

**Sunday, December 17th 2023**

**Last Sunday's Collections**

Envelopes: \$2,488.00

Loose: \$384.00

Thank you for contributing to the well-being of our parish!

**Mass Intentions:**

**Parker Conrad Linder, the Linder and Ford families.**

**James and Patricia**

**Arsenault** *If you would like a Mass intention for your loved one, contact the parish office.*

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

First Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

**E-giving:**

**Stelizcc.churchgiving.com/**

On Sunday, and every other day too!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO GIVE ONLINE:**

Just point your camera at the code and click the link that pops up. It's that easy!



**Rosary:**

The Rosary will be prayed every evening at 7pm over Zoom and led by Janet Stern.

**FR. JIM'S JOTS**

Greetings,

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the entrance antiphon. This Sunday's antiphon is "rejoice in the Lord always." Gaudete (meaning "rejoice" in Latin) Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the usually penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return.



Thank you to everyone who attended the retreat on Care of Creation and Reconciliation yesterday. Thank you to Sr. Anns for her wonderful coordination and preparation of the retreat. Following Pope Francis' letter, *Laudate Si*, it is important that we learn how we can better care for God's creation and our common home. Please note, because the Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same Sunday, we have a different Mass schedule for the next two weeks. Our complete Christmas Schedule can be found in the highlighted yellow box in this bulletin as well as on our website and phone answering machine on extension 3. Below the Christmas Schedule you can find information on how to send and receive Christmas cards to and from parishioners as well as how to make a donation for our Christmas flowers if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone for helping with this year's Angel Tree! We were able to provide gifts for many children and families of our parish and local community. As many of you know, Mary's and Patrick's wedding is this Friday, at 12pm. It will be a big celebration and I hope to see many of you there! Congratulations to Mary and Patrick on this wonderful occasion!

**Advent Blessings,  
Fr. Jim, Pastor**

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR SICK & HOMEBOUND:** Philomena Hanna, Steve Bartels, Eva Chiles, William Lee, Talia Moser, Migdalia Romero, Jeanette Smith, Hannah Schooler, Petra Thompson, Jacob Saunders, Sr. Beulah Martin SBS., Mary Ann Allen, Jennifer Soistman, Shelton Jones, Mike Anderson, Morgan Przygocki, Burton Robinson and Michele Soules (please contact church office to add or remove names)

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**Jesus and the Eucharist Study**– Join us on Zoom for Session 3: Jesus and the Eucharistic– Am I saved? Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ that requires our "yes." Wednesday, 6 pm–7:30 pm, December 20, 2023. Please register by email [rhatchett1@verizon.net](mailto:rhatchett1@verizon.net) or text Rita Hatchett at 804 229–1999. Zoom link and handouts will be emailed to you on the Sunday prior to the Wednesday class.

Concerned about Climate Change? St Elizabeth will be offering a virtual program using Zoom. JustFaith. Sacred Air: Climate & Energy is an eight-session small group program that explores the impact of the climate crisis on God's creation and God's people. As participants learn and dialogue about tough topics such as air pollution and greenhouse gases. Prayer and spiritual practices guide participants in noticing the breath of God that flows through them, granting them the life and energy to address the climate crisis with passion and resilience.

When: Sundays, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. beginning January 14th and ending March 3rd. Zoom links will be provided Cost: \$45 (scholarship assistance is available) Interested: Contact co-facilitators Anne Gibbons ([gibbons@lynchburg.edu](mailto:gibbons@lynchburg.edu)) or Cathy Woodson [cwood329@gmail.com](mailto:cwood329@gmail.com) by Dec 20, 2023

**SACRAMENTS**

If your child needs baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation please contact the Parish Office. For more info on First Communion or Confirmation, contact Liz Wiznerowicz: [religioused@stelizcc.org](mailto:religioused@stelizcc.org).

