

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

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January 1, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

A week ago, we were celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, this Sunday we celebrate his Mother. This is such a joyous occasion!

Today we welcome back the FOCUS missionaries that have been with their families for the Christmas break. Tomorrow, early in the morning, we are all departing for St. Louis, MO, for the SEEK conference. The missionaries will be driving the students in vans. I ask you to pray for a safe trip and a deep spiritual experience for all the conference participants.

Step by step, Fr. John and I are getting settled in the second floor of the friary. After buying sheets, pillows and towels, we have now moved on to the kitchen. We are getting some pots and pans, silverware and some small appliances. Also, we are really enjoying our Chapel on the second floor for morning prayers and holy hour. The altar and the stained glass window are breathtaking!

Thank God, and the Blessed Mother's intercession, the boiler is holding up. We are working on a long term solution for our heating situation. Our deepest gratitude for all those who helped us out with it!

On January 27-29 I will be preaching the Spiritual Exercises for for Women. This silent retreat will take place at the Hideaway Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, CO. You can find more information about this wonderful retreat in the back of this bulletin.

Finally, a friend of ours has prepared a bag with patron saints for 2023. You are welcome to pick one at random and get to know a new saint over the year.

May our Lady of Guadalupe "mother" you real well you this new year!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC



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

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

When Karol Józef Wojtyła was 9 years old, he lost his own mother, and he was raised by a very devout father. From an early age, St. John Paul had a beautiful devotion to our Blessed Mother as mother, and he relied on her maternal care, protection and encouragement. At his parish Church he would pray devotedly to the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He and his father made pilgrimages to the nearby shrine of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, particularly on the feast of the Assumption. The Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa with the icon depicting the Blessed Mother holding the Child Jesus had a profound influence. Since the 1300s, the Polish people have venerated this icon and invoked the prayers of our Blessed Mother for her maternal protection, especially in difficult times. His devotion to Our Lady of Czestochowa was evident during his pontificate: On his first trip to Poland in 1979 after his election as Pope, St. John Paul visited the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. He said, “The call of a son of Poland to the Cathedral of St. Peter contains an evident and strong link with this holy place, with this Shrine of great hope: totus tuus (“I am all yours”), I had whispered in prayer so many times before this Image” (June 4, 1979).

St. John Paul II never hid the influence of a great French saint on his strong Marian devotion. As a young worker at the Solvay factory during World War II, he discovered Mary’s role by reading True Devotion to Mary, by St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort. Karol Wojtyla grew up close to Mary from his earliest childhood, but when he entered the seminary, he thought it might be better to take a step away from her. He admitted later that he feared that his devotion to her would take away from the adoration due to Christ.

“But thanks to Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort,” he wrote in 2004 in the Letter to the

Religious of the Montfortian Families, “I understood that authentic devotion to the Mother of God is truly Christocentric (...). Reading True Devotion marked a turning point in my life. I say a ‘turning point’ although it is a long inner journey that coincided with my clandestine preparation for the priesthood. I realized (...) something fundamental. It happened that the devotion of my childhood and even my adolescence to the Mother of Christ gave way to a new attitude, a devotion coming from the depths of my faith, as from the very heart of the Trinitarian and Christological reality.”

The motto *Totus Tuus*, inscribed on St. John Paul’s papal coat of arms, is directly inspired by the spirituality of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort. This is what he confirms in that same letter of 2004: “These two words express total belonging to Jesus through Mary: ‘Tuus totus ego sum, and omnia mea tua sunt,’ writes St. Louis-Marie, and he translates it: ‘I am all yours, and all that I have belongs to you, O my lovable Jesus, through Mary, your holy Mother’ (Treatise of True Devotion to Mary, no. 233). This saint’s teaching had a profound influence on my Marian devotion and my own life.”

St. John Paul II found in the Blessed Virgin Mary a true mother. He threw himself in her arms and let Mary put him close to her Son. This is something we might want to learn and imitate from St. John Paul and from many other saints: having a trustful, tender devotion to our Mother in heaven.

The beautiful hymn “Ave Maris Stella” from the ninth century says in one of its stanzas “Monstra Te Esse Matrem,” which means “Show yourself to be our Mother.” This is a prayer we can say today and every single day of our lives. We need Mary to “mother” us, to protect, intercede, and brings us closer and closer to Jesus.

December in Pictures

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration on Campus (Dec 12)



Christmas Eve



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

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.

Spiritual Exercises

Silent Retreat for Women

January 27-29

Hideaway Retreat Center, 3805 Walker Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Phone : 858-768-0872

Email: colorado@spiritualexercises.net

<https://www.mileschristi.org/event/colorado-springs-co-3/>

The Spiritual Exercises are a weekend silent retreat for women 16+ with spiritual talks and time for personal meditation.

The retreats are preached by the priests of Miles Christi, according to the method and the principles of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Apart from the spiritual talks and time for prayer, each day there will also be Holy Mass, Holy Rosary, and opportunity for confessions.

This retreat will start on Friday at 4 pm and conclude on Sunday at 5 pm.

As experience has shown throughout the centuries, the Spiritual Exercises have proven to be an excellent means of conversion and sanctification. In addition, the Magisterium of the Church has commended them numerous times.



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