



**CHRISTMAS**

**DECEMBER 25, 2011**

**ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH**



*Thank you to all who have given so much in preparing for 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 Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians, Choir, Decorators, Servers and all who give of their time are much appreciated. Thank you also to all who participated in the Angel Tree program by organizing, donating and delivering the Christmas gifts to the children.*

*May God's blessings be with you in the New Year.*

*Fr. Jim*

**NEW YEAR'S/ SOLEMNITY OF MARY** -- Next weekend masses will be on our regular schedule: Saturday, 4:00 PM; Sunday, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

**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.

**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.

**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. Thank you.

**RETREAT FOR THOSE WHO ARE PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF AGING RELATIVES** - University of Portland is hosting "Compassion in Action," a two-day retreat for those who have become primary caregivers for aging relatives, on Jan. 27-28, 2012. The retreat will take place at the Griffin Center (11957 SE Fuller Rd., Milwaukie, OR) and costs \$35 per person for meals, lodging, and retreat materials. Reservations are due by Monday, Jan. 16 and can be made by email at [alumni@up.edu](mailto:alumni@up.edu) or by phone at 503-943-7328. This overnight retreat is limited to 24 participants. Scholarships may be available - please inquire when making reservations. See bulletin board for details.

**HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

9:00 AM: Joan Enright                      11:00 AM: Doug and Denise White

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

**COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY:** \$5,610.40 Thank you.

The eyes of faith see human history as salvation history. God's actions are discerned in the mundane and dramatic events that we live.

Israelites saw God's call in the migration of their ancestor Abraham. Their later escape from Egypt was not just a natural phenomenon of low tide in the Red Sea. It was the hand of God acting through Moses. David, son of Jesse, was the brave leader and king, exercising power from God in new ways for new historical and sociological circumstances. Israel's later exile was still another meeting of God's power, a judgment on their infidelity. Even in such dark times, indeed especially in darkness, the light of God shines in history. The people were able to say: "You shall be called 'My Delight' and our land 'Espoused.' For the Lord delight in you." Those who walked in darkness were able to see a great light.

This is the heart of the Christmas mystery. God always takes the initiative. We are ever in awe before the hope enfleshed in history.

The Christmas Midnight gospel is by far the most popular passage for this day. The other selections are rich in history, theology, and poetry, but we keep returning to Luke 2. The details are simple: Caesar Augustus ordering a census, Joseph and Mary travelling to David's town of Bethlehem, a first-born son wrapped in swaddling clothes. Yet the mystery and power they evoke are beyond telling. We might remember school plays and blankets used as costumes. We might thrill at brilliant musical tributes to this babe. And then we might feel a tug of the conscience. Jesus did appear first to the poor shepherds. His presence calls us to live "temperately, justly, an devoutly." Through all these emotions and nostalgia the simple truth is opened for our assent: God has visited us.

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## LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: *The Nativity of the Lord*. Isaiah 62:11-12/ Psalm 97/ Titus 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20

Monday: *St. Stephen, the First Martyr*. Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59/ Psalm 31/ Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday: *St. John the Apostle, Evangelist*, 1 John 1:1-4/ Psalm 97/ John 20:1a,2-8

Wednesday: *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*. 1 John 1:5--2:2/ Psalm 124/ Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday: *The Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*. 1 John 2:3-11/  
Psalm 96/ Luke 2:22-35

Friday: *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*. Hebrews 11:8-11, 17-19/Psalm 105/  
Luke 2:22-40

Saturday: *The Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*. 1 John 2:18-21/  
Psalm 96/ John 1:1-18

Next Sunday: *The Octave Day of the Solemnity of the Lord/Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*. Numbers 6:22-27/ Psalm 67/ Galatians 4:4-7/ Luke 2:16-21

## **St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church**

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Portland, OR 97239

(503)222-2168 \* FAX (503)274-2438 \* [www.stelizabethportland.net](http://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.

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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

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**

**Matthew 1:1-25 \* Luke 2:1-14 \* Luke 2:15-20 \* John 1:1-18**

As your family celebrates Christmas, does your family pay more attention to the ways our culture celebrates this holiday, or do you remember the glorious message of the angels of God? What tradition(s) can you build into your family celebration that will help you to bring the focus to Christ?

Luke's story reminds us that when we hear the message of God, we need to respond. The shepherds believed that the message they heard from God was calling them to "come and worship." And so, they quickly went to find Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

When you hear the message of the Gospel, do you respond with enthusiasm or do you see it as getting in the way of what you want to do? How can your family open your schedule to allow time to "come and worship"?

Are you ready to allow the Light of Christ to dispel all the "darkness" in your life? Describe how you can allow the light of Christ to affect the way you live your life each day?