

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church

220 E Blancke St., Linden, NJ 07036

ADVENT

The season of advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before.

-Jan Richardson



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GOSPEL MEDITATIONS

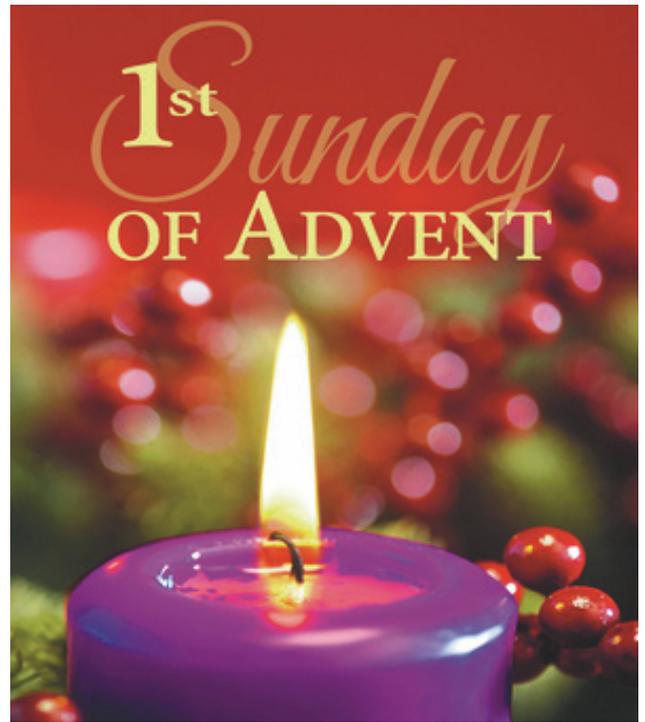
November 29, 2020

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate!

Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now.

"Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.



God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all.

But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

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GOSPEL MEDITATIONS

December 6, 2020

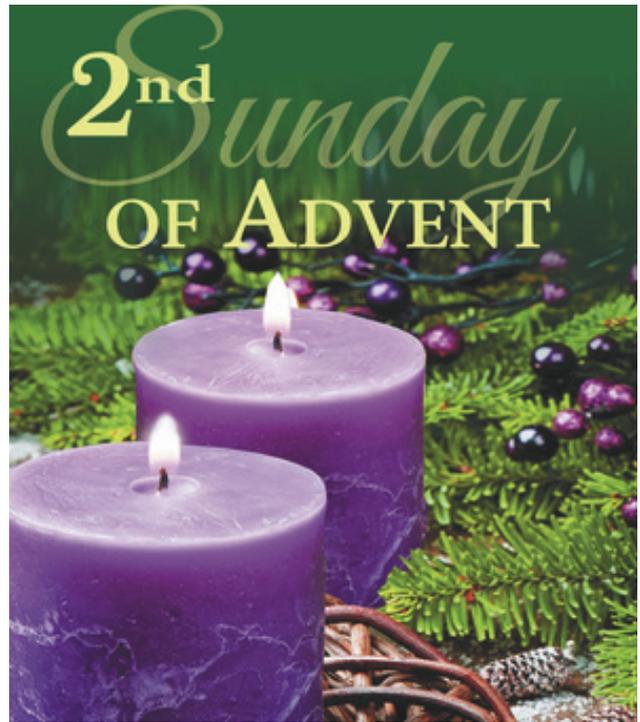
People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively.

It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention?

We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you?



After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior.

It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines.

Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming.

Mass Intentions

First Week of Advent | Nov. 29 - Dec. 5, 2020

- **Saturday - November 28th**
4:00 PM Mary & Ralph DeRose
- **Sunday - November 29th**
8:00 AM Frank Ford
10:00 AM Rosanna Pezzella
12:00 AM Helen Kenny
- **Monday - November 30th**
8:00 AM People of the Parish
12:05 PM Armand Colucci
- **Tuesday - December 1st**
8:00 AM Alejandra "Dandy" Tesoro
12:05 PM Robert Skae
- **Wednesday - December 2nd**
8:00 AM 2020 Project Babies in the Womb
12:05 PM Intercession of St. Padre Pio
- **Thursday - December 3rd**
8:00 AM Alejandra "Dandy" Tesoro
12:05 PM Intercession of Our Lady Guadalupe
- **Friday - December 4th (First Friday)**
8:00 AM Michael Polly on his Birthday
3:00 PM Holy Hour
12:05 PM Armand Colucci
- **Saturday - December 5th**
12:05 PM Living & Deceased Intentions

