

# Saint Elizabeth's Church

577 Wood Street

Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

Rectory: (401) 253-8366 Fax: (401) 253-7695

[www.saintelizabethchurch.net](http://www.saintelizabethchurch.net)

e-mail: [office@saintelizabethchurch.net](mailto:office@saintelizabethchurch.net)

Rev. Henry P. Zinno, Jr., Administrator

Rev. José F. Rocha, Senior Priest Associate

## Parish Staff

Sr. Irene Escobar, Pastoral Assistant

Ms. Charlene Andrade, Bookkeeper / Secretary

Mr. João Medeiros, Coordinator of Facilities & Grounds Mgmt.

## **Faith Formation, Family Catechesis & Youth Ministry**

(401) 253-3501 or [ccdoffice@stelizabethri.com](mailto:ccdoffice@stelizabethri.com)

Co-Director Mrs. Karen Costa

Co-Director Mrs. Maria Connie Martins

## **Music Ministry**

Mr. John Travers, Organist

Mr. Joseph DeLemos, Organist

Miss Nicole Sousa, Organist

## Trustees

Mr. Raymond Cordeiro

Mr. Joseph Paiva

## Auditors

Mr. Manuel DaRosa

Mr. David Oliveira

## Parish Organizations

25 Week Club – Mrs. Oryann Lima, Coordinator

Finance Council – Mr. John Rego, Chairman

Friends of St. Elizabeth – Mrs. Naomi Carpenter, President

United Brotherhood of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Trinity -

Mr. Fernando Brum, President

Grupo de Oração - Devido ao vírus não há reuniões.

Holy Rosary Sodality – Mrs. Marie Cottrell, President

Santo Cristo – Mr. João Medeiros, President

## Friends of St. Elizabeth - Parish Outreach and Assistance

Food Pantry Open Tuesdays 5:30–6:30pm weather permitting

Helpline (401) 253-8366

## Mass Schedule

### **Weekend Masses:**

Saturday Vigil:

4:00pm Advent to Easter

5:00pm Easter to Advent

Sunday at 9:00am, 10:30am & 5:00pm

Português - Domingo às 7:30

**Weekday Mass at 7:30am (bilingual):**

**No Mass on Thursday**

**Holy Days of Obligation and Holidays:**

As listed in the Parish Bulletin

## Baptism

After the birth of the child, parents are invited to contact the rectory to schedule the Baptism.

## Sponsor Certificates

Please contact the parish office.

## Marriage

Upon engagement, couples should contact the parish office to schedule a wedding date and initiate the preparation process that ordinarily requires a period of six months – one year.

## Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:20pm – 3:50pm or by scheduling a time with the parish office

## Anointing of the Sick

Those in need, or a family member, are encouraged to contact the priest

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Adults who believe they are being called to receive the Sacraments of Initiation should contact the parish office.

## Holy Orders – Vocations to the Priesthood

Discerning a vocation to the priesthood? Speak with the priest or contact Fr. Brian J. Morris, Director of Vocations, at (401) 331-1316 or [www.catholicpriest.com](http://www.catholicpriest.com).

## **Rectory Hours:**

**Monday through Friday\***

**9:00AM to 4:00PM**

**\* Wednesday to 3PM**

**Gospel Reading** *John 1:1-18* (or shorter form, John 1:1-5, 9-14)

John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

**Background on the Gospel Reading** - There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar. The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (*logos* in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the *logos* was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity. In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word. Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

**Family Connection** - At Christmas we celebrate the great mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us. We call this mystery the *Incarnation* (the word means "to take on flesh"), and it changes everything. Today's Gospel reminds us that we can also look upon the Nativity from God's perspective to better appreciate the significance of the Incarnation. The mystery we proclaim at Christmas is that God, the very God who created all things from nothing and who is light itself, took on our humanity in order to transform us. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. At this awesome mystery, we adore.

