

ST. ELIZABETH, Guerneville

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, Monte Rio - ST. COLMAN, Cazadero

(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.

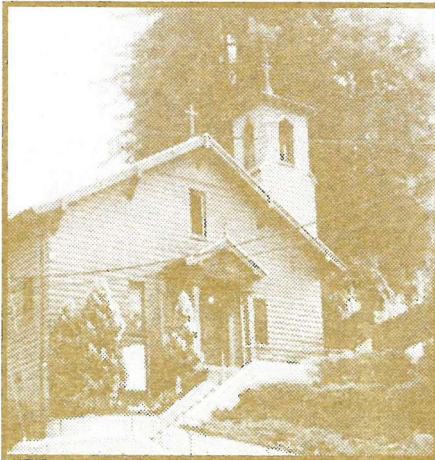
Confessions: By appointment. Call the Rectory.

Religious Education: RCIA. Call the Rectory.

Contact the Rectory at St. Elizabeth, 707-869-2107

Email: churchelizabeth@comcast.net

www.rrchurches.com



St. Elizabeth, Guerneville

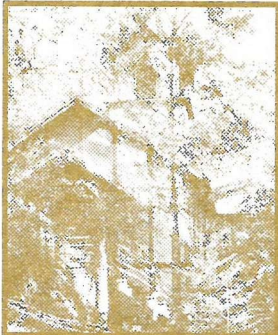
Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Tue - Fri. 9:00 a.m.

Outdoor church July 4th weekend through

Labor Day weekend.

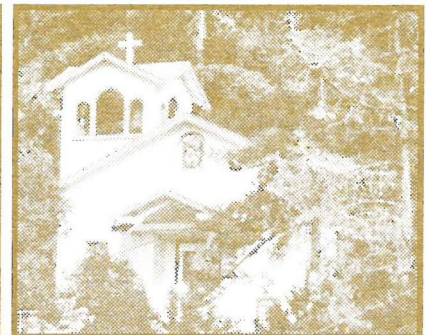


St. Colman, Cazadero

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.

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April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Upcoming Dates

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

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners.

Readings

Acts 9: 26-31
 Ps 22: 26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)
 1 Jn 3: 18-24
 Jn 15: 1-8

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Robbi Ernst, Sally-Ann Thomas, Theresa Martin, Chaz Decoteau

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	\$2,101.00
April 20-21	2 nd Collection	\$572.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,673.00

Announcements

25th Anniversary of Fr. Luis's Ordination to the Priesthood

Dear St Elizabeth Parish Supporters,

Many of you know the St Elizabeth Guild has purchased a statue of St Elizabeth for the outside of the church. As we honor Father Luis' 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, we believe it fitting to improve the area around the statue as an acknowledgment to his ministry and support for our community over the past 12 years.

If you would like to support this effort and help defray the costs, we will add your name to the project donor list for presentation to Father Luis at his celebration brunch (no

charge) on May 5th after the 9:30 am Mass. Any amount is appreciated. Whether you are able to donate or not, please join us in celebration on May 5th.

To make a donation, please contact Francine Korn (707) 869-9341 or Denise Britton (707) 869-1553.

In gratitude,
 Francine & Denise

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

Greetings, to all! Just a word of thanks for all who participated in our Golf fund raising. Thanks to Linda and her team of angels, as well as Chris the owner of the Northwood Restaurant, for their wonderful menu dinner. Also for Gaylord who every year assist us in reserving the golf course.

It is important for us to have fund raising to help the expense we have in our parishes. Most of you know that this year

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	

everything is getting expensive to maintain such as the facilities, insurance, and utilities.

And gratitude for all who supported the golf tournament especially those who donated the raffle prizes, the sponsorships, the people who participated the golf tournament and those who attended the dinner. It is a pleasure to recognized those who every year assist us in continuing ministry proclaiming the Gospel and for other Catholics to be able to worship and strengthening their faith. This is our task as a church to encourage one another and be witnesses of what Catholic faith is all about.

Today's scripture is the metaphor of the vine is an invitation to stay close to Jesus, but there is a need at times for us to be pruned to bear fruit more abundantly. This is often a painful experience. Few of us like to fail, to be clipped back from the rapid pace we live.

All of us have had the experience of being cut back, pruned by God, but what has been our reaction?

Have we grown angry and given up?

Or have we been more like St. Paul, understanding that as painful as being pruned back can be, in the end it helps us find our ultimate vocation and destiny?

Young people in school are cut back when they fail to achieve their goals.

Working people feel similarly when their hard work is not recognized, or they lose a job. Life challenges -ill health, financial. Problems, and addictive behavior- are ways God prunes us back.

How have we dealt with these times being pruned by God?

We must allow God to cut us down, a reality that is hard to accept. Strengthened by the Eucharist, may we be open to the action of the vine grower and thereby stay strong attached to Jesus, apart from whom we can do nothing, but connected to who we can find eternal life.

Peace and blessings!

Fr. Luis

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

Cutting Back

The Gospel for this coming Sunday of Easter has the familiar story about the vine and the branches. Jesus, the vine, is rooted and stable and will always bring us all the nourishment we need.

Maybe you would like to stop there and contemplate such a rich image. Do so if you would like.

Because just beyond it there is the small matter of being pruned. To prune a plant is to cut parts of it off. Jesus mentions it twice in our reading: Speaking as the vine, he says that the Father ...

takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
and every one that does he prunes,
so that it bears more fruit.

Ouch.

If we bring forth no fruit, we "will be thrown out like a branch and wither." If we bear some, we have to be pruned. We lose either way!

And it seems to be our fault:

If only I were a better person, if only I had done the right thing, if only the world were different, if only I had been dealt a better hand in the game of life, or, or, or. If I weren't so full of guilt I wouldn't have to be pruned.

It is all my fault!

Guilt is a major feature of human life. "Everything goes wrong," it says, and it is my fault.

To tell the truth, many people take the crucifixion as a direct result of their own sins. "I caused this. My sins killed Jesus." This is not completely false, but it is out of control. How could your small sins take down the Lord of the universe?

So could there be a better way to deal with guilt?

First, decide whether you are bearing no fruit at all. None. If that is really and actually true, then get help from someone, because spiritually you are dying. Most of us do bear good fruit—it is just that we don't remember that we do.

Second, with that understood, look at what pruning is. It is a way to make things better, make a better plant, a better tree, a better orchard. If you cut tired old branches from your Philodendron, for instance, it will begin to thrive again, not wither. Pruning encourages new growth and the overall health of the plant or tree.

Third, seen in that way, you and I do need to be trimmed regularly, don't we? Maybe unconsciously we have been thinking that we ourselves are the vine, independent of Christ, not just a branch. The reason pruning would help is not that we should be punished, but that it promotes health of the whole person, the whole garden, the whole orchard—the mystical body of Christ.

Trust the steadiness of Jesus' gardener hand. Trust even while suffering. Drink in your overflowing share of trust at Sunday's table of the Lord. Let the Word instruct you, let the body and blood of Christ, which was pruned to almost nothing, fill you and shape you.

Then you can say to the Lord with the rest of us, go ahead, trim whatever gets in the way! I am not the vine, I am a branch. My job is not to be perfect, it is to remain in Christ, and to let him do good within me and through me and us.

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.



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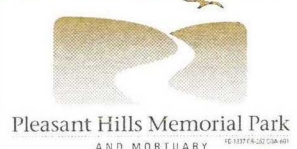
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April 2024

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