



January 1, 2023 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Upcoming Dates

Jan 4, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
Jan 8, Bishop Vasa presiding 9:30am
Jan 15, Spaghetti & Wine Dinner 5pm
Jan 22, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm
Feb 18, Annual Crab Feed

Mass Intentions

Sat 4pm:
Phil & Sue Van Doren [good health] req by Mark Van Doren
Sun 9:30 am:
Jeff & Sally Wornath[†] requested by Mark Van Doren
Sun 11 am: For all parishioners

Readings

Nm 6: 22-27
Ps 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (2a)
Gal 4: 4-7
Lk 2: 16-21

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Tony Madrid

Parish Donations

You can scan the QR code to make a donation.

December 24-25	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$1,074.00	\$969.00
St. Catherine		
St. Colman	\$290.00	\$85.00

The collection totals for this week does not include the Christmas checks that our parishioners contributed. Thank you to all for your generosity!

Pastor's Desk

Greetings, and Merry Christmas still as we celebrate the feast of Mary, the mother of God, or in Greek the word Theotokos. On this day she participated in bringing the Word to flesh and must have spent a lifetime digesting what it all meant, taking out each of those treasured memories and perplexing encounters -----of angels and shepherds and old men and rabbis---holding them up to

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

the light to deepen her understanding, to help form her conscience and her actions, and to fuel her imagination for what God was doing. As Mary pondered these things, I have no doubt that she grew in the courage she would need to face whatever lay ahead for her and her son.

But let's not leave our reflections there. Let's ponder, along with Mary, what we have been told and have experience of her son in our lives. If we have experienced the mercy of Jesus, how has it planted in us the gift of gratitude and the ability to extend mercy to others?

If we have received healing, how has that experience with the Lord reshaped our lives our sense of purpose? If we have known darkness and fear, how has the presence of Jesus, the Savior, given us the strength to stand with courage and move forward? If we have been in need of correction, how have our paths been straightened? Let's hold these moments in our hearts and following the example of Mary, never tire of taking them out to reflect on their meaning.

Peace and blessings!
Fr Luis

P.S. Thank you all who have send cards and well wishers for the Christmas Holiday. Thank you for being so supportive and helpful during the trying times and challenges last year. My gratitude and most of all God's blessings for the three churches. We have been blessed by wonderful and faithful parishioners. May the year 2023 be another year of blessings.

January 8th Sunday the feast of Epiphany Most Reverend Bishop Vassa will be presiding at the 9:30 Sunday mass and I would like to invite all parishioners in our two-mission parish to attend the 9:30 am mass as we prepare for the coming year, to be able to support each other and to show our unity for the coming year. Happy New Year and may we keep moving forward to continued growth of the faithful in the river area.

Announcements

Religious Calendars

The calendars have arrived and are available in the churches for all parishioners.

Visit from Bishop Vasa

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, Bishop Vasa will be here at St Elizabeth to celebrate Mass. **For the weekend of January 7-8, we will have only one weekend Mass which will be the Sunday 9:30 am Mass at St Elizabeth.** (No Mass at St Catherine or St Colman on the weekend of January 7-8.) After the 9:30 am Mass, there will be a pancake breakfast at St Hubert Hall. Please come and enjoy breakfast and friendship.

Spaghetti and Wine Dinner

January 15, 2023 will be our first Spaghetti Dinner. Come at 5pm for no-host wine tasting. Dinner served at 6pm. Cost is \$10.00. Come one and all to enjoy fellowship, food and wine. Contact Linda Payne for details cocomokidd@aol.com, (707) 953-9166.

Annual Crab Feed

Mark you calendars for our annual Crab Feed on Saturday, February 18th. Time and price to be announced.

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: Numbers 6:22-27

1. "The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace." The word peace is a translation of the word shalom, which more literally means, "every good thing in good measure." These are God's own words in this blessing. What does this tell you about God's love for you?

2. Do you feel that God's face is hidden at times? When? Does it help to hear that "the Lord is looking upon you kindly?"

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

1. Why are we no longer slaves but children of God? What did God do for us that made this true?

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. Did God send the same "Spirit of his Son into our hearts" that he sent to Mary when she conceived Jesus? How does this Spirit "ransom those under the law"? According to St. Paul, was the Spirit sent to the heart or mind?

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

1. What kind of sense would you make of shepherds and messages from angels and mangers? Did Mary get any final answers from Gabriel or the shepherds? Can you make sense of everything in your life? What do you mull over in your heart? What do you treasure and remember and preserve?

2. "Son, behold your mother" (Jn 19:27)! Does Mary now love all people with the same love she had for her son? Pope Francis mentions in his homily for Mary, Mother of God, that Mary shared our condition and that her heart was enlarged through sorrow. How does she help us on difficult and obscure paths in life's "pilgrimage of faith?"

It is said that the residents of Ephesus used to gather at the gates of the basilica where the bishops were meeting and shout, "Mother of God!" The faithful, by asking them to officially define this title of Our Lady, showed that they acknowledged her divine motherhood. Theirs was the spontaneous and sincere reaction of children who know their Mother well, for they love her with immense tenderness. But it is more: it is the sensus fidei of the holy People of God, which, in its unity, never errs.

Mary has always been present in the hearts, the piety and above all the pilgrimage of faith of the Christian people. "The Church journeys through time... and on this journey she proceeds along the path already trodden by the Virgin Mary" (Redemptoris Mater, 2). Our journey of faith is the same as that of Mary, and so we feel that she is particularly close to us. As far as faith, the hinge of the Christian life, is concerned, the Mother of God shared our condition. She had to take the same path as ourselves, a path which is sometimes difficult and obscure. She had to advance in the "pilgrimage of faith" (Lumen Gentium, 58). ...

Her sorrowing heart was enlarged to make room for all men and women, all, whether good or bad, and she loves them as she loved Jesus.

Pope Francis, Holy Mass on the Solemnity Of Mary, Mother of God, January 1, 2014



SCAN ME