

# ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

## Roman Catholic Parish

(Parish Bulletin for February 11, 2018)

### **AT THE PARISH - this week (Feb. 12 – Feb. 18):**

12 Monday	: 06.30 pm	Scouts Gathering
13 Tuesday	: 11.00 am	Prayer Hour
	: 12.00 noon	<b>Holy Mass</b>
14 Wednesday:	09.30 am	Seniors Gathering
	: 12.00 noon	<b>Holy Mass</b>
15 Thursday	: 12.00 pm	<b>Holy Mass</b>
16 Friday	: 12.00 pm	<b>Holy Mass</b>
17 Saturday	: 05.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / <b>Confessions available</b>
	: 06.00 pm	<b>Holy Mass</b> in English
18 SUNDAY	: 10.00 am	Rosary / <b>Confessions available.</b>
	: 10.30 am	<b>Holy Mass</b> in Bilingual - (Hungarian/English)
	: 11.30 am	Coffee/social (after Mass)

#### **A Sacred time of blessings in the Parish:**

Everyone from the parish is going to pray one Our Father and three Hail Mary at exactly 8 pm every day during the Season of Lent starting on February 14. Others will be praying for you. Please break from all your activities and pray for others too.

### **LOVE AND COMPASSION beyond the borders:** (Reflections for Sunday, February 11)

Going through the different acts of Jesus especially those that sound confrontational with the Pharisees, we could be tempted to a misleading conclusion that Jesus disobeyed the laws given by Moses and those that were practised by the Jewish religion. The whole point of the actions of Jesus at different times of His ministry is to awaken people and express to them the immensity of God's love and compassion toward us. If the rules and laws or the practises of faith have gone astray from the real spirit and the heart of God, His actions tried to restore this missing spirit and the love of God amidst His community.

In today's Gospel (*Mark 1.40-45*) when this leper was disobeying the law of Moses which is expressed in the first reading, Jesus doesn't take the role of judging and policing him saying that he is breaking the law of their religion established for the health safety of others. But rather Jesus stretches out his hand and touches him (which was also not allowed). This was to express the heart of God and the love and compassion that flowed from his pitiful heart. Can we, as followers of Jesus express our love and compassion to others little beyond what our culture and society demands of us? Could we take up at least one outreaching action a week during this upcoming Season of Lent? Think of someone of your family or past friends or some known people or someone around you whom you have treated as a leper. Pray for God's grace and plan to stretch out your compassionate heart at least to one person a week.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY – The beginning of the Season of Lent**

Ash Wednesday, February 14 is the Universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. Considering our age and health, let us do our best to experience the love of God from this Valentine's Day.

#### **A Note from the Liturgical Calendar:**

Christian fasting obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open to prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving and to save money to give to the poor. Fasting is a penitential discipline intended to open our hearts to God and others, a means of purification and spiritual liberation, a witness of the depth of our faith.

### **GETTING OUR HEARTS SET for the DAYS OF GRACES AND BLESSINGS:**

Lent is fast approaching and begins on February 14. At some time or due to our past experiences of forced abstinence and sacrifices during this season, we could/might have taken the negative approach to the Season of Lent. We may see it as days of sadness and a time when the joy of our life is taken away by the Church or by reflecting on the suffering of Christ. But in reality... Lent is a Season of Grace and a Season of Blessings. If we wish to start searching or regaining the lost inner joy of our lives, this is the Season! When the whole of the universal Church in one mind and heart is striving for one thing – to renew our heart, that this ardent desire of all our brothers and sisters fills the atmosphere of the entire world seeking for God and His life. Let us start expecting this Season this year to bring us more blessings.

### **RETREAT:**

**Theme: Offering the most loved.** Begin on Feb. 24 from 2 pm and ends with the Mass at 6 pm.

To those we love the most, we like to offer that which is most loved by us and the best that we have. It pains to offer the same to someone else. But the same pain is replaced with love and joy when it comes to our loved ones. We are most loved by God and if He has the most loved to offer us, what do we have to offer Him in return for His love for us?

Come join us to explore His unconditional love toward us.

Register by Feb. 20: [SaintElizabethChurchCalgary@gmail.com](mailto:SaintElizabethChurchCalgary@gmail.com) or 403-454-4770

### **SPRING BAZAAR:**

The Spring Bazaar will be on March 17. We will start taking the orders from this Sunday, February 11. Please pass on this message to your friends and help us in this fundraising effort.