas x 102 bookkeeper@sercc.org

Kathy Garcia x 103 register@sercc.org

#### **MAINTENANCE:**

Tom Shak

tom.shak@hotmail.com

#### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Kim Kocher x 401 principal@sercc.org

#### **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASST:**

Kathi Connors x 400 school@sercc.org



## LIVING...as Disciples

MINISTRY COMMUNITY

#### PARISH CALENDARS

Parish Calendars are available at the entrances in church. Please take what you need or stop by the parish office for your 2024 calendar courtesy of Gilbert Funeral Home.

### DIVORCE/SEPARATION BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM



Divorce is a painful reality for many Catholics. Our Lord wants to heal the wounds of separation/divorce and now there is a class at St. Elizabeth that can help. Starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the parish office upstairs conference room. The program consists of eleven sessions. Contact the facilitator,

Jane Zingelman, for more information at 505-688-8663. You can also call the Parish Office to register.

#### OPLATKI – CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Christmas Wafers are now available at the parish rectory during office hours. Wafers are \$3 per pack which includes four wafers in each package. Oplatki is a long-standing Christmas Eve tradition. It is a beautiful way to enhance your family's spiritual Christmas experience. The Christmas Eve devotion, including prayers and history, are on the back of each envelope.



### MANY THANKS

At this time, we would like to ring the bells and thank all the volunteers who make our parish what it is. This week – **Our Baptism Team** 

Ann Frankl, Thom and Kathy Hamilton, Patti Sheehan, Rose Balliet, Deacon Mike, and Fr. Stan



#### SPAGHETTI DINNER SAVE THE DATE!

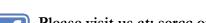


St. Elizabeth Regional School St. Elizabeth Parish Hall Saturday, January 27, 2024

#### COOKS WITH COLLARS

Cooks with Collars will open January 12<sup>th</sup>. Filming has finished and the editing is being done. Soon you will find out what Fr. Stan learned how to make and see the aspiring chefs that helped him.

It's a secret family recipe!



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### **SACRAMENTS**

New to the parish? — Register as a new member to receive Sacraments.

#### **INFANT BAPTISM:**

Baptisms are currently being celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. Registered parish members may contact the parish office as soon as they learn that a child is on the way but should contact the parish office at least two months prior to the Baptism to register for the Baptism Class.

#### FIRST PENANCE / EUCHARIST:

Normally received in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Parish member's enrollment in St. Elizabeth Regional School or Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P) is required for two years before reception.

#### **CONFIRMATION**

Normally received in 8th grade. Parish member's enrollment in St. Elizabeth Regional School or Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P) is required for at least two years before reception.

#### MARRIAGE:

At least six months before your anticipated wedding. Contact the pastor for a meeting to go over information regarding scheduling and the preparation process.

#### PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Contact our parish office for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick prior to surgery or during serious illness. Holy Communion is brought to the homebound monthly.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: (R.C.I.A.)

Is Jesus inviting you to join His Church? Do you want to become Catholic? Contact the parish office to learn more about this process. We look forward to journeying in Faith with you.

### St. Elizabeth of Hungary

2023 Christmas Schedule

### Christmas Masses

#### Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec 24th, 4:30 pm and 9:00 pm

### Christmas Day

Monday, Dec 25th 8:00 am and 10:00 am

#### New Year's Masses

### New Year's Eve

Sunday, Dec 31st, 4:30 pm

New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary Monday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am



#### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – HOUSE BLESSING



According to Austrian theologian *Pius Parsch* "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is His, government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that the feast brings to perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. The blessing of homes, on whose lintels are inscribed with blessed chalk the cross of salvation, together with the indication of the year and the initials of the three wise men (20+C+M+B+24), Caspar, Melchior

and Balthasar which can also be interpreted to mean Christus Mansionem Benedicat, (Christ Bless this House).

We will have house blessing packets available at all the exits of the church on the weekend of the Epiphany, Jan. 67. https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/files/epiphanyceremony2024.pdf



## FELLOWSHIP...as Disciples

Upcoming Community Events

#### Part-Time Secretary

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart is looking for a Part-Time Secretary (25 hours per week) for their new Provincial Office in Bethlehem. Call 630-892-2371 during business hours for an appointment. Computer skills are required.

#### The Cathedral Diocesan Choir Angelorum

The choir will have a Christmas Concert at St. Thomas More Church and we would love to have your parishioners join us! On Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Enjoy the Christmas season listening to the beautiful singers of Angelorum Choir!



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St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Please call the Parish Office if you are admitted to the hospital at 610-266-0695.

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