

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 15th 2019

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church



## *Mass Schedule for the Holidays:*

|                               |                                  |   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Tuesday, December 24</i>   | <i>Christmas Eve Family Mass</i> | <i>4:00 pm</i>                                  |
| <i>Tuesday, December 24</i>   | <i>Christmas Eve Carols</i>      | <i>9:15 pm</i>                                  |
| <i>Tuesday, December 24</i>   | <i>Christmas Eve Vigil Mass</i>  | <i>10:00 pm</i>                                 |
| <i>Wednesday, December 25</i> | <i>Christmas Day Mass</i>        | <i>10:00 am</i>                                 |
| <i>Tuesday, December 31</i>   | <i>New Year's Eve Mass</i>       | <i>4:00 pm only</i><br><i>(no 8:30 am Mass)</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, January 1</i>   | <i>New Year's Day Mass</i>       | <i>10:00 am</i>                                 |



**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. We will gladly accept donations over the next few weeks. Please make checks payable to “St Elizabeth Church” with “Retirement for Religious” in the memo line.

**ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO MAKE AN ORNAMENT** and participate in our 18-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 \$10.00.

**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!

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** is happening at the Grotto until December 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:30 pm. Tickets are sold at the gate.

**REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE** – Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery'. This program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. For confidential information about the program or to register for the next retreat weekend on January 17-19, please call 1-503-225-9191 or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).



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?

**STORE TO DOOR** supports independent living for Portland area seniors and people with disabilities by providing a personal, volunteer-based grocery shopping and delivery service for a nominal fee. Store to Door has a 30-year history of delivering nourishment and social connections for our community's most vulnerable citizens. In 2018, it served 682 clients through 11,569 deliveries. If you are interested in enrolling as a client OR joining a dedicated volunteer team, contact: Client Outreach Coordinator—[Anabelle@storetotooroforegon.org](mailto:Anabelle@storetotooroforegon.org). or call 503.200.3333 x 112.



# ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Rev. James M. Kolb, CSP, Pastor  
Elizabeth Duncan, Office Administrator

♦   ♦   ♦

## FINAL RECONCILIATION SERVICES DURING ADVENT:

|                      |                                      |        |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| St. Anthony          | Tuesday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 7:00pm |
| Our Lady of the Lake | Wednesday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm |
| St. Clare            | Thursday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>  | 7:00pm |

## HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND – December 22nd:

9:00 AM – Kevin Shanders & Paul Pavlock

11:00 AM – Carol & Ray North

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

Collections Last Weekend: \$5,285.00 CCHD: \$4,030.00 (Total to Date)  
Retirement for Religious: \$2,468.00 Thank you for your generosity !

## LITURGICAL READINGS

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Sunday:   | <u>Third Sunday of Advent.</u> Isaiah 35:1-6, 10/ Psalm 146/ James 5:7-10/<br>Matthew 11:2-11. |
| Monday:   | Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a/ Psalm 25/ Matthew 21:23-27.  |
| Tuesday:  | Genesis 49:2,8-10/ Psalm 72/ Matthew 1:1-17.   |
| Wed:      | Jeremiah 23:5-8/ Psalm 72/ Matthew 1:18-25.  |
| Thursday: | Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/ Psalm 71/ Luke 1:5-25.  |
| Friday:   | Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Luke 1:26-38.  |
| Saturday: | Song of Songs 2:8-14/ Psalm 33/ Luke 1:39-45.  |
| Next Sun: | <u>Fourth Sunday of Advent.</u> Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalm 24/ Romans 1:1-7/<br>Matthew 1:18-24.    |