

# St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

*A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception*

## First Sunday of Advent

### Staff

Very Reverend Samuel Morehead, Pastor

Reverend Richard Castro Huergo, MC  
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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

### 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



December 3, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we approach the end of the Semester, we had several very well-attended events for our students. On Friday, we had a Men's Night for our students. I gave the first talk. I talked about how to keep your faith alive during Christmas Break. My talk gave some practical advice, such as having a baseline prayer routine: morning offering, night prayer, and a 15-minute meditation. It is also crucial to keep challenging the intellect with good Catholic content, avoid falling into old bad habits, surround yourself with good, wholesome friends, attend Sunday Mass, and make a good Confession for Advent.

Yesterday, Saturday, we had a Christmas Party, which 20 students, the missionaries, Brother Francis, and I attended. We started the night with Adoration and the singing of Vespers. This is our first time signing Vespers as a community. It was a wonderful experience.

After Adoration, we decorated Christmas cookies and had a gingerbread house competition. I was very impressed by the three groups that participated. They did a fantastic job! We also played games and had lots of time for fellowship.

Next week, we will also have a Women's Night. The theme will be "joyful expectation."

Also, Celia and Ines are graduating this month. We will celebrate a graduation Mass on Wednesday and have a big party on Thursday at lunch. They are both refusing to give speeches during the party, but we still have four days to convince them. Congratulations to Celia and Ines!

Finally, please support our students Dany and Israel with your prayers and presence, if you can. They will join the Catholic Church and receive Confirmation and First Communion on Friday. We will celebrate at the Friary after Mass.

May our Lady of Guadalupe, herself expecting the God Child, prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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# Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

I distinctly recall that I would have a joyful expectation for my birthday when I was a boy. Every day before the big event, I would ask my mom how many days remained until my birthday. It was important to me to select the kind of cake I wanted. My favorite is “rojel;” google it! Another important thing was to see what friends I would invite to the party. And, of course, I was also looking forward to the gifts :)

But I had an even bigger expectation for my First Holy Communion. I was counting the days a month in advance and looking forward to receiving Jesus. I even remember being so excited that I developed a stomach ache.

I joyfully expected other events throughout my life, such as receiving the Habit of Miles Christi, my Perpetual Profession as a Religious, and my Priestly Ordination.

Indeed, it is a fact of life that we are constantly looking at the future. Although sometimes we dread what the future holds, other times there are joyful occasions to look forward to.

Regarding religious professions and ordinations, the Church asks us to prepare with a five-day retreat. A good retreat helps us to get our souls ready to receive the graces proper to these occasions.

In the case of Easter and Christmas, something similar happens. As these are the greatest feasts of the liturgical calendar, we ought to prepare with long retreats, Lent, and Advent.

With the first Sunday of Advent, we start our preparatory retreat for Christmas. Today's Gospel gives us a concrete directive for our retreat: watch.

To watch is to be attentive to what is in and around us. In the case of Advent, first, we should watch in our interior. We should assess how

ready we are to receive Christ in Christmas and what we should change to better prepare for it. In this sense, it is highly advisable to make a good confession during Advent, ensuring we open our hearts to the infinite mercy of the Lord, who will gladly cleanse us.

To watch is to stay aware of the season we live in. We want to keep focused on Advent and the mystery of the Incarnation. For that, we must avoid being too distracted or concerned with gifts, parties, travel, etc.

To watch is also to have our hearts set on the prize, the Incarnation, the God Child, and his parents. How sad if we forgot about Christ at Christmas. It is so bad when people say “Happy Holidays” instead of Merry Christmas. What a tragedy to reduce the profound reality of the personal love of the Trinity for each one of us to a simple goodwill between people or Santa bringing gifts. Don't get me wrong; giving gifts is fine, but that is not the heart of Christmas.

To watch is also starting to rejoice right now. Advent is a season of hope and rejoicing in the imminence of the coming of the Savior. That is why, right away, we decorate our homes with Nativity Scenes, lights, and trees.

To watch is also to pray, asking incessantly with the Prophets of the Old Testament for the coming of the Messiah. “O come, o come, Emmanuel!” I highly recommend you reflect daily on the Mass readings for Advent. They are an excellent way of entering into the mystery of the Incarnation step by step. Praying with these Scriptures will increase your desire for the coming of Christ in your hearts.

As an ancient hymn says, “Drop down dew, you heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One!”

# Student Christmas Party



## 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

## 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](mailto: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.



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

## Christmas Break

**December 11 – January 15**  
*No Adoration during Christmas Break*  
Regular Mass schedule  
except for December 24 and 25  
Regular Confessions schedule  
except for January 1-5

**December 24**  
Sunday Mass: 9 AM  
Christmas Eve Mass: 4 PM

**December 25**  
Christmas Day Mass: 9 AM

**January 1-5**  
Regular Mass Schedule  
No confessions



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

A PASTORAL LETTER BY  
ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL J. AQUILA, S.T.L.

## That They Might Have Life

Read Archbishop Aquila's latest Pastoral Letter. It boldly addresses the detrimental impact of recreational marijuana and other drug use on individuals, families, and society at large.

SCAN TO READ



[archden.org/archbishop/writings](http://archden.org/archbishop/writings)