



**5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 8, 2009**

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

"And when he landed, Jesus saw a large crowd, and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things" (Mark 6:34). Yet Jesus is not merely a great figure of charity with a boundless heart and tremendous capacity for service. He makes no attempt to track human suffering to the root in order to eradicate it. He is no social reformer fighting for a more just distribution of material wealth. The social reformer aims at lessening suffering; if possible at removing it. He tries to meet human needs in a practical manner: to prevent misfortune, to readjust conditions in order that happy, physically and spiritually healthy people inhabit the earth. Once we see this clearly we realize that for Jesus the problem is quite a different one. He sees the mystery suffering much more profoundly — deep at the root-tip of human existence, and inseparable from sin and estrangement from God. He knows it to be the door in the soul that leads to God, or that at least can lead to him; result of sin but also means of purification and return. This is obviously what is meant by his words about taking up the cross and following him (Matthew 16:24). Perhaps we come nearer the truth when we say: Christ did not avoid pain, as we try to. He did not ignore it. He did not insulate himself from it. He received it into his heart. Sufferer himself and realist, he took people as he found them, with all their shortcomings. Voluntarily he shared their afflictions, their blame, their need. Herein lies the immeasurable depth and breadth of Christ's love. Its power is the triumphant power of truth in a love which seizes reality and lifts it out of itself. Jesus' healing is divine healing; it reveals the Universal Healer and directs towards him. It is inseparable from faith.

(Romano Guardini, *The Lord*, Regnery Gateway, 1954, pp. 50-51)

FOCA POSTCARD SIGNING If you did not have an opportunity last week to send postcards to our Senators and U S Representative asking them to oppose the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) and retain laws against government funding and promotion of abortion, you'll find postcards to mail and related literature in the back of the church.

ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL 2009 - "Imitate Christ"

Next weekend, February 14-15, is Commitment Weekend for the 2009 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. During Mass we will listen to a message from Archbishop Vlazny about the Appeal. If you received a personalized commitment card in the mail, please bring it to Mass with you as we join together to support our Catholic Church. If you did not receive a commitment card in the mail pledge envelopes will be available during Mass.

This week please read the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal materials you receive in the Parish Bulletin today and prayerfully reflect on the level of commitment you will make next weekend.

The Archbishop's Catholic Appeal provides substantial financial support to essential ministries that support parishes in our Archdiocese. These programs provide education, ministry, and a Catholic presence for tens of thousands of people.

When we stop to count our abundant blessings, we're aware of how truly blessed we are. The Archbishop's Catholic Appeal is an invitation to share your blessings and support the Gospel mission here in Western Oregon.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time* Job 7:1-4, 6-7/ Psalm 147/

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23/ Mark 1:29-39

Monday: Genesis 1:1-19/ Psalm 104/ Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday: Genesis 1:20 – 2:4A/ Psalm 8/ Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday: Genesis 2:4B-9, 15-17/ Psalm 104/ Mark 7:14-23

Thursday: Genesis 2:18-25/ Psalm 128// Mark 7:31-37

Friday: Genesis 3:1-8/ Psalm 32/ Mark 7:31-37

Saturday: Genesis 3:9-24/ Psalm 90/ Mark 8:1-10

Sunday: *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time* Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46/ Psalm 32/

1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1/ Mark 1:40-45



EASTER CHOIR PRACTICE begins Tuesday, February 10. Here is the schedule:

Feb. 10 and 17 at 7:00 pm. February 24, No practice. March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 @ 7:15 pm following Lenten Soup Suppers @ 6:00 pm. Last practice will be April 7 @ 7:00 pm.

PYXES - If you borrow a pyx to take communion to someone, please make sure you return it promptly so that they are available for others to use.

THE HOMESTEAD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION has adopted the 12th and Gaines trailhead on the Marquam Trail. Together with Friends of Marquam Nature Park, they have been removing invasive plants and helping re-establish native plant species. They are planning a "planting party" on Saturday, February 21st along the trailhead at SW 12th and SW Gaines. All are welcome. 9 am to noon, rain or shine. Tools, gloves and snacks provided! HomesteadNA.org.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED - We are in need of Readers and Eucharistic Ministers here at St. Elizabeth's for the weekend masses, and also Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to patients at OHSU. If you would like to help, please call the parish office. Training will be provided.

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$4,099.00 Thank you.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

4:00 pm: Jim and Kay Armstrong

9:00 am: Jack and Ronnie Smith

11:00 am: Frankie and Daryl Anderson

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mark 1:29-39

How did Jesus' healing relate to his preaching? Often, his healing seems to be a physical demonstration of what he is teaching, evidence that Jesus is bringing the kingdom of God. But Jesus could tell when the crowds were asking only for physical remedies and were not interested in the teachings that lay behind them. For Jesus, preaching the Good News was his essential work. His acts of power were in service to his preaching.

As today's Gospel begins, Jesus goes to Simon and Andrew's home with James and John. Jesus undoubtedly wants some time along with these disciple, to teach them. However, when Jesus learns that Simon's mother-in-law is sick, he heals her. Word must have gotten out, because by evening the whole town has gathered at the door, bringing the sick to be healed. Again, Jesus responds to the people's needs and cures them.