

St. Elizabeth Parish Media



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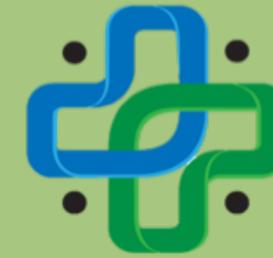
Our website is the best place to learn more about parish life, ministries, sacraments, upcoming events, Catholic media and news, and more. Download the myParish app on any smart phone or join our Facebook page to see the Mass schedule and to receive reminders and cancellations for parish events.



To download our app, visit myparishapp.com



[St. Elizabeth Parish & St. Dominic Chapel - Tecumseh & Clinton, MI](https://www.facebook.com/St.Elizabeth.St.Dominic)
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ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

St. Elizabeth Parish Council

The Parish Council acts as a focal point of unity and a channel of communication and cooperation, planning for future growth and coordinating the efforts and activities of the parish in the service of our mission. The Parish Council consults with the pastor, and this consultation is derived from prayerful and thoughtful preparation and joining together in the Holy Spirit. The Parish Council maintains a vision of the Church that reflects the people of God acting as a community focused on evangelizing the people of God.

The St. Elizabeth Parish Council is composed of Mrs. Stephanie Harmon, Chair; Fr. Daniel Wheeler, Dcn. Ray Pizana, Mrs. Mary Kirby, Mrs. Renee Collins, Mrs. Judy Prater, Mrs. Robyn Francis, Mr. Jared Aymen, and Mr. Stanley Ames.

St. Elizabeth Parish Finance Committee

The Finance Committee at St. Elizabeth Parish assists Father Dan in the financial matters of the parish, advising him on making decisions regarding spending funds for the benefit of parishioners. The Finance Committee serves as a consulting body for parish expenditures and (as needed) in any financial matter requiring the approval of the bishop. The Finance Committee prepares an annual budget, promotes awareness of personal responsibility among parishioners regarding good stewardship, and presents an annual report to the parish of our financial status.

The St. Elizabeth Parish Finance Committee is composed of Mr. John Ellis, Chair; Mrs. Katie Mattison, Mr. Richard Laliberte, Mr. Chris Ameel, Mrs. Mary Hadley, Mr. Evan Kirby, and Fr. Daniel Wheeler.

St. Elizabeth Parish Mission Statement

“We, the family of St. Elizabeth Parish, dedicated followers of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit and transformed by the celebration of the Eucharist and God’s Word, reach out to all God’s people through charity, prayer, fellowship and service.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While much at St. Elizabeth has changed over the years, so much of what makes this parish a holy, wonderful community and place remains constant, and this brings great comfort to me. I celebrated my 70th birthday in October and celebrated my 44th anniversary as a priest in May. The years add up, but they also fly by.

This past year has been a very difficult year for the Catholic Church and for all the faithful. While great evil has come to light, and to say the least is disheartening, great faith and hope emerges from the crisis. The failures of the clergy in no way diminish the need for the gospel and for Jesus, and indeed affirm the need for a radical and selfless way of living. The parishioners of St. Elizabeth again and again exemplify this in continued witness to our faith in Christ. Your efforts in your ministries, your devotion to the Lord, and your love for one another give me great hope in this difficult time.

In October, I had the privilege of making a pilgrimage, with several parishioners from St. Elizabeth, to the Holy Land where our Lord walked, prayed, died, and rose. I found this experience enjoyable and spiritually profound, and many parishioners were likewise moved and fell more in love with Jesus Christ by experiencing the world in which He lived.

I am also deeply grateful for the outpouring of care and support I received this spring as I dealt with having two knee replacements. Your kind and thoughtful words, companionship, meals, and time given to me eased the process of recovery, and I am sure your ministry played a major role in my rapid healing. Both of these experiences further reminded me how blessed I am to serve this parish.

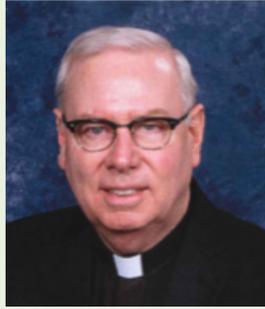
Please review this annual report for St. Elizabeth Parish which provides information from the last fiscal year about the parish finances, parish ministries, and other significant events in the parish. From this, I hope that you will once again appreciate the strength of our parish.

Thank you for your continued gift of your time and treasure. Your generous giving goes a long way in sustaining the thriving Catholic community of St. Elizabeth. I am inspired and heartened by the graciousness of this parish family. May the peace of the risen Christ be with you always, and may God continue to bless our parish this upcoming fiscal year.

