

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Staff

Very Reverend Samuel Morehead, Pastor

Reverend Richard Castro Huergo, MC
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Reverend John Ezratty, MC

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March 19, 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,

Last Sunday, I made some flan with dulce de leche and cream. It was a great hit! Because of public approval, I might do it again for Easter.

Our ministry to college students is rapidly growing. The FOCUS missionaries have started a new program on Campus called “Discipleship”. Through this program, the missionaries meet weekly with the students and help them go deeper in their spiritual lives.

So far, nine male and three female students have joined the program. I’m very excited about this program and expect great spiritual fruit from it. Please keep this intention in your prayers.

Last week we also celebrated St. Patrick’s day on Thursday since most students don’t have class on Fridays. The missionaries decorated the dining room and cooked corned beef and cabbage. We had a great time!

Finally, today, March 19th, is the feast day of St. Joseph. This year, since it is on a Sunday, we will celebrate his Solemnity on Monday. Let me just say that St. Joseph is a remarkable saint. He is, indeed, the greatest of the saints after the Blessed Mother.

It will suffice to understand this, to consider that God the Father entrusted to St. Joseph his two greatest treasures, Jesus and Mary. Let us then entrust ourselves to his fatherly protection!

May you rest under the protection of our Lady of Guadalupe.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

In 1999, Dafne Gutierrez who was 13 years old was diagnosed with a medical condition that damaged her optical nerves. She took medications received several treatments and even underwent many surgeries. However, in 2015 she completely lost her sight. She said she could look directly at the sun and would see nothing. Her doctors declared her blindness to be “permanent and medically irreversible.”

In January 2016, the first-class relics of St. Charbel were visiting her parish in Phoenix at St Joseph Maronite Catholic Church. Being the mother of three, she greatly desired to regain her sight to better care for her children.

Dafne, her husband, and her children decided to attend church and venerate the relics. Less than 72 hours after being blessed with the relics, her sight was completely restored to 20/20 vision. The remarkable and sudden healing was confirmed that day by an ophthalmologist and later by several other physicians.

Dafne regained her sight through the intercession of St. Charbel by the power of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Our physical faculty of sight is so essential to our life that we see physical blindness as a great evil. That evil and how unlikely one would be to recover from it demonstrates the gravity of today’s Gospel miracle.

St. John writes, “It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind.” Another translation reads, “Since the beginning of time, it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.”

Several Fathers of the Church explicate the phrase “since the beginning of time” by making a parallel to the book of Genesis. They see Christ as the creator who gives new sight with clay, just as man was made out of clay. He also mixes the

clay with his own saliva, he being the Word that created all things.

Another noteworthy point the Fathers see is the parallel of the waters of the fountain of Siloam with the waters of Baptism. Christ could have easily cured him simply by speaking one word. Yet, he prefers to teach us with these signs by pointing to a deeper spiritual meaning.

We see a drastic contrast between the man born blind, whose sight was restored, and the Pharisees, who were spiritually blind. Today’s Gospel spends more time telling us about their blindness than the miracle itself.

In the case of the Pharisees, their spiritual blindness is a consequence of pride, envy, and hardness of heart. Jesus again and again tries to reach out to them. He shows them miracles, explains the law of love, admonishes them, and even explicitly points out their blindness, but nothing prompts their change.

The only way to truly regain our spiritual sight is first to acknowledge our blindness. Unless we approach Christ with humility, he will not heal us. Not because he doesn’t care or he doesn’t have the power to do it, but because he respects our freedom. This respect is shown in his interaction with the Pharisees .

Lent is a time of conversion --- an invitation to regain our spiritual sight. Jesus invites us to go deep and explore our sins, failings, and defects. He is the light of the world; he wants to restore light and sight in us.

A great way to accomplish this during Lent is to make a good confession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, together with the Anointing of the Sick, is a Sacrament of healing. Let’s approach it with confidence and joy, knowing we will encounter Christ, our light.

Meet Allan Santa Isabel

Hello. My name is Allan M. Santa Isabel and I first knew I wanted to be a missionary when I did Summer Projects 2021 in Georgia which is an intensive summer faith formation program with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students or FOCUS. When I was there, I was given the privilege to disciple three students, whose names I will change for confidentiality, Mark, Anthony and Bruce. These three men hold a dear space in my heart, because not only did God use me to change their lives, but God used them to change mine.

As background, Mark was someone who was on fire for the faith and had a deep love for God, but he was in need of some guidance. Anthony was a man who knew the Lord intimately, but deeply struggled with same-sex attraction. Finally, Bruce was a solid man who came from a troubled past and struggled deeply in life. When the summer began, I remember looking all three of these men in the eye and telling them, “If you allow it, God can deeply change the hearts of all of you, but I can’t do it for you. My goal is NOT to make you rely more dependently on me, but to make you rely more heavily on the Lord. The Lord is in love with you and wants to make you into a Saint.” Then I begged them the question, “Is Sainthood something you’re striving for?”

Because if its not I can’t do anything for you.”

As we walked together in the discipleship, we all struggled, but we grew a bond of brotherhood like I’ve never experienced before. Mark was someone who has a great sense of humor and enjoys spending quality time, so him and I would go out to diners, walks and more. Anthony, was an athlete so for our time together I worked out

with him about three times a week and then went on a lot of mini adventures afterwards. Meanwhile, Bruce was someone who was simple just grab coffee or a meal and just talk! I got to know these men and walk with them. At this time, I couldn’t help but be reminded of what the Lord said in Scripture, “Go therefore, making disciples of all nations” and again in Scripture, “Come, and follow Me.”

In the end of the summer, all of these men had a fire lit within them by the Holy Spirit and an apostolic zeal to do the Lord’s work. Mark found a lot of clarity in his life and decided that he wanted to join seminary where he is currently studying in Texas. Anthony came to learn more about Church teaching and same-sex attraction and began to embrace what the Lord want for his life which was chastity. So, to spread the Gospel message he became a missionary and joined a Catholic organization that discusses chastity. Bruce gained a lot of healing through the

Lord’s providence and he decided to study at a prestigious Catholic school to learn more about the faith to be able to go out and spread it.

These men deeply changed my life and after the Lord had used me to walk with them, then it was more than clear that I what I wanted and desired more than anything was to become a FOCUS missionary. If the Lord could use me to make such an impact in the lives of these three men, then what more could He do with me if I decided to walk with men for the next three years? My name is Allan M. Santa Isabel and this is why I chose to become a FOCUS missionary which is to fulfill the words of our Lord, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”



Alexander Vazquez

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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