



DECEMBER 27, 2009

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

Much thanks to all who made Christmas 2009 such a memorable celebration of Our Lord's birth. It is wonderful to witness the community involvement here at St. Elizabeth's, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. Our Reader's, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians, Decorators, Servers and all who give of their time are much appreciated.

I have not yet had the opportunity to open all the gifts under my tree, but I thank all for your thoughtfulness.

May God's blessings be with you in the new year.

Fr. Jim

NEW YEAR'S DAY/SOLEMNNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass will be celebrated at **12:00 noon only** on New Year's Day. Mass will be at 4:00 PM on New Year's Eve.

FOOD SUNDAY - Next Sunday is Food Sunday. Please bring some non-perishable food for the Immaculate Heart Parish food bank to help feed the hungry.

SIMPLE SUPPER COLLECTION will be taken up next Sunday for the support of our two monthly dinners on Burnside. Baskets for your free will offering are at the entrances to the church.

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY. Please get your pictures in as soon as possible for the parish directory. Photos are taken after any mass. For questions or comments call or email Mark Myers at (mark@StElizabethPortland.net, or 503-244-3555).

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the back of the church. Please check off your name on the list when you take your packet. If you would like to begin using envelopes, please record your name on a blank line and take the corresponding packet.

NEXT SUNDAY, ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, children who were not able to participate in our nine-year tradition of hanging their ornaments on our Christmas tree on Christmas may do so just as the Magi brought their gifts to Jesus.

ANGEL TREE - Thank you to Gina Bainbridge, Vance Taylor and all the elves who helped sort and deliver the gifts. Also, thank you to all who helped make Christmas a little merrier by buying the gifts for the children.



The Gospel reading for today is the final episode of Luke's "infancy narrative" (Luke 1:5 --- 2:52) and is set in the temple in Jerusalem. The annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the celebration of the feast of the Passover was part of the ordinary rhythm of life for first-century Palestinian Jews. Growing up, Jesus would have had vivid memories of visiting Israel's historic and holy capital city, the center of his Jewish identity.

When Jesus was 12, according to Luke, after celebrating Passover in Jerusalem and heading back to Nazareth in caravan, Mary and Joseph realize after a day's travel that Jesus is not with them. They return to Jerusalem and search frantically for him! This sets the stage for the first words spoken by Jesus in the Gospel in Luke: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Interestingly enough, the parents' answer to Jesus' second question is "no." Luke tells us: "They did not understand what he said to them." Luke also tells us that "his mother kept all these things in her heart," just as she did 12 years earlier when the shepherds came to her and Joseph and spoke of the angelic visit they had regarding their newborn son (see Luke 2:19).

Our own annual Christian celebration of Holy Family Sunday is an important reminder of what being family is all about. Oftentimes in the ordinariness of the rhythm of family life, anxious moments occur. As parents, our love for our children takes precedence over all. Mary teaches parents the importance of keeping things in our hearts, of praying and searching for God's presence in the midst of the anxiety of raising our children. As John reminds us in his letter, our children are also God's children.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph* 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Psalm 84/ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/ Luke 2:41-52

Monday: 1 John 1:5---2:2/ Psalm 124/ Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 John 2:3-11/ Psalm 96/ Luke 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 John 2:12-17/ Psalm 96/ Luke 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 John 2:18-21/ Psalm 96/ John 1:1-18

Friday: *Mary, Mother of God* Numbers 6:22-27/ Psalm 67/ Galatians 4:4-7/ Luke 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 John 2:22-28/ Psalm 98/ John 1:19-28/ Matthew 23:8-12

Next Sunday: *The Epiphany of the Lord* Isaiah 60:1-6/ Psalm 72/ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Matthew 2:1-12

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$5,079.85

RETIREMENT FOR THE RELIGIOUS: \$1,425.00 Thank you for your generosity.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 AM: Mary Hulme and Kay Fagan

11:00 AM: Julie and Lee Steiner Fleck

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make sure you find a substitute. Thank you.

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., Administrator

Joan Enright, Secretary - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

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

FAMILY FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

Luke 2:41-52

When Jesus was twelve years old he went with his family to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. After the feast, on their way back to Nazareth, Jesus' parents realized he was not with any of the relatives that they were traveling with. They hurried back to Jerusalem to search for him. Mary and Joseph were very worried!

They found Jesus in the temple talking with the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone was amazed at his wisdom.

When Mary and Joseph asked why he didn't come back with everyone else he told them he had to tell other people about God, his Father, but they didn't understand. He went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and Mary kept all these things in her heart.

Families show God's love when they love and care for each other and worship together. How can you show love to the people in your family? Make up a special prayer to thank God for each of the members of your family and pray it together.