

Thoughts from the Deacon Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary (11/17)

The **Catholic bells** will ring again over Dresden! The bell system at St Ann will be replaced this week by the Verdin Bell Company, who did the last few upgrades and may have done the initial installation. Thanks again to all who have contributed to the BAA and an anonymous donor who helped us stay under budget.

Today is the Memorial of **St Elizabeth of Hungary**. She was noted for her piety and preference for the poor. After her husband died, she patterned her life after St Francis of Assisi. As **Advent** approaches she is a good example for us. The secularization of Christmas is very powerful and distracting. From our Catholic worldview, Advent is to be in a similar spirit as Lent, with fasting, prayer and almsgiving to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Birth of our Savior. Almsgiving, especially during these times of economic hardship for many should be forefront in our minds. As Jesus promised in Matthew 25, "what you do for least of these you do for me." Many families are making due with less this year; an excellent approach to Advent would be to limit gift giving for our immediate family and give to a stranger or neighbor who needs a little help.

Along those same lines, if any parish families are in need of assistance for basic needs or if you know a family that is in need please contact the office. There are potentially funds available through the diocese especially if related to COVID and the resulting economic downturn.

Keep our First Communicants in your prayers as they prepare for **First Holy Communion** this Sunday.

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be 9:00am at St Mary and it will be livestreamed.

Keep in mind the **Parish Mission Retreat** December 14-16 at St Mary starting with the rosary at 6:40 pm. Fr Hayes will say Masses and preach the weekend of December 12-13 in preparation for the Mission.

Viva Cristo Rey!!