

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

The Nativity of the Lord

Staff

Very Reverend Samuel Morehead, Pastor

Reverend Richard Castro Huergo, MC
rrichard@stelizabethdenver.org

Reverend John Ezratty, MC

Lisa McMahan-Griffen, Business Manager
lisa@stelizabethdenver.org

Trey Turner, Maintenance

Mass Times

Monday to Friday: 12:15 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Confession Times

Monday to Friday: 11:40 AM – 12:10 PM

Thursday: 4:20 PM - 5:20 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Thursday: 4:20 PM - 5:20 PM

Spiritual Talk

Thursday: 4:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 AM – 3:00 PM

Spiritual Direction for College Students



<https://calendly.com/fatherrichard/spiritual-direction>

December 25, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Merry Christmas! With great joy Fr. John and I celebrate our first Christmas with the community at St. Elizabeth's. Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

I need to tell you about a Christmas miracle. Wednesday morning, when temperatures got to -15 degrees a water pipe feeding our boiler burst and the boiler automatically shut down. We had to shut down the water and abandon the building. The maintenance company for the boiler said it would take at least two weeks and maybe months to be up and running again.

One of our parishioners, a real guardian angel, put us in touch with a new maintenance company. Staff had met with them earlier in the week for a general assessment. At the encouragement of the parishioner, staff called to see if they would help in this crisis so we could open our doors for Christmas. Amazingly, they brought a welder and in less than 24 hours we were up and running. Truly a gift of the Child Jesus to us!

We also had the blessing late last week of the bronze sculpture "When I was Hungry & Thirsty" finally installed on our front lawn. You may want to read the separate piece about the sculpture in this publication.

I also want to ask you for your prayers for SEEK. As you know, we have 23 students from our Campus that will be attending the conference in St. Louis, MO. I will also go with them as their chaplain. Please, implore the Lord for the spiritual fruit of the conference, especially for our students.

Finally, as you know, last week Ben Taylor and Chris Bonderer, both FOCUS missionaries, left us to continue their ministries on other campuses. They didn't know yet where they were going. Now we know that Chris will be serving at the University of Southern California and Ben at the University of Texas, Austin. We keep them both in our prayers!

May our Lady of Guadalupe intercede for you very powerfully this Christmas Octave.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

1060 St Francis Way, Denver, CO 80204 – Located in the Auraria Campus
info@stelizabethdenver.org – (303) 534-4014 – www.stelizabethdenver.org

Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (Jn 1:14) St. John gives us here probably one of the most beautiful lines of all the Gospels. Today’s mystery of the Nativity of our Lord is a powerful manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation: God has made his dwelling among us!

The Incarnation and the Nativity are mysteries of mercy. “God so loved the world that he gave his only son.” (Jn 3:16) So much love, so much mercy, so much tenderness, the precious heart of God is manifested in a tiny helpless baby.

My favorite Christmas story is, hands down, St. Francis of Assisi and the manger. St. Bonaventure tells us that three years before his death, St. Francis wanted to celebrate the Birth of the Child Jesus with added solemnity in the town of Greccio. Nativity scenes were not popular in the 1200s. St. Francis wanted to start a new tradition and asked the Pope for permission, which he granted.

That Christmas, Francis made ready a manger, some hay, together with an ox and an ass, and found a cave in the woods of Greccio. St. Bonaventure relates the event saying that “the Brethren were called together, the folk assembled, the wood echoed with their voices, and that august night was made radiant and solemn with many bright lights, and with tuneful and sonorous praises. The man of God, filled with tender love, stood before the manger, bathed in tears, and overflowing with joy. Solemn Masses were celebrated over the manger, Francis, the Levite of Christ, chanting the Holy Gospel. Then he preached unto the folk standing round of the Birth of the King in poverty, calling Him, when he wished to name Him, the Child of Bethlehem, by reason of his tender love for Him.”

After giving the homily, St. Francis took into his arms the Baby Jesus doll, and the people gath-

ered at that place saw it come alive in his arms. This is the heart of Christmas: Jesus comes alive to us. We connect with God through the human nature of his Son. At seeing his frailty, poverty and humility, we recognize the “tender mercy of our God” (Lk 1:78).

St. Teresa of Avila says that “God desires that (...) graces must come to us from the hands of Christ, through his most sacred humanity, in which God takes delight.” It is through the humanity of Jesus that we receive great graces. It is in the Gospels and the Eucharist that we get the closest to his humanity.

I challenge each one of you to two things this Christmas. To meditate on the Child Jesus and to receive him with great love and devotion in the Holy Communion.

For the first challenge I invite you to try what St. Ignatius of Loyola calls in the book of the Spiritual Exercises “contemplation.” In this kind of prayer we want to first imagine the Gospel scene as if we were present there. We want to become a servant to the characters and serve them in their needs. Or we can even picture ourselves as one of the characters. For instance, in the Nativity we can picture ourselves as one of the shepherds that came to worship the Child God, or in Epiphany as one of the three kings. Then we want to reflect on each character, to see what they say and consider what they do. Then we want to reflect and see what God is saying to us.

Pro tip: contemplating the Nativity, we can dare with St. Francis to worship the Child Jesus and to beg Mary if she would let us hold him for just a moment!

Finally, Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist with all his mysteries and graces, including the ones of Christmas. Let us receive him and adore him with unspeakable tenderness and love.

