

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Third Sunday of Lent

Staff

Very Reverend Samuel Morehead, Pastor

Reverend Richard Castro Huergo, MC
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Reverend John Ezratty, MC

Lisa McMahan-Griffen, Business Manager
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Trey Turner, Maintenance

March 12, 2023

Mass Times

Monday to Friday: 12:15 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Confession Times

Monday to Friday: 11:40 AM – 12:10 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 AM – 3:00 PM

Spiritual Direction for College Students



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

Dear brothers and sisters,

This week our painters continued making progress. They took care of five more rooms. We are looking sharp!

Some of the paint came off the wall in my office and we had to test for lead. Thankfully, the test came out negative and we will continue with that office next week.

As we launch the Lenten fundraising campaign to lessen our deficit, I have been stuffing envelopes like crazy and I am grateful to the students who have aided me in this work. God willing, the letters will be mailed early next week.

I have also been cooking a little bit. I've prepared my famous flan for today's coffee and donuts, and I'd wager that the flan might be better than the donuts :)!

Our ministry to the girls on our campus continues to grow. We have more of them involved in Bible Studies and attending daily Mass, and a small group of them has also started to meet for discipleship with some of the missionaries. Please, keep them in your prayers.

We had another installment of our talks on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on Thursday. On previous occasions, we had talked about the Gifts in general and the Gifts of Fear of the Lord, Fortitude, and Piety, in particular. This week we studied the other four Gifts in general. On subsequent Thursdays, we will talk about the rest. You can find the PowerPoint presentations on our website.

May our Lady of Guadalupe aid us in our Lenten conversion to the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

Today we read one of the most tender passages of the Gospels. Jesus shows the Samaritan woman gentleness and patience in the gradual revelation of his love and mercy.

As the conversation develops, the Samaritan woman addresses Jesus with different titles and these titles mark the stages in her conversion.

The first stage is mockery. Jesus starts the conversation by asking for a drink. The woman answers with mocking surprise and refers to Jesus as Jew (v. 9). This response also reflects the irregularity of the encounter. For two reasons, Jesus should not speak to her – first, she is a woman and second, she is a Samaritan.

In the second stage, after Jesus speaks to her about the gift of God and the living water, the woman shows a certain openness by using the title “sir” (v. 11).

There is a specific contrast between the first and the second title—the first mocking title changes to a more respectful one. Over the course of the interaction, the Samaritan woman grows in respect for Jesus.

In the third stage, after Christ tells the Samaritan woman that she has had five husbands, and he whom she now has is not her husband, she calls Jesus a prophet. Over the course of the previous two stages, she began to let down her guard towards a stranger, but now in the third she begins to suspect who Jesus really is. She wants to test Jesus by asking him about the place of true worship (v. 20).

This is not yet a final confession of faith in Christ, but she is on the right path.

We arrive then at the fourth stage - Messiah. Jesus answers the woman elevating her to another level: “Woman, believe me” (v. 21). This response is an appeal to the woman’s faith.

Christ explains that the time is coming soon

when true worshipers will worship the Father in “spirit and truth” (v. 21 and 23). He also tells her that “salvation is from the Jews” (v. 22).

The woman’s response implies an even more profound suspicion of who Jesus is. She says, “I know that the Messiah is coming; when he comes, he will show us all things” (v. 25). The use of the term Messiah takes her growth in the understanding of Jesus a step further.

Christ’s answer is astonishing: “I am he, the one speaking with you” (v. 26). This absolute use of the expression “I Am” is very important. This expression is always used in the Old Testament to refer to the living presence of God, who makes himself known among his people.

The disciples arrive, and the woman goes to the city and calls people in the town to see Jesus asking, “Can this be the Christ?” (v. 29). Her recognition of Jesus has moved another step. Her faith is like that of Nathanael (John 1:48-51); she believed because of Jesus’ insight into her life.

