



**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 22, 2009**

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

So Bonhoeffer writes, "What is bothering me incessantly is the question what Christianity really is, or indeed who Christ really is, for us today."

He describes "us today" in a Christmas essay written for friends in the resistance movement against Hitler. He titles the paragraph, "No Ground Under Our Feet."

One may ask whether there have ever before in human history been people with so little ground under their feet --- people to whom every available alternative seemed equally intolerable, repugnant, and futile, who looked beyond all these existing alternatives for the source of their strength so entirely in the past or in the future, and who yet, without being dreamers, were able to await the success of their cause so quietly and confidently. Or perhaps one should rather ask whether the responsible thinking people of any generation that stood at a turning-point in history did not feel much as we do, simply because something new was emerging that could not be seen in the existing alternatives.

(Bruce Birch and Larry Rasmussen, *The Predicament of the Prosperous*, Westminster Press, 1978, p. 165)

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25. It is a day of fast and abstinence. Mass, with distribution of ashes, will be at 8:30 am, 12:15 pm. and 7:00 pm. Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE/SOUP AND BREAD SUPPERS On Tuesdays of Lent we will gather for a simple meal of soup and bread following a 6:00 p.m. Lenten prayer service. If you would like to take part in any of the suppers, please sign up in the parish hall. We need volunteers to sign up to help with set-up, serving and clean-up.

LENTEN READING MATERIALS are available in the back of the church. Please take only what you think you will use.

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.

ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL 2009 - "Imitate Christ"

Last weekend, throughout the Archdiocese of Portland in Western Oregon, every parish asked for their parishioners' help to assist the parish-based ministries supported by the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. If you have not yet made a commitment, please take and complete a pledge envelope. Thank you for your generosity in participating in this important ministry.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: *Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24B-25/ Psalm 41/
2 Corinthians 1:18-22/ Mark 2:1-12
Monday: Sirach 1:1-10/ Psalm 93/ Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sirach 2:1-11/ Psalm 37/ Mark 9:30-37.
Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18/ Psalm 51/ 2 Corinthians 5:20 -- 6:2/ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20/ Psalm 1/ Luke 9:22-25
Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a/ Psalm 51/ Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14/ Psalm 86/ Luke 5:27-32
Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15/ Psalm 25/ 1 Peter 3:18-22/ Mark 1:12-15

OPERATION RICE BOWL As part of our faith community's Lenten observance, we will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, Operation Rice Bowl. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Catholics in the United States to **pray, fast, learn and give** as we increase our understanding of our global community. We will connect this understanding with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching throughout our Lenten journey. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones.

LENTEN PRAYER AND STUDY 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.

EASTER CHOIR PRACTICE

February 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.

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: \$4,270.77 Thank you.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

4:00 pm: Tom and Diane Benz

9:00 am: Mary and Dick Adkisson 11:00 am: The Myers 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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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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We have never seen anything like this!" (Mark 2:12). The Capernaum crowds are more fascinated with Jesus' healing of the paralytic than with his forgiveness of sins. The scribes, for their part, are indignant with this man who takes on himself the divine privilege of pardoning faults. They do not understand that Christ freed the body of the paralytic in order to show that he can liberate the spirit.

Faced with a similar manifestation of power, our reaction might be just as ambiguous as the enthusiasm of the people of Capernaum. Given the opportunity, we would line up to obtain from Jesus a bodily healing. We are not so quick to ask that our hearts be healed. We suffer no lack of words in detailing our aches and pains. We are much more reticent in baring our hearts.

Yet Jesus can change hearts. He has not come just to restore physical health but to pardon, to love us with that mad love of which God alone is capable. "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:10).