

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Staff

Very Reverend Samuel Morehead, Pastor

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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

Monday to Friday: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 AM – 3:00 PM

Spiritual Direction for College Students



November 12, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last Thursday, we received the visit of Nicole Cavey from the AVI Project.

We watched a very inspiring video (<https://youtu.be/ACCN7A-7RY?si=QDYF4aihPqVneihU>) with the students. The video features the story of Emily, a young woman who found herself unexpectedly pregnant as a college freshman after a traumatic experience - her shock at that first positive pregnancy test at eight months pregnant, her relationship with the women who helped her through it all, and her courageous decision to choose adoption.

It's a beautiful adoption success story, told by the birth mother as well as the adoptive parents whose lives were changed forever by the gift of a child.

Emily's message to college students struggling with an unexpected pregnancy is this: know that you're brave, you're strong, you're going to be okay, and you are not alone.

College students in this situation can call or text the AVI Project team at 720-386-6009 to learn more about their options and the many financial, medical, and emotional support resources available to them. It's completely confidential.

The Avi Project trains female volunteers to walk alongside students like Emily facing unplanned pregnancy. They focus solely on the college campus to provide the one-on-one support they need.

Yesterday, we had our first game night wholly organized by our college students. There were card games and video games. We were so entertained that the gathering lasted much longer than planned. Brother Francis enjoyed playing UNO and other card games with the students. I learned to play Super Smash Bros. After two hours of practice, I won a match! Thank you, Hanna and Maddison, for organizing this bonding activity!

May our Lady of Guadalupe keep you close to her Son, dwelling in her most blessed womb.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huerco, MC

St. Therese of Lisieux is one of the most popular saints of our time. One reason for this is how approachable she seems to us. She is aware of her weakness but so open to the Father's mercy and love for her. Her littleness, far from discouraging her, gives St. Therese a holy boldness in her trust for Jesus.

We read in her autobiography, "Really, I am far from being a saint, and what I have just said is proof of this; instead of rejoicing, for example, at my aridity, I should attribute it to my little fervor and lack of fidelity; I should be desolate for having slept (for seven years) during my hours of prayer and my thanksgivings after Holy Communion; well, I am not desolate. I remember that little children are as pleasing to their parents when they are asleep as well as when they are wide awake; I remember, too, that when they perform operations, doctors put their patients to sleep. Finally, I remember, 'The Lord knows our weakness, that he is mindful that we are but dust and ashes' (Psalm 102:14)."

I find this Saint's words so consoling since I have had my fair share of sleeping during prayer. It is somewhat discouraging when you are trying to pray, and you are overcome with sleep. The fact is that even though St. Therese was trying her very best, she was falling short. It is the same for the prudent virgins in today's Gospel. They were prudent, but they also were weak. But their weakness was not an obstacle to getting to the wedding feast.

Our first lesson today is not to get discouraged because of venial sins. Venial sin is, unfortunately, part of the human condition. Only Jesus and the Blessed Mother are entirely exempt from it.

God delights in us even if we have sinned. We

don't need to hide from his face. He counts on our sins for our humility and sanctification. He wants us to experience the power of his mercy.

We will all fall asleep sometimes, even if we try very hard to stay awake. But that is not actually a problem. As I said, the Lord counts on it.

In fact, the most essential thing when talking about venial sin is to keep fighting against it without giving up. If we are constantly struggling against venial sin, and at times, we fall, that will not stop us from progressing towards holiness.

The problem comes when we give up, stop fighting, and give in to venial sin even without making any effort against it. That is dangerous because we could get used to it, become tepid in our prayer life, and fall into bigger sins.

The second lesson for today is about sanctifying grace. The oil for the lamps is our friendship with God, the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity in our souls, and the love of God that we have received in Baptism. Without that love, without that friendship, we cannot get into the wedding feast.

We can lose the state of sanctifying grace by falling into a sin of serious matter with full knowledge and full consent.

If we ever fall into this kind of sin, let us throw ourselves immediately into the merciful arms of God the Father by making a good Confession.

Even in this sad case, let us not lose heart. Jesus died so that we may have life. His mercy is looking for us. Let us give him the joy of being a vessel of his loving mercy.

The AVI Project & Game Night



Campus Outreach

Sports

Mondays: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Free Cookout & Talk

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

Eucharistic Adoration



Monday to Friday: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(St. Elizabeth's)

SCAN to Sign-up for
Eucharistic Adoration

Annual Seminaries' Appeal

This weekend, all Catholics are being asked to support the Annual Seminaries' Appeal.

During this year of the Eucharist, your gift is an important investment in the future of our Church while also encouraging our seminarians on their daily path towards the priesthood.

Please visit
archden.org/futurepriests
to donate today.

Thank you.

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.

Sandwich Line - We need volunteers every day of the week, 9am - 12pm. We are in great need of men's shoes and boots - new or used.

Book of the Dead

**During November
we invite you to include
your deceased love ones
in our Book of the Dead**

We will pray for them
at the prayers of the faithful
every Sunday during November.



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