



January 30, 2011

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2 - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD/ CANDLEMAS DAY/ GROUNDHOGS DAY

We will celebrate *The Presentation of the Lord* at 8:30 a.m. Mass, ***Candlemas Day*** with the blessing of candles, and ***Groundhogs' Day*** by singing Groundhog's Day Carols after Mass.

If you have candles you would like to have blessed, please bring them to the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

The Feast of the Presentation, often called Candlemas, commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the temple, which took place 40 days after his birth as Jewish law required. The name Candlemas comes from the activities associated with the feast: the blessing of candles for the year.

Although now overshadowed on the revised liturgical calendar, February 2 bore a weather folkloré long before the shadowy groundhog. Farmers found the day a good time to make weather predictions, applying the theory that the rest of the winter would be the opposite of that on Candlemas. This means if the sun casts a shadow on Candlemas, you can expect more winter, but if there is no shadow, the end of winter is close at hand. If it sounds like the old groundhog story, it's because this is where that story comes from, except that the one about the groundhog originated only about a hundred years ago,



LENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. (If you haven't taken down your Christmas tree by the Feast of the Presentation, the goblins will get you.) We will again have Faith Sharing Groups during Lent. If you are interested in participating or perhaps leading a group, please sign up in the back of the church.

FOOD SUNDAY - Next Sunday is Food Sunday. Please bring some non-perishable food for the Immaculate Heart Parish food bank to help feed the hungry.

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.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

St. Mary's Cathedral, 6:30-7:30 pm, February 8, 2011, 1739 NW Couch

The service will be held on the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was sold into slavery as a child in Sudan, but through the help of the Canossian Daughters of Charity and others, won her freedom.

There is an effort to have St. Josephine recognized as the Patron Saint for this cause. For questions and further information call Brian Willis at 503-243-5848 or BWillis@taskforce.org.

THANK YOU TO ALL who made a pledge to *Sharing Our Faith, Shaping Our Future* all-parish campaign. We have nearly reached our goal. If you have not yet had an opportunity to make your pledge, we encourage you to do so. Forms are available in the back of the church. There will not be an Archbishop's Annual Catholic Appeal in 2011.

Paradox has sometimes been described as truth standing on its head. In today's readings the kingdom of God stands as the supreme paradox. In this kingdom everything which seems truly desirable is turned upside down. The prophet Zephaniah announces that those chosen to survive the dreaded upheaval of the "Day of the Lord" are not the rich and powerful but "a people humble and lowly." Paul informs the contentious Corinthians that God continues to choose not the wise, not the wellborn, not the strong, but the weak. Jesus himself claims that the genuinely blessed are not the prosperous and the successful but those who seem in fact badly treated by providence: the poor, the sorrowful, the needy, the persecuted.

What is this kingdom of God? Is it a home for riffraff? So it seems, according to the gospel. It is a place where tax collectors and prostitutes are welcomed before religious purists. It is a banquet whose guests have been gathered from the highways and the byways. It is a feast where the Lord himself sits down at table with sinners. It is not that the well-fed are unwelcome. Matthew, by offering a more spiritualized version of the beatitudes than Luke, suggests that the issue is attitude. Those who are well off by the standards of this world run the risk of complacency. Satisfied with all they have, they are content to seek no more. Not knowing they are hungry, they ignore the Lord's invitation to come and eat of the true bread of life.

Blest are they who know their need! They are free to seek first the paradoxical kingdom of God. And those who seek shall find.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13/ Psalm 146/
1 Corinthians 1:26-31/Matthew 5:1-12

Monday: Hebrews 11:32-40/ Psalm 31/ Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday: Hebrews 12:1-4/ Psalm 22/ Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday: Presentation of the Lord. Malachi 3:1-4/ Psalm 24/ Hebrews 2:14-18/
Luke 2:22-40

Thursday: Hebrews 12:18-19,21-24/ Psalm 48/ Mark 6:7-13

Friday: Hebrews 13:1-8/ Psalm 27/ Mark 6:14-29

Saturday: Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21/Psalm 23/ Mark 6:30-34

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Isaiah 58:7-10/ Psalm 112/
1 Corinthians 2:1-5/ Matthew 5:13-16

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$ 3,960.07

Thank you.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

4:00 PM: Anne and Tom Barwick

9:00 AM: Maryla and Greg Kaminsky 11:00 AM: Robert and Kelly Bloch

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

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This does not refer to the righteousness of God, but to suffering in a just cause, suffering for their own just judgements and actions. For it is by these that they who renounce possessions, fortune, rights, righteousness, honour, and force for the sake of following Christ, will be distinguished from the world. The world will be offended at them, and so the disciples will be persecuted for righteousness sake. Not recognition, but rejection, is the reward they get from the world for their message and works. It is important that Jesus gives his blessing not merely to suffering incurred directly for the confession of his name, but to suffering in any just cause. They receive the same promise as the poor, for in persecution they are their equals in poverty.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Macmillan, 1959, p. 127)

