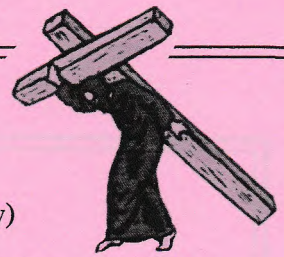




FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 6, 2016

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday – March 20:	Regular Mass Schedule (please arrive 15 minutes early)
Holy Thursday--March 24:	7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday--March 25:	7:30 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday—March 26:	8:00pm Easter Vigil followed by Celebration
Easter Sunday--March 27:	9:00 & 11:00am Mass of the Lord's Resurrection

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday there will be Morning Prayer at 8:30 am in lieu of Mass. Oh Holy Saturday, there are no 3:00 pm Confessions and no 4:00 pm Mass.

SIMPLE SUPPER and FOOD SUNDAY COLLECTIONS TODAY

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES – If you were not able to give today but would like to contribute to Catholic Relief Services, please take an envelope and drop it in next week's collection. Envelopes are available in the pews and in the back of the church.

THE SHAMROCK RUN will take place next Sunday, March 13th, which means that SW Terwilliger Blvd will be closed from SW Sam Jackson Park Road to Capitol Highway from 7:30 am to 10:15 am. Please check on an alternative route if you plan on attending 9:00 am Mass.



PENANCE SERVICES FOR LENT:

Wednesday, March 9	7:00 PM	St. Cyril, Wilsonville
Tuesday, March 15	7:00 PM	St. Anthony, Tigard
Thursday, March 22	7:00 PM	Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Oswego

*Plan on joining us following the 8:00 pm Easter Vigil
for our Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection
in breaking bread and sharing food.
Our celebration needs volunteers to set out the food and help cleaning up.
Also, please sign-up to bring an appetizer (finger foods only please) or dessert.*

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$4,830.00 Thank you!

The parable of the prodigal son strikes a cord in the human heart because it speaks of the universal experience of separation and forgiveness. The parable tells us less about the son's sin than about the abundant mercy of the father. It reveals a God whose solicitude for all sinners is such that he can never reconcile himself to the loss of a single child.

This parable is also a revelation of Jesus himself. His behavior serves as the story's point of departure. In order to justify his eating with sinners, Jesus describes this father who runs to meet the prodigal and finds his joy in restoring the dignity of his son.

The parable also reveals something of the darker side of ourselves. All Christians run the risk of becoming the elder son who will not welcome his younger brother as his father does. This parable is not finished. Its conclusion will depend on us. Will the elder brother pass from disdain to love, from the idea of calculating God to the idea of a Father who loves because he wills to save?

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: *Fourth Sunday of Lent.* Joshua 5:9a, 10-12/ Psalm 34/ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21/
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21/ Psalm 30/ John 4:43-54.

Tuesday: Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12/ Psalm 46/ John 5:1-16.

Wednesday: Isaiah 49:8-15/ Psalm 145/ John 5:17-30.

Thursday: Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 106/John 5:31-47.

Friday: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22/ Psalm 32/ John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.

Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20/ Psalm 7/ John 7:40-53.

Next Sunday: *Fifth Sunday of Lent.* Isaiah 43:16-21/ Psalm 126/ Philippians 3:8-14/
John 8:1-11.

HOLY THURSDAY – We need at least six volunteers to participate in the rite of the Washing of the Feet during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, March 24 at 7:30 pm. If you'd like to participate, please sign-up in the back or call the church office.

EASTER FLOWERS – Remember a loved one by making a donation in their name for the purchase of an Easter plant for our altar. Suggested donation is \$15.00. The names of those remembered will be posted on the bulletin board.

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE FOLLOWED BY SOUP & BREAD SUPPER -Tuesday, March 8th Our Prayer Service begins at 6:00 PM. Sign-up sheets to help set-up, serve, clean-up and/or bring soup or bread are in the back of the church. Our last Prayer Service and Soup Supper is March 15th. Come join us!

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND – March 12th and 13th:

Saturday - Wine & Cheese – Camille Stark, Jeanette Peck, Virginia Bozich

Sunday - 9:00 AM – Jim & Mary Minor 11:00 AM – The Nisbet Family

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

Thank you!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

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Portland, OR 97239

(503)222-2168 email: office@stelizabethportland.net

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., Pastor

Joan Enright/Elizabeth Duncan, Parish Assistants

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Interested in joining St. Elizabeth Parish?

Give us a call at 503-222-2168 or

email us at office@stelizabethportland.net

Reflection

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." (Lk 15:2) This is the complaint of the Pharisees and scribes about Jesus. In response he tells them a series of parables, including the one in today's gospel, the parable of the lost son. Many of us might find it comforting to identify with the younger son in this story, trusting that even if we make poor choices and misuse God's gifts, we can still be welcomed home joyfully. A few of us might even identify with the father, as we think of loved ones in our lives we would gladly welcome home if given the chance.

But how many of us identify with the jealous older brother? How many of us begrudge God's generous mercy towards those who have made huge mistakes? How many of us realize that we, too, are called to model mercy? Certainly ours is not a society that tends towards mercy. Those who are poor are often blamed for their lot. Those with any kind of prison record may struggle to find work and acceptance. And those on death row continue to be executed in the name of "justice."

The jealous scribes and Pharisees are challenged to see themselves in this parable; perhaps we are as well. Perhaps we are called to recognize how Christ can make everything new, as our second reading says. Perhaps we are asked to let go of the "disgrace of Egypt" as God did for the Israelites in our first reading. Our merciful God invites us to let go of jealous condemnation, our whiny "It's not fair!" attitude, and enter the banquet hall in celebration, mercy and acceptance.