When I was Hungry & Thirsty

“When I was Hungry & Thirsty” Statue by world renowned artist Timothy Schmalz was recently installed on the front lawn of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church.

“The statue is inspired by the Gospel of Matthew 25:40 - ‘When I was hungry you fed me’. This sculpture is a visual representation of Charity,” according to Schmalz. He wants his sculpture to impress on us “that we need to see Christ in the poor and the hungry and that we should see our acts of kindness to them as kindness to him.” The artist prayerfully decided that St. Elizabeth of Hungary would be the perfect space and community for his art piece because of St. E’s long history of serving our most vulnerable Denver neighbors. <https://www.sculpturebytps.com/?s=thirsty>

Over a year ago, former Pastoral Associate Laretta Proulx received a phone call “out of the blue” from Schmalz. “Honestly, I was googling him the whole time to see if he was a real person!” Laretta relayed. “He said he had an anonymous donor in Denver that would underwrite it. He felt that this particular statue was the best one for St. Elizabeth’s as it fit with our service to the homeless since the late 1800s. He felt those who walked by it could be brought closer to Christ and to the importance of service to the community.”

On April 24, 2022, the statue was blessed by Bishop Jorge H. Rodríguez, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Denver. While sitting on the ground with Jesus, the attendees were moved by what the statue represented. The dedication of the statue was featured in the May 12, 2022 issue of Denver Catholic Magazine. <https://denver-catholic.org/new-statue-of-jesus-by-renowned-sculptor-blesses-st-elizabeths-in-denver/>



Contributions made by parishioners paid for the installation, and the signage and landscaping that will be done in the spring. We are grateful to parishioner Jim Anthony for building the stone base.

At St. E’s, we are surrounded by the strong influencers who dedicated their lives to serving the poor: St. Elizabeth of Hungary - our patron saint, St. Francis and Franciscans including Father Leo Heinrichs, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. A similar dedication is demonstrated by our Sandwich Line Ministry that feeds an average of 75 people a day – EVERY DAY – at 11 a.m. There are over 100 people on the volunteer list – some serve once a week, some once a month. With that

said, this ministry is always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Business Manager Lisa McMahan-Griffen at 303-534-4014 or lisa@stelizabethdenver.org. Or at Sunday Mass, stop and ask Steve and Dee Perez, who are integral to this ministry, about this amazing community outreach.

Every day our guests are served a cup of homemade soup, two sandwiches, chips, dessert, snacks and a drink.

There is a constant need for plastic bags to bundle the individual lunches and plastic “cottage cheese” type containers to provide a “second helping” of soup for later. Sandwich Line can always use MEN’s clothing such as new underwear, athletic socks, warm coats, hats, hoodies, gloves, blankets, sleeping bags, and boots for the winter season. Your donations can be dropped off at the Greeters’ stations.

We are grateful to Timothy Schmalz for recognizing St. Elizabeth’s commitment to serving others, and his remarkable statue as a beautiful symbol of that service.

Campus Outreach

Campus Outreach activities are suspended for Christmas Break.

Activities will resume on January 17, 2023.

Daily and Sunday Masses will continue normally during the break.

Announcements

Christmas Schedule -

Christmas Eve Mass: Saturday, December 24, 4:00 PM

Christmas Day Mass: Sunday, December 25, 9:00 AM

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God: Sunday, January 1, 9:00 AM

Note: This year there will be no Mass on Saturday, December 31. Daily Masses, Monday through Friday, will continue at regular times.

Liturgical Ministries - Volunteer opportunities for greeters, lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers. Sign up here: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094da5aa23a0fec61-liturg. If you wish to volunteer for substitute cantor contact Fr. Richard.

Prayers of the Faithful - If you have someone you would like prayers for, let Lisa know at lisa@stelizabethdenver.org and we will include the intention in the Prayers of the Faithful for the upcoming Sunday.

Altar Linens - Volunteers needed for weekly washing of Altar Linens. This is one of those "behind the scenes" ministries that allow for an intimate encounter with Jesus. If interested, please contact Fr Richard.

Sandwich Line - Monday and Tuesday crews can still use some help 9am - 12pm. We are in great need of men's shoes and boots - new or used.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stelizabethdenver/>

Youth Group

First Sunday of every month

After Mass through 11:30 AM

Come together for games, activities and formation

All Middle and High School young men and women are welcome!

Hosted by Liz Barreca

NOTE: Youth Group will not meet on the first Sunday in January. Contact Liz for alternate plans.

Financials

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Financial Summary

	YTD Actual 11/2022 **	YTD Budget 11/2022
Offertory, Sunday and Electronic	\$57,823	\$54,430
All Revenue Sources *	\$107,008	\$107,028
All Expenses	\$97,523	\$109,822
Difference	\$9,485	-\$2794

*includes a generous one-time \$25,000 gift and \$15,000 ACA Grant

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Sandwich Line

	YTD Actual 11/2022 **	YTD Budget 11/2022
All Sandwich Line Income	\$10,395	\$17,472
All Sandwich Line Expenses	\$16,337	\$17,473
Difference *	-\$5942	-\$1

*Sandwich Line typically runs a deficit in the fall and then runs in the black through the spring however, Sandwich Line is responsible for more of its overhead costs this year than in previous years. We will re-evaluate allocations at the end of this year.

** Data is raw and unreconciled for the month reporting.

Thank you for your support!!



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stelizabethdenver/>