



## Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church

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Office hours Tuesday to Friday 9 to 3.

English masses: Monday to Saturday at 7.30 in the morning  
Sunday's 12 o'clock mass is English and Hungarian

Jesuit priests: Szabolcs Sajgó (pastor), László Marosfalvy – retired: Balázs Jaschkó, József Fülöp

# CHURCH BULLETIN

## Number 48 – First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2008

### Sunday, November 30.

**Readings:** Is 63.16-17;64.1,3-8  
1 Cor 1.3-9; Mk 13.33-37

**Responsorial Psalm:** „Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.”

### PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- 9:00** ✠ John Noe felgyógyulásáért – Sylvia és Jenő  
✠ Sztanyó Marika születésnapjára – Kinga és Ibolya  
✠ +Bernád Lajosért – felesége  
✠ +Andrásért – Ibolya és Kinga  
✠ +Málics Istvánért – felesége és családja  
✠ elhunyt szeretteiért – Teréz  
✠ elhunyt szeretteiért – Ilonka és családja  
✠ +fivéréért – Kristóf Jutka  
✠ +Göncz Józsefért – családja  
✠ +Pálincás Annáért – Pászti István és családja
- 10:30** ✠ Bandiért, névnapjára – Bonnay L. és E.  
✠ családjukért – Török család  
✠ Sztanyó Marika születésnapjára - Nóra  
✠ István születésnapjára – Engyel család  
✠ 50. házassági évfordulóra, hálából – István és Éva  
✠ +Rozáliáért - férje  
✠ +Reviczky Icaért – Rémiás család  
✠ +Molnár Erzsébetért és +Edna Josephért – cs.  
✠ +Grofsics és +Simon családtagokért - Matild  
✠ +Máriáért - Béla  
✠ +Márton Gyuláért – felesége és családja  
✠ +szeretteiért, Sanyiért és Gyuriért – Török cs.  
✠ + atyákért és +kongreganistákért  
✠ a Melkó család elhunyt tagjaiért - Mária  
✠ + Pálincás Annáért – fia és családja
- 12:00** ✠ +Ilonáért – testvére, Magdolna  
✠ for +Alexander Gáthy – wife, Hildegard

### Monday, December 1.

- 7.30 for Phillip's special intention  
8.00 for the intention of the Jesuit General

### Tuesday, December 2.

- 7.30 for Phillip's special intention  
8.00 +Csányi Sándorért - Margit

### Wednesday, December 3. *Saint Francis Xavier*

- 7.30 for Phillip's special intention  
8.00 +szülőkéért, +nagyszülőkéért – Acsai Ferenc és cs.  
19.00 az egyházközség lelki megújulásáért

### Thursday, December 4. *Saint John of Damascus*

- 7.30 for the English women's Cursillo  
8.00 Pálért – Etelka

### Friday, December 5.

- 7.30 for +Gilbert and +Julie Tellis  
8.00 +Molnár Erzsébetért – leánya és családja  
19.00 (1) +Kovács Lászlóért – családja  
(2) +szendi Lajosért – Szendi Ilona

### Saturday, December 6. *Saint Nicholas*

- 7.30 for +Sr. Columba - Piri  
8.00 (1) elhunyt Nagy családtagokért – Zoli  
(2) a tisztítóúton szenvedő lelkekért – Szendi I.  
(3) +Edna Josephért - családja

**Baptisms:** Climie Sloan, Harmath Ferenc, Kurucz Charles

**Funeral:** Maria Antal (94), Mihály Harmat (68),  
Eszter Varga (82)

### Prepare Yourself

Fr. Phil Bloom

As we begin Advent, Jesus warns us to prepare ourselves because he might come suddenly. I saw a news item which exemplifies preparation. Down in Memphis, Tennessee, a man named Foster Walker accidentally strolled into a store during a robbery. The gunman pointed his pistol at Walker and ordered him to hand over his money. Walker responded, "Go ahead and shoot. I just got through reading my Bible and I've already said my prayers." The robber was dumbfounded and Walker, a man in his sixties, walked away.

I have to admit I probably would have handed over the money, but I do admire Walker's courage – and above all his apparent readiness to meet the Lord. That is what Jesus tells us today. Prepare yourself. Be alert and watchful. You and I do not know when he will come. But it will be soon.

This Sunday I want to help you capture – or re-capture – a sense of urgency about preparing to meet the Lord. Our problem today is that we live a therapeutic culture. What matters to people is that they "feel good about themselves." A person can imagine that as long as he feels OK about his life, then he is ready to meet the Lord. That way of thinking is foreign to the New Testament.

