



December 12, 2010

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Friday	December 24	Christmas Eve	Family Mass	4:00 PM
Friday	December 24	Christmas Eve	Carols	9:30 PM
Friday	December 24	Christmas Eve	Vigil Mass	10:00 PM
Saturday	December 25	Christmas Day	Mass	10:00 AM

RETIREMENT FUND HELPS SENIOR RELIGIOUS - Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests offered their lives in service to others -- educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement for Religious supports basic necessities such as prescription drugs and nursing care.

A JOYFUL WELCOME to the newest member of the Christian community, Alexandra Marie Hanson who was baptized Friday. We offer our prayers and best wishes to her parents, Dan and Patty Hanson.

THANK YOU TO ALL who took part in the St. Nicholas Celebration in any way.

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

ANGEL TREE - If you obtained an Angel Tree tag, please bring the gift to St. E's no later than Wednesday, Dec. 15.

SHARE THE CHRISTMAS JOY! - Sunday, Dec. 19, we will be providing our regular meal to the men, women and children of Transition Projects. If you would like to help with Christmas cookies for dessert, please bring them to church Saturday, Dec. 18, or Sunday morning, Dec. 19. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please, cookies only and no peanuts or poppy seeds. Thank you!

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 ten-year old tradition of hanging their ornaments on our Christmas tree at the Offertory.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES - There are many opportunities for people to go to Confession. Multiple confessors are available.

Tues.	Dec. 14	St. Cyril	7:00 PM
Wed.	Dec. 15	St. Philip Neri	7:00 PM
Sat.	Dec. 18	Sacred Heart	11:00 AM
Tues.	Dec. 21	Our Lady of the Lake	7:00 PM



Today we meet the Baptist overcome with doubt, locked by the powerful in the shadowy and forbidding dungeon. The Messiah whom he recognized does not act as a sovereign judge, nor as the merciless executor of divine sentences against the impious. Confused and distressed, John has his followers question Jesus: "Are you the Messiah whom we await? You, the non-violent one, the patient one, the merciful one?"

The question which spans the centuries seizes us today more than ever when we are confronted by the apparent silence of God in our de-Christianized society. We had hoped the Gospel would give us answers, instead, it raises questions. We had hoped for ready-made solutions. Instead, it invites us to seek them out. We had hoped for spectacular signs. Instead, the kingdom subjects itself to the laws of slow germination. So often it is difficult for us to admit that Christianity is a freeing and loving way of life -- a life of faith and risk! Like John, we too must enter into the Advent of our faith and recognize the image which God chose in the humble, merciful, liberating person of Jesus Christ.

The signs of his coming are among us, hidden, but alive. Through faith, many Christians incarnate the Word of God in our generation. They already begin to change the world and throw down the walls of our prisons. In greater numbers Christians are assuming responsibility for the Church. They go in the name of the gospel to offer service to the poor. They never cease to pray that they might burn with the fire of Jesus' love. These contemporary prophets of the Messiah know that patient hope impels us to action.

Why then do we wait to join the ranks of those who, in working for the Advent of God, are promoting humanity's true coming of age?

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Third Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 35:1-6a,10/Psalm 146/
James 5:7-10/ Matthew 11:2-11

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: Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25/ Psalm 85/ Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday: Isaiah 54:1-10/ Psalm 30/ Luke 7:24-30

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

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

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/
Romans 1:1-7/ Matthew 1:18-24

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$3,936.10 **SIMPLE SUPPER:** \$79.65 Thank you.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

4:00 PM: Maryann Pierleoni

9:00 AM: Vince and Bev Deguc

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 Church
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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

A TIME OF SILENCE

Silence is not just the absence of noise, for silence's communication goes beyond hearing. We must see silence; touch it; have the awesome boldness to enter into the silence--for that's where God is.

Silence is an integral part of our Advent preparation, for only in this silence can we prepare properly for the presence of Christ.

Silence is an integral part of our Incarnation celebration, for only in this silence can we acknowledge properly the presence of Christ.

It is in this silence that we are and God is. It is here that we encounter mystery: the mystery of God, the mystery of ourselves, the mystery of others. This silence is celebration in its most elemental sense.

CONSIDER:

What is my reaction to reaction to silence? Why?

How can silence be part of preparation? Part of celebration?

Is silence a part of my day? My week? My life?