

**40 days with the Lord (May 1 – June 9)
“Focus on Jesus”**

The meaning of the word “Focus” is “the center of interest or activity”. 1). Focus is so important because it is the gateway to all thinking. 2). Focus is key to success and happiness in life. 3). focused. When a person is focused on something, they are paying attention to it. Our human tendency is to have great results in whatever we do. For example, during this corona virus we are having live stream masses through Facebook. When I share with someone the first question, they ask me is how many are watching? Thus, I want to say that we want to have great results in everything. We inspire our children to study well, to be disciplined, to become doctor etc. but many times we will not inspire our children to be regular to church and to follow the day of obligation to church and to offer masses for different intentions and learn prayers. When I was working in a school as an associate pastor, I was teaching catechism to the 9th grade students. I asked a simple question, who is Moses? Most of the students failed to answer. Here I would like to tell that we give more importance to the things what we focused rather what we are not? We do really focus on social things than spiritual things. We read in Isaiah 26:3 says, you will keep in perfect peace, those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. We want to have peace and happiness in our life. Yes, we need them, but we fail to have them because we are concentrating on the things of the world. we read in Gospel of Matthew 6:25-34, Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Be not therefore anxious for the tomorrow: for the tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus. He is pioneer and perfecter of our faith: Jesus Walks on The Water (Matthew 14:22-36): After the multiplication bread, Jesus had something new to teach His disciples. Jesus sent the crowd and sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee in the boat ahead of Him to the other side. He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. The boat was already a long way from land. Early in the morning, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. They saw Him walking on the lake and were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said. And they cried out in fear. Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Mark says that it was so early in the morning that it was still dark out (Mark 6:48). No wonder the men were afraid at first. But as soon as they heard Jesus’ voice, Peter spoke back. Peter was a unique man. He was the boldest of all the disciples. He said things that other people only thought. He was the type of person who did things that other people did not. Peter was completely drawn to Jesus. “Lord, is it You?” Peter asked. “If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” Jesus said. So, Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. At first, Peter’s eyes were fixed on Jesus. Peter did not have to worry about the wind or waves because he had faith that Jesus would not let him sink. He could see the power that Jesus held over all things. He knew how much Jesus loved him, and that Jesus would never let him down so, your faith will be strong when you keep your eyes on Jesus. As we have learned, Jesus has power over all things. Is there anything that He cannot do?

Peter Sinks : Matthew 14:30 says: But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!” Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” He said. “Why did you doubt Me?” When Peter looked at the wind and waves, he began to doubt if Jesus was more powerful than the storm that surrounded him. Peter’s doubt literally caused him to be tossed around in the wind and waves. He began to sink. Peter took his eyes off Jesus. Peter looked at the scary storm. He was overwhelmed by the things that were more powerful than he was. But Peter should have remembered that nothing is more powerful than Jesus! While he was focused on Jesus, the things around him were not a threat to him. Peter turned his focus to the things around him and he doubted Jesus.

When the disciples first saw Jesus walking on the water, He told them to be brave, and not be afraid. But Peter had a mixture of faith and fear. I think that describes most of us at times. We may start out with faith. We might begin to do something that we know God wants us to do. Or we might have faith that gives us peace in a difficult time (like when a family member is sick, or our parents are arguing). But then we take our eyes off Jesus. We look at the scary situation around us. We doubt whether God has power over that situation. We may stop doing what God wants us to do. But here is the truth: Many situations are too big or too scary for you to handle, but nothing is too big for Jesus! Do not focus on the situation you are in. Focus on the One who has power over every situation! What a blessing you have! The Creator of the universe, who has power over all things, is crazy about you! We read in Zephaniah 3:17 says, He WANTS to do what is best for you, and He is ABLE to do what is best for you. No one’s faith is perfect. If you do stumble, if you ever have a doubt (like Peter did), talk to Jesus about it. Jesus never changes. Just like Jesus reached out His hand and grabbed Peter to keep Him safe, He is that close to you, and He will help you too.

Let us focus on Jesus all the time of our life. Amen.

**The Catholic Community of
St. Elizabeth**

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Church Office: Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-5pm

&

Immaculate Conception

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May 10, 2020

Parish and Diocese Updates
can be found on our Church website
www.stelizabethclarksdale.org

Join us for “40 Days with the Lord”
Our parish is offering a spiritual growth program for
40 days.

Prayer – Read the Bible – Listen to God

**The Month of May is dedicated to honor
“Mother Mary”.**

The month of May is a special time for us Catholics to pay homage to our Blessed Mother Mary. Pope Pius XII said “Whenever we speak of Mary or speak to her, let us not forget that she is really our Mother, for through her we received divine life. She gave us Jesus himself, the source of grace. Mary is a Mediated and Dispenser of Graces.”