Gather as a family around your Nativity set. Keep this image before you and talk about how familiar we are with this scene. Invite members of the family to recall the details of Jesus' birth that we hear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Observe that the Gospel of John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:1-14. John's Gospel reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation. What are some of the things that John's Gospel says happened for us because Jesus came to dwell among us? (Light overcame darkness; we see God's glory in Jesus; we became children of God.) Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night." ~ From Loyola Press Sunday Connection

*Jesus is the Son of God. We are so blessed that he became human and lived among us. His light overcomes darkness because God's love for us is greater than sin. Jesus taught us how to love God by loving one another.*

**Wishing you and yours a Blessed and Merry Christmas**

We would like to take the opportunity to wish all parishioners and friends a Blessed and Merry Christmas. May the peace, hope, joy and love of the Christ Child reign in your hearts not only throughout the season of Christmas but also throughout the coming New Year. Be assured that you will be in our prayers. Fr. Zinno & Fr. Rocha

**Desejando a si e aos seus um Santo e Feliz Natal**

Gostaríamos de aproveitar esta oportunidade para desejar a todos os paroquianos e amigos um Santo e Feliz Natal. Que a paz, a esperança, a alegria e o amor do Menino Jesus reine nos vossos corações não apenas nesta quadra do Natal mas também ao longo do Novo Ano. Na certeza que iremos rezar por si os seus. Pe. Zinno & Pe. Rocha

**Gospel Reading** *Luke 2:41-52*

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

**Background on the Gospel Reading** - Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

**Family Connection** - Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When they found Jesus at the Temple, Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life. In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, that their son was the Son of God. Knowing a person well helps reduce our anxieties for them because we can better predict how they will behave, and we know their capacity to handle the challenges life might present to them. As you gather as a family, have fun playing the game "How well do you know me?" Take turns trying to stump one another by asking family members questions about yourself, such as "What is my favorite memory of a family vacation?" "Given a choice, what dinner menu would I pick?" "If I could travel anywhere in the world, where would I go?" One member of the family might prepare and read the questions aloud as each person writes down the answers. Family members then take turns guessing the answers, playing this game as a quiz show. Observe that one thing about families is that we learn to know each other well.

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (January 1)**

Friday, December 31, no 7:30 AM Mass, New Year's Eve: 4:00pm (English), Holy Hour in honor of Our Lady to follow  
Saturday, January 1, New Year's Day: 9am (Portuguese) & 10:30am (English)

The Church regards the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. As we begin another year, let us draw inspiration from the selfless love of Mary, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her.



*O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!*

A Igreja ensina que solenidade de Santa Maria Mãe de Deus um dia Santo de Guarda. Neste dia recordamos o papel que Maria desempenhou na história da salvação. Ao iniciarmos o ano novo inspiramo-nos no exemplo de Maria Mãe de Deus que nunca hesitou no momento de cumprir a vontade de divina. E confiamos nas suas orações dirigidas a Deus por nós para que sejamos com o passar dos anos, mais semelhantes e Ela.

*Santa Mãe de Deus, rogai por nós!*

**Reminder – There will not be Confession nor a 4:00PM Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 1**

**2022 Catholic Appointment Calendars** - Donated in memory of the deceased of our Parish by the George C. Lima Funeral Home. We ask you to take a calendar with you when you leave church this weekend.

## Mass Intentions

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### Saturday – December 25 (Christmas)

**Midnight** – Pro Populo

**9:00AM (Portuguese)** – Pro

Populo

**10:30AM (English)** – Pro

Populo



**No Vigil Mass at 4PM Today**

### Sunday – December 26 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

**7:30AM** – Fernanda Moniz, Maria F. Moniz, Manuel & Maria Espirito Santo Pereira, Alberto & Maria Ester Avila Teixeira, Antonio & Maria Silveira, Jose & Filomena Avila, Rosa Leal Furtado, Manuel & Fernanda Almeida, Amancio Pires, José Avila & Silvino Avila

