



Founded in 1928

1985 - 2010

## Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church

432 Sheppard Ave. East, Toronto, Ont. M2N 3B7 - Tel: 416-225-3300x21 Fax: 416-225-3814  
E-mail: : [szte.iroda@gmail.com](mailto:szte.iroda@gmail.com) - [szte.plebanos@gmail.com](mailto:szte.plebanos@gmail.com) - Web page: [szenterzsebet.org](http://szenterzsebet.org)

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 to 3 (Monday closed)

Masses: Monday to Saturday at 7.30 AM in English, at 8.00 in Hungarian,  
Sunday's at 9 and 10.30 in Hungarian, at 12 o'clock both in English and Hungarian  
Jesuit priests: Szabolcs Sajgó (pastor), László Marosfalvy (associate pastor) – retired: Balázs Jaschkó

No. 3 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 17.

# CHURCH BULLETIN

Twenty five years on Sheppard – Where to now?

**Readings:** Is 62.1-5 1Cor 12.4-11  
 Jn 2.1-12

**Responsorial Psalm:** “Declare the marvellous works of the Lord among all the peoples.”

### PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- 9:00 +Bernád Lajosért – felesége  
 +Horváth Gáborért – Cserháti család  
 +Nemes Ernőért és +Rózsikáért – Szalay Edit
- 10:30 a Házások Klubjának tagjaiért  
 Lengyel Ferenc felgyógyulásáért - testvére  
 Dobai Ágnes felgyógyulásáért - Ica  
 Veronika születésnapjára, hálából –család  
 az igazságtalanul üldözöttekért - Éva  
 +Irma édesanyjáért – Éva és családja  
 +Kálmán Etelkáért és +Pálért - Matild  
 +Kerék Ilonáért – Kerék László  
 +Ivancsics Jánosért – Radocsay család  
 +Lantos Editért és +Rezsőért – Zydron M.  
 +Nemes Ernőért – Kovács Klári  
 +Gugg Erzsébetért – leánya és családja  
 +Bródi Józsefért – De Souza család  
 +Andródi Saroltáért – Diósady család
- 12:00 +Zadubán Györgyért – Bojtos család  
 +Ilonkáért – Záhonyi család

### Monday (18); Week of prayer for Christian unity

7.30 for fathers' intention

8:00 for fathers' intention

### Tuesday (19);

7.30 for our deceased Jesuits

8.00 for our deceased Jesuits

11.00 +András Lovrits funeral mass

7 p.m. for +György Horváth – Szárics family

### Wednesday (20); Saint Fabian and St. Sebastian

7.30 for the earthquake victims in Haiti

8.00 for +Magdolna Galambos – leánya Margit

7 p.m. for the members of our Altar Custodian group

### Thursday (21); St. Agnes

7.30 for Jesuit vocations

8.00 for Jesuit vocations

### Friday (22); St. Vincent

7.30 for the newly ordained bishop Nguyen

8.00 for Paul - Etelka

### Saturday (23);

7.30 for the conversion of atheists and non believers

8.00 for the conversion of atheists and non believers

<b>Funeral:</b> Albert Holdampf (90) Ernő Nemes (63)
---

### Announcements

❖ **Special Collection** – Archbishop Collins has asked that all parishes of the Archdiocese hold a special second collection the weekend of January 23/24, 2010 to support the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

❖ **Northmount Independent Boys Catholic School, JK – 8**  
**Small by Design, Grand in Achievements**

100% EQAO

AN OPEN HOUSE EACH THURSDAY, 1pm – 4pm

• Enriched Academics • Nationally Recognized Athletics • Genuine Catholic Character Education and Advisory • Instilling the social graces in a culture of service • A warm, welcoming, and caring environment (26 Mallard Rd. First set of lights south of York Mills and Don Mills) [www.northmount.com](http://www.northmount.com), 416.449.8823

❖ **A WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT WEEKEND** is being offered at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, February 12-14, 2010. The center team will preach this retreat. Come join us to rest, renew, pray and grow in your personal relationship with Jesus. Please call 905-278-5229 to make a reservation or for more information.

**Each Holding Twenty to Thirty Gallons**

Fr. Phil Bloom

We are praying for all the victims of the January 12 earthquake on Haiti. We also remember the survivors, especially those who lost loved ones.

This horrific earthquake confronts us anew with the question: How can a loving God allow such horrible suffering? I do not know the answer - much of human suffering comes from the misuse of the freedom

God gave us. But also the natural structure of our world - tectonic plates, microbes, storms, etc. - brings suffering. Why God allows all that is beyond the grasp of my mind.

I will say this: Some have posited that the Haitian earthquake came as a consequence of a supposed pact they made with devil at the time of their independence from France. Now, even though we know the devil exists and that humans sometimes enter into commerce with him, we have no historical evidence that Haitians made such a pact. As far as I can determine, it's an urban legend. The story that they erected a iron statue to a pig after the pact and that you can still see it in Port-au-Prince is just that - a story somebody made up. It is sad that someone would repeat these urban legends in face of such terrible human suffering - and use them to claim that he knows why this terrible earthquake happened. Best to remain silent about things we do not know, to pray for those who suffer things we can barely imagine - and to do what we can to assist them.

