

We thank you, God for all your gifts, even for ashes,
still witnesses of life that was.

Yours is the Spirit that puts flesh on dry bones
and animates what is without you lifeless.

As we begin the Lenten journey,

let us be as Jesus' death on the cross,

let us be as these ashes from which only you can bring life.

Let this season be an experience of big and little deaths for us,
deaths that usher in your kingdom and your reign,
deaths that open heaven and that make this world
your sovereign place.

Bless the ashes left by our wars, our violence and our oppression,
by our hates and sins and crimes and neglects,
by our racism, our waste, our pollution, our terrible inequities.

Bless them with a grace that stirs new life,
and let your Spirit blow into them a fire that warms the world.

Let life come to us through these ashes,

as life floods the world through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever.

Amen.

From Ashes to Easter
Liturgical Conference, Inc. 1974



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 23, 2020

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 26th

Mass with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at

8:30 AM - Noon - 7PM

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence.

All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST will be held after morning Mass on Tuesday, February 25th this week because of Ash Wednesday.

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS: Our small faith sharing groups will begin next week. One group led by Sharon Finley will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 4:15pm to 5:45pm in the Little House next door. A second group led by the O'Scannlains will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at their home. Details on the study topic for each group and additional details are available in the bulletin insert. Please sign up today in the gathering area.

READING/MEDITATION MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR LENT:

The Parish provides the following literature available in the gathering area:

- * *The Word Among Us for Lent 2020:* Contains the daily Mass Readings and corresponding meditations.
- * *From Suffering to Salvation,* Inspiration from Henri J.M. Nouwen.
- * *From Ashes to Easter,* Our Lenten Journey with Pope Francis.
- * *Daily Graces,* Daily Reflections, Prayers & Activities for Families

Please take only what you will use.

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER!

If you enjoy singing or if you play an instrument, please consider joining our choir for Holy Week & Easter.

CHOIR PRACTICE is every Tuesday beginning February 25 through April 7 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.



Today's gospel shows the new Moses preaching the fulfillment of the Law. His words, spoken with authority, define the faith lived by Christians.

The gospel moves us beyond the ancient law of retaliation. While the law seems harsh to us today, in its own day it marked progress over the growing anarchy of individual revenge. At the time of Jesus, the law of retaliation was not applied in its primitive rigor, even though it was maintained in principle. To this day, proportionality of punishment to crime is the foundation of penal law. Although this law of retaliation is regarded as legitimate, Jesus challenges it. In opposition to this regulated revenge which always runs the risk of declining into a vicious circle of violence, Jesus preaches that nonresistance which renounces the perpetuation of evil.

Jesus goes even further. The Old Testament had already required love of neighbor as one's other self. Neighbor meant one's Jewish compatriot; in its wildest extension, it meant the stranger abiding in Israel or the adopted and assimilated immigrant. For Jesus, however, even enemies and persecutors become neighbors. To instinctive hatred Jesus proposes love, a concrete love expressed in hospitality to the stranger and prayer for our persecutors.

While some have termed this a utopian or naïve style of life, simple observation teaches that a gesture of peace is often more effective than a discussion of peace. A just society is not built on litigation alone, but also upon individuals freely surrendering their just due for the good of another. Long-suffering is the true power of the non-violent. Our frail efforts for justice pale before Jesus, the perfect model of these essential Christian attitudes.

Catholic Relief Services RICE BOWL: The materials are out if you'd like to participate in Rice Bowl this Lent. Twenty-five percent of the Rice Bowl collection is awarded in small grants to parishes or parish-supported organizations to supplement their charitable efforts addressing hunger and poverty.

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE/ SOUP & BREAD SUPPERS: On Tuesdays during Lent, beginning Tuesday, March 3rd and continuing through April 7, we will gather for a 6:00 PM Lenten Prayer Service followed by a simple meal of soup and bread. This is a wonderful tradition at St. Elizabeth's, and we hope that everyone can enjoy at least one of our Tuesday night gatherings during Lent.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

4112 SW Sixth Avenue Drive Portland OR 97239

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

Rev. James M. Kolb, CSP, Pastor

Elizabeth Duncan, Office Administrator

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.



COLLECTION: Last Sunday \$3,342.00 THANK YOU!

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND- March 1st:

9:00 AM – Coleen & Jim Connolly

11:00 AM – Carol & Ken VanDomelen

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

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Sirach 15:15-20/ Psalm 119/
1 Corinthians 2:6-10/ Matthew 5:17-37.

Monday: James 3:13-18/ Psalm 19:8-10, 15/ Mark 9:14-29.

Tuesday: James 4:1-10/ Psalm 55:7-11, 23/ Mark 9:30-37.

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday. Joel 2:12-18/ Psalm 51/ 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2/
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20/ Psalm 1/ Luke 9:22-25.

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a/ Psalm 51/ Matthew 9:14-15.

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14/ Psalm 86/ Luke 5:27-32.

Next Sun: First Sunday of Lent. Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7/ Psalm 51/ Romans 5:12-19/
Matthew 4:1-11.