



## January 31,2021 • Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

112 E. Washington Street  
P O Box 246  
Elizabeth, IL 61028

#### Parish Mission Statement

*The Church of St. Mary, followers of Christ, are inspired by our Catholic faith to build on our traditions through the Eucharist, prayer and education. As the family of God, and with one another, we desire to live our faith in the world.*

#### Church of St. Mary Parish Address

112 E Washington St.  
Elizabeth, IL 61028  
Phone: 815-858-3422

Email: [stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org)

Web: [www.stmaryelizabethil.org](http://www.stmaryelizabethil.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stmary.eliz.il.61028](https://www.facebook.com/stmary.eliz.il.61028)

**Parish Office Hours:**  
8:30-3:30(Tuesday and Thursday)  
8:30-3:30 Wednesday by appointment

**Staff.** Norma Schwirtz 815-238-2317

CRE: Cheryl Rife  
Youth: Noelle Reese

#### Confession

Wednesday afternoon 5:00-5:45 pm. If you wish to come at a different time, call to make an appointment.

#### Marriage

If you wish to get married, please call the office and make an appointment at least six months before your wedding date.

#### Baptism

Please call the office to begin preparation.

#### Sick or Hospitalized

Please notify the office or Father.

**Pregnant?** There are alternatives to abortion! If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. Freeport Pregnancy Center at 815-232-5433.