Now, having said that, here is my homily for this Sunday...Before giving the homily proper, I would like to make a disclaimer: In the early years of my priesthood, I gave up alcohol. I did it for personal and pastoral reasons. In the course of my ministry, here and in Peru, I have seen the evil one use alcohol to enslave people so he can spread misery. And, unfortunately, children suffer most from adult abuse of alcohol. I invite anyone here to consider whether alcohol - or any other mind altering substance - is bringing suffering in its wake. I will do whatever I can to help you by prayer and an appropriate referral. Now, with that disclaimer I am going to talk this Sunday about a miracle that involves alcohol. It was his first miracle - and he did it at the request of Mary, his mother. At a wedding banquet, to save a young couple from shame, Jesus turned water into wine. He didn't produce a few liters for a final toast. No, he made an enormous quantity. As the Gospel says: Six stone jars "each holding twenty to thirty gallons." That's a lot of wine - between 120 and 180 gallon. Maybe we could split the difference and say, a hundred and fifty gallons. That could keep St. Mary's parish supplied for several years. Moreover - as the Gospel notes - wine of best quality.

One could say a lot about this miracle, but I would like to emphasize this: the abundance. When Jesus does something, he does it right. He gives overflowing abundance. In a supernatural sense, of course, no one can measure his abundance, as I will bring out shortly. But before talking about the supernatural, I want to speak about the everyday, natural level. Those who follow God's path can expect visible blessings.

A recent best-selling book illustrated the blessings that come to those who believe in God and practice their faith. The author has no stake in promoting a Christian agenda. He is a secular, Jewish man: *Dr. Frank Luntz*, who has gained fame as a prescient observer of American society. His book ("*What Americans Really Want...Really*") contains a chapter on religion practice in our country - and the effect of religious practice on the rest of one's life. Based on extensive studies, Dr. Luntz makes this observation:

*"In general, people who have God in their lives are happier, healthier and more content compared to nonbelievers and non-practicioners."* That is quite a statement - "happier, healthier and more content." Luntz gets specific: *"They are more likely to be happily married and more likely to spend time with their children. They are more likely to do volunteer work and less likely to engage in antisocial activities. They are better adjusted and closer to family and friends."*

After enumerating how religious belief and practice correlate with desirable benefits, Dr. Luntz makes this conclusion: *"Every type of positive pathology that we believe is good for the human condition has a direct correlation with religious activity."* So - on an everyday, natural

level - following God's path brings blessings. Even though we acknowledge hypocrisy and backsliding among religious folk, still - in general - people's lives do get better when they take God seriously. God, Jesus, wants to give us blessings - not necessarily a million dollars, but those things that make for a happy, joyful life. He wants us to have an abundant life. Jesus turned water into wine to rescue a young couple from embarrassment and to bring gladness to those celebrating their marriage. This does not mean that no trials will come - they will - but Jesus gives the means to get through them.

Now, that is the natural significance of Jesus' first miracle: *He desires abundance for those who follow his way.*

The miracle also has a deeper, supernatural significance. John carefully notes that the six jars held water used for "Jewish ceremonial washings." Later in this same Gospel, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples - signifying his power to wash away sin. And during that Last Supper, he takes a cup of wine and says, "the cup of my blood...shed for forgiveness of sins."

Both the water and the water-become-wine point to the supernatural gift of forgiveness. Appropriately, Jesus performed this miracle at a wedding feast. No marriage can last without forgiveness. Any couple who has achieved five, ten or more years of marriage can tell you they often needed forgiveness - from God and from each other. Every human relationship requires forgiveness, but especially marriage. Jesus loves young married couples and gives help in good times and in bad. He wants them to have abundance - both naturally and supernaturally.

Young married couples are vital for the future to our society and our Church. I know that you, like me, are concerned that so many have fallen into cohabitation, that they are not making the commitment to marriage nor are they having their marriages blessed by God. These are huge concerns, both for our society and our Church. Still, I do see some positive signs: A recent poll brought encouraging news. It compared those born between 1961 and 1981 ("Generation X") with those born after 1981 (the "Millennial Generation"). Sixty-seven percent of those age 29-49 said they agreed with the statement, "marriage is a life-long commitment." Sixty-seven percent is a solid majority, so Generation X has a strong feeling about life-long marriage. But it's even better among the Millennial Generation - those 28 and younger. Eighty-two percent agree that marriage is a life-long commitment.

It's encouraging that so many young people believe in life-long marriage. But it is one thing to believe - and another to put into practice. A smaller - but significant - number put their belief into practice. In spite of widespread promiscuity, many young people have decided to practice chastity - to wait until marriage. Chastity before marriage is one of the greatest predictors of satisfaction and perseverance in marriage. I have had young people ask me to bless a purity ring that says, "love waits." That's not an easy commitment, especially today. It requires grace from Jesus. And if a person falls, it takes Jesus' help to return to the right track. Jesus can do that especially through the sacrament of confession. He loves young people - and wants them to have the satisfactions and joys of marriage, in abundance.

Today's Gospel shows Jesus love for married couples. It must have devastated those newlyweds to run out of wine at their reception. But Jesus - through the intercession of his Blessed Mother - helps in a time of crisis. He gives an abundance of every blessing that brings joy. Above all, he desires for us the greatest blessing - the forgiveness of sins and the power to forgive one another. As a sign of those blessings, Jesus today turns some hundred and fifty gallons of water into wine. Yes, if we make the effort to follow God's path, he gives every blessing - in abundance.