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? Do you attend Mass but wanting to become more involved? Do you want a deeper relationship with God? If you have been baptized, or if you were baptized in another tradition, God may be calling you to a deeper relationship through the Catholic Faith. For information, contact Christopher Metzger: [metzger.christopher@gmail.com](mailto:metzger.christopher@gmail.com)



**CHRISTMAS INFORMATION**

**Christmas Schedule:**

**Confessions (December 23rd, 2023)**

- Confessions will be heard in the church starting at 10am.

**Christmas Eve (December 24th, 2023)**

- Sunday Mass at 9:00am\*
- Jesse Tree Live (Youth Christmas Pageant) at 5:00pm\*
- Christmas Eve Mass at 6:00pm\*

**Christmas Day (December 25th, 2023)**

- Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am\*

**New Years Eve (December 31st, 2023)**

- Sunday Mass (Feast of the Holy Family) at 9:00am\*
- Feast of Mary, Mother of God/Mass for Peace at 5:00pm\*
- Potluck to follow 5:00pm Mass

\*These Masses and Events will be in person and livestreamed on Zoom

Christmas Eve and the Fourth Sunday of Advent are on the same Sunday this year. The obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent may be fulfilled by attending the morning Mass on Sunday or the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. (A Mass obligation does not depend on which readings and prayers are used.) The Christmas obligation may be fulfilled by attending an evening Mass on Christmas Eve or a Mass on Christmas Day. For those attending two Masses in a single day, Holy Communion may be received twice.

**CHRISTMAS LETTERS**

You are welcome to send parishioners Christmas letters using the boxes in the back of the church by the statue of Blessed Mother. They are organized alphabetically by last name. Please leave your Christmas letters in the boxes and pick up any that are address to you or your family. Merry Christmas!



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

If you are interested in making a donation towards our Christmas flowers that are placed around the altar, please send your donation to the Parish Office. If you would like to make your donation in memory or honor of someone, please contact Eva at the Parish Office at [evabalkarli@stelizcc.org](mailto:evabalkarli@stelizcc.org).

**HOSPITALITY MINISTERS NEEDED**

5 Hospitality Ministers are needed for 8:30 Sunday masses. Please volunteer to serve once a month. We have only 3 people trying to cover 8 positions. Training will be provided. Please email [rhatchett1@verizon.net](mailto:rhatchett1@verizon.net) or text Rita Hatchett at 804 229–1999.

**MESSAGE FROM JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Black history is every day, not just February. The justice committee of Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church recommends each parishioner find some way to honor the contributions of African-Americans throughout the year. One way to do this is to order a calendar and incorporate this into your prayer life with gratitude, honor and research. The links to purchase a social justice calendar will be in the E-Bulletin.

**GENTLE REMINDERS:**

Face coverings are optional and silence your cell phones before entering the church.

**Parents:** As a reminder, you are required to escort any child, 12 years and under, downstairs to the restrooms and remain with them until their return

**PARISH LINKS:**

**All Saints Catholic School**

[Allsaintsric.com](http://Allsaintsric.com)

3418 Noble Avenue Richmond, VA 23222

804-329-7524

***This school is part of our parish, as we contribute every year for children to pursue their education***

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Hours: Tues-Fri, 1-4pm

[Office@stelizcc.org](mailto:Office@stelizcc.org)

804-329-4599

**Parish Website:**

[www.stelizcc.org](http://www.stelizcc.org)

**Parish Blog:**

[Stelizabethcc.blogspot.com](http://Stelizabethcc.blogspot.com)

**Check Us Out on Facebook:**

Like us on: [facebook.com/stelizabethcatholicchurch](https://facebook.com/stelizabethcatholicchurch)

**Jazz Festival Website:**

<https://stejazzfestival.com/>

**St. Elizabeth is a busy parish.**

Don't miss out. Every week, you can receive an email with the announcements you hear at church and read in the bulletin. Get the latest news delivered to your inbox. To sign up, go online to [bit.ly/STECC\\_Bulletin](https://bit.ly/STECC_Bulletin)