



April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

Upcoming Dates

Apr 26 12:30 pm	Golf Tournament at Northwood
Apr 28 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild Meeting
May 5 10:30 am	Fr. Luis' 25th Anniversary of Ordination
May 15 4:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners.

Readings

Acts 4: 32-35
Ps 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Jn 5: 1-6
Jn 20: 19-31

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Pete, Patrick Gluch, Erin Sammon & Family

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Maddie Nelson

Parish Donations

You can donate online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the bulletin or by visiting stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give

Collection Period	1 st Collection	\$2,617.00
March 30-31	2 nd Collection	\$480.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$3,097.00

Announcements

Easter Egg Hunt Follow Up

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for helping to make last week's Easter Egg Hunt a wonderful experience for 25 local kids and their families. Thanks to Susan Poirier and her grandkids for filling 500 plastic eggs. Barbara Kobler and Vanessa Sanchez, thank you for cooking the hot dogs. Denise Britton, thank you for recruiting Heather and Analei from Guerneville school to help with many details of the event including selling raffle tickets. Thanks to

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

Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall	* of February, May, August and November
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman	

Denise's daughter Kaitlyn for jumping in to help in many ways including setting up the egg hunt sections. Thank you to all of the raffle basket donors. Asusena Sanchez, Fatima Sanchez and Destiny helped with the coloring contest and applied fake tattoos for the children, thank you. Steve Kline checked in to offer assistance a few times during the afternoon which was much appreciated. John Helt, Sean Helt, Christina Valente, and Anthony Valente-Graves helped with set up, clean up, and many aspects of organizing to help the event run smoothly. This event could not have happened without this fantastic group of people who all enjoyed giving back to the community by helping with this event.

Golf Tournament at Northwood

We are excited to announce the 5th year of our golf tournament! A great time is always guaranteed, just ask anyone who has attended in the past. You don't have to be a golfer; you can come join us after golf for dinner at Northwood Restaurant.

Date: Friday April 26th
Place: Northwood Golf Course and Restaurant

Sign in at 12:30pm.
Shotgun start at 2:00pm.
Dinner at 6:00pm.

Price: \$180.00 for green fee, golf cart and dinner or \$75.00 for dinner only.
Sponsorships: \$200.00

For info or reservations contact Linda Payne (707) 953-9166
cocomokidd@aol.com

Visit
<https://rrchurches.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/MacKenzieClassic2024/tabid/1426478/Default.aspx>

Fr. Luis' 25th Anniversary of Ordination

Come enjoy brunch to celebrate with Fr. Luis on May 5th at St Hubert Hall after the 9:30 am Mass. There will be no Mass at St Colman that day so Fr. Luis won't have to race off after the 9:30 am Mass. There is no charge for brunch so please everyone come and celebrate with Fr. Luis!

Annual Ministry Appeal 2024

The work of the *Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA)* is at heart your work, the work to which you are oriented by your Baptism: the service of God through service of your brothers and sisters in Christ. By making a gift to the *Annual Ministry Appeal, One Family in Mission*, you are able to touch souls and change lives throughout our diocese. Thank you to all who have already pledged, moving us closer to our goal as a parish community. Every gift is sincerely appreciated!

Parish Council

Our church has a Parish/Pastoral council. It consists of 9 members - Linda Payne, Barbara and Otto Kobler, Maryanne Gustafson, Susan Poirier, Patrick McDonnell, Chris Kollaja, Mary Helt and Martha "Marti" Lownes. The committee meets monthly with Fr Luis, to discuss current and future projects and plans for the parish, and we advise Father on agenda items as needed. Please feel free to reach out to any council member with questions or concerns about our parish.

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

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Easter, and as we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ this weekend, we offer our gratitude to Chris Kollaja and Mary Helt, both are moving on to start new chapters in their lives and we wish them the very best. Chris's last day is May 7th and Mary's is May 8th.

Chris has been with us for over 2 years and has been instrumental in making quite a few improvements. He introduced us to Churchtrac, which improved our web presence and provided us the ability to take donations online and to notify our congregation of church events. He played a crucial role in the success of our Capital Campaign. The rectory repair and improvement project was an overwhelming task and Chris made it happen. We are going to miss his drive, talent, enthusiasm and creativity. Chris has proven that each of us has the potential to make things happen in our parish!

I would also like to thank Mary Helt who always went above and beyond her job as secretary for over 2 years even while displaced due to the rectory repair and improvement project. We would be a mess today if not for her help.

Both Chris and Mary were in the right place at the right time. We give thanks to God for sending them to help us and may God bless them in their future endeavors.

Peace and blessings!
Fr. Luis

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

Doubting

So what is the trouble for this famous man, Thomas, in the Gospel? His doubts echo through history. We often assume that he was just a tough guy who had trouble trusting. But it would help you and me in our own doubts if we could understand more about this person who couldn't believe in the resurrection.

We call him Doubting Thomas.

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.

First, who was he? His real name in Aramaic, Te'oma (Thomas), meant twin, and he was also called Didymus, which meant the same thing in Greek. So he likely was a twin, perhaps of Matthew.