When you read the Bible, you realize that the thought of meeting God caused awe, even a certain trembling.\* They recognized a plain fact which you and I often overlook. We are sinners. We have distanced ourselves from God, told him that he is not welcome in certain parts of our lives. This is serious. It is not some minor prank we can chuckle about. It is more like deliberately insulting one's father. Isaiah expresses it this way:

Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;  
all of us have become like unclean people,  
all our good deeds are like polluted rags. (64.4-5)

Before we can receive divine mercy, we must know why we need it. Jesus is telling us to recognize who God is and who we are. The time is short.

You and I may not have turned away from God in dramatic ways. We may not have committed adultery or abortion. We may not have denied Jesus or renounced our faith. We may not have dishonored our parents. Still, we have done smaller things. If carried to their logical conclusion, they would result in a denial of God. During Advent we need to alert ourselves to apparently small matters which can have enormous consequences: the little lies, the resentments which fester, the unchecked temper, the failure to control impulses, a certain laziness, a lack of courage. These small things can lead to a terrible end.

Remember Bobby Leach. He was the gutsy Englishman who went over Niagara Falls in a steel cylinder. He took quite a beating, but he survived. A few years later, however, he was walking down a street in New Zealand. He was not watching his way and he slipped on an orange peel. He wound up in a hospital and the complications eventually brought his death.

We can overcome major challenges, but small things can bring us down. A man can resist difficult temptations at work, but come home and start shouting at his family. Once a guy, after years of sobriety, thought he could handle one small drink. The taste stayed in his mind and he could not resist. He wound up on First Avenue. He had lost his home, his money, his family. Small missteps can have devastating consequences. For that reason Jesus tells us, Be watchful, be alert. Not that we become neurotics worried about every misstep. No, we are confident that Jesus will care for us, even carry us. But we want to avoid the path which leads away from him. The time is short. This could be your last Advent. His coming should fill us with a healthy sense of awe:

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.  
What I say to you, I say to all: Watch! (Mk 13.37)

*\*C.S. Lewis used this comparison to understand that sense of awe: Suppose that someone told you that if you opened the door to a certain room, you would find a tiger awaiting you. You would feel one type of awe. Suppose further that a person you trust tells you that the room contains a spirit or a ghost. Even though you are not sure whether poltergeists or ghosts exist, still the person who told you seems very convinced. You are standing alone in front of the door. In a moment, you may encounter a being unlike anything you have previously met. The door begins to open. You would feel a very particular kind of awe.*

*For the calendar of our events please visit our homepage:  
szenterzsebet.org*

## NEWS

### ⌘ MEDIA ADVISORY:

## Archdiocese of Toronto Launches "Office for Refugees" January 1, 2009

TORONTO (November 21, 2008) Responding to the increasing number of refugees looking to call Canada and, specifically, the Greater Toronto Area home, the Archdiocese of Toronto is pleased to announce the launch of a new pastoral ministry, the "Office for Refugees", effective January 1, 2009.

This diocesan office will be located at Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS), a Catholic Charities agency with more than 50 years experience reaching out to immigrants and refugees, serving all those in need regardless of religious or political affiliation. The initiative will be led by Dr. Martin Mark, assisted by Yosief Araya and Nicole Desmarais, all of whom have worked extensively with CCS on issues related to uprooted people.

Archbishop Thomas Collins commented on the announcement of the new diocesan office:

*"One of the greatest gifts of our Archdiocese is the unique blend of cultures and diversity of those who call our community home. We are called to extend the hand of friendship and care to those who need our assistance in their early days as our neighbours. This tangible sign of outreach will help our parish communities to mobilize and assist those who look to Canada for peace and prosperity."*

The "Office for Refugees" will allow the Catholic community to:

- Strengthen its ability to link more than 220 Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto with refugee sponsorship through the Canadian Private Sponsorship Program.
- Focus efforts to assist the displaced as well as network and advocate on global social justice issues both regionally and internationally.
- Allow for an increase in capacity and resources to be used to respond better to refugee crises such as the one now being faced by Iraqi Christians. The crisis in Iraq has forced millions from their homes, leaving many in the small community of Iraqi Christians persecuted and targeted on the basis of their faith.

Over the past year, the Archdiocesan Refugee Sponsorship Program has tripled the number of sponsorships initiated by parishes and religious orders. Across the country, the Canadian Private Sponsorship Program has given faith and ethnic communities the opportunity to assist some 200,000 uprooted people in need of safe haven.

In addition to providing spiritual services in more than 30 languages each week for 1.7 million Catholics, the Archdiocese supports initiatives which benefit and strengthen the whole community. Churches serve a geographic area that stretch from Toronto to Midland and Oshawa to Mississauga.

### **For more information contact:**

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