

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

Parish Established 1908 • Church Dedicated 1947



Merry Christmas!

MASS TIMES

SUNDAY Saturday Vigil- 5:00 pm
7:00, 9:00, 11:00 am

DAILY 6:30 & 8:30am (M - F)
8:30 am (Saturday)

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00, 8:00, 12:00
CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00, 11:00

PARISH OFFICE/RECTORY

809 S. Broom Street (302) 652-3626
Wilmington, Delaware 19805-4244 Fax - (302) 658-5957
www.sterectory.org

Vy Rev. Norman P. Carroll, V.F. *Pastor*
Rev. John B. Gabage, *Associate Pastor*
Deacon Ken Pulliam, *Permanent Deacon*
Rev. Daniel W. Gerres, *Senior Priest in residence*

Cathy Wilczynski, *Parish Secretary*
Susan Testerman, *Secretary & Bookkeeper* 656-3369 x3044
Tom Delle Donne, *Maintenance*
Teresa Campbell, *Business Manager* 656-3369 x3098

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH SCHOOLS

1500 Cedar Street Wilmington, Delaware 19805

ELEMENTARY (PreK-8) (302) 655-8208
Miss Alexandria M. Cirko, *Principal*
www.sainteliz.org

HIGH SCHOOL (9-12) (302) 656-3369
Mrs. Shirley W. Bounds, M.Ed., *Principal*
www.sehs.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(302) 652-3626
CCD classes (Grades 1-8) - Sunday from 9:30-10:45

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Pastoral Council - Tim Ryan
Finance Council - Ken Cresci (302) 999-1755

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL & OUTREACH

(302) 540-4722
Parish families can leave a confidential message requesting assistance. Please leave message with name, contact number and best time to return the call.

GRANT HALL RENTALS

(Call Stan K. after 6:00 p.m.) (302) 234-1884

The Nativity of the Lord
December 24/25, 2011



*A Savior has been
born for you.
- Luke 1:35*



The Nativity of the Lord

December 24/25, 2011

Isaiah 52 : 7-10
Hebrews 1 : 1-6
John 1 : 1-18 [1-5, 9-14]



A Word from your Pastor

Welcome as we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ: God made manifest—real!

As you entered this place, many of us call home, for the celebration of Christmas, what were you looking for? What was going to make it feel like Christmas?

- Was it poinsettias or lighted trees?
- Was it the view from your favorite pew?
- Was it the sound of Christmas carols or trumpet ?
- Was it a quiet moment or the sound of a crowd?
- Was it familiar faces or new ones?
- Was it the crèche or the infant at the center?
- What were you looking for?

That's the same question asked of shepherds and kings as the Christmas story unfolds? It's the question asked of those who came out to hear John the Baptist? It's the question because Christmas provides the answer. Do you see what I see? God knows our longings. God knows our desire. God came to be found! God came so that we would know that He could be the answer that responds to our constant questions, to our life-long search. The wonder of our God can be found through flowers and lights, through favorite and comfortable places, through beautiful sounds and distracting sounds, through old and new friends. God can be found in a story that took place on a silent night in the midst of a ruler's jealous search.

May you find what you are looking for this Christmas and may we continue to celebrate the life-long journey together here where God is found and made real.

Merry Christmas! Fr. Carroll

CATECHESIS / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ROMAN MISSAL CORNER

On the first Sunday of Advent, a new translation of the Roman Missal was implemented in parishes across the United States. Changes have been made in the priests' prayers as well as the responses of the people. For the Christmas masses a worship aid is provided to enable the assembly to follow along. In addition pew cards can be found in the pews. The Order of the Mass can always be found in the front of the Hymnal beginning on page 3. For the Christmas Season we will pray Eucharistic Prayer I.

STEWARDSHIP + OFFERTORY

Christmas Collection Budget = \$18,000
4th Sunday of December Collection Budget = \$9,615
Due to the Holiday the updated numbers for the month will be in next Sunday's bulletin.
Thank you for your understanding.