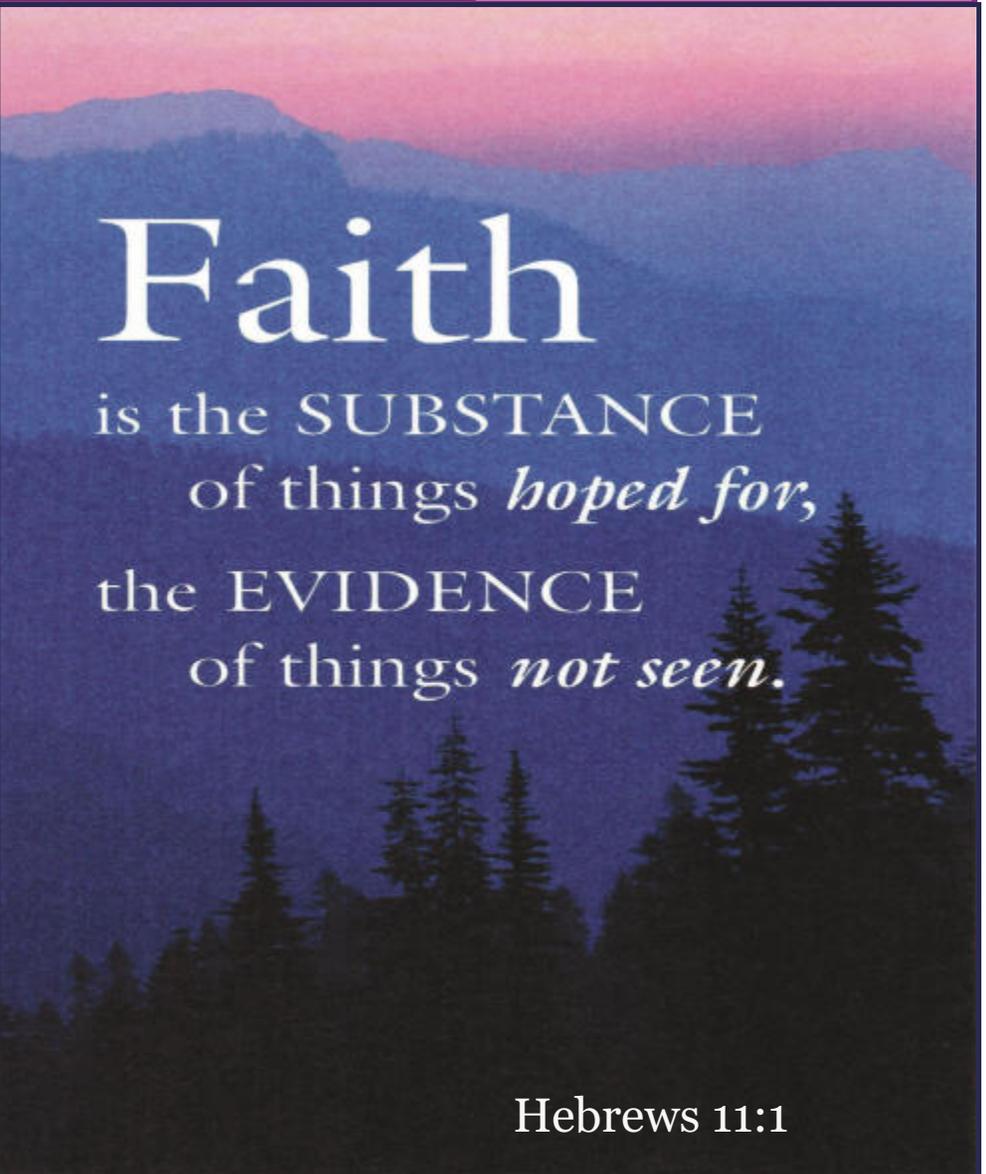
*Please pray for the following*

Jennifer Sullivan  
Rich Gesiorski  
Mary Ambrosia  
Richard Gengler  
Daniel Magee  
Adam Starosta

**For all the lives that were lost  
this past year to COVID 19 and  
their families**

**For all those who are suffering  
debilitating illness and  
depression**

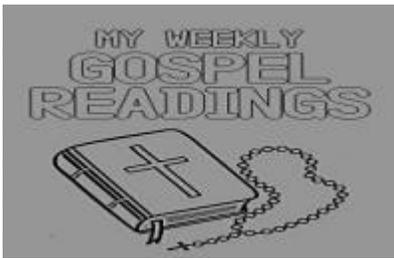
If you have a prayer request please  
call the office on Tues. Wed. or  
Thurs.



# Faith

is the SUBSTANCE  
of things *hoped for*,  
the EVIDENCE  
of things *not seen*.

Hebrews 11:1



## Scripture Ponders

### Image of God

**“My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim that you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people more than others?” (James 2:1).**

James argues that favoring one person over another among the believers is wrong. The principle stands that in the eyes of God we are equal. However, we know from life experience, that because there are the well-to-do as there are the have-not-so-much, we offer the front pew to the first (hoping that they will return the favor?) and make the latter sit in the pew alongside the church’s wall. In doing so, are we keeping God’s ways?

Already the Old Testament is showing that treating one person better than the other is wrong, for one and only one reason: God made us all in His image. The Book of Proverbs makes it clear: **“The rich and poor have this in common: “The Lord made them both”(Proverbs 22:2).** Neither man nor woman is made more in the image of God than the other.

If sometimes you feel worthless or of little value, remember that God made you for a good reason, you are the bearer of God’s image. It may not necessarily be the bearing of a physical image—look into the mirror when you rise in the morning—but it is definitely **spiritual!**

Kahlil Gabran, a Lebanese-American writer and poet in his book, *The Prophet*, says: “When you love you should not say, ‘God is in my heart,’ but rather, ‘I am the heart of God.’”

