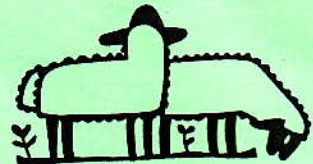




**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2008**

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

Family Mass	4:00 PM
Vigil Mass	10:00 PM
Carols	9:30 PM
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 - Last Sunday it was difficult for many parishioners to make it to Mass due to the Winter Wonderland. The collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious will be taken again this Sunday for those who did not have an opportunity to make a donation.

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 - Thank you to all who have made special efforts to bring their Angel Tree gifts to St. Elizabeth's in time for delivery on December 20. Also, a big thank you to Gina Bainbridge for coordinating the program and the elves who are making the deliveries. The children will be most grateful to have a special gift on Christmas.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: Your last chance before Christmas!
Monday, December 22 7:00 PM Our Lady of the Lake 8th & A Ave., Lake Oswego

It seems to surprise Christians that God's fleshtaking in Christ should have to come to pass in such simplicity and quiet. We are still tempted to read the gospel accounts for concrete details which will reveal spectacular manifestations of divine power in the life of a homespun maiden of Israel. If the story does reveal anything of the extraordinary, it is because it lies in the tradition of other stories from Israel's history, stories which recount the birth of great heroes of the people.

Mary's "yes" is the hinge of human-divine history. The God who created all makes the fulfilment of his promise dependent upon one of the most dispossessed and powerless of his children. The fact that God so ordains the working out of his plan shows the powerlessness of our might and the relentlessness of his surprising love. As we rush about making wars or dazzling loved ones with the brightness and size of our gifts, it serves us well to pause in silence and to let our imaginations enter into the humble setting of hearth and heart where God's almighty Word waited upon the "yes" of a woman.

LITURGICAL READINGS

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

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/ (Psalm) 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-7, 8a-d

Tuesday: Malachai 3:1-4, 23-24/ Psalm 25/ Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday: Vigil of Christmas Isaiah 9:1-6/ Titus 2:11-14/ Luke 2:1-14

Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord Isaiah 62: 11-12/ Psalm 97/ Titus 3:4-7/ Luke 2:15-20

Friday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/ Psalm 31/ Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 John 1:1-4/ Psalm 97/ John 20:2-8

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Psalm 105/
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Luke 2: 22-40

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.



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

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 am: Karl and Barb Wetzel 11:00 am: Ginny and Bob Caudill

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 * www.stelizabethportland.net

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 1:26-38

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear a reading from the Gospel of Luke. Here Luke tells us how Mary became pregnant with Jesus ... Mary is overcome by the grace of God and allows herself to become the human mother of Jesus. The coming of God into human form brings two gifts: the forgiveness of sins and an intimate relationship with God.

What are some of the ways that God asks you to help "bring" Jesus to others? What gift of yourself will you give to others this Christmas?

Mary listened intently to the message of God and acted on it. What message have you chosen to listen to? How have you acted on that message?

