



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 14, 2008**

**ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH**



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve	Family Mass	4:00 PM
Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve	Vigil Mass	10:00 PM
	Carols	9:30 PM
Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day	Mass	10:00 AM

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ARCHBISHOP VLAZNY** on his 25th anniversary as bishop. May God continue to bless him with wisdom and the grace of great leadership for our diocese and Church.

**ADVENT WREATH** - Thank you to Jeff and Dan Ware in making, hanging, and donating our lovely Advent wreath in honor of their mother Jean, who decorated St. Elizabeth Church for so many years.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** - Please give generously to this week's second collection which benefits the many deserving religious who now need our help meeting the overwhelming costs of elder care.

**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 eight-year tradition of hanging their ornaments on our Christmas tree at the Offertory.

**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 of the church. Suggested donation is \$10.00.



**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** are available in the back of the church. Please check off your name on the list when you take your packet. If you wish to begin using envelopes and your name is not on the list, please take a numbered packet with a blank name and record your name.

**ANGEL TREE** - Please make sure your wrapped Angel Tree gifts are brought to St. Elizabeth's by December 17th.

### **ADVENT RECONCILIATION:**

Wednesday, December 17	7:00 PM	St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave., Portland
Monday, December 22	7:00 PM	Our Lady of the Lake 8th & A Ave., Lake Oswego
Saturdays	3:00 PM	St. Elizabeth's

We can understand why a commission of inquiry was sent to the Baptist. Some Jerusalem theologians expected a Messiah who would confer a baptism through which the Spirit would be poured out. Here is John, north of the Dead Sea, near the spot where Israel once crossed the Jordan to enter the Promised Land. He is conferring a water baptism, which signifies an acceptance of the call to repentance. Who then is this man who has the crowds running to him and who makes the great cry of the prophets ring out once more after three centuries of silence?

John's reply to the commission is surprising in its humility. No, he is not the Messiah. He is not Elijah returned (Malachi 3:23-24) nor the great prophet that is awaited (Deuteronomy 19:18). This wholly negative statement of his identity must have left the inquirers dissatisfied. It is preserved in the New Testament because some of his followers preached a baptism which competed with that of the primitive Church. He declared himself to be only the precursor, a simple witness, a lamp lit by God for his Christ, the voice of the Word.

We must also recognize our role as "Christ-bearers", called to refer by our very lives to Jesus. This humble and self-effacing role is in no way a negligible one. It is no small thing to ask us to prepare others' road to the Lord.

### LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: *3rd Sunday of Advent* Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11/ (Psalm) Luke 1:46-50, 53-54/  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24/ John 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a /Psalm 25/ Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/ Psalm 34/ Matthew 21:28-32

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

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8/ Psalm 72/ Matthew 1:18-25

Friday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/ Psalm 71/ Luke 1:5-25

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

Sunday: *4th Sunday of Advent* 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Psalm 89/  
Romans 16:25-27/ Luke 1:26-38



**READERS:** your 2009 workbooks are available in the Fireside Room. Please pick up your copy and sign for it on the nearby sheet.

**LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION:** \$4,454.00

**SIMPLE SUPPER:** \$929.00 Thank you for your generosity.

### **HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**

9:00 am: Maryla and Greg Kaminski      11:00 am: The Nisbet Family

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

## ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH

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Portland, OR 97239

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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.

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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

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The third Sunday of Advent is known as the Sunday of Joy, or *Gaudete Sunday*, (You will notice that the priest will wear rose-colored vestments to symbolize that the waiting is half way over). Today's reading, from John's Gospel, again tells us about John the Baptist, who tried to help people prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

*John reminds us that Jesus was sent to change our lives. How can we as a family change our lives so that we can be renewed with the presence of the Spirit?*

*One of the problems that we all have, especially during this holiday season, is that we get so busy that we hardly think about what we are actually celebrating. Brainstorm some things you can do as a family that will help you keep more focused on Jesus this Advent season . . . things you can do both by yourself and some you can do with your family.*