



December 4, 2022 Second Sunday of Advent

Upcoming Dates

Dec 11, Parish Christmas Dinner 5pm
Dec 25, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
Jan 4, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Mass Intentions

Sun 9:30 am: Grace Whidden†, requested by Tom Dooher.

Readings

Is 11: 1-10
Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Rom 15: 4-9
Mt 3: 1-12

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Marty Tierney

Parish Donations

Scan the QR code to make a donation.

November 26-27	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$816.00	\$348.00
St. Catherine	\$251.00	\$331.00
St. Colman	\$60.00	\$125.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,931.00

Pastor's Desk

Matthew tells us that Jesus began His preaching with the message, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand" (Mt. 4:17). This warning represents the spirit of His entire ministry. In all His preaching and teaching, Jesus consistently calls us to a change of heart that reaches deep down, beneath the surface, changes of fad and fashion. Jesus calls us to undergo changes that are radical and profound:

To forgive those who hurt us, to pray for those who mistreat us, to bless those who hate us, to give aid and comfort to those who need us, to humble ourselves before the weak, to be most merciful and compassionate toward the hurting in society, to do all these things consistently means for all of us an entire lifetime of dedication to change.

Never are we fully equal to the task. There is always the need to reorder our lives. Admittedly, it is difficult to respond in faith and confidence to Jesus' call for radical change. But we

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

* of February, May, August and November

must not add to the difficulty by misunderstanding where the true battlefield lies. Jesus is not asking us to change our personalities -- not in any conventional sense of the term. He does not favor the outgoing person over the shy. He does not demand that we abandon quirks and personality traits. He does not ask for surface changes. He would have us fight on a different battlefield for different goals.

What Jesus is interested in is our system of values -- our attitude and approach to God's creation -- our attitude and approach to all God's children. And so, in the desert of Judea more than two thousand years ago, a voice cried out the news of the coming of the Lord. John the Baptizer attracted new followers throughout the surrounding area, urging his listeners to reform and to be baptized in preparation for the coming of Christ. However, when the crowds flocked to him for baptism, he was not willing to administer the rite without some evidence of their sincerity. When the people asked, "What ought we to do?" he replied in specifics. They must help people who need to be fed and clothed. Those among them who used their positions to cheat, exploit and bully other people must stop these practices at once. In other words, it was not enough to come and confess sins.

To properly prepare for the coming of the Lord, one needed to show remorse and be ready and willing to change in a way that would enrich their person-to-person relationships. We are here today, called to repentance. We are asked to prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus by radically reforming our lives. But it will take more than just getting things off our chest to get us moving. A hotline to do it for us simply won't work. But a commitment to genuine Christian values can. Jesus said to His disciples that He came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mt. 20:28).

Our continuing relationship with God depends, ultimately, on whether we have changed whatever it is in our lives that keeps us from following Jesus' example of service to others. Are you willing to make those changes in your life right now? Or are you merely thinking of your next apology to cover over the consequence of your misdeeds?

As we move deeper into the Advent Season of hope and expectation, move beyond the apologies and answer the summons to Love.

Happy Advent season,
Fr. Luis

Announcements

2022 Christmas Dinner at the Highland Dell

Sunday December 11th, 2022 at 6 pm

Tickets \$67.50 per person Kids Entree 6-12 years of age \$19.50, Kids 5 or younger- no charge.

Choice of entree: Prime Rib, Grilled Wild Sockeye Salmon, Grilled Portabella Mushroom. Kids Entree: Macaroni and Cheese with Grilled Chicken Strips.

Come enjoy a fun-filled, festive holiday gathering with your fellow church community members!

For questions, or, to order tickets, please call the the rectory office at (707) 869-2107, or, contact Linda Payne at (707) 953-9166 or email cocomokidd@aol.com.

See's Candy Christmas Treats 2022

The deadline for ordering online is December 2, 2022. So, don't delay if you want to purchase online. This year, the church has pre purchased best sellers from 2020 and 2021 seasons and will have them available for purchase the weekend before Thanksgiving. We will also have a Storefront online for individual purchases, which will include items available after Mass in addition to other best sellers that could not be purchased in advance. Our link is:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stecc_st_elizabeths_christmas_treats45/Mic_McD9043/candy (we will get this out via a church trac email). Our goal is to raise \$2,500.

Confessions

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

Discussion Questions

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

1. In baptism you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, mentioned in this reading: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and wonder and awe in the presence of God. If we used these gifts would we be able solve problems like hunger? Homelessness? Climate change? Gun control? New directions in the Church? How could the use of the gifts end the war in Ukraine?

How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online *by scanning the QR code with your smartphone* or using the donate button at stelizabeth.churchtrac.com. Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

2. "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord," Von Balthasar says this is "the drenching of the entire being with the inner understanding of what God is." Discuss this idea. How does this relate to peace in the reading?

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

1. John O'Malley, S.J: "Pope Francis is continuously pushing us beyond the comforts of our religious boundaries to encounter the one human family." Would St. Paul be giving the same advice to the Church today that we read in this letter: "I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised ... so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy."

2. There are people with whom you disagree. How easy is it to "think in harmony" with them? Why think in harmony instead of just going along with such people, or being nice, or acting like you agree with them?

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

1. Judging by John's appearance (clothing of camel's hair, a leather belt around his waist, eating locusts and wild honey) would you guess his cry was lukewarm, or a cry from his heart that called for life-altering change? How would you respond to him? Is the fire within you a conflagration or does it look more like the pilot light? What can you do during Advent to gather some kindling for your fire?

2. Does John the Baptist fit into any spiritual leader category you know? According to Pope Francis, if we lock ourselves in the traditions of the past, what might we miss? Might there be "new paths" to solve old problems in our world and our Church?

In face of the birth of his son, Zechariah was incredulous because natural laws made it impossible; they were old; they were elderly. Consequently, the Lord left [Zechariah] dumb during the whole time of gestation. It's a sign. But God doesn't depend on our logic and our limited human capacities. It's necessary to learn to trust and be silent in face of God's mystery and to contemplate His work in humility and silence, who reveals Himself in history and who so often exceeds our imagination. ...

Fight the temptation to lock oneself in ways and traditions of the past, as a possible solution to today's crisis. Rather, follow Saint Paul's teaching to go on the liberating and ever new path of Jesus crucified and resurrected.

Pope Francis, June 23, 2021

