

By day and by night,
and through every season,
you watch over us, Lord.

We praise you for this Advent wreath.
It is the evergreen crown
of your royal people,
and it shines with the promise
of eternal victory.

By the light of this wreath
We shall wait in patience
for your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
who comforts our fears
and brings hope to the world.

All glory be yours
now and forever. Amen.



November 27, 2011

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH



SAVE THE DATE
10th Annual St. Nicholas Celebration
Friday, December 2, 2011
6:00 PM

Lessons and Carols
Potluck Dinner
Appearance by St. Nicholas

Elves are needed for set-up and kitchen duties. Please sign up in the back of the Church to help and/or bring food to the potluck.

ADVENT EMBER DAY - The Advent Ember Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30. An Ember Day is one set aside for voluntary prayer and fasting. Ember Days were re-established in the Archdiocese of Portland in 2002 by Archbishop John G. Vlazny. They were planned as days of prayer and fasting for victims of child sexual abuse and for their reconciliation with the Church. Ember Days are held in the Archdiocese three times per year: in the Lenten season leading to Easter, in September and in the Advent season leading to Christmas.

ADVENT PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS are available in the back of the church. Please take only what you will use.

ANGEL TREE - Please consider buying a Christmas gift for a child whose parent is in prison. Gift tags will be available December 3rd and 4th. Or, could you deliver gifts to their homes? Look for the Angel Tree poster. If you have questions, call Gina Bainbridge with questions at 503-244-5196.

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.

TRAVELING CRIB - Your response to the Traveling Crib has been outstanding. The crib will be picked up this Wednesday, so there is still time to add a few more baby items if you haven't had an opportunity to do so.

SOX FOR THE HOMELESS - Thank you to all who donated more than 400 pairs of sox in our Vicariate Drive. The sox will be taken this week to the Downtown Chapel where they will be given to homeless people who are certainly uncomfortable on these cold, wet days.

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down . . ." Once again, at the beginning of Advent, this cry rises to God, borne up by the certainty of a kingdom already among us but not yet completed. For our God is a God who comes: "He who was, and who is, and who is to come" (Rev 4:8).

Once again, we must situate ourselves properly before this mystery which draws near. It would be useless to speculate about the moment of the final manifestation of the Lord. That is an old temptation to which troubled societies regularly succumb. Even today many sects set themselves up as prophets of doom. It is not the date of the Parousia but its character which must concern us. It will pronounce judgment on all of history and on our personal lives. In the face of this coming of the Son of Man which no one can foresee or prevent, in the face of this long vigil through the night of this world, it is best to remain always on the alert, to be aware of our responsibility toward the present, and to recognize the eternal significance of every moment.

Paul calls the vigilant Christian to give thanks without ceasing. Thanksgiving is not an expression of smug complacency. With this awareness of what we are not yet and do not yet do, we turn toward the One who is the beginning and the end of all things. We renounce what delays and announce what hastens his coming. Then, like a thorn in the world's flesh, we become a goad to the world's vigilance, triumphing over sleep and stirring up hope: "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: 1st Sunday of Advent. Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/ Psalm 80/
1 Corinthians 1:3-9/ Mark 13:33-37

Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5/ Psalm 122/ Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10/ Psalm 72/ Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle. Romans 10:9-18/ Psalm 19/ Matthew 4:18-22

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6/ Psalm 118/ Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24/ Psalm 27/ Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Memorial of St. Francis Xavier. Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26/ Psalm 147/
Matthew 9:35 -- 10:1, 5A, 6-8

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent. Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Psalm 85/ 2 Peter 3:8-14/
Mark 1:1-8

COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY: \$5,521.10

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: \$2,070.25 Thank you for your generosity.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

9:00 AM: Karl and Barb Wetzel

11:00 AM: Pat and Corky Fleck

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

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church

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Portland, OR 97239

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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., 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

First Sunday of Advent

Mark 13:33-37

We begin the new liturgical year on a note similar to the end of the liturgical year last week: "Be watchful! Be alert!" Once again, we are urged to be prepared for the coming of the Lord. At this time of year, we are usually thinking of the infant Jesus coming at Christmas. But Jesus comes into our lives every day, too. And Jesus will come again at the end of time. During Advent we prepare and watch and wait for Jesus to come in all three ways.

In the Gospel parable, a man leaves his servants in charge of his home, each one with work to do. What is your work or job? What can you do so that your "work" helps prepare the world for the coming of Christ? Jesus comes in surprising ways.

As a family, make an Advent wreath with four candles. As you make the wreath, talk together about what you see that needs to be done to prepare for the coming of Jesus in your home, at your church, in your school, at work, and in the world. Talk about and then choose one thing you can do together to make the world better for Jesus.

The first week, as you light one candle, pray together, "Come Lord Jesus."