What shall I give to someone on the top of my Christmas list?

That's the way one person's mother taught her about determining what she should give the Church in the Christmas Offering. How will your gift compare to what you will give the others on the top of your list?



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS - Isaiah, in the ancient prophecy, refers to the Christ-child as: Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, and Prince of Peace. St. Paul and the Gospel passages teach us the Child is truly Emmanuel—God is with us. He is the "Light of the World" that pierces the darkness and gives us hope. On this Christmas day, we, as faithful stewards, stand in awe of His glory and gratefully praise God for this gift of His Son—our path to eternal salvation.

PARISH TRUSTEE ELECTION - will be held at an open parish meeting January 1st after the 11:00 a.m. Mass in the Sacristy. All registered parishioners are welcome to attend and vote. Present trustees are **Hank Alfree** and **Wayne Burton**.

FIRST PENANCE/FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM - If you have a child in second grade attending a **private or parochial school (other than St. Elizabeth)**, call the rectory at 652-3626 so they can be enrolled in our program which will begin in January. If your child is registered in our Religious Education program, you do not need to call.

VOCATION REFLECTION - In the miracle of Christmas, God Himself came to earth in flesh and blood in the person of Jesus Christ. At every Mass, through the ministry of priests, Christ comes before us once again, this time hidden in the sacramental forms of bread and wine. If you think you might be called to the priesthood, please call or write Father Joe Cocucci, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or jcocucci@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.CalledByTheLord.com!

TOUR OF IRELAND + October 13-21, 2012 w/Fr Carroll

Departs from Philadelphia and begins in Dublin and we travel across the north to Newcastle, Giants Causeway, Derry, Omagh, Donegal, Cong, Our Lady of Knock, Ashford Castle, Galway, Malahide and back to Dublin. Includes Airfare, Accommodations, Irish Driver Guide, Admissions, 7 dinners & Full Irish Breakfast daily. Hammond Tours \$2,499/person

Contact Fr Carroll for a brochure..



Thank you to all who make our celebration of Christmas so special! Thank you to all of our decorators who worked on the outside and inside of the church. Thank you to our choirs and musicians. Thanks to all of our liturgical ministers: ushers, lectors, ministers of holy communion and altar servers. Thank you to all who work with our parish outreach and St. Vincent DePaul who enriched the Christmases of so many. Thanks to all who support St. Elizabeth in time, talent and treasure throughout the year. Your stewardship keeps us alive and well.

LITURGY

ALTAR CREW #1: Mary Connor, Peg Coen, Helen Bogert, Joanne Reynolds, Pat Monaghan & Barbara Cresci

PARISH LIFE

GIVING TREE and THANKSGIVING DAY MASS - A very special thank you to everyone who participated in the giving tree; to those who have made monetary donations; and to all of you who contribute during the year to the Poor Boxes. Thank you to the members of the Sodality for adopting a family for Christmas. Our sincere appreciation to everyone for your very generous food donations on Thanksgiving Day. In these very challenging economic times your support to others is overwhelming. Your unselfish generosity has provided for many people in need during the holidays. Thank you! Form St. Vincent DePaul Society, Outreach, and the Nursing Home Outreach.

SAVE-AROUND-DELAWARE COUPON BOOKS - are available at the rectory for \$20. The book contains coupons worth over \$3,000 in savings to area restaurants and stores. Please call the rectory at 652-3626 for more information. All proceeds benefit St. Elizabeth Parish.



Ski Trip to Blue Mountain

January 13-15

Our Sr. Youth Group is headed to Blue Mountain Ski Resort for President's Weekend and we have a number of seats available on the bus. Parishioners are welcome to come along provided that they are over 18 or have parents with them. Does your family need a get away? Do you need a Christmas gift idea? We will be staying at the Homewood Suites in Bethlehem, PA and have arranged our own package—not the standard Youth Ski Trip package! Cost and accommodations can be discussed. Speak to Fr. Carroll, who is going, or call Tim Wamba @ 235-1992

DEFENSIVE DRIVING - St. Elizabeth's Senior Youth Group is sponsoring a two night BASIC Defensive Driving course taught by the Delaware Safety Council. The BASIC course is for anyone who has not taken Defensive Driving before OR it has been more than 3 years since you've taken it. Most auto insurance companies will offer a discount once a driver has taken the course. Check with your provider to see how this course will benefit you.

