

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church

A Mission Church of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Staff

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September 11, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters,

One of the first things I did on my first week at St. Elizabeth's was to visit the Sandwich Line. I was very impressed by the dedication and generosity of our volunteers. Their patience, kindness and love to the hungry and the poor was very evident and very inspiring. I noticed that many of our volunteers know the people they serve by name. That was an indication to me that the personal love of Jesus for them was manifested in this wonderful service.

Mass Times

Monday to Friday: 12:15 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

I know that near the feast day of St. Elizabeth's in November we have a big celebration and a fundraiser for the Sandwich Line, and I'm looking forward to it. But I would also like to have a particular day exclusively dedicated to thank our committed volunteers for their work. I know I'm a broken record, but I do think it is such an inspiring example.

Confession Times

Monday to Friday: 11:40 AM – 12:10 PM

Our Sandwich Line tradition dates to Fr. Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., who became pastor of St. Elizabeth's on September 23rd, 1907, when every morning the hungry would form a line at the friary gate. In that Franciscan spirit of love and service to the poor, I thought it a good idea to honor our volunteers on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is with great joy that I invite you all to thank and celebrate our volunteers on Tuesday, Oct 4, during the 12:15 PM Mass at St. Elizabeth's. The Mass will be offered for our helpers and their intentions.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Thursday: 4:20 PM - 5:20 PM

On a similar note, I want to thank the FOCUS missionaries who also have been helping at the Sandwich Line twice a week. My hope is that we get some of the college students involved in this exceptional ministry. Let's place this ministry under the protection of St. Francis and Our Lady of the Angels.

Spiritual Talk

Thursday: 4:00 PM

Yours in Christ,

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 AM – 3:00 PM

Fr. Richard, MC

Spiritual Direction for College Students



<https://calendly.com/fatherrichard/spiritual-direction>

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Gospel Reflection Corner

By Fr. Richard Castro Huergo, MC

This Sunday we are reading an unusually long Gospel. It is chapter 15 of St. Luke. The whole thing! Because of this chapter, St. John Paul II called Luke's Gospel, "the Gospel of mercy." These three parables are only present in Luke's Gospel and, therefore, completely absent from the other three Gospels. Furthermore, St. Luke also emphasizes the theme of mercy in other parts of his Gospel, for instance, the parable of the Good Samaritan.

We could go on and on highlighting a thousand details of these three parables. But today I want to focus on just one aspect. I became aware of this particular point a few years back, reading this same Gospel. The first thing I noticed was that the three parables were read together and that it was quite long. It's amazing how we can sometimes read something again and again and find always something new. For whatever reason I hadn't noticed this before.

I also noticed something more surprising to me. Probably this particular detail had escaped me since I would rarely read the whole chapter at once. While reading this Gospel at Mass I paid attention to certain repeated themes. The shepherd, having found the sheep "he sets it on his shoulders with **great joy**," and tells his friends "**Rejoice** with me," and we read that "there will be **more joy** in heaven over one sinner who repents." The woman, having found the coin, also tells her friends "**rejoice** with me" and we read that "there will be **rejoicing** among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." The Father, receiving his son says "let us **celebrate** with a feast," then we read that "the **celebration** began," and the oldest son is invited to "**celebrate** and **rejoice**."

I counted six instances of joy/rejoice and three instances of celebration/celebrate. This is a lot

of rejoicing for one chapter of the Gospel. Indeed, Jesus wants to manifest to us a very clear message, God the Father rejoices in our coming back, he is constantly searching and waiting for us.

We traditionally call these parables the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son. However, I think we could rename them to "the joy of the shepherd," "the joy of the woman," and "the joy of the Father."

Sometimes we feel that God the Father is like our earthly parents. We think he gets offended by our sins and goes away in anger and gives us the silent treatment. But the Lord tells us "for my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways" (Is 55:8). God the Father is not human, but divine. His heart is loving without imperfection, anger or bitterness.

Indeed, far from giving us the silent treatment and going away, the Lord is always reaching out for us. Walking over valleys, marshes, deserts, mountains and hills like the shepherd until he finds us. Cleaning and moving everything upside down in the house like the woman, without rest. Waiting for us lovingly, begging for our return like the Father of the prodigal son.

How great is the mystery of the heart of God! These three parables reveal to us the loving merciful heart of God the Father. It is in our power to make God, who is unchangeable, rejoice and celebrate. We just need to return to him. We just need to allow ourselves to receive his mercy. He is waiting for us with his arms wide open, with a smile on his face, with great hope in his heart, with wonderful plans for our earthly and, most importantly, our eternal happiness. Let's give God the Father the joy of forgiving us in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Meet Madeleine Huber & Jon Brakenhoff

"For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?" -Pope Francis The Joy of the Gospel

God has called us to serve in Denver, Colorado at the Auraria Campus missionary formation house. Jon is in his fifth year with FOCUS and serves as manager which allows him to form and invest in the missionaries, who in turn pour into the male students on campus in a radical way. We serve the students attending one of the three commuter schools that make up the Auraria Campus: Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and the University of Colorado-Denver. Our house of missionaries serves the campus ministry through St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church which sits on the edge of campus in the shadow of downtown Denver. We believe God desires to build up some of His new FOCUS missionaries through living in our community and spending six months to one year with the specific intention of allowing our Lord to develop them into the sons, brothers, missionaries, and future spouses and fathers that the Lord is calling them to be.

After finishing her third year as a missionary to the schools in Birmingham, Madeleine has left full-time college mission with FOCUS to be an architectural designer with Populous in Denver. Madeleine plays an essential part-time role in our mission at the Auraria Campus by providing a witness to the feminine genius to a house full of young men. Additionally, she leads the female students in whatever capacity she can outside of her full-time job!

We are both tremendously blessed to take on these new roles in Denver! Jon is especially grateful to use his degree in nutrition, exercise, and health sciences; his experience as a Nebraska football strength and conditioning intern; and his time as a missionary at Auburn to form the Auraria campus men in the virtuous life of a disciple of Jesus. In addition to the rigorous FOCUS spiritual and intellectual formation, Jon provides enhanced training and formation for the 8-10 male missionaries so they can transition to a more traditional FOCUS campus after six months to one year serve at the Auraria Campus. This experience helps them to thrive in the



**Madeleine Huber
& Jon Brakenhoff**

face of difficulties and allows them to have a more significant impact on the students they go on to serve. The long-term plan is to collaborate with the Archdiocesan seminary discernment process and expand to open formation houses across our apostolate and the country!

We have said yes to following Jesus Christ in a radical way by being full time missionaries. Part of this call is that we rely on the spiritual and financial support of mission partners

to sponsor us as we share the Gospel in Denver. So far in our time as missionaries support raising has been one of the most tangible ways God has shown his faithfulness to us.

If this mission or our family inspires you in any way, we want to talk to you! Please reach out to us personally either by phone (402)-310-5972 or email me at jonathan.brakenhoff@focus.org. We'd be honored to have you join this adventure with us!

God bless,

Madeleine & Jon

Campus Outreach

Sports & Freezie Pops

Mondays: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Quad)
Thursdays: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Quad)

Free Grill Outs

Thursdays 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
(St. Elizabeth's)

Eucharistic Adoration & Talk

Thursdays 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
(St. Elizabeth's)

Youth Group

Every first Sunday of the month after Mass, starting in October

It ends at 11:30 AM

There will be games, activities and formation

All Middle and High School age young men and women are welcome!

Hosted by Liz Barreca