



# September 17, 2023

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Upcoming Dates

Sept 17	Parish Picnic 1pm
Sept 24	St Colman Guild meeting 12pm
Oct 4	St Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
Nov 15	Finance Committee meeting 4pm

### Mass Intentions

Sat 4:00 pm Lotte Murphy† req by Michele McDonnell

### Readings

Sir 27: 30 28: 7  
 Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)  
 Rom 14: 7-9  
 Mt 18: 21-35

### Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

**Who are ill or in pain:** Terry Devlin

**Who have been called to Eternal Life:** Ralph Hitchin

### Parish Donations

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

Collection Period	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$1,332.00
September 9-10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$785.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,117.00

### Announcements

#### Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress

The Diocese of Santa Rosa invites everyone to attend the annual Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress on Saturday, September 23, 2023. This event is free. This year's theme is "Liturgy, Devotion, and the Most Holy Eucharist". Workshops are in English and Spanish. Come hear great speakers. For more information check out the diocesan website @ [www.srdiocese.org](http://www.srdiocese.org)

#### Journey Together Towards Holiness

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul District Council of Sonoma County Is hosting a Retreat: Journey Together

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

Towards Holiness. All are welcome. When: Tuesday September 26th Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM At: Holy Spirit Church, 1244 St. Francis Rd. Santa Rosa. For more information contact: [jimandchrisnanman@gmail.com](mailto:jimandchrisnanman@gmail.com) Or Call 650-274-9941.

### Monte Rio Variety Show Update

Thank you to all volunteers, in-kind supporters and our show producers and entertainers that collaborated on a great success for our 112th Annual Variety Show. Our tentative results indicate that our show financially outpaced 2022, indicating another record set for our legacy event. More details should be available to publish in the next two weeks. Until then, mark your calendar for next year. Our show is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024. Gratefully, Michele and the Variety Show Committee

### 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 8 members-Linda Payne, Barbara and Otto Kobler, Maryanne Gustafson, Susan Poirier, Patrick McDonnell, Chris Kollaja, and Mary Helt. 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*

### Breaking the Chain

Forgiveness. It is the inner meaning of Sunday's Mass.

Our culture has some pretty diverse understandings of what forgiveness means. For some it is a condescending act performed only by one person who is higher than the other—a King or Queen, who leans down to grant pardon.

For others it means "I forgive the one who hurt me but I can never forget." Under such an attitude, one will remain angry forever but will never act upon it.

Which leads to another possible meaning, that a person might choke back their hurt and anger by a sheer act of the will. They may have been savaged by someone, but will choke down their reaction.

### 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).

So what is the real basis of forgiveness? On Easter Sunday of 1960, that great seer and lover of God, Dag Hammarskjöld, wrote an interpretation that moved me:

*Forgiveness breaks the chain of causality because he who 'forgives' you—out of love—takes upon himself the consequences of what you have done. Forgiveness, therefore, always entails a sacrifice.*

*The price you must pay for your own liberation through another's sacrifice is that you in turn must be willing to liberate in the same way, irrespective of the consequences to yourself.\**

So much to think about in these brief words.

The First Reading, from the Book of Sirach, tells how hateful wrath and anger are, how the sinner "hugs them tight," a wonderful image. To let them go and forgive is such a good idea, but we wonder why it is the right one. Maybe one needs to be angry.

The Psalm speaks beautifully about God's forgiving love: God is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion. And the Second Reading says we ought to live not for ourselves but for others. We should imitate God. But again, how?

The Gospel illustrates what forgiveness means. Please read the story by pressing on the word Gospel there is not space here to repeat the tale of the ungrateful servant.

Underneath this question is the answer we are looking for. The real motivation for forgiveness is gratitude, loving gratitude. If someone has had pity on me out of love, then my authentic reaction will be deep appreciation. I will want to give to someone else the liberation I have received, especially if that person has hurt me. I will want to pass the gift on.

God has loved us so kindly; can we feel grateful? Can we halt the cycle of retribution and pass along love instead of hate?

As you and I receive Christ's presence this Sunday, let us sense his forgiving love signified so deeply in the sacraments. Let us allow our gratitude to flow out and become the same forgiving love toward others.

\* *Hammarskjold, Markings, p. 197.*