In Christ,

Fr. Dan Wheeler

Clergy



Fr. Dan Wheeler

In October 2018, Fr. Daniel Wheeler celebrated his 70th birthday. He has faithfully served our parish for 31 years; we sincerely thank Fr. Dan for his service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our parish and the Catholic Church.



Fr. Peter Clark

Fr. Peter Clark, Priest in Residence at St. Dominic Oratory, ministers to parishioners at St. Dominic, saying weekend Masses, hearing confessions, and offering Bible Studies. We thank him for his assistance in ministering to our parish.



Deacon Jim Nicholson



Deacon Ray Pizana

We are blessed to have the continued ministry of Dcns. Jim Nicholson and Ray Pizana. Deacon Jim dedicates much time to our parish's RCIA program, preparing individuals to join the Catholic Church. Deacon Ray works with the Baptism Preparation team and the Migrant Ministry to ready families for the baptism of their children and aid migrant workers in the area. Both deacons dedicate many hours to our parish by assisting Fr. Dan with weekend Masses, visits to the sick, funerals, and more.

Parish Office Project

Our administrative parish offices have been located in the rectory since the rectory was constructed in the 1950s. The existing office area is approximately five hundred square feet consisting of a general reception area, an office for the parish secretary, and an office for the parish bookkeeper. This small space must also house all active current files, office supplies, a large copy machine used primarily to print the weekly church bulletins, and workspace for larger projects such as bulk mailings, surveys, and reports of the many parish organizations. The administrative requirements of the parish have increased, along with the requirements for separate and compliant offices and consulting/conference rooms for the pastor, deacons, and staff.

Father Dan and the Deacons must make special arrangements to meet with parishioners to be compliant with specified requirements. The small size of the office area makes private meetings with the pastor, deacons, office staff, or parishioners difficult to arrange. Most notably, however, administrative and bookkeeping work is happening in the rectory, a major disruption for the pastor and those who visit the parish office.

The Parish Council and the Financial Council, working with Father Dan, have been discussing the construction of a separate parish office facility for more than two years. Approvals from Bishop Boyea and various diocesan committees were granted in May, allowing construction to begin in August 2019. The office addition will be approximately two thousand square feet with five private offices for the pastor, the secretary, the bookkeeper, the deacons, and a counseling room. The addition will also include a large conference room and a wide entryway into the Parish Center hall, making parish events more accessible and inviting.

The funding for the office addition will come from portions of the Witness to Hope payments made by our parishioners, from a very generous contribution by the Sage Foundation, and from parish savings accumulated over many years of careful budgetary controls. No parish debt will be incurred for this project.

The contractor assures us that there will be minimal disruption to planned parish activities during construction. All Faith Formation classes, the annual Roast Beef Dinner, monthly breakfasts, and other events should take place as planned. We look forward to the benefits this addition will bring to our parish. Please actively follow the progress of the addition from site preparation in August to the planned completion in the Spring of 2020.

Ministries and Organizations

We thank all of you who serve our parish, our community, and our Lord through the following ministries and invite each of you to consider joining any one of these great ministries in which you may not already be involved:

Altar Server
Minister of Hospitality
Music Ministry
Lector
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
Women's Discipleship
Homebound Ministries
Technology & Media
Baptism Preparation
Building and Grounds: Maintenance & Repairs

Intercessory Prayer Team
Parish Prayer Warriors
Prayer Chain
New Parishioner Welcome Team
Stephen Ministry
Migrant Ministry
Men's Discipleship Group
Helping Hands
Rosary Altar Society
St. Dominic Auxiliary Group

Faith Formation
Youth Ministry
RCIA/RCIC
Vocation Ministry
Funeral Ministry
Parish Council
Knights of Columbus
Bible Studies
Event Hospitality

Key Parish Updates

St. Dominic Oratory

In April of 2009, Bishop Earl Boyea formally suppressed St. Dominic Parish, and St. Elizabeth Parish became responsible for ministering to the faithful in Tecumseh and Clinton as a geographic parish. The Diocese of Lansing officially designates St. Dominic as an oratory of St. Elizabeth Parish. According to the Code of Canon Law, "An oratory means a place which, by permission of the Ordinary [bishop], is set aside for divine worship, for the convenience of some community or group of the faithful who assemble there, to which however other members of the faithful may, with the consent of the competent Superior, have access."

Our parish was the first in our diocese for which this type of suppression occurred; as such, the decision was initially made by the parish to refer to St. Dominic as a chapel, rather than an oratory, for the sake of clarity. Following the example of other parishes in the diocese, from now on we will use the proper canonical title, St. Dominic Oratory, to refer to our Clinton location. As a whole, both campuses will be referred to as St. Elizabeth Parish.

