



Founded in 1928  
**1949 - 2009**

## 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 both in English and Hungarian

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

**Number 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 15, 2009**

# CHURCH BULLETIN

*Sixty years in the service of Hungarians in Toronto*  
*The Hungarian Jesuits*

**Readings:** Lev 13.1-2,45-46; 1Cor 10.31-11,1;  
Mk 1,40-45

**Responsorial Psalm: *You are my refuge, Lord;  
with deliverance you surround me.***

### PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- 9:00** ☞ Horváth és Kiss család élő és elhunyt tagjaiért – Horváth Sándor és családja  
☞ +John Noe (Brantford) - Derényi család  
☞ +Schroder Éváért – Füzéry család  
☞ +Mária nővéréért – Kristóf Jutka  
☞ +szülőkért (Ilona és Gyula) – gyermekeik és családjuk
- 10:30** ☞ egyházközségünkért  
☞ a Házások Klubjának tagjaiért  
☞ hálából, kislánya sikeres szívműtétjéért – Annamária  
☞ Nicholas születésnapjára – Engyel család  
☞ Kató születésnapjára - szülei  
☞ +Molnár Erzsébetért és +Molnár nagyszülőkért  
☞ +Heneszi Rozáliáért – Wohlstein család  
☞ +Voronezs Lászlóért és +Iréért – Telch cs.  
☞ +Varga Eszterért – férje, családja és Balogh család  
☞ a tisztító tűzben szenvedő lelkekért – Szendi cs.  
☞ +Bernád Lajosért – felesége  
☞ +Kiss M. Istvánért és +Istvánnéért – fia és családja  
☞ +Kalvaitis szülőkért – Kiss család  
☞ +férjéért, Pavel George-ért - Mária  
☞ +Soltész Irénért és +Endréért és +Horváth testvérekért – Zoltán és családja  
☞ +Varga Lajosért – családja  
☞ +Szenteleky Gézáért – özvegye  
☞ +George Hall (Szenteleky) - family
- 12:00** ☞ Prokec család élő és elhunyt tagjaiért  
☞ for +John and +Magda Berki  
☞ for +Guilhermina Martins da Silva  
☞ for +Benevides Martins de Paula

- ☞ +Szabó Kornéliáért – leánya, Beáta  
☞ +dr.Hlinyánszky Istvánért – leánya, Beáta  
☞ +Kurfurst Istvánért – özvegye, Beáta

### Monday, February 16;

- 7.30 for +Susan Mali – mom and bother  
8.00 (1) +for godparents – Ferenc Acsai  
(2) +for mother- Zoltán

### Tuesday, February 17; *Seven Founders of the Servites Order*

- 7.30 for father's intention  
8.00 for +Mrs. Mészáros - grandchildren

### Wednesday, February 18;

- 7.30 for the intention of the Jesuit General  
8.00 for Paul – Etelka  
19.00 for the Hungarian community in Toronto

### Thursday, February 19;

- 7.30 for father's intention  
8.00 in gratitude for 60 years of medical practice

### Friday, February 20;

- 7.30 for deceased Jesuits  
8.00 for +Elizabeth Molnár – daughter and family  
19.00 for the Pax Romana movement

### Saturday, February 21; *Saint Peter Damian*

- 7.30 for father's intention  
8.00 for father's intention

**Funeral:** Alex Birinyi (85)

## The Power of Compassion

Fr. Phil Bloom

I am sure you have heard of the Scottish novelist, Robert Louis Stevenson. He not only wrote wonderful adventure stories, like *"Treasure Island,"* but more serious works such as *"The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde."* In that novel, he explored the odd combination of good and evil in one person.

As Stevenson observed dramatically, a human being can have high aspirations and at the same time do horrendous things. The existence of so much evil and cruelty made Stevenson wonder if God really exists. All of his doubts came together when he first met a leper. Lepers not only suffered a painful physical condition; they often faced

harsh, even cruel treatment. How can a good God allow such suffering and cruelty? Before I tell you about Stevenson's encounter with a leper, I would like to give a short description of the disease:

*"Leprosy is a slowly progressing bacterial infection that affects the skin, peripheral nerves in the hands and feet, and mucous membranes of the nose, throat, and eyes. Destruction of the nerve endings causes the affected areas to lose sensation. Occasionally, because of the loss of feeling, the fingers and toes become mutilated and fall off, causing the deformities that are typically associated with the disease."*

The medical description gives some idea of the horror of leprosy. The horror was heightened because Robert Louis Stevenson first met a leper in a beautiful setting - the Hawaiian Island of Molokai. In the nineteenth century - before they had any cure for leprosy - they simply banished them to remote places. When Stevenson visited the lepers' colony on Molokai, it shocked him and made him question God's existence. Stevenson wrote that he saw *"abominable deformations of our common manhood ... a population as only now and then surrounds us in the horror of a nightmare ... the butt-ends of human beings lying there almost unrecognizable but still breathing, still thinking, still remembering ... a pitiful place to visit, a hell to dwell in."*