MASSES: May 11-17

Monday 12:10pm
 Tuesday 12:10pm
 Wednesday 5:00pm Adoration
 6:00pm Mass
 Thursday 12:10pm
 Friday 12:10pm
 Saturday 12:10pm
 Sunday 10:30am

INTENTIONS:

Val Agostinelli B-day Shannon, Wendy, Colby & Shelby
 Jason Scarbrough Family Charismatic Prayer Group
 Nancy Ferracci Surgery
 Eligio Aquilar✠ Armando Hernandez
 Meyers Family
 Red Bradham✠ Joanne Bradham-Kersh
 Catholic Community Catholic Community

DONORS:

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Weekend of May 3

St Elizabeth Offertory: \$8,266.00 IC Offertory: \$1,400.00

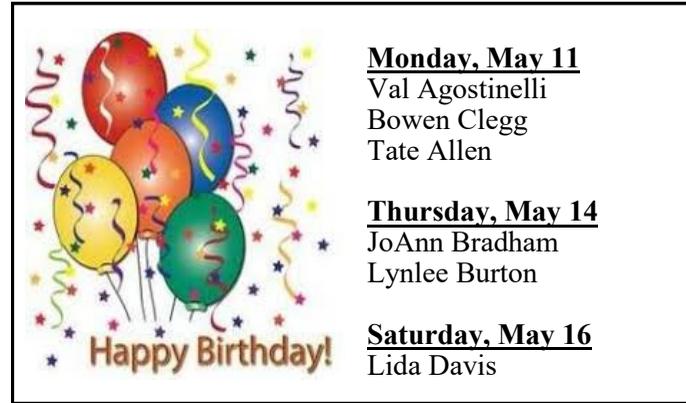
St. Elizabeth's Weekly Budget is \$7,775.00. Thank you for your generosity!

NEWS AND UPDATES

- 1) The church is still closed; The church office is open Tuesday and Thursday should you need to make an appointment or drop off tithing or Rice Bowls.
- 2) Please join in on the church Facebook page as Father Raju streams daily Mass.
- 3) Please continue to tithe the church is still paying monthly bills. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Dear friends please send your mass intentions. If you would like to schedule a mass for any intention like birthdays, wedding anniversary, for good health of somebody. Though we often think of having a Mass said for those who have passed away, Masses can be offered for those who are still alive. Look at the daily Mass schedule you will notice a "✠" next to the names listed under Mass Intentions. That means the person listed is deceased. If there's not a "✠" next to the name, then that person is still living but in need of prayer for some reason or another. If you know someone who could benefit from the spiritual graces that come with having a Mass said on their behalf, there is no need to delay in doing so. It is good to offer at least one mass in a year for your own family. The Holy Mass is our greatest prayer, given to us by Jesus Himself, so why not have the Holy Mass offered more often for the living? Call the office to schedule.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Linda Edgerly. May God grant her eternal rest and consolation to her family.



Youth News

The last mandatory Faith Formation meeting for this spring will be this Sunday on Project YM Live (which is a virtual youth night) Catholic youth from around the country have been attending this event on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. Although this is the last Sunday it will be mandatory I highly encourage your youth to still participate in this event on Sunday nights.

Our last Zoom Meeting will be this week. The login code is 337-644-0576. The password is Catholic20. I hope to see our 7th-9th graders there!

A summer youth plan is currently being developed. The details will be released in the coming weeks.

Derrick and Coach V have been coordinating an online confirmation program for the 10th and 11th graders so they can continue preparation. If there are any youth in confirmation who have not signed up yet, please do so.

We are planning to still honor our Seniors once we will be allowed to do so. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!

If you have not yet signed up your youth for any of these events please contact Derrick at derrick.faucheux212@gmail.com

Please Pray for all who are sick.

Carrie Belvedresi	Mary P. Cirilli
Rosalyn Hull	Geneva Correro
Frances Hanks	Wayne Morris
Stacy Groves	Janette Morris
Kevin Elias	Toni Morris Halle
Fred M. Nosef	Davey Lee Farris, Jr.
Robin Morris	Teresa Joseph
Linda Edgerly	Kalie Mansour
Hayley Hardy	Tony Balducci
Jack Campbell	Kim Westerfield
Fred Scruggs	Regina Swentkowski
Karen Peay	Ben Olivi
Diane Reed	Becky Smith
Mary Mitchell	Bailey Anne Cole
Betty Sue Flowers	Carolyn Reese
Penny Frazer	Betty Ann Cotton
Kathryn Tate	Harold Aldridge
Ann Meyers	Theodore Cosey
Alton Hitchcock	Porter Antici
Mimi Stroh	Lena Cash
Gene Arthur Hopkins	Gussie Farris
Kim Jones	Malcolm Mabry
Ginny Walker	Trip Malouf
Charlie Fowler	Cindy B. Cocilova
Michael Young	Donna Daves
Toni Nassar	Debra Ware
Susie Carr	Andy Carr
Twyla Gist	Diane Matthews
Evelyn Demilio	Doris Ceranti
Paul Fratesi	Clifton Dotson
Tommy Belvedresi	Dolores Morganti
Billy Palmer	Henry Espy
Joan Hamilton	Sybil Lucic
Charles Johnson, Jr.	Christine Wolfe
Vicki Hawes Jones	Tommy Agostinelli
Jill Balducci Pernel	Billy Lutts
Betty Olveria	Patricia Douglas
Rebekah Camponovo Jenkins	
Robert Fava	Joey Baghdady
Barbara King	Nancy Ferracci
Jimmy Fermo	

All those who have the Corona Virus and their families and all those who are caring for them.