



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2007

ST.ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve	Family Mass	4:00 P.M.
Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve	Vigil Mass	10:00 P.M.
	Carols	9:30 P.M.
Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day Mass		10:00 A.M.
Tuesday, January 1, Feast of Mary Mother of God/New Year's Day		12:00 P.M.

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS - You may remember a loved one in a special way by making a donation in their name for the purchase of a Christmas poinsettia for the altar. The names of those memorialized will be published. Forms are in the back o the church. Suggested donation is \$10.00.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the back of the church. If you used envelopes last year, your 2008 envelopes are marked with your name and number. Please check off your name on the list when you take your packet. If you want to begin using envelopes, please take a numbered packet and record your name and the number on the list on the table. Thank you.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD - 2008 - Sunday Scriptures and Scripture Insights

Again this year we offer these books to help you better understand the scripture readings for the year. They are available for \$8.00.

ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED to make an ornament to bring to the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:00 PM where they may participate in our seven-year tradition of hanging their ornaments on our Christmas tree at the Offertory.

RECONCILIATION: Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Lake, 8th and "A" Avenue, Lake Oswego.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS - MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE LITTLE SAINTS, Friday, December 28, 7:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 3145 SW 192nd Avenue, Aloha, OR - Fr. John Kerns of St. Juan Diego parish will be celebrating a Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church for all deceased children, especially those who have died before birth or baptism, and for victims of abortion. Participants will have the opportunity to inscribe in a special book the names of the children and families they wish to remember at this Mass and light a candle in their honor. Come join us in praying for these innocent souls and those who mourn their loss. A reception with refreshments will follow. Counselors will be available after Mass for those who would like information or referrals.

Today we meet the Baptist overcome with doubt, locked by the powerful in the shadowy and forbidding dungeon. The Messiah whom he recognized does not act as a sovereign judge, nor as the merciless executor of divine sentences against the impious. Confused and distressed, John has his followers question Jesus: "Are you the Messiah whom we await? You, the non-violent one, the patient one, the merciful one?"

This question which spans the centuries seizes us today more than ever when we are confronted by the apparent silence of God in our de-Christianized society. We had hoped the Gospel would give us answers, instead, it raises questions. We had hoped for ready-made solutions. Instead, it invites us to seek them out. We had hoped for spectacular signs. Instead, the kingdom subjects itself to the laws of slow germination. So often it is difficult for us to admit that Christianity is a freeing and loving way of life -- a life of faith and risk! Like John, we too must enter into the Advent of our faith and recognize the image which God chose in the humble, merciful, liberating person of Jesus Christ.

The signs of his coming are among us, hidden, but alive. Through faith, many Christians incarnate the Word of God in our generation. They already begin to change the world and throw down the walls of our prisons. In greater numbers Christians are assuming responsibility for the Church. They go in the name of the gospel to offer service to the poor. They never cease to pray that they might burn with the fire of Jesus' love. These contemporary prophets of the Messiah know that hope impels us to action.

Why then do we wait to join the ranks of those who, in working for the Advent of God, are promoting humanity's true coming of age?

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Isaiah 35:1-6A, 10/ Psalm 146/ James 5:7-10/ Matthew 11:2-11

Monday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10/ Psalm 72/ Matthew 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jeremiah 23:5-8/ Psalm 71/ Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25A/ Psalm 71/ Luke 1:5-25

Thursday: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Luke 1:26-38

Friday: Song of Songs 2:8-14/ Psalm 33/ Luke 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD/ Luke 1:46-56

Next Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Romans 1:1-7/ Matthew 1:18-24

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$5,093.50

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: \$119.00

RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS: \$2,504.00 Thank you.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 a.m.: David and Agnes Craford

11:00 a.m.: Dave and Marge Hartmann

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make sure you find a substitute. Thank you!

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH

4112 SW 6th Avenue Drive
Portland, OR 97239
(503)222-2168 * FAX (503)274-2438

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
Baptism and Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office.
Marriage: Six months' notice required.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James M. Kolb, C.S.P., Administrator
Joan Enright, Secretary - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Interested in joining St. Elizabeth Parish? Give us a call. 503-222-2168

BE PATIENT

Imprisoned John the Baptist sends his disciples with a question: Are you *really* the one? Jesus answers by listing the works of the Messiah. "Happy the person who does not lose faith in me," he adds. Jesus praises John as the greatest child born of woman but notes that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. As the end of time draws closer, do you keep faith in Jesus? Are you patient until he comes? Can you dare to be one of the least in the kingdom?



Third Sunday of Advent, Year A.
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