

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Fourth 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: 11:30 AM – 12:00 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



January 28, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

On Saturday of last week, we had an event called SEEK Reunion. It was an occasion for all the students, missionaries, and priests to reunite and share our experiences at the conference.

We got a significant number of people participating in the event. It started with Adoration and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. After Benediction, one of our missionaries, John Wang, gave a marvelous testimony of his experience at the conference. He talked about his first experience of SEEK and how it changed his prayer life. He returned from the conference in a spiritual high, which translated into going deeper in prayer. He suggested the students also try to capitalize on their SEEK experience by committing to a more robust prayer life: Rosary, daily Mass, daily prayer, Confession, and so on. He also recommended the practice of spiritual direction, invited the students to participate in bible studies, and asked them to consider joining one of our mission trips.

After the talk, we enjoyed some delicious fried chicken. Then, we gave everyone who would like to share their experience an opportunity to do so. To my surprise, almost everyone shared something. The Lord has definitely worked overtime at SEEK! We finished the night with fun games.

This past Thursday, our young women had their quick-off event for the semester. There was an excellent attendance. The “giggling meter” was off the charts! They had a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones. I am grateful to our student leaders for their commitment and hard work. This last semester, their number has more than doubled!

May our Lady of Guadalupe keep interceding for us before her Son.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

When Jesus entered the synagogue of Capernaum in today's Gospel, there had been no prophets in Israel for more than four hundred years.

Although worship had been reestablished in the rebuilt Temple of Jerusalem - after the exile in Babylon - in that place, the Jews could only find 'official priests' who carried out the rites more or less well, sang with more or less resonant voices, more or less in tune, and they got their job done. Pious Jews who wanted to hear the word of God did not go to the Temple but gathered, on Saturdays, among themselves.

In wealthy towns, they gathered in an 'ad hoc' building. There, in a secure closet, they kept their old manuscripts, parchments yellowed by time, where along with the Torah - the Pentateuch - were found the ancient words of the prophets, long gone.

Those prophets who, before, carried directly, in the vibration of their powerful voices, the message of God, moved by the Spirit, were instruments of an authority that came from heaven.

But that had been a long time ago. There were no longer kings or prophets. Now, they only had 'official priests'.

For that reason, they gathered together with their old manuscripts and, to some who read them a lot and learned them by heart and knew how to find the places and interpret them, they called them 'scribes.' But when the Jews met in their synagogues on Saturdays, anyone who knew the old letters could read to those present. Anyone could speak and give their opinion. No one had special authority, not even the head of the synagogue, whose role was not teaching but, rather, looking after the building and the sacred books.

But the Jewish people waited because in the old manuscripts they had read or heard read: "A

prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin."

There had been no prophets in Israel for a long time. But hope still shined in the cracked parchments. One day, God will raise up a prophet again, and he will speak to His people again. This time, it will not be like in the old days when his words had to be written on skins and stones, but they will be written on the hearts of men, on fire and spirit, in power and works.

And here, when, like every Saturday, the Jews of Capernaum and its surroundings came to the synagogue in today's Gospel to hear the old words repeated and, perhaps, to raise the old, tired hopes, the voice that reads and comments seems suddenly shook the lethargy of their souls. The cobwebs fell. A new light awakened the assembly and expelled unclean spirits.

Yes, God has spoken again. From Capernaum, his powerful voice will spread throughout the world. This moment marks the beginning of a bonfire that will set the world on fire and warm the hearts of all men.

May the word of Jesus truly speak to our hearts. The Gospel can also become an old manuscript, and its words become dusty. Our religious practices can also mirror the 'official priests' and routine.

Christ wants to speak seriously to your soul, sanctify your being, and reign in your muscles and heart. You can always find the imperious word of Christ as a prophet if you look for him with true faith in the synagogue of your heart.

He will shake off the dust of your mediocrities and routines, expel the sordid from within you, and transform you into a champion of his battles. He can also - if you want - make you a prophet of his voice to others.

SEEK24 Testimony

Israel Aguirre

I cannot tell if we were at Pentecost, gathered in the upper room in one accord, united in prayer, spirit, and mind, or if I simply fell into peer pressure, but despite dreading the idea of leaving the state, and even more of going to Missouri, I paid my \$25 and signed up for SEEK. I praise the Lord for giving me the grace to take this leap of faith. Going to SEEK has been a great motivation in advancing my wrestle with God. There, I learned more deeply to confide in Mary my Mother, run to Christ in confession, and love as the Father loves.

In the past I've been very skeptical of the apparition to St. Juan Diego, but after going to a talk on our Lady of Guadalupe and hearing her special care for her children I was able to grow in my Marian devotion. I understood that all who hide under her mantle are taken to Christ. As his mother, she knows what he loves, and what he loves is our souls, and so she brings us to him. Therefore to be guadalupano is to be a missionary of Christ, to be Marian is to be an evangelist, for anyone who follows her footsteps brings souls to Jesus.

I was also given the grace to feel the pain of sin. In praying the rosary and sobbing my way to confession I understood the gravity of our offenses to God, but also his infinite mercy and

love, despite our failures. At confession we are taken to calvary, we become the thief who says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom", and Christ in his gentleness says to us "today you will be with me in paradise." The words of absolution are nothing less than an oath of love. And just as in Calvary, Christ waits for us in the confessional, his feet are nailed to the cross; he will not walk away. His arms are extended wide; he will not reject us. His heart is pierced open; he is ready to love us.

The main takeaway from SEEK was the Father's love for us. Jesus tells us, "Be perfect even as the Father is perfect," and this perfection is found in love. For a long time, I dreaded my existence, finding living a tedious task; however, what joy it is to know that God created me out of love and not only me but also you. Falling deeply in love with the idea of us, he desired us and acted upon his desire. The infinite God, who needs nothing, de-

sired us and so brought us into existence! Knowing this, how can I not love every person I see? And how can I not acknowledge their existence, the workmanship and desire of God? We must love as the Father! And so, as I reflect on this great gift I see that I have but one purpose in life, and that is to love and to love without restraint.



Campus Outreach

Coffee and Hot Chocolate

Tuesdays: 9:00 AM

Free Lunch & 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

Upcoming Events

Feb 2-4
Silent Retreat
for College Students

Feb 11, 4:00 pm
Superbowl Party

Feb 14, Ash Wednesday
Masses
12:15 pm and 5:00 pm



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 | 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 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/>