Finally, we arrive at the final stage. While the Samaritan woman goes to the city, Jesus speaks with his disciples. And then, we can see two moments in the conversion of the citizens: first, they believe because of the word of the woman (v. 39), and after that, they believe because they heard for themselves. So, they give Jesus the title: “Savior of the world” (v. 42). This is the last stage and, at the same time, the full recognition of Christ’s claims: “I Am.”

In the stages of faith of the Samaritan woman, we can see stages of any conversion and how Jesus mercifully approaches everyone, no matter how far we might be from him.

Let us trust in the gentleness of Christ, who invites us to turn our hearts back to him in this Lenten season. With a heart filled with patience, compassion, and mercy, Jesus is waiting for us. Let’s throw ourselves into his loving arms.

Meet Alexander Vazquez

Hi, my name is Alexander Vazquez, and I am a FOCUS missionary. I am originally from New York! Before accepting this position in which I felt a pull to by God, I was studying at the University of Iowa State and recently just graduated last December with a degree in Spanish and Mathematics. It was over the span of four and a half years that I learned I was made for more and to share the Gospel. I do also have to preface that while growing up, I got the opportunity to live in three different countries, those being: The United States, Ecuador and France. This made me develop the skill to learn different languages and I do speak these fluently!

Faith is very important for me. Growing up I was baptized, received first communion and confirmation by the Catholic Church. I did not know how much of an impact this would have in my life in the long run and where I am today trusting in God's providence. As a kid everything seemed harder because I was not praying consistently or receiving the sacraments at a consistent level.

Iowa State was a time for growth for me, and this is also where I first encountered a FOCUS missionary who invited me to join a purity group and a bible study my freshman year. It was the hardest thing someone had asked me to do in a while, being vulnerable with others. This led into having fruitful friendships, centered around the Lord, and sharing our daily lives with Him. This then led to having opportunities to also be a leader at the church and slowly but surely, I was

able to be part of a worship band singing for the students. As well as being more involved at mass by being a eucharistic minister or even living at the church as a peer minister. It only takes one invite to follow Christ and for you to say YES.

I accepted to be moved to Denver and share what I have learned with others about my faith. It is a leap of faith in itself, not knowing what the circumstances would have looked like. I do live with ten other missionaries and it has been difficult at times, but we help to make each other grow in whatever we see from one another. Serving at St. Elizabeth of Hungary has been nothing



Alexander Vazquez

but good for me, as I have been learning how to be more present at mass, while altar serving and maybe sometimes, reading the Word of God, or even learning how to incense.

Enough about me, one of the main reasons I am here is so that I can continue growing in my faith and have the opportunity to share the Gospel with my new community and especially the college and university students, inspiring

and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship, and friendships in which they lead others to do the same. These can happen through bible studies or even spending time with them and sharing the joy of how my life is going.

Finally, I would just like to say that I have felt so welcome the moment I came here and could not be more thankful for the community of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and how I have been involved already so easily in it.

Campus Outreach

Sports

Mondays: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Free Lunch & Talk

Thursdays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
(St. Elizabeth's)

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(St. Elizabeth's)

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 6

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 7

12:00 PM Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 8

8:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 9

9:00 AM Easter Day Mass

Easter Egg Hunt following Mass

Announcements

Liturgical Ministries - Volunteer opportunities for greeters, lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers. Sign up here: <https://www.stelizabethdenver.org/ministries>. 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.

Safety Associate Weekend Paid Position Open - Maintains safe and sanitary conditions on our Sandwich Line. 9am - 12pm Saturday and 10am - 12pm Sunday. Contact hr@stelizabethdenver.org if interested.

Bible Study

“Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life”

This study looks at Jesus—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation.

Every Sunday after Mass
starting the First Sunday of Lent

This is a 10-week Bible Study. It will start the first Sunday of Lent. We will take a break for Easter Sunday.

We hope this activity can be a means to deepen our faith while also getting to know each other better and be an opportunity for fellowship.



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