He might have been a bit glum. For instance, he gave a practical but gloomy response when Jesus wanted to go back to Judea after Lazarus died. None of the disciples wanted to go there, because they knew the leaders had tried to stone Jesus (John 10:24-30). At that point Jesus gave some high-minded talk about how much they would learn by going, but Thomas ignored these reasoning. His sarcastic reply is a perfect picture of him: *"Alright, let us also go die with him"* (John 11:16).

Here Thomas reminds me a bit of Joe Btfsplk, the famous Al Capp cartoon character from yesteryear who walked around with a perpetual rain cloud over his head!

Much later, just before the passion, Jesus will say, *"Where I am going you know the way."* This was really a spiritual statement about going to the Father, but Thomas took it literally (John 14:3-6). He gives a very matter-of-fact response, but rooted in emotion. In summary he says, *"You're talking in secrets! We can't follow you if don't say where you are going! Help us."*

Thomas loved Jesus doggedly, that is for sure. But he feared the dangerous situations that Jesus always walked right into. Thomas' practical nature looked frankly at them and drew the pragmatic, pessimistic conclusion. Thomas the twin had twin emotions, love and fear.

Is it any wonder, then, that in this Sunday's Gospel Thomas laid down unflinching requirements for believing in the resurrection? Take a look. His worst fears already had come true: Jesus had been killed. To deal with this sorrow Thomas resolved to accept the death stolidly. He would never slip and talk about his departed friend in the present tense, as if he were still here. Thomas the pragmatist knew that Jesus was dead and gone. He had predicted it.

Then came the new news. *"Didymus, Jesus is alive! You were away, but suddenly he stood there among us even though all the doors were locked! He talked to us!"*

No. NO! Thomas' heart could not accept it. He wanted it too much. He could not bear to believe it.

Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. (John 20:25)

This is exactly in character for Thomas/Didymus. These tough words are really a protection for a heart that would break in pieces if it were fooled by another false hope. *"The only way I would believe such nonsense is if you give me absolute proof."*

Jesus gave it. Fingers in nail marks, hand in side.

Thomas had always belonged to Jesus. Yes, he was cynical, but when he got the practical proof he needed, he sank to the ground in heart-rending surrender.

"My Lord and my God."

What a great story for us at Eastertide.



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April 2024

#56 St. Elizabeth, Guerneville

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(707) 869-2107 • 14095 Woodland Drive, Guerneville, CA 95446

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Father Luis Peñaloza, PASTOR

Baptisms: By appointment. Preparation classes required.

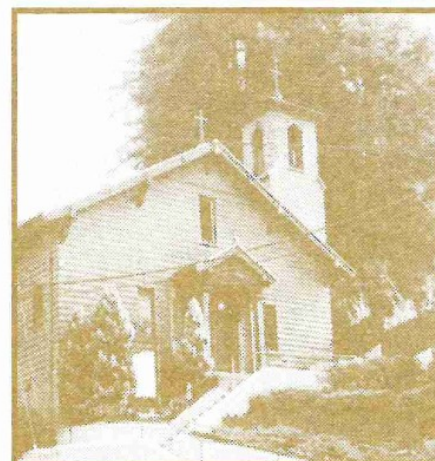
Marriages: Engaged couples are required to meet with the priest 6 months before the wedding date.

Confessions: By appointment. Call the Rectory.

Religious Education: RCIA. Call the Rectory.

Contact the Rectory at St. Elizabeth, 707-869-2107 Email: churchelizabeth@comcast.net

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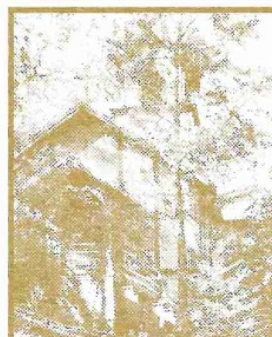
St. Elizabeth, Guerneville

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Tue - Fri. 9:00 a.m.
Outdoor church July 4th weekend through

Labor Day weekend.

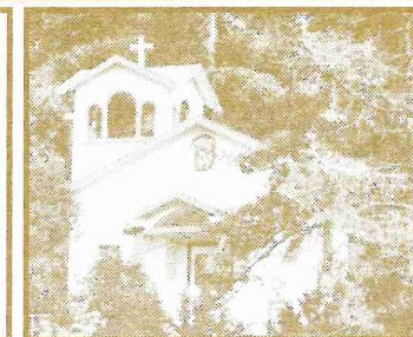


St. Colman, Cazadero

Mass Schedule
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Outdoor church
Memorial Day
through Labor Day

St. Catherine of Siena, Monte Rio

Mass Schedule
Saturday 4:00 p.m.



WELCOME to the communities of St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine of Siena & St. Colman! If you would like to become a member of one of our churches, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket or mail to St. Elizabeth, 14095 Woodland Drive, Guerneville, CA 95446. Email: churchelizabeth@comcast.net www.rrchurches.com

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