



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

NO SUNDAY 12 PM MASSES IN JULY AND AUGUST

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

No. 27 – FORTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – July 5

CHURCH BULLETIN

Sixty years in the service of Hungarians in Toronto

The Hungarian Jesuits

Readings: Ez 2.2-5; 2Cor 12.7-10; Mk 6,1-6.

Responsorial Psalm: "Our eyes look to the Lord, until he has mercy upon us."

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- 9:00** ☞ +Barbolyás Lajosért – özvegye
☞ +ifj. Deutsch Lajosért – szülei
☞ +Bartók Sándorért – Kinga és Ibolya
☞ +dr. Györgypál Lajosért – özvegye
- 10:30** ☞ egyházközségünkért – plébános
☞ a KNT tagjaiért
☞ Andrea sikeres hátgerincműtétjéért – édesanyja Annamária
☞ for Phillip' special intention– Joanna
☞ +Magyar Gyuláért – felesége, Mária
☞ +testvérekért – Farkas Sándor és Teréz
☞ +szülőkért – Gentry család
☞ +Lukács Imréért és +Marikáért – Sepa Erzsébet és Ilona
☞ +Lászlóért és +Iréért – Telch család
☞ +Szele Lászlóért – felesége és családja
☞ +hozzátartozókért – Szele Júlia
☞ +Bonnay Lászlóért – Hárshegyi család
☞ +Nyíregyházi Pálért – Mária
☞ +Kocsis Ilonáért – leánya Magdi és családja
☞ +Szabó Etelkáért (Svéd o.) – Horváth Magda
☞ +Kirschner Lászlóért – Jeney család
☞ +Verukáért – Piroska és Judit
☞ +Poroszlai Istvánért - családja
☞ +Szívek Jánosért – Juhász Márta és Sándor

Monday, July 6; *St. Maria Goretti*

- 7.30 (1) for +Erzsébet Molnár and +grandparents
(2) for the +Berzy and +Laurencsik relatives - Marika
(3) for Phillip's special intention

Tuesday, July 7;

- 7.30 for Phillip's special intention

Wednesday, July 8;

- 7.30 for +Peter - mother

Thursday, July 9; *St. Augustine Zhao Rong*

- 7.30 for Etelka and Paul
Sajgó atya édesanyjáért – Szendi család

Friday, July 10;

- 7.30 for father's intention

Saturday, July 11; *St. Benedict, patron saint of Europe*

- 7.30 for Jung-Bang Chung, on her birthday

<u>Marriage:</u>	Robert Carullo & Karacs Judith (1) Kevin Paulson & Csima Anne (1)
<u>Baptism:</u>	Damien McLoughlin
<u>Funeral:</u>	Benkő Karolina (87)

Insults and Persecution

Fr. Phil Bloom

People sometimes have vague fears about the Catholic Church, that we have a sinister plan to restrict their freedom. Since this is Fourth of July weekend (and it fits with our Scripture readings) I would like to address those fears.

Once I had a conversation with a young woman concerned that the Catholic Church was trying to take away her "right to choose". She described herself as "very pro-choice." Fair enough, I told her, but I was curious how far she would take it. "Suppose," I asked, "someone were mistreating their pet (not feeding it properly, allowing it to live in filthy conditions, etc.) would you favour a law to prevent a person from making such a choice?"

She of course saw where I was going. While we both recognized the right to privacy, we did not want it to become a license to harm

humans – or animals. We both desired maximum freedom for others, but we acknowledged situations where that freedom should be limited.

That is our nation's dilemma as we celebrate its 233rd birthday. It does no good to talk about pro-choice and anti-choice. Every law, when enforced, infringes on someone else's choice.

The correct question is contained in today's readings. They presuppose human freedom, but ask what we will do with it. In the Old Testament God sent prophets like Ezekiel to call people back to the right path. They did not listen because their faces had become hard. (Ez 2:4) Easy to recognize that hardness in others, but more difficult to see when we look in the mirror.

Jesus also received an unenthusiastic reception from his countrymen. "*They took offense at him.*" (Mk 6:3)

That kind of reception will become more common for those serious about their Catholic faith. History professor Philip Jenkins has written an insightful book titled *The New Anti-Catholicism*. Not a Catholic himself, he analyzes what has become the **"last acceptable prejudice."** The prejudice shows itself not just in fringe groups who are openly anti-Catholic, but right in the mainstream: major newspapers, movies, television, the arts.* One reason for this hostility is our teaching on matters like abortion and homosexuality.**

This is not a bad place for us to be. Jesus said that if they hated him, they would also hate us. Today St. Paul declares: *I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.* (2Cor 12.10)

Of course, we must be cautious in claiming persecution. No one here is being arrested, tortured and executed for their faith - as is happening in other countries. And perhaps more to the point, you and I (unlike Jesus) are not innocent - nor can we claim a level of integrity equal to Paul.

At the same time, it is hard to ignore that the media have a bias against Catholicism and

that their repeated insinuations do have an impact on our young people. Some young Catholics wonder whether they want to belong to an organization portrayed as anti-woman, anti-gay, anti-choice, anti-democratic, anti-science, even anti-Semitic.

We need people who can respond to the more egregious charges such as that, in the face of the Holocaust, the pope remained silent or even collaborated with Hitler. Besides the accusation that Pius XII was *The Hitler's Pope*, the media make frequent references to other "black legends": *Crusades, Inquisition, Burning Times, Galileo*. We can perform a real service by studying these issues and helping people get beyond what "everyone knows" to a more nuanced understanding.

Celebrating the Fourth of July, as Catholics we desire to take our place alongside other citizens. We do not seek to dominate or impose. As Pope John Paul stated, "*The Church proposes. She imposes nothing*". Rather, in light of the Gospel and in light of our two thousand year tradition, we join fellow citizens in asking: What does freedom mean? Where does it come from? And what will we do with such a gift?

*Jenkins mentions a Seattle art gallery which featured a blasphemous depiction of Christ crucified. "Below the cross, two nuns lie on their backs with the end of a coat hanger between their legs." Other paintings had crude representations of priests. He notes that our society would not tolerate similar stereotyping of Jewish rabbis, black ministers, native Americans, etc. For sure Catholic priests and nuns provide rich ground for parody, going back to Chaucer and continuing into productions like *Late Night Catechism*. But if you imagine that the more vicious variety is an isolated phenomenon, I encourage you to read *The New Anti-Catholicism*.

**We cannot dodge these questions by saying they are private concerns of specific groups. As Mother Teresa observed, "If abortion isn't wrong, then nothing is wrong." If a society accepts the killing of unborn children, on what moral basis can we hold that any other act is unacceptable? The only thing which will matter is who is the strongest, that is who controls the means of communication and is most clever at manipulating people's emotions. Regarding homosexuality, our desire to accept and support those who struggle with same sex attractions does not require that we redefine marriage.