Second Week of Advent | Dec. 6 - 12, 2020

- **Saturday - December 5th**
4:00 PM Ralph DeRose
- **Sunday - December 6th**
8:00 AM Robert Quinn
10:00 AM Anthony LaTempa
12:00 AM Thomas H. Crowhurst
- **Monday - December 7th**
8:00 AM People of the Parish
12:05 PM Catherine Claridge
- **Tuesday - December 8th (Immaculate Conception)**
8:00 AM John & Mary Orak
12:05 PM In Thanksgiving for Noel
7:05 PM Alejandra "Dandy" Tesoro
- **Wednesday - December 9th**
8:00 AM Rommel P. Diego
12:05 PM In Thanksgiving for Wah
- **Thursday - December 10th**
8:00 AM Alejandra "Dandy" Tesoro
12:05 PM In Thanksgiving for Auguste
- **Friday - December 11th**
8:00 AM Alejandra "Dandy" Tesoro
12:05 PM Auguste, Wah & Noel
- **Saturday - December 12th (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**
12:05 PM Regina Szczykutowicz

CHRISTMAS 2020 MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24, 2020
2:00 pm, 4:00 pm,
6:00pm, and 10:00pm
(Midnight Mass Observed)

Friday, December 5, 2020
10:00 am and 12:00 noon



Third Sunday of Advent

- **Saturday - December 12th**
4:00 PM George & Myra Howie
Regina & Jozef Szczykutowicz
Wladyslawa Szermuszyn
- **Sunday - December 13th**
8:00 AM Domenica Galizia
10:00 AM Ksenia Palahnuk
12:00 PM Maryann Noon

Memorials

Week of Nov. 29, 2020

Altar Candles
Robert Skae by Wife, Son
& Daughter-in-law

Sanctuary Lamp
Joey Ortiz by Wife,
Maria

Week of Dec. 6, 2020

Altar Candles
Robert Quinn by Wife,
Children & Grandchildren

Sanctuary Lamp
Otilia Esteves & Lola
Esteves

Altar Bread & Altar Wine
Gene Mulcahy by Sandra
Wolfe



Holiday Coat Drive

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish will be conducting a coat drive beginning November 7th and continuing through December 13th.

Collection boxes will be in back of the church and you can drop off any used, but in good condition, winter coats, hats, scarfs and gloves in the boxes.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the tough economic times we are presently going through, there are a lot of families suffering in our city and the surrounding communities, some without jobs, some with cut hours of employment and some without income coming into the household.

We ask for your generous support of this program as you have done in the past. God Bless.

Deacon John and the committee.



Parish Giving Tree

The Giving Tree tags will be distributed this weekend (Nov. 28-29) and next weekend (Dec. 5-6) before and after mass in the vestibule. By taking a tag and donating a gift, you will be helping a needy child enjoy a Merry Christmas. The return date is December 13. The gifts can be placed under the Giving Tree in the traditional location. Many thanks in advance and God Bless!



Financial News

The Church's financial year runs July to June so the end of December will mark the halfway point of our fiscal year. Two important goals to watch will be the Christmas collection which is budgeted for \$18,000 and the Sunday collections which should be at \$100,000 by that point. We did make \$51,000 at the end of the first quarter so we are very hopeful. Our parish Finance Council has been meeting more frequently to keep a close eye on the budget.

The renovations are coming along in the school building. The parish received a NJ State energy grant to replace all the lights with energy efficient bulbs. A partial grant was also received for new air conditioning in the gymnasium. The old 1972 A/C units served the parish well and certainly did not owe us anything. Those projects were completed in October.

The current phase is the replacement of all the toilets and sinks and many of the stalls in the main building bathrooms. The internal doors – classroom and hallway, are being replaced, as well, to meet with current school safety standards. The contractor estimates that this phase should be completed by Christmas.

The final phase for next year's budget will be the updating of the cafeteria kitchen and gymnasium kitchen. Estimates and bidding will most likely begin in the Spring with work to be done over the summer. This year's projects have an approved budget of \$500,000. The new 5-year lease with Linden Public Schools has reached preliminary agreement and is currently being reviewed by the lawyers. Unless the Board of Ed turns down the renewal, the revenue for St. Elizabeth will be 3 million over 5 years.



ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY COVID RESPONSE PLAN

November 29, 2020

As a result of the most recent outbreaks of the Covid-19 virus the parish has contracted with a nationally recognized Bio Hazard Remediation Company, Emergi-Clean, Inc., owned and operated by former parishioner, Dr. Scott Vogel. His company's safety and operational guidelines and procedures far exceed local, state, federal and industry recommendations. They use leading technology to enhance their capabilities to perform and execute all of their jobs. Emergi-Clean will be consulting with St. Elizabeth about keeping our Church and offices clean and protecting the health of our parishioners when participating in the parish.

The plan includes:

- The Church Worship Space is now configured with CDC guideline-distancing as well as State of NJ directives for capacity and mask-wearing. All safety protocols are followed with regard to distribution of Communion and cleaning between Masses.
- The use of high quality and effective cleaning and sanitizing products by our maintenance staff approved by Emergi-Clean and critical touch point cleaning techniques and training by Dr. Vogel.
- All employees are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) unless they prefer to use their own. Regular handwashing as well as Purell dispensers are throughout the parish. Every employee has her/his own room to work in and must wear a mask when leaving that room. A common area with seats 6 feet apart is used if brief in-person meetings must take place.
- All employees must fill out and sign a Health Checklist before coming into the office. If employees have any symptoms they must stay home and visit a doctor or test negative for Covid before returning.
- Contact-tracing forms are used at all Masses so if there should be a worshipper who tests positive, others at the Mass will be informed.



- Periodically after our cleaning procedures, surfaces will be monitored by the use of an ATP Luminometer. This device can determine if the cleaning process was effective by swabbing the surface. Within 15 seconds, we will get a reading of light refraction off of the swab called RLU (Relative Light Units) this number helps determine the level of cleanliness of surfaces. We will aim for 11-30 RLU level (Ultra Clean) for all critical touch points. (1-10 is reserved for sterile environments like hospitals) If any results are above 30, those locations will be cleaned again until the Ultra-Clean criteria is met.
- If at any time the parish experiences any kind of outbreak exposure, Emergi-Clean will be brought in immediately to administer a high tech "fogging" process that will sterilize the air particles remediating any risk and enabling the rooms to be safely used again.

Since this is a fluid situation in our society right now please know that we will be adjusting the plan according to health official's instructions and guidelines. We will also be getting periodic updates from the Archdiocese and will implement changes accordingly. We wish to thank our Knights of Columbus for providing payment for our initial sanitizing and cleaning procedure in November. Let us pray for a successful vaccine process so we can end this pandemic once and for all. If you should have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Ed.

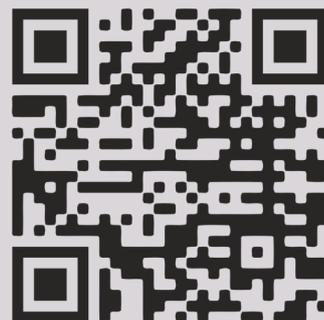
Current Mass Schedule

Saturdays: 4PM = Anticipatory Mass for Sunday

Sundays: 8AM = Sunday Mass
10AM = Sunday Mass
12noon = Sunday Mass

Also live streamed for those at home on our Facebook:
"St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church - Linden NJ"

Scan for livestreams:



Parish Contact Information

Rectory Address

179 Husa Street

Rectory Office Hours

Monday to Friday (9AM-1PM)

Phone (General Queries)

908-486-2514

908-403-1513 (Emergency)

Religious Education

908-486-2514

(Coordinated by Tanya Grissett)

Parish Email

SEHPLinden@gmail.com

Parish Website

<http://www.sainteonline.org/>

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Edgardo P. Jocson (Fr. Ed)

Deacon

John Bejgrowicz

Receptionist

Ann Marie Bednar

Volunteer Administrative Assistant

Donna "Doll" Vilchinsky

Maintenance Director

Pablo Hernandez

Bookkeeper

Lizeth Amaya

Rectory Assistant

Lidia Marin

Custodian

Nelson Tinanna

Leader of Song/Cantor

James Kinzel

Parish Consultant

Dennis Corcoran

N.J. LIC.
NO. 3220

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