



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2017

ST ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Happy New Year!



My heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our Christmas Celebration this year. The liturgists and choir were fantastic (as always) and our decorators did a wonderful job making our church beautiful and festive. All our St. Elves outdid themselves!

Also, my thanks to everyone for all your joyous Christmas wishes, cards, gifts and kindnesses! I am blessed to have spent the last 16 years with you. May God richly bless us all this New Year and always.

-- Fr. Jim

TODAY IS FOOD SUNDAY – Baskets will be out for Simple Supper Donations and the Food Bank at Immaculate Heart Parish.

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS—Thanks to everyone who made donations to the memorial poinsettias decorating our church. The names of those remembered are listed on the bulletin board in the gathering space. Those remembered will be included in the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass during the Christmas Season.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE-- Please sign the list next to your name to indicate that you received your envelopes. 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. Questions/problems-call Elizabeth in the church office (503-222-2168).

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL in NW Portland is now accepting applications for all grades, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade for the 2017-2018 school year. Call 503-275-9370 for information or download an application from the website at www.cathedral-or.org. Cathedral will be hosting an Open House January 29th from 10-12:30 am. Come tour the school and meet the teachers and staff.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND- January 7th and 8th.

9:00 AM – Mary & Dick Adkisson 11:00AM – Patrick & Theresa Niedermeyer

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

This is the octave of Christmas, a designation less popular than in centuries past, but still useful. Carrying a celebration through the eighth day allows for more celebrations, more aspects of the mystery to be opened in our midst. The mystery of God in human flesh and history is a ritually remembered through these several weeks from Christmas day to the Baptism of the Lord. On this octave day a very special aspect of this mystery holds our attention: Mary is the Mother of God.

Contemporary Catholics can recall a number of names for this day, titles dictated by Church tradition, society, and various popes. It is New Year's Day; it is often called the circumcision of Jesus; it has been decreed as World Day of Peace. In the current calendar's preparation, research showed that it is the oldest feast of Mary in our Church. Amidst the echoes of Christmas and the visit of the shepherds, we take time to celebrate Mary.

The primacy of the celebration of Mary as the Mother of God indicates the primacy of this title. Throughout the liturgical year, we will remember her life, celebrating the Immaculate Conception, the Birth of Mary, the Visitation, the Assumption. We will revere her as Queen, Our Lady of Sorrows, and our Lady of Mount Carmel. We recall her in the Eucharistic prayers and at night prayer. We start now with her most profound and basic title, Mary, Mother of God: "God sent forth his Son born of a woman."



LITURGICAL READINGS

Today:	<u><i>The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.</i></u> Numbers 6:22-27/ Psalm 67/ Galatians 4:407/ Luke 2:16-21.
Monday:	1 John 2:22-28/ Psalm 98/ John 1:19-28Matthew 10:17-22.
Tuesday:	1 John 2:29-3:6/ Psalm 98/ John 1:29-34.
Wednesday:	<u><i>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious.</i></u> 1 John 3:7-10/ Psalm 98/ John 1:35-42.
Thursday:	<u><i>Saint John Neumann, Bishop.</i></u> 1 John 3:11-21/ Psalm 100/ John 1:43-51.
Friday:	1 John 5:5-13/ Psalm 147/ Mark 1:7-11.
Saturday:	1 John 5:14-21/ Psalm 149/ John 2:1-11.
Next Sun:	<u><i>The Epiphany of the Lord.</i></u> Isaiah 60:1-6/ Psalm 72/ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Matthew 2:1-12.

COLLECTIONS: Christmas Eve and Christmas Services \$10,708.00.
Retirement for Religious \$4,004.00 (Total to date).
THANK YOU!

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH

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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., Pastor

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

Mary is presented at Christmas as the one who pondered. She heard much that puzzled her. In the message of the shepherds, gifts of the Magi, and maybe the odd conversation with Joseph when they wondered about their child and what would happen to him.

Her pondering led to wondering. It must have tried her faith but never left her without faith. She is a model of faith for today when faith leaves many questions. Pope Francis says: 'in this quest to seek and find God in all things there is still an area of uncertainty. There must be. If one has the answers to all the questions—that is the proof that God is not with him. Our life is not given to us like an opera libretto, in which all is written down; but it means going, walking, doing, searching, seeing.' (Interview 2013).

We can question much about God but it is best if it leads us to wondering about him. The person who can wonder never gets tired of life and known that in wondering together we find life for the mind and soul.

We find nourishment for ourselves in our capacity to wonder and be amazed. Christmas can do this for us. Family memories, gathering with friends, Christmas prayer can open us to new love and new faith. If we can do this for a day, can we do it for the year?