



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DEAR PARISH FAMILY

Here we are nearly at the end of August already!

This past month we had funerals for both Delbert Heinlein and Leona Caldwell. Please pray for their eternal rest; and for their families and friends.

By the end of August three new infants will have been baptized into the life of Christ. Please pray for Nathan, Noah, and Samantha as well as their parents, godparents, families, and friends who will be guiding them as they begin their new life of faith in Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has so generously offered me fresh vegetables. Every now and then I've had to refuse certain ones that don't meet my special diet. But know that I am always grateful for your generosity!

Thank you as well to the army of altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, sacristans, choir members, cantors, and all the wonderful volunteers who allow our parish to provide such vibrant and reverent liturgies and keep our buildings and grounds clean and beautiful.

Finally, I want to extend an enormous "thank you" to the staff members who keep our parish humming. It has been a smooth transition and a (relatively) calm summer. Things are going to get a lot busier in the next week as we get ready for the start of s-c-h-o-o-ll!

WELCOME FR JOE NELSON

The first weekend in September is Mission Coop. We welcome Fr. Joe Nelson, OFM. Please be generous in your support of missionaries around the globe.

I will be spending that particular weekend with my parents downstate while Fr. Joe makes his mission appeal. I'll be back for Tuesday daily Mass.

THE WHAT WHAT ON THE WHAT?

I hope you enjoy the article on the back of this letter about the tetramorph found on the front and back of our parish Evangeliarium. Learn what those words mean as well as some information about the unique Ethiopian iconographic tetramorph found on the Evangeliary used on Sundays and Feast days at St. Elizabeth.

INVITATION

Please consider taking a little time to invite anyone you may know who is "between parishes" to consider making St. Elizabeth their parish home. Sometimes all it takes is a brief word from a relative, friend, or neighbor to help people to make a decision to join.

For those folks who are visiting St. Elizabeth looking for a 'new' parish, we're happy to have you. And I'm happy not having to be the only 'new guy' in the parish.

BLESSINGS

If you are going into the hospital, or have a chronic illness; or if you're

healthy and going on a trip, if it's your anniversary or birthday, or if you just need a spiritual boost - I'm always happy to give you a special blessing after Mass. Just stop and ask. Also, know that I am available during the week to visit the sick and homebound.

THE FIVE PRECEPTS

The Five Precepts of the Church are (1) come to Mass on Sundays (Saturday night) and Holy Days, (2) go to confession at least once a year, (3) receive the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season, (4) observe the days of fast and abstinence from meat, and (5) provide for the needs of the Church.

The Church not only asks for your contributions to keep the heat (air conditioning) and lights on, the staff (and pastor) paid, but also asks your regular participation in the weekend liturgy as well as the Sacraments. Your prayer life and sacramental life are an invaluable investment in your eternal life.

The first and last two letters of Church are "CH," but you are ("UR") at the center and heart of the Church and each member is a very important part of our parish family.

MISCELLANEOUS

Please pray for each other and for me. As a community of faith, it's crucial that we support our sisters and brothers in Faith with our prayers.

God bless
and keep you! *Fr. David*



THE TETRAMORPH OF THE GOSPELS



A tetramorph is a symbolic arrangement of four elements in one unit. The term is derived from the Greek *tetra*, meaning four, and *morph*, meaning shape.

In Christian art the tetramorph is the union of the symbols of the Four Evangelists, the four living Creatures derived from the Book of Ezekiel, into a single figure or, more commonly, a group of four figures. Each of the four Evangelists has a creature, usually shown with wings: St Matthew the man, St Mark the lion, St Luke the ox, and St. John the eagle. In Christian art and iconography, the four Evangelist are often accompanied by tetramorphs.



The particular images on the Book of the Gospels (sometimes called the Evangeliary or Evangeliarium) used during Sunday liturgies at St. Elizabeth are the work of the artist, Laura James (1971-), who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She paints Biblical themes in the iconographic tradition of Ethiopian Christian art and iconography. Her use of bright colors and intricate patterns displays a unique style, and vision.

St Jerome (370-420) is credited with assigning the four creatures in Ezekiel 1:1-14 and Revelation 4:5-11 to the four Gospels.

St. Matthew's Gospel is symbolized as a winged man because it centers on the human nature and life of Christ. St Jerome says, "*The first face of a man signifies Matthew, who began his narrative as though about a man: 'The book of the generation of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham'*".

St. Mark's Gospel is represented as a lion because it proclaims the royal dignity of Christ, the lion being the king of beasts. "*The second [face signifies] Mark in whom the voice of a lion roaring in the wilderness is heard: 'A voice of one shouting in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'*"



St. Luke's Gospel is represented in the form of an ox because this gospel dwells on the atonement and the sacrifice of Christ, the ox being an ancient symbol of sacrifice. "*The third [is the face] of the calf which prefigures that the evangelist Luke began with Zachariah the priest.'*"

St. John's Gospel is represented as an eagle as this gospel describes the incarnation of the divine Logos, the eagle itself a symbol of that which is from above. "*The fourth [face signifies] John the evangelist who, having taken up eagle's wings and hastening toward higher matters, discusses the Word of God.'*"