The BASIC course requires you to attend both sessions, Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 2012, 6:00-9:00pm, in order to receive credit

The registration form is below and payment must be made at the time you register. Checks can be made out to the S.E.Y.G. Please fill out the form and return it to the rectory or drop it in the collection basket on any Sunday. If you plan to take the course, please register as early as possible. (Checks will not be cashed until after the first night of the course).

Please call Lisa Emerson with any questions 302-345-0143 or lisakemerson@comcast.net.

Defensive Driving Registration:

Your Name _____

Phone Number _____

Cost is \$30 per person

Amount Enclosed _____



SEHS STUDENT NEWS

Save your Christmas cards! Members of the SEHS Jefferson Awards Committee are collecting Christmas cards – no photo cards please – on behalf of the St. Jude's Ranch for Children. A collection box will be located in the vestibule of church from December 26 to January 17 for your convenience. Faculty moderator **Mrs. Amy Samperisi-Pratt** and her Jefferson group have conducted this collection for the past three years. The cards will later be mailed to St. Jude's where the children can earn money by removing the fronts of these beautiful cards to make new ones for next year.

Senior **Eric Patton** was named recipient of the 2011 Michael DeLucia Award given annually to a senior Catholic school football player in greater Wilmington who has exemplified outstanding performance, attitude and character on and off the field. The Viking linebacker-running back was named Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season by the Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association, and he was the only player to make the first team on offense and defense this year on the All-State Football team.

Junior **Zach Rivera** has been selected to receive a Widener University High School Leadership Award. This new awards program is designed to recognize high school students in the region who possess the character, courage, and competencies to effect positive change. The award is sponsored by Widener University and NBC.

ONCE UPON A TIME is March 24 at the St. E Center. That's the theme of our 2012 Silent and Live Auction sponsored by the St. Elizabeth High School Alumni Association and Parent Liaison Group. Save the date!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - The Christmas Holiday extends to Monday, January 2, 2012. Students return to school on **Tuesday, January 3rd**.

The Faculty & Staff of the Elementary School wish all our School families and parishioners a blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE CORNER

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - God gave us the greatest gift of love when He sent His son to redeem us. He asks us to love one another as He loves us. Take the time to grow deeper in love with God, your spouse and your family at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter is planned for February 11-13 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information visit our website at: www.wmmedelmar.org or to register for the weekend, please call John and Kat Molitor at 302-422-1235.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS - This Christmas, pause, look at your true love, and appreciate the gift you are to each other. Hopefully, the frenzy of Christmas Day will wane and you can rest in each other's company for a moment. It's a better gift than two turtle doves!

PARENTING POINTERS – The wait is over. Christmas Eve and Christmas day are often hectic for many families. Take five minutes today to be quiet, to ponder with Mary the miracle of new life, to give the gift of your non-anxious presence to your family.



Prayers for:

**Joseph Gardner, Jr., Jim Batty, Stan Soja, Sr. ,
Lou Papili, Sr., Alice Betley, & Peg Coen**

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM 2nd and 4th Sundays 12:30 p.m.
(None during the seasons of Advent and Lent)
Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal Program (The second Saturday of each month) 11:00 a.m. in the Church. Parish census form and pre-registration required 4 weeks in advance by calling the rectory.

MARRIAGE
Couples are asked to be involved in the three stages of marriage preparation. They should notify a parish priest at least 12 months prior to the date on which they wish to marry.

RECONCILIATION
Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
If you or a loved one would like to celebrate the sacrament before surgery or at any time that illness can be comforted by God's grace, please call the parish office or approach a priest at mass. When death is imminent, please call at first signs. The sacrament is meant to be celebrated with the living and invites their participation.

