

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

The Nativity of the Lord

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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 24, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

Merry Christmas! The great solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is finally here. I pray that each of you receives copious gifts of love, peace, and joy from the hands of the Child Jesus.

Last Thursday, December 21, we celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of Dee and Steve Perez. We had our Church filled with family and friends. Fr. Mike presided the Mass and gave a beautiful homily.

I am personally grateful to Dee and Steve for their dedication to the ministry of the Sandwich Line. They are the pillars of this work of love for our friends in the street. May God bless them for their generosity!

The semester we have just ended has been very blessed regarding our ministry to the Auraria Campus. We doubled the amount of students frequenting St. Elizabeth's.

Our missionaries and student leaders did a tremendous job leading bible studies. We had these studies for men and women.

We also had several significant events such as Adoration five times a week, free lunch and talk on Thursdays, the visit of the Sisters of Life and of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, a Camping Trip for the young men, a tea party for the young women, a party to promote the SEEK conference, Friendsgiving, Game Night, Christmas Party, Graduation Party, Confirmations, First Communions, among others.

We are also taking 26 students to the FOCUS SEEK Conference in St. Louis, MO, the first week of January. More than 40 of us will attend, including students, missionaries, and priests. The number has doubled from last year.

Please consider contributing to St. Elizabeth's towards our ministry to the College Students and our friends in the street. Scan the QR code to the right to donate.

May our Lady of Guadalupe teach us how to experience the tender love of the Child Jesus for us.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Richard, MC



Donate Now!

1060 St Francis Way, Denver, CO 80204 – Located in the Auraria Campus
info@stelizabethdenver.org – (303) 534-4014 – www.stelizabethdenver.org

Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

On Christmas Eve, 800 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi organized the first live Nativity scene in Greccio, a town located 55 miles south of Assisi in Italy. At St. Elizabeth's, we have a beautiful stained glass window commemorating this momentous event in the life of St. Francis and the whole Church.

Last Wednesday, in his weekly Catechesis, Pope Francis talked about the Greccio Nativity as a school of simplicity and joy. The Holy Father says that "the Nativity scene was created to bring us back to what matters: to God who comes to dwell among us," to be our Emmanuel (Cf. Mt 1:23). This is the heart of Christmas.

Our Pope invites us to be amazed at the Nativity scene and contemplate its mystery. As he put it, St. Francis of Assisi wanted to "arouse amazement through the Nativity scene, at the extreme humility of the Lord, at the hardships he suffered in the poor grotto of Bethlehem for love of us."

If we don't approach Christmas Eve with amazement, we will stay at a basic level; our faith will be shallow. An attitude of awe is essential so that Christmas does not become for us just the remembrance of a historical fact or a beautiful tradition of our grandparents.

Pope Francis said the Nativity scene is a "school of simplicity." When contemplating the scene of the birth of our Lord, evangelical simplicity shines, poverty is praised, and humility is related. This simplicity collides with the modern Christmas mentality, where consumerism corrodes its meaning.

Let us take a break from the shopping frenzy and contemplate Jesus's birth. During Christmas day, let us dedicate some time to prayer, even for only 15 minutes, and just look at Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the animals, the poor cave, the shepherds, and the angels.

It's so easy to get busy and absorbed by the gifts, the celebrations, and everything else. The message of simplicity invites us to consider the "one thing necessary," which is God's love in this beautiful mystery.

According to our Pope, the Nativity scene is also a "school of joy." Joy is a fruit of contemplating the Nativity scene because in that place, "one tangibly touches the nearness of Jesus, the tenderness of God, who does not leave us alone, but consoles us."

This joy is different from having fun. Having fun can be an expression of joy, but often, we have fun without joy, making noise, but without deep meaning. Let's make sure this Christmas we celebrate not just the fact that we are together, or that we are on a break, or that we have good food. These things are good, but our Christmas would be very shallow if we forget why we are celebrating.

Joy is the fruit of experiencing God's closeness, tenderness, and compassion at Christmas. If we look with attention to the Nativity scene, we will find these three attitudes of God towards us. This experience will help us to live our everyday lives with authentic joy.

Pope Francis reminded us that "the Nativity scene is like a small well from which to draw the nearness of God, the source of hope and joy. The Nativity scene is like a living Gospel, a domestic Gospel."

Tonight, tomorrow, and throughout the whole Christmas octave, let us spend time in contemplation of the Nativity scene, in amazement of God's love, tenderness, and closeness. Let us sit with the Lord in his blessed birth and allow our hearts to feel his tenderness.

Last Semester in Images



Friendsgiving



Christmas Cookie Party



Confirmations



Graduations



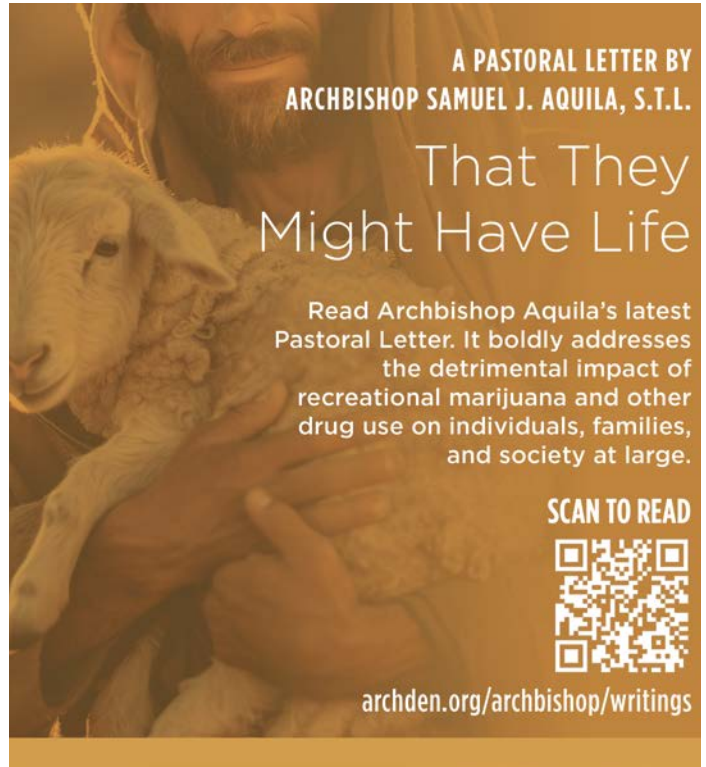
Visit of the Sisters of Life



Camping Trip

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/>