Stevenson probably would have given in to depression, even despair, if he had not seen something else. On that same island, a group of Christians had established a clinic to care for the lepers. Among those Christians was a priest from Belgium, Fr. Damien Joseph de Veuster. The life of Fr. Damien inspired Stevenson so much that he wrote a lengthy letter defending him against accusations and predicting his canonization. His predictions were accurate: In 1995 Pope John Paul beatified Fr. Damien. He is now known as Blessed Damian of Molokai. The compassion of Blessed Damien deeply impressed Stevenson.

Today we see the greatest example of compassion. Remember that, at the time of Jesus, leprosy was more than a hideous physical disease. It also brought painful social and religious consequences: The leper had to keep his distance from others, wear a bell and cry out, "unclean, unclean." Perhaps most cruel, he was cut off from the consolation of religious rites. Jesus did something extraordinary, really unthinkable. He reached across that social division and touched the leper. By touching the man, Jesus contaminated himself. St. Matthew says, *"he took our infirmities upon himself."* Jesus did this because he saw beyond the disfigurement of leprosy. He saw the worth of the person - in spite of external deformity and internal decay.

Jesus' compassion challenges us. Not that leprosy holds terror today. Thanks be to God, we now have medicines that effectively treat the disease. We do, nevertheless, meet people who suffer from a deeper form of leprosy - an internal disfigurement. I can think of people I shy away from.

I would like to mention one person whom we shy away from. His disfigurements make us unwilling to look at him. We have, in fact, lived with him all our lives. I think you know who I mean. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about him in "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Like the noble Dr. Jekyll, an ignoble being lurks inside. We keep that part hidden - maybe even from our own selves. That's understandable, but it could be a fatal mistake.

Today's Gospel contains a simple, powerful prayer: *"If you wish, you can make me clean."* Doubt sometimes tempts us, but there is one thing we cannot doubt: Jesus' compassion. He is willing to take our illness, our infirmity upon himself. In doing so, he can help us show compassion to others. Robert Louis Stevenson glimpsed that compassion when he visited the island of Molokai. It enabled him to overcome his doubts and express his faith in God.

I would like to conclude this homily by reading what Stevenson wrote in the guest book at Molokai. He composed a spontaneous poem,

where he admits that he was tempted to deny God. The beauty of compassion, however, caused him to fall silent and adore God. Here is the poem:

To see the infinite pity of this place  
The mangled limb, the devastated face,  
The innocent sufferer smiling at the rod  
A fool was tempted to deny his God.

He sees, he shrinks. But if he gazes again.  
Lo, beauty springing from the breast of pain!  
He marks the cisterns on the mournful shores;  
And even a fool is silent and adores."

## E V E N T S

☛ **TODAY** we welcome the representatives of **Catholic Cemeteries** to our parish. Catholic Cemeteries are a vital part of the Catholic Church. Managed by the Archdiocese of Toronto, each Catholic Cemetery reflects our Catholic beliefs.

For 2000 years Catholic burial has been our heritage and natural conclusion to our lives. To be buried together as a family and a community who have lived and shared their Faith in the Church, which Jesus Christ established, is the very reason why we, as Catholics, choose to be buried in a Catholic Cemetery. As you leave the Church you will receive material which concerns you and your family as Catholics. It covers important topics such as funeral liturgy and Church guidelines on cremation. Topics, that everyone should be aware of. Please take some time to read and reflect on this information. If you have any questions our representatives will be happy to answer them.

☛ **40 Days for Life** (February 24 - April 5, 2009) is a focused pro-life campaign that has generated measurable lifesaving results in more than 130 cities where it has been implemented. It has led to a significant drop in abortions on almost all locations, and in some places such as the State of North Dakota, to the closing of all abortion clinics. The 40 Days for Life campaign is made up of three key components:

- Prayer and Fasting: inviting people of faith throughout our city to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion
- Peaceful Vigil: standing for life through a 40-day peaceful public witness.
- Community Outreach: taking a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, church presentations, petition drives, and public visibility.

☛ This year's ecumenical *World Day of Prayer* is to be held on Friday, March 6, 1.30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2737 Bayview Ave. Written by the women of Papua, New Guinea, the theme is "In Christ, there are many members yet one Body". The participating churches are: Blessed Trinity R.C. Church, Anglican Church of the Incarnation, Forest Grove United Church, Oriole York Mills United Church, St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church, St. Gabriel's R.C. Church, St. John's York Mills Anglican Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church.