

# St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

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

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### Staff

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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 31, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

Happy Feast of the Holy Family! We are still enjoying our eight days of Christmas Octave until tomorrow, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I pray that you are still enjoying your Christmas decorations and Carols.

Our Christmas Eve Mass was very well attended, with about 120 people, a little more than the prior year. Again, we had our tradition of processing with the Child Jesus and the sheep. The children carrying these were very excited!

I want to thank everyone who generously helped with St. Elizabeth's decorations. The Nativity scene, trees, lights, and poinsettias look lovely. I personally think the Church looks its best at this time of the year. However, it also looks really beautiful at Easter time. We plan to keep all the decorations until February 2nd, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

I ask you for prayers for the SEEK conference. Today, at noon, a group of students and missionaries will begin their drive toward St. Louis. We are taking about 26 students, and counting all missionaries and priests, St. Elizabeth's contingent will be of more than 40 people.

St. Elizabeth's and Miles Christi are organizing a Silent Retreat for College Students on Feb 2-4, 2024. Please, see ad on the back for this bulletin.

May our Lady of Guadalupe teach us to love more authentically each day.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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# Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

In July 2011, I traveled to Argentina to visit my family. In this visit, I got to baptize my first nephew, Bautista, son of my brother Julian. He was about five months old at the time.

It was a joy to baptize my nephew. My family and extended family were there, even some people I had not met before. There were more than a hundred people in attendance.

What I remember the most was the joy of everyone: parents of the child, grandparents, godparents, and everyone else. I later learned that it is not unusual to have a more considerable number of people for the baptism of a couple's first child. Even more, in this case, it was my parents' first grandchild.

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church brings us the gospel of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

As I reflect on this gospel, the memory of my first nephew's baptism comes to mind. I can imagine so much excitement and joy in the hearts of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

Imagine the pride these holy parents felt listening to the prophecies of Simeon and Anna. They knew they were presenting the Word made flesh in the Temple, and these prophecies confirmed it.

Family life has many joyful, exciting events, such as Baptisms, birthdays, weddings, graduations, etc.

In the life of the Holy Family, this is a very joyful event; in fact, it is part of the joyful mysteries. But in this joyful event, there was also sorrow.

“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed (Lk 2:34-35).”

The words of Holy Simeon are full of hope and joy, but they are also announcing a great sorrow.

In fact, this is one of the Seven Sorrows of our Lady.

Joys and sorrows are part of family life, even in the most perfect families. I can't imagine the child Jesus doing any sinful mischief. Even with the three holiest people on earth, there is sorrow.

It is a mistake to measure the happiness of a family by joys and sorrows. Every normal family has a mix of these things. A family that never has sorrow is probably just in denial.

But if we should not measure a family's quality by its sorrows and joys, how can we measure it?

The measure of happiness in a family is sacrificial love. The Holy Family lived sacrificial love daily.

Mary's sacrificial love is evident from the very beginning, as she accepts the angel Gabriel's message with humility and consents to become the Mother of God. She is willing to embrace her role despite the challenges and personal sacrifices it would entail.

Joseph, too, plays a crucial role in the Holy Family, demonstrating sacrificial love through his unwavering commitment to Mary and Jesus. Learning of Mary's unexpected pregnancy, Joseph chooses to follow God's will, sacrificing his own reputation for the sake of Mary and Jesus.

The ultimate example of sacrificial love in the Holy Family is Jesus himself. His earthly life is characterized by a complete surrender to the Father's will. Jesus, the Son of God, willingly takes on a human nature, living a life of humility and service.

The Holy Family's sacrificial love extends beyond individual actions to encompass their shared mission. Together, they create a supportive and nurturing environment for Jesus to grow in wisdom and stature.

May we imitate the Holy Family in our families by practicing sacrificial love for one another.

# Christmas Time



## Campus Outreach

Campus outreach  
activities  
will resume  
on January 15th

## 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



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



## Weekend Silent Retreat

Inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola

**University Students**

from all campuses in Colorado

*Preached by Fr. Martin Latiff, MC,  
and Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC.*

**February 2-4, 2024**

*Colorado Springs, CO*



*Retreat Fee: \$50 | Sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Catholic Student Center*

For more information & to register: 303-800-8337  
[colorado@spiritualexercises.net](mailto:colorado@spiritualexercises.net) | [MilesChristi.org/spiritual-exercises](https://MilesChristi.org/spiritual-exercises)

## 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.



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