HOLY ORDERS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE
If you believe that you or someone you know has a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, please contact Father Joseph Cocucci, Diocesan Director of Vocations (302) 573-3113, or one of your parish priests.

HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH

MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE kicks off its 100th anniversary with the Epiphany retreat for men, Jan. 6-8. Newcomers and returning retreatants are welcome to join Men of Malvern weekend retreats. Retreats for women include Serenity (Jan 6-8) and Women Afire (Mar 16-18). For information call 610-644-0400 or go to malvernretreat.com.

SAVE THE DATE - It is that time of year again! The March for Life in Washington, D.C. is fast approaching and Delaware Right to Life has reserved one bus for the event. The march will be held on Monday, January 23rd this year. We will be departing from the Christiana Mall Bus Depot at 10:00 a.m. that morning, and returning by 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person, \$50 per family and \$10 per student. Reservations are being taken by Janet Grayson. You may contact her by email at randjgrayson@hotmail.com, or by phone at 302-661-1877. Please mail your payment to: Delaware Right to Life, PO Box 1222, Wilmington, DE 19899.

THE ALLIANCE OF THE TWO HEARTS "COMMUNION OF REPARATION ALL NIGHT VIGIL" - is held on the First Friday and Saturday of each month. Please join us January 6 at St. Hedwig Chapel, 408 S. Harrison Street, Wilmington from 8:15 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Includes First Friday and First Saturday Masses, Confession, Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information call Irene Harach at 738-1285.

TAIZE PRAYER - will be offered on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Our Lady of Angels Convent, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA. This type of prayer includes songs, readings, and shared silence in an atmosphere of simplicity and tranquility. To this prayer we bring the needs of our loved ones and our world that we may all be transformed by the love of Christ. Free Will Donation. Call (610) 558-6152 for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 6:30 am **Eddie Duzynski**
8:30 am **Ed Schieffer, Sr.**

Tues 6:30 am **DMO Dominick Picollelli Family**
8:30 am **Thomas F. Wittland**

Wed 6:30 am **Ferdinand J. Stackel**
8:30 am **Sally DeCusatis**

Thu 6:30 am **Jerome Donohue**
8:30 am **Ignatius "Yatz" Limmina**

Fri 6:30 am **Marie Wilczynski**
8:30 am **Cecilia McGovern**

Sat 8:30 am **Bill & Josephine Lukowski**
5:00 pm **DMO Rimlinger Family**

Sun 7:00 am **David Marino**
9:00 am **Catherine Woodie & Rose Sama**
11:00 am **Damon Lewandowski**

COMMEMORATIVE CANDLES - Commemorative candles are available for 2011. Please call the rectory at 652-3626 to reserve your candle. The cost is \$10 per candle.

Commemorative Candles for the week of Dec 25th

Happy Birthday Regina Matarese
Memory of Gene Stearrett & Kathleen
Memory of Philip & Mary DiEgidio &
Blessings on Davis, DiEgidio & Colonna children
Memory of Robert & Estelle McElrone
Memory of Ferdinand J. Stackel
Memory of Patrick & Margaret Kennedy



THIS WEEK

Sun Dec 25 9& 11 a.m. Christmas Day Masses

Mon Dec 26 6:00 p.m. Emmanuel Dining Room Crew in G.H.

Tue Dec 27 5:00 p.m. Diamond State Classic Dinner in G.H.
7:00 p.m. Coffee with God in R.B.

Wed Dec 28 7-9 p.m. Oldies Line Dance Class G.H.
\$5 Call Mania at 598-0682

Sun Jan 1 All Masses Solemnity of Mary
Capital Improvement & First Offering
Collections

Rectory Holiday Schedule

The rectory will be closed on Monday, December 26th
and Monday, January 2nd.

COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Elizabeth
809 South Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19805

PHONE

(302)656-3369 ext 3044

CONTACT PERSON

Susan Testerman

SOFTWARE

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS