

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Second Sunday of Advent

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



December 10, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

We have had a hectic week with three momentous events: Graduation Party, Women's Night, and Confirmations.

We celebrated Celia and Ines, as they will be walking this upcoming week, and we wanted all missionaries and students to participate in the festivities. On Wednesday, Fr. Martin offered a Mass for the graduates. In it, he gave a beautiful homily for those ending their undergraduate studies. After the Mass, we took some pictures in front of the Church.

On Thursday, we had the actual graduation party. Joseph was in charge of decorating, and he did an outstanding job. Celia and Ines gave some very heartfelt words and received a gift from the community. The party's highlight was probably a series of video messages from last year's missionaries compiled by Hannah. Great job!

That same evening on that same day, we had Women's Night. I started us off with a talk on "Joyfully Expecting Jesus With Mary." We discussed preparing ourselves for Christmas by accompanying and walking with Mary, connecting with her in her expectation of Jesus. We discussed how to long for Christ with love, being watchful in prayer, and exultant in his praise. Then, Hannah gave another talk connecting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary to the theme of joyful waiting. After that, the ladies had time for small groups and crafts.

The grand finale of the week were the Confirmations. Israel and Dany were received in the Church, Confirmed, and received their first Holy Communion. Lots of people were able to attend the ceremony. Andy and Sydney were in charge of the organ and the singing. The ceremony was lovely, with many altar servers, outstanding music, and incense.

Afterward, we had a wonderful time at the party in the friary. Israel, Dany, and their family cooked delicious tacos! Several of the students were able to attend the luncheon. Congratulations, Dany and Israel!

May our Lady of Guadalupe always keep us close to her son.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

In ancient times, a preparation process was involved when a king or a dignitary planned to visit a town or city. The roads leading to the city would be improved. They would be cleared of obstacles such as rocks, fallen trees, or debris. Any damage to the road, such as potholes or erosion, would be repaired to provide a stable and comfortable surface for the king's entourage.

Valleys or low-lying areas along the route might be filled in to create a more level pathway. This leveling process aimed to make the journey as smooth as possible. In some cases, hills and inclines along the road might be flattened or partially excavated to make the ascent and descent easier for the king and the procession. All this effort was made as a gesture of honor and respect for the visiting dignitary.

This Sunday, the Church presents St. John the Baptist as a model for Advent. "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" St. Mark is here quoting from Is 40:3. That is our first reading for today.

Isiah further explains, "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley (Is 40:4-5)."

A few days ago, I found the following petition in the liturgy of the hours: "Bring low the mountains of our pride, and fill up the valleys of our weakness." I think this is an excellent explanation of what making mountains low and filling up valleys mean.

We aim to "clear the path" for our King. In this path, we find two significant obstacles, among others: pride and weakness.

To bring low the mountain of our pride, St. John the Baptist invites us to humility. "One might-

er than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals."

In other words, the Second Person of the Trinity takes on a complete human nature in the Incarnation, and that Person manifests himself in poverty and humility in his Nativity. Therefore, to approach this mystery, we must grow near it with a deep sense of awe. The Son of God becomes the son of Mary. God, who is infinite, takes on a finite humanity.

To fill in the valleys of our weakness symbolizes our low points, vulnerabilities, and shortcomings. These may include areas of moral weakness, personal struggles, or places we may be prone to failure.

We want to open up these areas of weakness to the mercy of the Lord. First, by asking for forgiveness for sins and experiencing freedom in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And second, by trusting in the infinite mercy of the Lord, throwing ourselves in the loving arms of our Father.

Humility and trust is a shortcut to holiness. In St. Therese's words, "We are living now in an age of inventions, and we no longer have to take the trouble of climbing stairs, for, in the homes of the rich, an elevator has replaced these very successfully. I wanted to find an elevator which would raise me to Jesus, for I am too small to climb the rough stairway of perfection. I searched, then, in the Scriptures for some sign of this elevator, the object of my desires, and I read these words coming from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom: 'Whoever is a little one, let him come to me.' And so I succeeded."

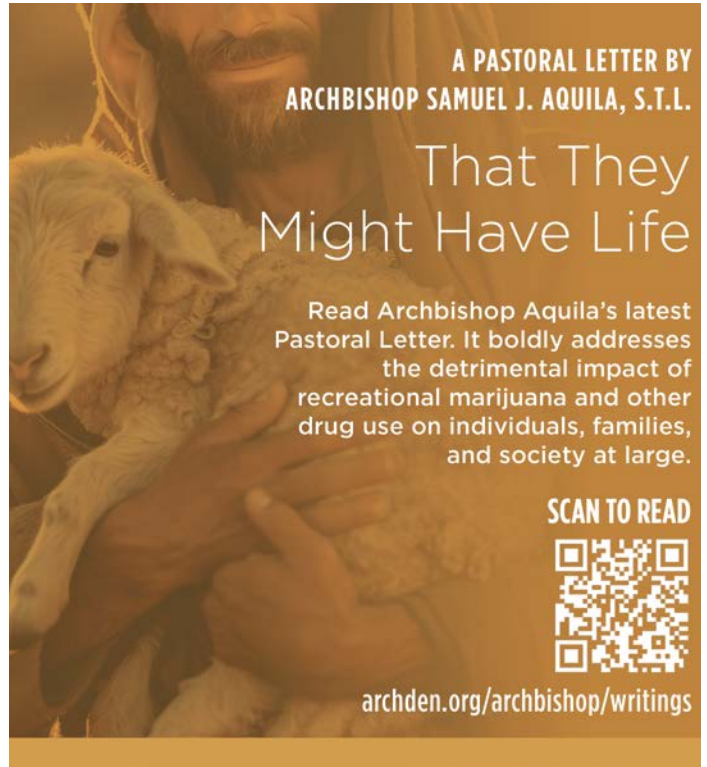
Let's work on being little this Advent so that the Lord will find our hearts ready to welcome him. Then, he will do great things in us.

Ines and Celia's Graduation



Campus Outreach

Campus outreach
activities
will resume
on January 15th




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

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.



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/>