



FOR I KNOW THAT MY  
*Redeemer Lives*

JOB 19:25

*"A new generation of free Hungarians living in the free world, stepped forward to continue the work of the elders. To work for freedom, self-determination, justice and equality for all Hungarians.*

*This new generation proudly call themselves American-Hungarians... their love for freedom and justice is just as intense as their elders, but they are sharing this love between Motherland of their parents and their birthplace America"*  
*(published on 25 October 1981  
by Fr. Gilibert Mihalyi).*

These words of my late predecessor Fr. Mihalyi bespeak of a people who desire freedom in 1956 during a time of foreign occupation.

Not only did our church congregation recalls these words last October but recently we had a church full of Hungarians, Catholic as well as non-Catholic, and people of various backgrounds to remember the 1848 Hungarian revolution.

As I assume the pastoral responsibilities as rector of St. Stephen of Hungary Mission, I am humbled and grateful for this opportunity. As I have come to know the past of our historic church on the corner of Augusta Blvd and Damen Ave, I recognize the hard work and talents of my predecessors such as the scholarly Frs. Mihalyi, O.Praem and Magyar, the missionary zeal of Frs. Kemp, S.V.D., and Andras, S.J., and other priests who have served faithfully here in our close to one hundred year history since we opened the doors in 1934.

I am grateful for Fr. Ed Cronin as he retires after years of service to the Archdiocese of Chicago and who has guided our faith community during our "Renew the Church" efforts.

Fr. Mihalyi was right. Many of our elders gave a strong witness to our Catholic faith and heritage which when lived out guides us to freedom---ultimately freedom in Christ, freedom towards blessings and life.

We see this during our Lenten Sundays as the Samaritan woman (John 4:5-42); the blind man (John 11:1-45), and Lazarus (John 11:1-45) all come into a freedom from darkness, sin and death to new life, here in this world and the next.

And Fr. Mihalyi was also right in recognizing the strong bonds existing between our church and the Hungarian Motherland. I have seen this as well, even today, and I pray we can strengthen these ties, and share our rich Hungarian legacy of St. Stephen and the meaning of his Crown with the larger community, especially within the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Indeed we have a mission here. It began back in Galilee where Jesus called his followers to be mission disciples as Pope Francis is encouraging us to be along with every Christian community.

During these moments with our Blessed Lord his disciples learned that they were a people of life, not death, a people with a future, not just a past. How all of humanity needs this in these troubled times.

And during and after the Resurrection, these disciples experienced life more profoundly. I pray that this be not only the experience for the Hungarian community in Chicago but also for those who are looking for a freedom towards light and life, in this world and in the world to come.  
**Mass schedule for the Holy Week: Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7PM, Easter Sunday at 10AM.**  
Have a blessed Easter 2023.

Fr. James F. Heyd, Rector  
St. Stephen of Hungary Mission Church, Augusta Blvd and Damen

*Rev. James F. Heyd*