



James 5:7-10

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2016

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS – Thank you for your support of this fund that assists senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have offered their lives in service and prayer. If you were not prepared to give today, we will continue to take donations over the next few weeks. Thank you!

ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO MAKE AN ORNAMENT and participate in our 16-year tradition of hanging their ornaments on the Christmas Tree during the Offertory at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. Also, ALL GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SING IN THE CHOIR during the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. Plan on coming and join in the fun!

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS--Remember a loved one by donating a poinsettia in their name to decorate our altar this Christmas Season. Forms are available in the back of the church. Suggested donation is \$15.00.



ANGEL TREE-- Gifts need to be brought to the Church this weekend! If you forgot your gift, please give the office a call and get it to the church ASAP! Gifts will be sorted for delivery this week. Thanks for helping to make the Angel Tree program a great success year after year!

GLOVES, HATS & COATS have been coming in all week. Your response has been AMAZING! These warm clothes will go directly to the shelters St. Elizabeth assists and be distributed to folks living on the streets. NEXT WEEKEND we will collect NEW SOCKS and NEW or GENTLY USED SHOES AND BOOTS. Clean out your closets and donate what you no longer wear to help keep the homeless warm and dry this winter.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WINE & CHEESE! Our final Wine & Cheese for 2016 just happens to fall on New Year's Eve! Rather than assign this momentous occasion to just one person/couple, we're asking everyone to bring an appetizer and make it a celebration! Plan on attending 4:00 pm Mass and stay to enjoy good food and great company. We may even have music (and dancing)!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES thanks everyone who contributed to the travelling crib: "We are always grateful for your generous and on-going support of our program. The women and babies we work with appreciate each blanket, diaper and outfit." Thank you for filling the crib three times again this year!

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND-- If you haven't used envelopes in the past and would like to start, give Elizabeth a call at 503-222-2168.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND- December 17th and 18th:

Saturday Wine & Cheese: Maryann Pierleoni

9:00AM: Pam & Arly Dunham 11:00AM: Kathy & Rich Sabel

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please find a substitute. Thank You!

Today we met 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.?"

This 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 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. Though 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:	<i>Third Sunday of Advent.</i> Isaiah 35:1-6, 10/ Psalm 146/ James 5:7-10/ Matthew 11:2-11.
Monday:	Zechariah 2:4-17/ [Psalm] Judith 13:18bcde, 19/ Luke 1:26-38/ Isaiah 35:1-10/ Psalm 85/ Luke 5:17-26.
Tuesday:	<i>Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr.</i> 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 4:1-10/ Psalm 30/ Luke 7:24-30.
Friday:	Isaiah 56: 1-3a, 6-8/ Psalm 67/ John 5:33-36.
Saturday:	Genesis 49:2, 8-10/ Psalm 72/ Matthew 1:1-17.
Next Sun:	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent.</i> Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Romans 1:1-7/ Matthew 1:18-24.



COLLECTIONS--Last Sunday: \$7,816.01 Simple Supper: 893.00. THANK YOU for your generosity!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

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

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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 parish office

Marriage: Six months' notice required

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PARISH STAFF

Rev. James Martin Kolb, C.S.P., Pastor

Elizabeth Duncan, Parish Assistant - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Interested in joining St. Elizabeth's? Give us a call - 503-222-2168.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES DURING ADVENT

St Anthony	Tuesday	December 13	7PM
St Cyril	Thursday	December 15	7PM
Our Lady of the Lake	Tuesday	December 20	7PM

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Family Mass	4:00 pm
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Carols	9:30 pm
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass	10:00 pm
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Mass	10:00 am

Please note: There will be NO regular 9:00 am and 11:00 am
Masses on Christmas Day!

