

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 19, 2012**

**ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH**

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.** Mass with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 8:30 AM, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM. Ash Wednesday is traditionally a day of fast and abstinence. Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

**2012 ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL.** If you have not already done so, please complete your pledge card, indicating your gift or pledge to our archdiocesan church. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our universal church here in Western Oregon.

**Living the Eucharist.** Small Group Participants will begin meeting this Wednesday and Thursday evenings. If you have not yet been called by your Small Group Leader for time and location, please call the parish office.

**LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE/SOUP AND BREAD SUPPERS**

On Tuesdays of Lent, beginning February 28, we will gather for a simple meal of soup and bread following a 6:00 PM Lenten prayer service. **We need volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up.** Please sign up if you can help or if you will be bringing soup or bread.



**WEDNESDAY COFFEE** - We will not have our usual Wednesday morning coffee following daily Mass on Ash Wednesday. Instead, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday after Mass.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES' 15TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION!**

Please join Catholic Charities for a lively evening of celebration, blessings and renewed friendships at the 15th Annual Celebration, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the Oregon Convention Center. This year the Celebration will happen on St. Patrick's Day, and will include a festive party complete with an Irish cocktail bar, dinner, presentations, and the Celtic music of St. James' Gate.

Please help Catholic Charities increase the number of parishes represented at the Celebration by joining with your friends, family and fellow parishioners to fill a table. You'll enjoy a fun and lively evening, see the many ways Catholic Charities is changing lives in our community, and learn how you can get involved.

Individual tickets are \$150; tables of ten are for \$1,500. Contact Catholic Charities at 503-688-2628 or [kgoetz@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org](mailto:kgoetz@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org) for reservations and sponsorship opportunities.

**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK:**

Tuesday, Feb. 21st	6:45-8:15 PM
Tuesdays, Feb. 28th through Mar. 27, following Soup & Bread Suppers	7:15-8:45 PM
Tuesday, April 3 (last practice)	6:45-8:45 PM

**LIFE DECISIONS: What You Need to Know** - St. Francis Church, Sherwood, Saturday, March 3, 9:00 AM - Refreshments/ 9:30 AM-Speakers.on Advance Health Care Directive, Estate Planning, Hospice Care, Liturgical Funeral Planning, & more.. [Office@stfrancissherwood.org](mailto:Office@stfrancissherwood.org) or 503-625-6185

So Bonhoeffer writes, "What is bothering me incessantly is the question what Christianity really is, or indeed who Christ really is, for us today."

He describes "us today" in a Christmas essay written for friends in the resistance movement against Hitler. He titles the paragraph, "No Ground Under Our Feet."

One may ask whether there have ever before in human history been people with so little ground under their feet -- people to whom every available alternative seemed equally intolerable, repugnant, and futile, who looked beyond all these existing alternatives for the source of their strength so entirely in the past or in the future, and who yet, without being dreamers, were able to await the success of their cause so quietly and confidently. Or perhaps one should rather ask whether the responsible thinking people of any generation that stood at a turning-point in history did not feel much as we do, simply because something new was emerging that could not be seen in the existing alternatives.

(Bruce Birch and Larry Rasmussen, *The Predicament of the Prosperous*, Westminster Press, 1978, p. 165)

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## LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25/ Psalm 41/  
2 Corinthians 1:18-22/ Mark 2:1-12

Monday: James 3:13-18/ Psalm 19/ Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday: James 4:1-10/ Psalm 55/ Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday. Joel 2:12-18/ Psalm 51/ 2 Corinthians 5:20 through 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 Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent. Genesis 9:8-15/ Psalm 25/ 1 Peter 3:18-22/  
Mark 1:12-15

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## HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

9:00 AM: David and Agnes Craford      11:00 AM: Jean and Bill Horton

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

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**COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY:** \$4,114.00    **SIMPLE SUPPER:** \$100.25

Thank you.

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

4112 SW 6th Avenue Drive

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

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## **Family Faith Sharing Questions**

Mark 2:1-12

This gospel story illustrates that Jesus heals the body as well as the human soul and spirit. People bring a paralyzed man to the house where Jesus is staying. The house is so crowded that the man must be lowered down through the roof to the room where Jesus is. Jesus looks at the man and says, "Your sins are forgiven." This surprises people because they believe that only God can forgive sins. The paralyzed man is healed in body and spirit, and the people praise God for what they have just witnessed.

*Why do you think Jesus tells the man that his sins are forgiven?  
Who is this Jesus who can forgive sins and heal people of their  
illnesses?*

*None of us is perfect - we all do things that are wrong.  
Talk about how Jesus' forgiveness of your sins makes you feel.  
Have you ever been surprised by a spiritual experience?  
Talk about what you did and how it made you feel.*