St. Dominic Restoration

This spring, local stained glass artist Craig Pearson began work to restore the stained glass windows at St. Dominic Oratory. Mr. Pearson has worked with stained glass for nearly 45 years, including many local projects. He carefully repairs the windows individually, ensuring that each piece receives due attention to restore its former magnificence. His work will help St. Dominic continue as an active oratory and icon of our region's vibrant history.



Roast Beef Dinner

Through your support, our parish's only annual fundraiser raised over \$25,000 in profits for the parish this year, an increase from previous years. This community event provides the means necessary to achieve our ministry and faith formation goals. The Roast Beef Dinner, thanks to our many volunteers, donors, and attendees, continues to help our parish flourish. Thank you for your time and generosity!

Stephen Ministry

St. Elizabeth Parish added Stephen Ministry to the over 25 active ministries in the spring of 2018. Twenty-four parishioners participated in fifty hours of training by our Stephen Leaders and, upon completion, were commissioned as Stephen Ministers on September 9, 2018. Stephen Ministers are equipped to provide one-to-one, confidential Christian care to individuals experiencing difficulties in their lives, such as loneliness, grief, relationship issues, illness, etc. Stephen Ministers spend an hour to an hour and a half with their Care Receivers weekly, listening, praying, supporting and encouraging, as long as needed.

In the first 10 months of operation, Stephen Ministry has provided 528 hours of care for 22 Care Receivers. Additionally, they meet twice monthly for 2 hours of supervisory and continuing education, totaling 44 hours each to date. In the event you, a friend or relative could benefit from a Stephen Minister, or if you would like additional information, please contact one of our leaders, Susan Ellis at (517) 673-7865 or Linda Herman at (517) 662-0385.

Youth Ministry

We have had another incredible year of Youth Ministry! The youth in this parish never fail to revitalize the Catholic faith and encourage each of us to grow deeper in our own faith. Our parish continues to provide the youth with programs and opportunities that are exemplary in the Diocese of Lansing. Sincerely, thank you to each of you who dedicate your time, talent, and resources to support our youth and youth programs. Because of your gracious support, our youth continue to grow and thrive in their faith. Thanks especially to the devoted donors, volunteers, and chaperones who make this all possible. Your contributions provide a mountain of opportunities for our youth to engage in with the community and their faith: youth ministry brunches and spaghetti dinner fundraisers, mission trips, Wednesday night youth group, Christmas lock-ins, retreats, diocesan rallies and events, Steubenville, NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference), the annual March for Life, and much more. Our youth are the future of this parish and they are the future of the Church; we appreciate all that you do to facilitate the growth of their faith. See below for what the teens have to say about a few of the youth events held throughout the year:

YOUTH GROUP - 2018/2019



"Not only has youth group helped me to grow in my faith through serving, education, prayer, and fun, it has also provided a community anchored in God where I feel safe and welcomed. I have met some of my closest friends at youth group and through this community have become more confident in defending and sharing the faith outside of St. E's."

DYLC - Summer 2019



"I cannot imagine where I would be if I had not gone to DYLC. It changed my whole outlook on life. I am now more confident in myself and the decisions I am making than I have ever been. I have a very supportive group of friends who have encouraged me ... I truly gained knowledge and great friends that are priceless."

STEUBENVILLE - Summer 2019



"Before Steubenville Youth Conference this year, I would have described my relationship with God as thriving but quiet. The theme was "Belong", and through the first talk, I realized that I don't need to be someone other than myself in order to belong. One of the priests gave a talk about the Sacrament of Reconciliation that deepened my understanding of the wonderful Sacrament. In Adoration, I came to an understanding that Jesus is truly present in the Host. I felt completely loved by God and I knew I belonged to Him. During Adoration, many of my fears disappeared. I felt complete peace. As I knelt before the priest about to receive Communion on Sunday, I knew I was receiving Jesus. Steubie has changed my life. I have developed new friendships that I hope will last for the rest of my life."

Faith Formation and Education – St. Elizabeth Parish

Ministry	Enrollment	Catechists
Religious Education – Pre-K & Kindergarten	16	3
Religious Education – Elementary School	58	8
Religious Education – Middle School	59	5
Religious Education/Ignite – High School	45	4
Youth Ministry	27	1
RCIA	11	4
Adult Bible Studies	155	4
Marriage Preparation	14	1
Baptism Preparation	22	4

