



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2016

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

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!



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 to come and join in the fun!

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS—This is the last weekend to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one for Christmas. Forms are available in the back of the church. Suggested donation is \$15.00.

YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR CLOTHING DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL! Jean and Bill Horton transported three car loads of coats, hats and gloves to Transition Projects for distribution to the homeless last week. This week we are collecting NEW SOCKS and NEW or GENTLY USED SHOES AND BOOTS. Thanks to your generosity, many of Portland's homeless will stay warmer and dryer this winter.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY! This year, plan to bid farewell to 2016 with your friends at St. Elizabeth's! Our final Wine & Cheese for 2016 just happens to fall on New Year's Eve! We're asking everyone to bring an appetizer and make it a celebration! Plan to attend 4:00 pm Mass on December 31st and stay afterwards to enjoy good food and great company. We may even have music (and dancing)!

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE ON THE TABLES IN THE GATHERING AREA- If you used envelopes last year, your name is on the list. Please sign next to your name to indicate that you received your envelopes. There are FIVE BOXES currently unassigned; these are highlighted in yellow. If you'd like to start using envelopes, feel free to take one of the unassigned boxes and clearly print your name on the list corresponding to that number. If we run out of unassigned boxes, give Elizabeth a call in the church office (503-222-2168) and she'll get you envelopes.

In the history of Israel, the exodus event shaped the story of creation. In the formation of the gospels, the memory of Christ's death and rising shaped the accounts of his birth and infancy. Much more than stories about a precocious child with remarkable relatives, the infancy narratives are the clear expression of the early Church's belief that, from the first moment of Jesus' conception, God was working in him.

In relating the annunciation to Joseph, Matthew does not intend to consider the psychological reactions of his character. He simply wishes to answer the question, "Who is the Messiah?" For Matthew, "who will save the people from their sins," is the ultimate inheritor of Israel, and it is Joseph who introduces him to the royal line of David.

Informed from the beginning about the impending birth, Joseph believed at first that he must remove himself from this mystery in which he thought he would have no role to play. Then God intervened. Indeed, the child whom Mary carried "comes from the Holy Spirit." But it is up to Joseph to assure Jesus' legal status by accepting him as his own son and giving him his name. It is necessary that through Joseph the house of David recognized in this son "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14).

We readily designate birth "a joyous event." What should be said about waiting for this child in which Joseph plays a humble but indispensable role? The question here is not the history of one family among others, but the history of "God-with-us," the history of salvation.

LITURGICAL READINGS

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

Monday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/ Psalm 71/ Luke 1:5-25.

Tuesday: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Luke 1:26-38.

Wednesday: Song of Songs 2:8-14/ Psalm 33/ Luke 1:39-45.

Thursday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/ [Psalm] 1 Samuel 2:1,4-5,6-7, 8abcd/Luke 1:46-56.

Friday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/ Psalm 25/ Luke 1:57-66.

Saturday: Christmas Eve. Isaiah 9:1-6/ Psalm 96/ Titus 2:11-14/ Luke 2:1-14.1:7-79.

Next Sun: Christmas Day. Isaiah 62:11-12/ Psalm 97/ Titus 3:4-7/
Luke 2:15-20.

FINAL RECONCILLATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT: Our Lady of the Lake,
Tuesday, December 20th at 7pm

COLLECTIONS--Last Sunday: \$6,962.00 Retirement for Religious \$2,949.00.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND- December 25th:
10AM Christmas Day Mass – The Broughtons or The Heislars

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH
4112 SW 6th Avenue Drive
Portland, OR 97239
(503)222-2168 * FAX (503)274-2438 * 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
Elizabeth Duncan, Parish Assistant - 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

During this week before Christmas, we have the opportunity to give our faith in God its full expression. Amidst all the hustle and bustle of these holy days, God's Providence invites us not only to enjoy his grace and peace, but to spread it, to be visible signs - living billboards - of his goodness. We can demonstrate this by how we treat harried shopping clerks, by how we behave at the office Christmas party, by the patience we show to our visiting relatives, by taking time to reach out to the less fortunate, by inviting the lonely neighbor to come over for a cup of warm eggnog, or by inviting a friend to join us at Midnight Mass.

God's Providence guides the course of history, but he doesn't want his children to just be spectators - he invites us to be active partners in his work of everlasting peace. During this last week of Advent, let's make our heavenly Father smile by accepting that invitation.

