



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 28, 2008

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel introduced a new insight. It is not only the nation as a whole that must make moral choices and suffer their consequences. Every person must decide to obey or disobey the word of God spoken in the Law and the prophets; and every person must take the consequences. In that sense, judgment belongs to the one who makes the choice, not to the God who accepts it. We are fair or unfair to ourselves.

Both prophet and evangelist remind us that no choice is definitive except the final one. The son may say one thing now and do another later. In fact, most of us have played both the first son and the second: we have made commitments we have not kept and kept commitments we had not made. Our lives are always in the making through the process of decision. Yet we shape ourselves gradually into one consistent pattern of obedience or disobedience by the choices we make.

The gospel, echoing many an Old Testament passage, suggests that it is not we alone who are affected by the outcome. In the parable, the man is father to both sons. In the story of Jesus, God is parent to the chief priests and elders as well as to the tax collectors and prostitutes. He sends the word of salvation to them both. We can imagine the father standing at his door awaiting the return of both the sons he sent to the vineyard. And only one appears. Whatever our past choices, today's message is clear: now is always the time to repent and believe. No one is so urgent about our decision as the God who has given us both the choice and the power to make it in Christ Jesus. "Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked? Do I not rather rejoice when he turns from his evil way that he may live?" (Ezekiel 18:23)

SIMPLE SUPPER COLLECTION will be taken up next Sunday for the support of our two monthly dinners on Burnside. Baskets for your free will offering are at the entrances to the church.

FOOD SUNDAY - Next Sunday is Food Sunday. Please bring some non-perishable food and place it in the basket in the parish hall. This food goes to **Immaculate Heart Parish Food Bank** to help feed the hungry. The basket is left out at all times so that you can bring food any time it is convenient.



CHOIR

FALL MUSIC MINISTRY KICKOFF - October 7 and 21, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. All are welcome. Come to learn new music and help organize the music ministry for the next liturgical year. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION - If you are interested in enrolling your children in the upcoming classes for first communion and reconciliation, please sign up in the back of the church.

**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.

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. Entries must be submitted through the parish, not directly to Catholic Charities.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Ezekiel 18:25-28/ Psalm 125/ Philippians 2:1-11/ Matthew 21:28-32

Monday: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14/ Psalm 138/ John 1:47-51

Tuesday: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/ Psalm 88/ Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday: Job 9:1-12, 14-16/ Psalm 88/ Luke 9:57-62

Thursday: Job 19:21-27/ Psalm 27/ Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Friday: Job 38:1, 12-21 and 40:3-5/ Psalm 139/ Luke 10:13-16

Saturday: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/ Psalm 119/ Luke 10:17-24

Sunday: Isaiah 5:1-7/ Psalm 80/ Philippians 4:6-9/ Matthew 21:33-43



HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

4:00 pm: Betty Kramer

9:00 am: Dave and Agnes Craford 11:00 am: Ginny and Bob Caudill

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

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: \$3,253.55 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

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Matthew 21:28-32

This gospel reading from Matthew has three parts: Jesus tells a parable. Jesus asks for a response to the parable, and then he interprets it for the crowds. The gospel leaves no doubt as to what it means -- grace, the goodness and mercy of God, is given to both the deserving and the undeserving. This passage makes some people feel unhappy, while for others it can be a comforting experience -- it all depends on how we see ourselves! Clearly Jesus is telling the crowd that no matter who is receiving the grace, it is freely given with no judgment involved.

If you were to ask friends, "For what do I need to repent?" what would they say if they were being honest?

Repenting is more than just saying "I'm sorry." It calls for a change of heart. How do you begin to find this change in your heart? Talk about a time when you have done this.

If we had to define it, what would "talking the talk" and "walking the walk" mean in this Gospel? How do we go about choosing which fits for us?