Ministry of Sacraments – St. Elizabeth Parish

Ministry	Enrollment
Profession of Faith & Adult Sacraments – Coordinated through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and Children Ministries (RCIC) (Conversion to Catholicism)	11
Baptisms – Coordinated through the Baptism Preparation Program and the Pastoral Ministry	26
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion – Coordinated through the Sacramental Preparation Programs and Religious Education	27
Confirmation – Coordinated through the Confirmation Program and Religious Education	18
Marriage – Coordinated through the Marriage Preparation Program and the Pastoral Ministry	7
Funerals/Memorial Services of the Deceased – Coordinated through the Pastoral Ministry	24

Religious Vocations



Josh Bauer
2nd-year seminarian at St. John Vianney



David Hammer
2nd-year Candidate to the Permanent Diaconate

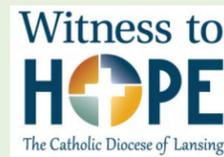
“Witness to Hope” Campaign

In 2017, the Diocese of Lansing launched a fundraising campaign to support the growing needs of our diocesan community. The funds raised in this campaign allow our parish and our diocese to continue to nurture the Catholic faith and provide for the many needs of our community by collecting funds for the purposes of strengthening our parishes, youth and family formation, evangelizing and living our faith, caring for our priests, and supporting our shared ministry.

While the initial pledging phase of the campaign is completed, the fulfillment of these pledges over this 5-year period continues to support our parish and provides the means necessary for our parish to expand. As mentioned in last year's annual report, our parish family not only met the initial pledge goal of \$475,959, but also surpassed that amount by \$60,851, pledging a total of \$536,810. Of the money raised, St. Elizabeth will receive 35% (\$166,586) of the initial goal amount back and receive back 65% (\$39,553) of the excess amount raised, meaning a total of \$206,139 will return to St. Elizabeth Parish once all pledges are paid.

Thank you to all who responded to God’s call in this way; we are deeply appreciative of your continued financial support to our Church.

Witness to Hope is an invitation to be an active missionary and evangelist for Christ Jesus.
Together, in union with tens of thousands of your sisters and brothers, you are called to be a
Witness to Hope throughout the Diocese of Lansing.



Diocesan Service Appeal

The 2019 Diocesan Service Appeal was held in the spring, and I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the financial sacrifices that you have made for this appeal. By the great generosity of each one of you, we surpassed our Diocesan Service Appeal Goal (\$54,436), by over \$11,000, pledging a total of \$65,727. Again, our parish was one of the first five parishes in the Diocese to reach our DSA goal.

Thank you for your constant support and generosity. Your financial gifts provide the means for the Church to thrive and serve our community. May God bless each of you as you help continue the mission of the Catholic Church.

In Christ

Fr. Dan Wheeler

Parish Revenue – St. Elizabeth Parish

Sunday & Holy Day Contributions	\$588,717
Regular Weekly Collections	
 Fund Raising	 \$35,884
Roast Beef Dinner	
 Other Revenue	 \$365,719
Interest, Bequests, Publications, Other Collections	
 Religious Education	 \$7,485
Tuition: CCD, VBS	
Total Revenue	\$997,805

Online Giving

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year, approximately 29% of the Sunday Offertory came from our Online Giving program. Thank you to the 105 families who are enrolled in Online Giving. We hope to increase enrollment this coming fiscal year. If you would like to enroll, visit www.stelizabethstdominic.org/parish-life/online-giving, click on the link to Our Sunday Visitor, and follow the prompts to register an account.



Parish Expenses – St. Elizabeth Parish

Assessments	\$60,579
Represents Diocesan, Priest Retirement, School Assessments	
 Church Employee Benefits	 \$24,973
Social Security, Disability, Hospitalization, Retirement	
 Pastoral & Secretarial Services Salaries	 \$119,965
Pastor, Secretary, Musicians, & Visiting Priests Stipends	
 Christian Service, Parish Life & Worship	 \$42,314
Hospitality, Ministries, Social Events, Funerals, Supplies, Liturgical Roles, Music Ministry, Clergy Training & Education	
 Church Plant Operations	 \$162,006
Maintenance Salaries/Supplies, Contracted Services, Repairs/Utilities	
 Capital Expenditures	 \$17,871
Equipment, Remodeling, Improvements	
 Administration	 \$88,829
Office Supplies, Printing, Phone, Equipment, Postage, Etc.	
 Religious Education	 \$109,145
Salaries, Benefits, Supplies, Instructional Materials	
Total Expenses	\$625,682

Parish Net Revenue – St. Elizabeth Parish

Parish Revenue	\$997,805
Parish Expense	\$625,682
Net Revenue	\$372,123

External Giving – St. Elizabeth Parish

Diocesan Collections	\$14,411
Evangelization, Local & Global Missions, Retired Religious Fund, Campaign for Human Development	
 Local Ministries	 \$11,846
Helping Hands, Migrant Ministry, Lenten Mission	
Total External Giving	\$26,257