



# December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

## Upcoming Dates

Dec 17 6:00 pm	Parish Christmas Dinner
Dec 20 4:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Dec 24 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild Meeting
Jan 3 1:00 pm	St Elizabeth Guild Meeting

## Mass Intentions

Sunday 9:30 am	John Seymour† <i>requested by Barbara Seymour</i>
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## Readings

Is 61: 1-2a. 10-11  
Lk 1: 46-48. 49-50. 53-54  
1 Thes 5: 16-24  
Jn 1: 6-8. 19-28

## Parish Donations

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

Collection Period	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$1,678.00
December 9-10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$725.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,403.00

## Announcements

### Rev Andrew Metcalf

Rev Andrew Metcalf passed away last week. His funeral was Dec 13, and he is buried in St Helena cemetery. Fr Luis continues to offer Masses for him.

### Rectory Open House

For anyone who missed the Rectory Open House on Dec 16, but would still like a tour this week, please call Mary Helt at 707-486-8645 to arrange a day and time to go see the repair and restoration of this beautiful priest residence.

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

## Christmas See's Candy Sale

Thank you for your support of the See's Candy Sale. We will be selling the last of the stock of available candy over the next two weekends after each Mass. We will give an update on the total fundraising effort once all candy is sold!

## 2023 Christmas Dinner at the Highland Dell

Sunday December 17th, 2022 at 6 pm. Tickets \$70 per person Kids Entree 6-12 years of age \$20, and 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 contact Linda Payne at (707) 953-9166 or email [cocomokidd@aol.com](mailto:cocomokidd@aol.com)

## Christmas Weekend Mass Schedule

### Saturday December 23rd

St Catherine 4:00 pm Mass

### Sunday December 24th

St Elizabeth 9:30 am Mass

St Colman 11:00 am Mass

St Elizabeth 4:00 pm *Christmas Vigil Mass*

### Monday December 25th

St Elizabeth 9:30 am *Christmas Day Mass*

St Colman 11:00 am *Christmas Day Mass*

*We won't be singing Christmas Carols before the Vigil Mass but there will be Music and Carols at our Christmas Party on December 17th at the Highland Dell!*

## Capital Campaign

The renovation of our Parish rectory and its foundation repair has been progressing for the past few months. It is our hope that this beautiful building, which has been part of our Parish and community history for over a century, will regain some of its former luster. As we repair it, not only structurally, but also visually, with new bathrooms, flooring, some new windows and paint, we hope to restore it and add the safety needed to carry this lovely Parish home into the next 100 years. It is not difficult to realize that the upkeep and maintenance of our Churches, Hall and Rectory is an expense. Large projects can not be paid for by weekly collections alone. Therefore, the Finance Committee and the Parish Council, along with Fr.

Luis, have decided to embark upon a Capital Campaign to replace our savings which is being spent on this renovation. We are asking our Parishioners to consider an investment in our Parish by digging deep in their pockets and making a pledge to help us pay for this work. Please look for the pledge cards to assist you in making a pledge. Once you have completed your pledge card, please drop it in the collection basket or, turn it in to any council member. This will enable us as a church community, to know what financial support we can expect over the next few years. We are confident in your love for our Parish, your devotion to our community, and the passion of your faith.

If you need assistance with your pledge or donation toward the Capital Campaign, please call Chris Kollaja at 415-308-6768 or email at [ckollaja@gmail.com](mailto:ckollaja@gmail.com).

## Temporary Church Office Phone Number

Until our church office at the rectory is restored, the temporary office phone number is (707) 486-8645.

## 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 McDonell, 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.

## Spirituality Of The Readings

*Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University*

### Holy Darkness

Darkness terrifies us and sometimes consumes us. Sometimes.

But the right kind of darkness can give us peace. A night of good sleep, for instance. Or a "lovely soft day," as the Irish call those shady, rainy, drizzling days, the ones that make Ireland green.

My experience of such a dark day was in Hawaii, no less, a place where light abounds. A brother Jesuit and I agreed to climb all the way up the side of one of Maui's volcanic mountains—with a guide and with friends, Yes, this was the island that was recently devastated. And, further, we planned to climb down into the crater itself.

## 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 (707) 486-8645 (temporary office phone number).

Fine, but no one had mentioned the great dark cave at the other end of the crater floor. It was a "lava tube," they said, formed when a huge molten stream of lava began to cool on the outside, which hardened, while the inside continued to flow out, which left a tube. We were ushered into this tube/cave, and we followed trustingly. After a few curves and reverses, there was no morsel of natural light left in the cave, only one electric bulb, our salvation. We settled down on various rocks by its light.

Then the guide clicked off the bulb.

He had warned us ahead of time, very kindly and all, but the words "put out the light" did not sound comforting to my ears.\*

Deep, unrelieved darkness settled around us and around everything else. Eyes open, eyes closed, it was all the same. No light, no shadow, no least glow. Obviously we felt trapped and afraid, lost in a strange place, with our eyes having been put out.

But the result was just the opposite. Against all reason, we felt great: great rest, great peace.

"I'll turn the light back on now," the guide whispered after several minutes, but we stopped him. "No, no, leave it off. Give us more time." We sat, unseeing, united, consoled by the warmth and depth of absolute night.

When the tiny little bulb did finally come back, our own eyesight surprised us. Seeing was like a memory that had slipped away. The dark had formed a resting place, it seems, in which our souls re-charged and our eyes recovered their innocence. Without notice, maybe, our daylight world had become too ordinary, too usual, too much just a tool to be used. But now it seemed miraculous, a gift given by God—even if it came through an insignificant incandescent bulb.

In Sunday's Gospel, the people hungered for light like this. "Are you the light?" they shouted to John the Baptist. Will you "bring glad tidings to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captives and release the prisoners" (First Reading)?

The Baptist said, I am only pointing you toward the light. It—he—will be here soon. Hold on to my arm.

Have you found an arm to hold onto? What is your experience of darkness? Maybe it is the opposite of quiet. Maybe terror is its name. Know that, however unrelieved your night may be, there is still, always, the promise of light. When you have been deprived for a long, long time, even one speck of light will change everything.

A tiny child might provide that on Christmas Eve!

*John Foley, SJ*

*\* Those words are what Othello said just before he blew out the candle and killed the sleeping Ophelia.*

