Saint Elizabeth of Hungary R. C. Church

432 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, Ont M2N 3B7 www.szenterzsebet.org - szte.iroda@gmail.com - phone: 416 225 3300x21

God's Word will come to us

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent has arrived, and we have begun our preparation to celebrate the timeless secret. There is a need to prepare ourselves because of the many events that distract us from those that are most important. We know that the heavens above will shower the blessings this December, too, and the clouds also bring The Just One. It would be sad to be wanting God's abundant spiritual gifts, to watch the celebrations with empty, burned out spirits and dead tired bodies. It's possible to put aside our burdens, to let our sorrows go, and to have our souls refreshed, renewed. Here are some words from a sermon by Saint Bernard, abbot, to help us in our spiritual preparations during the blessed Advent time:

We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty.

Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.

In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all.

During this time, thank the Lord, many of you that do not normally attend our church will participate in the services at St. Elizabeth's. Remember, that there are two Masses in our church on Sundays: at 9.00 and at 11.00 A.M., and that on Sundays and Holidays, the two nearby side roads are also available for your use...

On behalf of the Fathers, the parish staff and volunteers, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Christmas,

Toronto, November 30, 2012