Fr. Joachim

- Sunday, January 31, 2021:**  
Mk 1:21-28
- Monday, February 1, 2021**  
Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday, February 2, 2021**  
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- Wednesday, February 3, 2021**  
Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday, February 4, 2021**  
Mk 6:7-13
- Friday, February 5, 2021**  
Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday, February 6, 2021**  
Mk 6:30-34
- Sunday, February 7, 2021**  
Mk 1:29-39

The term ***gospel*** comes from a translation of the Greek noun ***euangelion*** – meaning **“good tidings” or “good news”** so when we read the Gospel(s) we are sharing with each other and within **“the good news of Christ.”**

### Mass Intentions Week of 1/30/21-2/7/2021

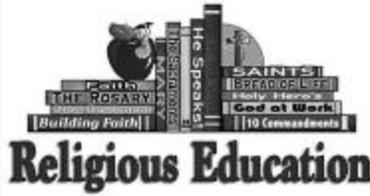
- Saturday, January 30, 2021**  
6:00 pm (Elizabeth) † Maury Berlage by Deb Altfillish family
- Sunday, January 31, 2021**  
8:30 am (Elizabeth) For the people of St. Mary
- Wednesday, February 3, 2021**  
8:30 am (Elizabeth) † Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson by John and Edith Dwinnells  
  
6:00 pm (Elizabeth) † Rita Moran by Mr. & Mrs. McDevitt
- Friday, February 5, 2021**  
8:30 am (Elizabeth) † Joe Wegmann by John and Barb Scott
- Saturday, February 6, 2021**  
6:00 pm (Elizabeth) † Ken Berlage by Marilyn Berlage
- Sunday, February 7, 2021**  
8:30 am (Elizabeth) Elizabeth Wegmann prayer for good health by John and Barb Scott

### Liturgy Roles and Safety

- Saturday, February 6, 2021**
- 6:00pm(SM)**  
**Lector/Com.....Schwartz**
- Registration and Temperatures: Schwartz**
- Sanitize pews after mass: Schwartz**
- Sunday, February 7, 2021**
- 8:30am (SM)**  
**Lector/Com.....Roseann M**
- Registration and Temperatures:**  
**Karla and Trevor Grube**
- Staff will sanitize after Sunday mass**

# P.R.E.P. Corner

P.R.E.P. = Parish Religious Education Program



**Our mission:** Care, Proclaim, and Serve  
Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) –  
Cheryl Rife, cheryl.rife@live.com

Thank you so much to those who filled out our survey last week-end. If you decided to take yours home, please remember to bring it back soon. If you did not get one last weekend, make sure to fill one out this weekend. We want to hear from you!  
\*Stay tuned each week for updates in the bulletin!\*

## Liturgy and Worship Committee Members Needed

A Liturgy and Worship Committee is being created. Members, volunteers, and helpers are needed. If you are interested or have questions, contact Noelle Reese at mass or via e-mail (ncrease97@yahoo.com). Meetings would be monthly or every two months after getting started. We will be discussing scheduling, training, church seasons, and how best to worship at mass. Praying for our parish and your interest!

## Distraction During Prayer

Question:

I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive?

Answer:

The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us “no!” This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life-dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. *A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!*

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just “re-collect” ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

©LPi

## Stewardship Report

Date: January 24, 2021  
Weekly Offering Collected: \$502.00  
Weekly expenditures: \$2600.00  
Deficit: \$2,098.00  
National Appeal: \$265.00

## A B C Scripture Week One

In preparation for Lent which starts February 17, Ash Wednesday, please consider perhaps “dusting” off the Bible and read some ABC Scriptures and maybe also read before and after the chosen verse or the whole chapter.

**A** gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)

**B**eloved, let us love one another. (1st John 4:7)

**C**ast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1st Peter 5:7)

**D**o unto others as you would have them do unto you. (Matthew 7:12)

**E**ncourage one another and build each other up. (1st Thessalonians 5:11)

**F**aith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

**G**o into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

**H**onor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you.  
(Deuteronomy 5:16)

**I** was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. (Psalm 122:1)

**J**esus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

**K**eep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. (Psalm 34:13)

**L**ove the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. (Luke 10:27)

**M**ake a joyful noise unto the Lord. (Psalms 100:1)

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME




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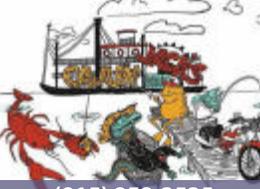
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