



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 in Hungarian

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

Number 13 – 5th Sunday of Lent – March 29, 2009

CHURCH BULLETIN

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

The first church of the Catholic Hungarians in Toronto was dedicated to St. Elizabeth of Hungary at Dundas and Spadina on March 19th, 1944
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Readings: Jer 31,31-34; Heb 5.7-9; Jn 12.20-33.

Responsorial Psalm: "With the Lord there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem."

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

9:00 ☩ +Bogdán Valériáért – Kovács György és cs.
☩ +Bernád Lajosért - felesége
☩ +Böhm családtagokért - Irén
☩ +Isabel F. Tobon-ért – Nick és Nenita Tolnai
☩ +Kibédi Gyuláért és +Andreáért – Juretic cs.
☩ +szülőkért, +nagy szülőkért és +rokonokért – Tóth cs.

10:30 ☩ egyházközségünkért
☩ gyermekeiért és unokáiért – Juhász Sándor és Márta
☩ Simon Elizabeth egészségéért
☩ Lengyel Ferenc felgyógyulásáért – Stadler Ilona
☩ Carol Farnum felgyógyulásáért - Ilus
☩ István felgyógyulásáért – Ilona és Marika
☩ Puskás Ildikó felgyógyulásáért – Katalin
☩ +Molnár Erzsébetért – férje és fia
☩ +Juhász Andrásért - gyermekei
☩ +Molnár Erzsébetért – leánya és családja
☩ +édesanyáért és +édesapáért – Miklósy cs.
☩ +Varga Eszterért és +Fekete Éváért – Bonnay család
☩ +Farkas Lászlóért – Benyó család
☩ +Jaschkó István jezsuita misszionárius atyáért – Mária Kongregáció

12:00 ☩ for +Péter Kocsárdy – Christine Kocsárdy
☩ for +Franz Maria Maier - Christine
☩ for +Genofefer Fürst Simon - Christine

Monday, March 30;

7.30 for +Matthew Meagher
8.00 for +Mátyás Bécsi junior – Piroska Gorzó

Tuesday, March 31;

7.30 for the intention of the Jesuit General
8.00 for the intention of the Jesuit General
19:00 for our Catholic Women's League

Wednesday, April 1;

7.30 for father's intention
8.00 +Csányi Sándorért - édesanyja
19.00 (1) +Farkas Lászlóért – Cursillo
(2) +Behon szülőkért és +testvérekért
After mass meditation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, until 8:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 2; St. Francis of Paola

7.30 for father's intention
8.00 for Paul - Etelka

Friday, April 3;

7.30 for Phillip's special intention
8.00 for father's intentions
19.00 (1) for +László Kovács – family
(2) for +Lajos Szendi - wife

Saturday, April 4; St. Izidor of Seville

7.30 for +Gilbert and +Julie Tellis
8.00 for the +Nagy, +Szabó & +Erdős family members

A Matter of Life or Death

Fr. Phil Bloom

Bottom line: Following Jesus is not about making things better. It is a matter of life or death.

On this final Sunday before Holy Week, Jesus tells us, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies it produces much fruit." Then he adds these bracing words, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." Following Jesus is not about making the world a better place.* Nor is it about improving one's life. No, following Jesus is a matter of life or death.

To illustrate this I would like to tell you about a book that affected me deeply. It might surprise you: the book is a short novel by Leo Tolstoy, called "The Death of Ivan Ilyich." Ivan Ilyich is a 45-year-old man who has achieved a good life: He has risen to a prestigious job with sufficient income to purchase the things he wants. His peers admire him and people in general respect him. Apart from an unhappy marriage, he enjoys life - especially playing cards with his friends.

But then an illness strikes. Ivan Ilyich believes he can overcome it - as he has overcome every other obstacle. As we would say, he is a fighter. His own carelessness, he (and others) suspect, has brought on his adverse condition. By an act of will, he can return things to normal. Prominent doctors examine him and make various hypotheses about what is wrong. Ilyich, however, sees through their pretensions. He has done the same sort of thing in the courtroom.

The doctors speculate about "floating kidney, chronic catarrh, or appendicitis." Whether the condition is fatal, they do not want to say. Likewise his family and friends avoid that unpleasant subject. At the same time, Ilyich senses that they would be relieved if he went quickly. He is an embarrassment and a bother to them.

