

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Third Sunday of Lent

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Dear brothers and sisters,

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila has released a pastoral note for Lent.

In it, our Archbishop encourages a deeper conversion and intimacy with Jesus Christ during the Lenten season through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Emphasizing the importance of prayer, he urges individuals to spend at least 15 minutes daily in silent prayer with Jesus, either by reading a chapter of the Gospel, engaging in the Surrender Novena, or watching episodes of "The Chosen."

He highlights the role of sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Confession, as crucial for encountering Jesus. He discusses the significance of fasting as a means of turning the heart towards God, fostering humility, and overcoming temptations. He encourages almsgiving, expressed through acts of charity towards the less fortunate, emphasizing the value of giving time and presence to those in need.

He concludes his message with a heartfelt desire for individuals to know and receive the love and mercy of Jesus Christ during Lent, with an invitation to respond to his call: "Come to me" and "learn from me." He suggests opportunities to volunteer with organizations like Christ in the City and Catholic Charities as practical ways to engage in acts of charity during the season.

Please read the full note at <https://archden.org/listen-to-him/>

May our Lady of Guadalupe keep guiding us to her Son in this leten season.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Richard, MC



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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

In forty-six years, the Jews had constructed, on the ruins of the old Solomon temple, the country's most prominent building. They called "temple" the whole set of constructions, starting with an enormous horizontal esplanade raised on the slope of the hill and, towards the center, what would be properly the sanctuary, surrounded by the walled atriums of the women, of the Israelites, and of the priests. It is known that these courts were only entered to pray and offer sacrifices. The activities of merchants, money changers, and sellers in general took place in the esplanade. They were necessary activities since the faithful had to get somewhere the victims for the sacrifices and the ancient Jewish currency in which it was obligatory to pay the temple taxes.

Jesus' action of overthrowing the tables of these officials, more than a subversive action against simony, usury, or greed of those who marketed these activities, was a symbolic gesture in which he aimed to overcome the external worship of the temple with the definitive interiorization of this worship in the very surrender of his life.

For this reason, in three steps, the evangelist makes Jesus enter the geography of the enclosure of which he speaks. First, he speaks of the temple in general - *to ieron*: the great esplanade, the world not only of merchants but also of politicians, of news, of discussions. All that universe of power, of prestige, of public appearances, of speeches that constitute the external and perhaps necessary part, what usually appears in the newspapers, on the Internet, of the Church.

When Jesus, however, is asked why he works in this way, he answers no longer referring to the esplanade but to what he calls 'My Father's house,' and with the imagination we then enter the second portion of the temple, the central construction surrounded by walls and where only

Israelites can enter: the place of worship and prayer. This could be our churches and ceremonies, our sacred rites, our songs and prayers. For so many men of the Church, for so many Christians, it can become just a rite to fulfill, to look good, for God to protect me. I pray to you, you protect me and help me. "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

This is hard enough for those who listen to Jesus. "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.'" But the Greek term that now translates temple is no longer '*ieron*' but '*naós*,' 'sanctuary,' the most hidden, forbidden, and intimate part of all that sacred space: the 'holy of holies,' symbol of the presence of God and where the high priest could only enter once a year and that now will be simply the humanity of Jesus. He will be the true sanctuary insofar as he offered himself to the Father on the cross and was raised forever after three days.

Jesus makes us pass from the exteriority of the temple to the most interior and sacred; from a purely ritual devotion to the living encounter with Jesus, true presence, sanctuary of God among us.

His gift of self gives ultimate meaning to the temple of Jerusalem and even to our own temples: a place of encounter with Christ.

Lent is a time of purification, a time of whip of ropes to remove from us all that in our love of God remains of veiled commerce and selfishness and from our love of others all that, purely human or even deviant, is not compatible, does not know how to be enlivened with the love of God.

Silent Retreat Testimony

Dany Aguirre

Hi, my name is Dany Nayeli Aguirre, this was my first silent retreat ever and I have so many blessings to share with you all from it.

Before this retreat I feared silence. In my past, being in silence led me to very dark places. I tend to over think everything and obsess on thoughts that cause me anxiety. That is why, when I was first invited to go on this retreat my immediate answer was NO. I feared having to face my reality and all the thoughts I shoved to the back of my head. But after a lot of prayer and God's grace, I had the privilege to attend this silent retreat. I had no expectations, a mind flooded with fear, and a soul craving a deeper connection with God.

The first day really focused on the love God has for me. Although these are the same words I have heard hundreds of times before, this time I was forced to sit and meditate on what they truly mean. To be loved by God; do I really know what this implies? How many times have I rejected his love? Have I truly accepted it? Scary thoughts, but thanks to this retreat I learned how to walk with God through them all. I had no other option but to sit there and talk things out with Him. After crying my heart out in the silence, I felt my relationship with Christ grow closer.

Halfway through the second day, I was really

struggling with being silent. Thankfully, we had the opportunity to have spiritual direction and a general confession with Fr. Martin and Fr. Richard. Oh, how wonderful it felt to talk again! The past few hours I had been meditating on my past life and how merciful God was during it all, so to be able to share that with Fr. Richard was beautiful.

Towards the end of the retreat, we meditated on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, and my mind kept coming back to Our Lady of Sorrows. Through both of their suffering, I realized that

there hasn't been a moment in which I suffered alone. I also understood that there is a reason for suffering, and that's the greater glory of God. It's a crazy concept but very beautiful.

There is so much more I could share with you all, but instead, I want to invite you to experience it yourself.

Open your heart,

give Him your time, and find out what He has for you. If you are signed up to go on this retreat, congrats you have taken the first step. Forget about your worries and focus on Him completely these next few days. If you're still thinking about whether you should go or not, please don't let your excuses get in the way of all the graces He has for you. This retreat was an intimate encounter with God that my soul had been crying for; I pray it will be an even greater blessing for you.



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

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays and Fridays
after 12:15 PM Mass
during Lent

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/>

Silent Retreat for Men



Weekend Silent Retreat

Inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola

College Students

from all campuses in Colorado

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

April 19-21, 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

Eucharistic Bible Study

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

www.formed.org

Bible Study
Sundays After Mass
February 18 and 25
March 3, 17, and 24



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