**9:00AM** - Olivia & Mario Vieira, Madalena Tavares, Manuel P. Serpa, Jr., Jeanne Bonvalet Serpa, Kenneth Medeiros, Manuel G. Matos, Edward & Eleanor Rodericks, Joseph Machado, David R. Pacheco, Humberto Pacheco, Maria Pacheco, Manuel A. Brum, Maria Jose Cabral

**10:30AM** – Zelia & Gil Amaral, John Carlos Amaral, Maria Julia Borges, Carlos Saraiva, John M. Medeiros, Nathan Correia, Jose & Rosa Leitao, Manuel & Maria dos Anjos Cabral, Julieta Cabral, Guilherme de Jesus, Adelino Branco, Antonino Chaves

**5:00PM** – Pro Populo

### Monday – December 27 (St. John, the Apostle)

**7:30AM** – Maria & Joao Viveiros, Joao & Conceicao Albernaz, Maria Jose Cabral, Armanda Silveira

### Tuesday – December 28 (Holy Innocents)

**7:30AM** – Manuel & Germina Tavares, M. Cecilia Almeida, Mariano & Maria Goncalves

### Wednesday – December 29

**7:30AM** – Luis Silva, Barbara Oliveira

### Thursday – December 30

NO MASS - NÃO HÁ MISSA - NO MASS

### Friday – December 31

**4:00PM** – Pro Populo

**5:00PM** – Holy Hour

### Saturday – January 1 (Solemnity of Mary)

**9:00AM (Portuguese)** – Pro Populo

**10:30AM (English)** – Pro Populo

**No Vigil Mass at 4PM Today**

### Sunday – January 2 (Epiphany of the Lord)

**7:30AM** – Maria M. Cardoso, Manuel Cardoso, Marta Carvalho, António & Maria Silveira, José & Filomena Avila, António Avila, Conceição Maria Botelho

**9:00AM** - Arthur Silvia, Lydia Sousa Borges, Jacinto Rosa, Maria Rosa, Luisa Rosa, Carlos Vieira, Jacinto & Maria Joana Melo

**10:30AM** – Jose & Maria C. Tavares, Virginio & Germina Almeida, Norberto & Maria Jose Cabral, David Walter Costa, Clemintina Costa, Maria Santa deMelo, Joao Carlos Melo Soares, Maria dos Anjos Andrade

**5:00PM** – Pro Populo

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

### Sanctuary Lamp

This week the sanctuary lamp burns in memory of  
*Gualter Medeiros*





**DECEMBER 26, 2021**

During the Christmas season from December 24th until the Sunday after Epiphany, we reflect upon the mystery of love that is made visible in the birth and early childhood of Christ.

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**



***Nasceau o Salvador!  
Christ, our Savior, is born!***

**The Rectory will be closed for New Year's  
December 31**

**Stewardship – Time, Talent & Treasure**

Weekly Budget, December 12 - \$5,874.75

E-Giving, December 12 - \$ 377.39

Thank you!

Obrigado!

We have Electronic giving available at St. Elizabeth's. Please visit the church website, [www.saintelizabethchurch.net](http://www.saintelizabethchurch.net), and click on myEoffering. Or you could set us up on your electronic bill pay with your bank (ACH). Either way, we thank you for your continued support!

**March for Life Bus Trip** - Join Servants of Christ on a charter bus to D.C. for the annual March for Life. We will leave Thursday morning, Jan 20th, and stay overnight in a Knights of Columbus hall in Maryland. We will join the March on Friday morning, Jan 21st, and return home Friday night. Trip includes: Bus ride, dinner and breakfast provided by the Knights, overnight lodging, pro-life speaker, evening and morning Mass, and of course the historic March for Life. Cost: \$125/pp. Contact: Tyler Rowley at 401-290-7201 or [t3rowley@gmail.com](mailto:t3rowley@gmail.com).

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