Ilyich longs for someone to sympathize with what is really happening to him, yet he himself cannot put it into words. One man - a peasant named Gerasim - shows genuine pity. By supporting Ilyich's feet on his shoulders, Gerasim brings some relief to the suffering. More important, Gerasim evidences concern for a fellow human facing what all must face. Through him Ilyich moves from seeing his condition as a struggle between sickness and health to what it really is: a matter of life or death.**

Gerasim's concern enables him to ask a question: "What if my whole life has been wrong?" But Ilyich dismisses the question. He has, after all, acted by the conventions of his society - and done things quite properly. But the question won't go away. Eventually it enables him to see his coming death in a different way.***

The novel concludes with the paradox that the life Ilyich clung to was in fact deadly, while the death he dreaded held out something beyond his imagining. Tolstoy's insights (and satire) is as well aimed today as it was a century and a half ago.**** I recommend it as a helpful preparation for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. It illustrates what Jesus tells us today. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat...whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." Following Jesus is not about making things better. It is a matter of life or death.

*Although that can happen - and we should desire it.

**"*Maybe I did not live as I ought to have done,' it suddenly occurred to him. 'But how could that be, when I did everything properly?' he replied, and immediately dismissed from his mind this, the sole solution of all the riddles of life and death, as something quite impossible.*"

***"*He lay on his back and began to pass his life in review in quite a new way. In the morning when he saw first his footman, then his wife, then his daughter, and then the doctor, their every word and movement confirmed to him the awful truth that had been revealed to him during the night. In them he saw himself—all that for which he had lived—*

and saw clearly that it was not real at all, but a terrible and huge deception which had hidden both life and death."

****Of course, one needs to read Tolstoy with a critical mind. Like most of nineteenth century intelligentsia, he had a less than robust view of Jesus. In 1901 (fifteen years after writing *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*) the Russian Orthodox Church excommunicated him. I am hardly qualified to judge Tolstoy's faith, but his penetrating analysis of human society has certainly stood the test of time.

EVENTS

☛ **The Marguerite Bourgeoys Family Centre** helps couples to achieve and avoid pregnancy through Creighton Model Fertility Care System and to improve women's health using NaPro Technology which is routed and grounded in Catholic Church Teaching.

To raise money, we are selling handmade Belgian Chocolate Easter eggs for \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00 or four for \$10.00 before and after masses on March 29.

☛ Good Marriages are like dependable cars—they need attention. Refresh and rekindle your love for each other by treating yourselves to a **marriage enrichment weekend** at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, or give a weekend as a gift. The Centre offers comfort, excellent cuisine and an inspiring program. The next weekend is April 17-19th. For more information telephone: 905-829-0116 or register at Queen of Apostles: 905-278-5229

☛ **JESUIT DINNER** The Third Annual Jesuit Provincial's Dinner will be on April 22, 2009 at Le Parc Dining and Banquet Hall. This year besides recognizing the 50th Anniversary Jesuit Jubilarians, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto are being honoured with the "Magis Award" for their outstanding work and dedication. Tickets are available by calling 416-481-9154 or e-mailing jdo@jesuits.ca.

☛ 80% of people persecuted for their faith today in the world are Christians. The Christian religion is the most persecuted in the world today. In 2008 alone, of the close to 2.2 billion Christians, 230 million suffered discrimination, marginalization, permanent hostility and even persecution because of their faith. As documented by Aid to the Church in Need in this year's report on "Religious Liberty in the World," the persecution of Christians takes place especially in the former Soviet Republics, in the People's Republic of China and in neighbouring countries, as well as in several Arab and North African countries. Christians are mistreated, imprisoned or killed for their faith in at least 25 countries. It is particularly sad that in the Western countries this tragedy is not even known by Christians themselves. A reason for this lack of interest might be the fact that, while persecuted brothers proclaim their faith publicly, we have reduced it to a private matter. We shot ourselves up in our own internal problems and do not take serious consideration of our public mission in society, in politics, in the State, if we don't forget it all together. Benedict XVI's words: "if Christians are resigned to consider faith and Church as a private individual matter, then faith itself loses strength."