



# February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent

## Upcoming Dates

Feb 26, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm  
 Mar 1, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm  
 Mar 12, Spaghetti & Wine Dinner  
 Apr 8, Easter Egg Hunt 11am  
 Apr 28, McKenzie Golf Tournament  
 May 17, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

## Mass Intentions

**Sun 9:30 am:**  
 Kevin KC Bledsoe† requested by Greg McCaffey

## Readings

Gn 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7  
 Ps 51: 3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 17  
 Rom 5: 12-19 or 5: 12. 17-19  
 Mt 4:1-11

## Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Ill or in pain: Harry Vogl  
 Called to Eternal Life: Joan Brown

## Parish Donations

You can easily donate online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the bulletin with your smartphone or by visiting [stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give](http://stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give)

February 18-19	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$537.00	\$431.00
St. Catherine	\$514.00	\$0.00
St. Colman	\$60.00	\$60.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,602.00

## Announcements

### **See's Easter Candy Sale**

See's Easter Candy will be available for sale after Masses starting next weekend! For those that prefer to shop online, here is the link to our online store: [https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stecc\\_st\\_elizabeths\\_sees\\_easter\\_44/Mic\\_McD9043/](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stecc_st_elizabeths_sees_easter_44/Mic_McD9043/)

For questions about future parish events, please contact Linda Payne at: (707) 953-9166 or [cocomokidd@aol.com](mailto:cocomokidd@aol.com)

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

\* of February, May, August and November

## Stations of the Cross

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be recited after the 9 am Mass on Fridays. Participating in Stations of the Cross is a wonderful way to reflect on the Passion of Christ, thereby deepening our connection and relationship to Jesus during this Lenten season.

## March Events

Spaghetti and Wine Dinner and Discussion: Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 6pm St Hubert's Hall

## April Events

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> 11am St Hubert's Field

McKenzie Golf Tournament: April 28<sup>th</sup> at Northwood in Monte Rio

## Part-time Bookkeeper Position

Are you looking for a few extra hours? The Diocese is looking for part-time bookkeepers. Please contact Lori Norcia [lnorcia@srdiocese.org](mailto:lnorcia@srdiocese.org) or call (707) 566-3322 for more information.

## Free Income Tax Preparations

River to Coast Children's Services in conjunction with United Way offers free tax preparations for those taxpayers whose income is \$70,000 or less. (Some other requirements also apply.) Please call: (707) 869-3613 or go to: <https://rccservices.org/tax-program.html> for more information.

## Monthly Collection Report

The Parish Council has decided to publish the collections on a monthly basis beginning January of 2023. This collection report will show both the collections at Mass but also our online collections. It also shows the estimated expenses that are required to operate our Parish and Mission Churches. We hope to update this on or after the 15th of the following month.

## Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the season of paradox and mystery, the season of Lent. Starting Wednesday last week Ash Wednesday when every Christian received the ash on their forehead to remind us of our mortality in this world and is mark as a sign of the cross, to remind us that we have a Savior. Ash Wednesday scripture Jesus wants his disciples' almsgiving to be done in secret so that, "Your Father who sees in secret will repay you." Is our giving oriented toward God or toward our own pride and ego? Likewise, Jesus warns against hypocritical public prayer. Instead, he invites us into our 'inner room,' where we will encounter God. It is easy to say, "I'm praying for you," or even to show up to church Sunday after Sunday to pray in public, where we will be seen as faithful Catholics. This Lent may we be challenged not just to show up but to pray both deeply and intimately. This does not necessitate hours upon hours of contemplation but rather requires intentional time for connection between us and God as well as an openness to whatever we may discover along the way.

Jesus also instructs, "not to look gloomy" while we fast, as fasting hypocrites call attention to themselves, what they are giving up, how much they are suffering for the sake of their fast, and perhaps what a successful fast they are making.

Christ invites us again to consider the intention of our Lenten practices. For whom am I fasting? What does this fast do, and what does it open up in my spiritual life" whether your Lenten fast is the simple sacrifice of mean on Friday or includes an additional, personal sacrifice, ensure that this Lent is about more than the material.

Our prayer, fasting and almsgiving must be rooted in giving glory to God, not to ourselves.

The Gospel this first Sunday of Lent draws us into the desert with Jesus, maybe not so much to experience temptation -we have that around us all the time- but perhaps to discover the steadfastness of spirit that the psalmist speaks of. Perhaps if we feast on God's Word, we will nourish the life of God in us. Perhaps if we allow God to accompany us even into the depths of our life's experiences, we will know our true strength. And perhaps, if we give ourselves over to truly worship God, we will experience the grace we need to strip away whatever false securities cloud our vision. In the desert with Jesus, the true son of God who was also truly human, we might just rediscover our own identity as daughters and sons of God.

Peace and Blessings!

Fr. Luis

## Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory to confirm with him, so that he knows to stay late on Friday or arrive early on the weekend. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory at (707) 869-2107.

## Discussion Questions

*Courtesy of Anne Osdieck, St. Louis University*

### **First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

What in the creation story establishes a bond between humans and all other creatures of earth? What in it establishes a bond between humans and God? Would it be a better world if humans did not have the freedom to choose? Knowing that people would not always resist the temptation to choose evil, why would God ever give the human race free will?

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

1. We hear at Easter, "O happy fault! O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!" St. Paul says in today's reading that the gift is much greater than the transgression. (like killing a roach with a nuclear weapon!) Why do you think God would go to this extreme to save us?

2. "... So, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous." Christ represents all of us before God. Should we be discouraged or saddened by our past sins? How does Christ lift these burdens and bring us peace?

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

1. How does it make you feel to think Jesus had to fight temptation the same way you do? Did he dialogue with the devil or just send him away with the Word of God?

2. Why would Pope Francis say that the desert is "the place of the essential"? He says the following about Sunday's readings:

*Let us imagine that we are in a desert. The first feeling would be that of being enveloped by a great silence: no sound besides the wind and our own breathing. The desert is a place of detachment from the din that surrounds us. It is the absence of words to make room for another Word, the Word of God, that caresses our hearts like a light breeze (cf. 1 Kings 19:12). ...*

*By calling us to the desert, Jesus invites us to listen to what matters, to what is important, to the essential. ... We need to pray. Because only before God do the inclinations of the heart come to light and the duplicity of the spirit cease. The desert is a place of life not of death because speaking to the Lord in silence, gives us life again. ...*

*The desert is the place of the essential. Let us look at our lives: how many useless things surround us! We chase after thousands of things that seem necessary and that in reality are not. How good it would be for us to free ourselves from many superfluous realities, to rediscover what matters. ...*

*Audience Pope Francis, Feb. 26, 2020  
 Beginning of Lenten Journey*



SCAN ME