



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

September 14, 2008

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - If you or someone you know would like to become Catholic or know more about the Church, please call the parish office, or indicate your interest on the sign up sheet in the parish hall.

HELPING OUR PARISH FAMILY-If you are able to help a parishioner occasionally with a ride to medical appointment, to shop or run an errand for someone who is homebound or just visit with someone who would appreciate a little company, please call the parish office.

**FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS FALL, I RECOMMEND
TOM GORNICK'S PROGRAM**

Fr. Jim

VATICAN II - A Seven Week In-Depth Course

You are invited to join others who want to:

Deepen their faith

Be able to explain their faith

Ground their spirituality by study of our Catholic tradition

Location: **St. Anthony Catholic Church**, 9905 SW McKenzie St., Tigard

Instructor: **Deacon Tom Gornick**

Dates: **Thursdays: October 2, 2008 - November 13, 2008, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Cost: \$10 - audit; \$60 - credit, plus required books. Bring your bible.

Sponsored by St. Anthony Parish in cooperation with the Archdiocesan Ministry Formation Office.
See bulletin board for details and registration forms.

FALL EMBER DAY IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24. An Ember Day is one set aside for voluntary prayer and fasting. Archbishop John G. Vlazny re-instituted Ember Days in the Archdiocese of Portland in 2002 as days set aside for fasting and prayer for victims of child sexual abuse. Archbishop Vlazny specified that Ember Days in the Archdiocese be celebrated three times each year: in the Advent season leading to Christmas, in the Lenten season before Easter and in the fall. To fast means to eat only one full meal. The other two meals should be less than the normal amount unless they are already at the minimum for good health. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST - All children of parish schools or religious education programs K - 5 are encouraged to participate in this year's contest, which will determine the artwork featured on the cover of the Catholic Charities Christmas Card. Great prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All entries must be submitted to the parish office by Tuesday, September 30.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES is not a United Way agency, but please consider supporting Catholic Charities through the United Way Campaign at your place of employment this fall by designating Catholic Charities as your donor choice selection. Also, federal government employees can contribute to Catholic Charities through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC code for Catholic Charities is 15119. Your contributions help Catholic Charities assist thousands of poor and vulnerable people in our communities each year.

On September 13, 335, Constantine's Basilica of the Resurrection was dedicated in Jerusalem. The annual celebration of that event was followed the next day by a solemn veneration of the relic of the Holy Cross preserved in the basilica. This gave rise to a major feast of the Eastern Church, the Exaltation of the Cross. The feast was introduced at Rome in the seventh century.

The cross triumphant, both an icon of the Crucified and symbol of his exaltation, reminds us first of all that it is by being executed as a criminal that Christ won his victory. It also proclaims that we must carry our cross and die with him. Thus we will live with the One who, lifted above the earth, draws all people to himself.

Jesus could have died in any number of ways, but he was nailed to the tree of the cross as is symbolism itself demanded it. Modern psychology has relearned what the ancients knew -- that the tree is a symbol deeply rooted in the human psyche. We know ourselves to be planted like a tree in the history of generations.

It is the same with the cross. From the time of pagan antiquity it has had a cosmic significance. It evokes the whole universe with its four dimensions, its four cardinal points, its four elements. Christ's death breathed new significance into this symbol. The totality of the redemptive mystery, the work of the Word present to all of creation, was made manifest through the wood of the cross. In stretching out his arms, Jesus gathered Jews and Gentiles into a single people, expressing the width, the length, the height and the depth of his love which surpasses all knowledge.

The history of salvation is played out between two trees -- the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life planted in the middle of the garden. If we want to eat of the fruit of life, we must be converted to the wisdom of God and make no other claim to glory than the cross of Christ.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Numbers 21:4b-9/ Psalm 78/ Philippians 2:6-11/ John 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33/ Psalm 40/ John 19:25-27

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a/ Psalm 100/ Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13/ Psalm 33/ Luke 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11/ Psalm 118/ Luke 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20/ Psalm 17/ Luke 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49/ Psalm 56/ Luke 8:4-15

Sunday: Isaiah 55:6-9/ Psalm 145/ Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a/ Matthew 20:1-6a

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

4:00 pm: Tom and Diane Benz

9:00 am: Patty Frahler and Bob Bently 11:00 am: Jean and Bill Horton

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

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: \$4,412.00

SIMPLE SUPPER: \$461.00 Thank you.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH

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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

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

John 3:13-17

Today's reading is from John's Gospel and in it we learn that Jesus will be lifted up to Heaven, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. This passage also tells us that God loved the world so much that He sent his only Son into the world in order to save it.

Think about how much God loves you and the WHOLE world! How does that make you feel? How do you show your love for others? For creation -- that is, for the world?

