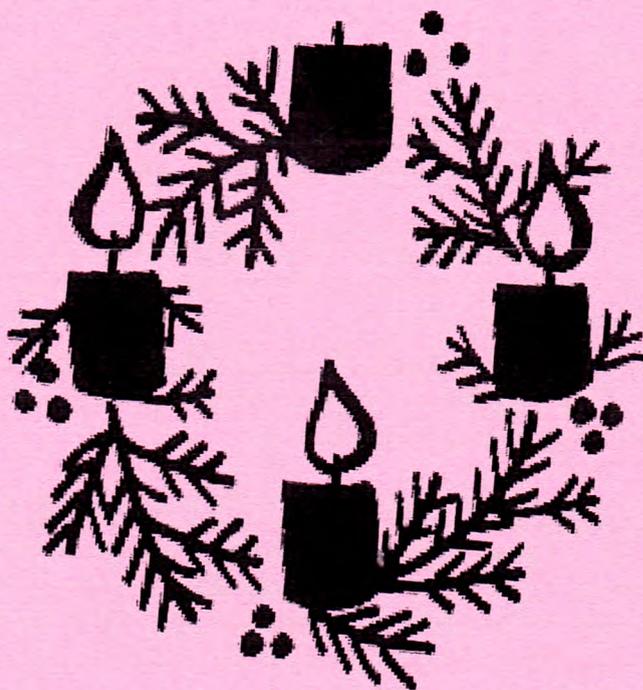


We anticipate
what is not yet
and practice now
your future
we say and sing
that all you have made
your creation is good
laboriously
so very slowly
we work out your promise
in hope and fear
and strive to build
a city of peace
a new creation
where you will be
our light, our all.



Give us strength, O God,
to persevere
and bring us to
a happy end.

Huub Oosterhuis, Your Work is Near, Paulist, 1968

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2017

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CATHOLIC

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 last week, we welcome donations over the next few weeks. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – Remember a loved one by donating a poinsettia in their name for use in our Christmas altar decorations. A list of people remembered with flowers will be posted on the bulletin board for Christmas. Forms are available on the table in the back. Suggested donation is \$15.00.

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 Mass.

Also, **ALL GRADESCHOOL 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!



OUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES COULD REALLY USE A BOOST IN

2018! (If you served as a host last year, you're automatically renewed, so no need to sign-up.) Help keep St. E's social life going strong. Volunteer as a host for Coffee & Donuts and/or Wine & Cheese! We need **FIVE** more coffee & donut hosts for each Sunday Mass and **THREE** more Wine & Cheese hosts. Sign-up sheets are in the back or call Elizabeth (503-222-2168)

2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN THE

GATHERING AREA – As this bulletin goes to press, your dedicated parish assistant is hoping to get the 2018 Offertory Envelopes organized, labeled and available for pick-up in the gathering area. If she got everything on her prioritized "to do" list completed on Friday, the envelopes are out and ready. If not, they will be available next week – *I promise!!!* Let's be optimistic and assume envelopes are nicely labeled and ready on the tables in the gathering area:

If you used envelopes last year, *your number remains the same* and your name is on the list. Please sign next to your name to indicate that you received your envelopes. Do not-- I repeat--**DO NOT** take another person's assigned number! This will result in Elizabeth banging her head against the wall as she attempts, in vain, to make the software reassign the number to someone else. (It sounds like it should be easy, but, trust me, it is a nightmare.) There are 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 you need help, just call Elizabeth in the church office (503-222-2168).

We can understand why a commission was sent to the Baptist. Some Jerusalem theologians expected a Messiah who would confer a baptism through which the Holy Spirit would be poured out. Here is John, north of the Dead Sea, near the spot where Israel once crossed the Jordan to enter the Promised Land. He is conferring a water baptism, which signifies an acceptance of the call to repentance. Who then is this man who has the crowds running to him and who makes the great cry of the prophets ring our once more after three centuries of silence.

John's reply to the commission is surprising in its humility. No, he is not the Messiah. He is not Elijah returned (Mal 3:23-24) nor the great prophet that is awaited (Deut 19:18). This wholly negative statement of his identity must have made the inquirers dissatisfied. It is preserved in the New Testament because some of his followers preached a baptism which competed with that of the primitive church. He declared himself to be only the precursor, a simple witness, a lamp lit by god for his Christ, the voice of the Word.

We must also recognize our role as "Christ-bearers," called to refer by our very lives to Jesus. This humble and self-effacing role is in no way a negligible one. It is no small thing to ask us to prepare others' road to the Lord.



LITURGICAL READINGS

- Today: *Third Sunday of Advent.* Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11/ Luke 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54/ 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24/ John 1: 6-8, 19-28.
- Monday: Jeremiah 23:5-8/ Psalm 72/ Matthew 1: 18-25.
- Tuesday: Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a/ Psalm 71/ Luke 1: 5-25.
- Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Luke 1: 26-38.
- Thursday: Song of Songs 2:8-14/ Psalm 33/ Luke 1: 39-45.
- Friday: 1 Samuel 1: 24-28/ 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd {Psalm}/ Luke 1: 46-56.
- Saturday: Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24/ Psalm 25/ Luke 1: 57-66.
- Next Sun: *Fourth Sunday of Advent.* 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Psalm 89/ Romans 16: 25-27/ Luke 1: 26-38.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

4112 SW 6th Avenue Drive Portland, OR 97239

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

www.stelizabethportland.net

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

Elizabeth Duncan, Parish Asst. - 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

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 pm

Baptism and Anointing of the Sick – please call parish office

Marriage – six months' notice require

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND – December 24th:

Coffee & Donuts is cancelled. This is a very busy day! We'll have something light.

COLLECTIONS – Last week: \$7,557.00 Retirement for Religious: \$2,781.00

Thank You!

REMAINING RECONCILIATION SERVICES DURING ADVENT:

Our Lady of the Lake Tuesday, December 19 7pm

St Anthony Wednesday, December 20 7pm

St. Elizabeth Schedule for December:

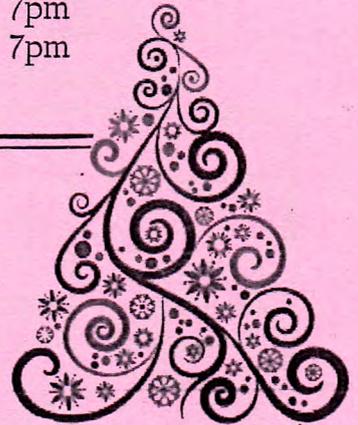
MASS SCHEDULE ON DECEMBER 24 & 25:

The schedule's busy this year as the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve:

Fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated at the normal Mass times on Saturday 12/23 at 4:00 pm and Sunday 12/24 at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

Christmas Eve Services: 4:00pm Family Mass and 10:00pm Mass
(Carols start at 9:15 pm)

Christmas Day Mass will be held at 10:00 am.



Honestly, isn't he pretty in pink?