



**6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 15, 2009**

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

In Jesus' day, leprosy meant not only incurable physical disintegration, but also social and cultural death. It was the supreme "plague" which God inflicted on sinners. It is under the image of a leper that Isaiah depicts the sinful people. It is under this same image that he describes a mysterious Servant who expiates Israel's sin.

In this context, Jesus' face-to-face meeting with the leper takes on its full meaning. We see the unclean before the Holy One, the outcast before the Servant who will be cast out, the leper who is impure before the pure one who will be disfigured like a leper. It is the sinful world that the Savior touches and purifies. The Messiah has arrived. In him, the banished of society, the living dead are restored.

In different degrees, under different forms, leprosy still creates barriers between people. Today's lepers are the very ill forgotten in hospitals, the marginal poor shut up in unhealthy tenements, the addicts shunned by high-minded societies. Before all these lepers, we ourselves must take part in the simple story of the encounter between Jesus and the leper. For we too must recognize that we are all lepers. We must disclose the sins that we keep hidden. We must cry out in acknowledgment of our moral frailty. Thus we regain life and take our places in the community of the redeemed. Once touched and healed, we can in turn proclaim the Word. Rejoicing in health regained, we can welcome the outcast and the rejected, acknowledged in their human dignity.

ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL 2009 - "Imitate Christ"

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2009 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Our parish goal is \$17,191.00. If you have not already done so, please complete your pledge card, indicating your gift or pledge to our archdiocesan church. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our universal church here in Western Oregon.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

If you are interested in participating in or leading a group during Lent that will reflect on prayer, self-assessment, and preparation for the celebration of Easter, please sign up in the back of the church.

On Tuesdays of Lent we will gather for a simple meal of soup and bread following a 6:00 p.m. Lenten prayer service. We will be asking for volunteers to help with set-up, serving and clean-up.

EASTER CHOIR PRACTICE Please note that the schedule has been changed.

Feb. 17 and 24, at 7:00 pm.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 at 7:15 pm following Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm.

Last practice will be April 7 at 7:00 pm.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46/ Psalm 32/
1 Corinthians 10:31 through 11:1/ Mark 1:40-45
Monday: Genesis 4:1-15, 25/ Psalm 50/ Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday: Genesis 6:5-8 and 7:1-5, 10/ Psalm 29/ Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday: Genesis 8:16-13, 20-22/ Psalm 116/ Mark 8:22-26
Thursday: Genesis 9:1-1-13/ Psalm 102/ Mark 8:27-33
Friday: Genesis 11:1-9/ Psalm 33/ Mark 8:34 through-9:1
Saturday: Hebrews 11:1-7/ Psalm 145/ Mark 9:2-13
Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24B-25/ Psalm 41/
2 Corinthians 1:18-22/ Mark 2:1-12

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.

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.

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.

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.

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$4,761.00 Thank you.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 am: Colleen and Jim Connolly 11:00 am: Peggy and Karl Smith
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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mark 1:40-45

I see that it is necessary for me to make here an additional remark, that we are saved by hope. "But hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

Full righteousness, therefore, will only then be reached when fullness of health is attained; and this fullness of health shall be when there is fullness of love, for "love is the fulfilling of the law and then shall come fullness of love when "we shall see Him even as He is." Nor will any addition to love be possible more, when faith shall have reached the fruition of sight.

**(Augustine, Treatise Concerning Man's Perfection in Righteousness,
Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church,
Vol. 5, Eerdmans, 1971, p. 161)**