



October 15, 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Oct 22	St Colman Guild meeting 12pm
Nov 1	St Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
Nov 15	Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Mass Intentions

Sat 4:00 pm	Mike Flanagan & family [blessings and good health]
Sun 9:30 am	Patricia Power†, Ralph Hitchin† <i>requested by Susan Poirier</i>

Readings

Is 25: 6-10a
Ps 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6 (6cd)
Phil 4: 12-14. 19-20
Mt 22: 1-14

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Bill Aguirre, Rhonda Hallum

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Ralph Hitchin, Patricia Power

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	\$1,893.00
October 7-8	2 nd Collection	\$833.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,726.00

Announcements

Monte Rio Variety Show Update

We have now completed our accounting for the show and can happily report our gross (rounded) is \$158,000 and our net (rounded) is \$140,000. St Catherine's portion is over \$46,500. This is again a record year! Thank you for all who supported us with your attendance, donations, and donations in kind (including specific tasks)!

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.

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 McDonell, 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

All Good Gifts

Probably you have seen Babette's Feast, or at least have heard about it. In it, an impoverished fine chef from Paris makes her way into a tiny Danish town where the religion of the area made people hard and cold to each other, at least according to this movie, afraid to enjoy or even to relate to one another. Babette, the cook, had only a small stash of possessions, but she was a top chef.

So she prepared, over many days, a huge, delectable, exquisite feast, serving after serving, all for the uptight townspeople. As they began to taste and enjoy, they began also to communicate in kindness to each other. They even danced!

I have heard critics say that this movie promoted self-indulgence, and I do not endorse such a thing. But I do notice similarities to the huge feast we hear about in the First Reading.

There we find the famous invitation from the Lord of Hosts, full of unstinting promise. "A feast of rich food and choice wines," Isaiah says. A great feast, a "groaning board" in the language of medieval England, just like the banquet in Babette's Feast.

Sunday's Gospel reading also has a sumptuous feed. The king gets his very best livestock fattened up, seasoned, readied for cooking, with invitations sent out. If you thought the people in Babette's town were reluctant, look what happened here. Some people refused outright to come. Others simply ignored the invitation as if it had not been given, and others "laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them." The king punished these and then invited in street people.

Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.

But with so many people starving in today's world, how dare we fatten ourselves up with rich food and every other kind of riches? Shouldn't we much more becomingly abstain and deny ourselves? Isn't the "First World" currently fattening itself on food far more lavish than the ancient world could ever have even imagined? Advertisements in the United States

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).

tell us we should luxuriate, should pamper ourselves, should not hold back. "Who says you can't have it all," they say.

How are we to respond, we who try to be faithful to God and God's promises?

Remember that Jesus feasted as well as fasted. He abstained from food for forty days at the beginning of his public ministry; but later on his words were, "the Son of Man came eating and drinking—and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners'" (Mt. 11:19). How would he have gotten such a reputation except by enjoying his times at meals with others?

Which is it for us, then, fasting or feasting?

I think the answer is simple yet difficult to grow into. I think we are meant to receive humbly and to give to others as well. The mistake is to adopt a stance of, on the one hand, only receiving (getting, grabbing) or on the other hand, only giving (denying oneself for the sake of the other). Sunday's readings invite us to come into the kingdom, to open up, to eat, to enjoy what is there.

To receive as Jesus did.

He went deep, accepting all things as coming from God's hand. When it was time to let go of it all—life, friends, peace, and possessions—he did that with love.

Receive and give. Jesus wants us to receive his life and then give it out to the world.

Discussion Questions

Courtesy of Anne Osdieck, Saint Louis University

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

How can a feast—juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines—be a sacramental vision of the universe? Does banquet imagery describe well the fullness of life in the presence of God?

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

1. Will the Lord ever test you beyond your capacity? Will he always be with you? When difficulties arise in daily life do you remember Paul's words: "I can do all things in him who strengthens me"?

2. The readings show God bestowing gifts on us without measure. Do you "measure" when you give?

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Besides answering God's invitation to the feast, what is expected of us? Are we the guests or are we also the ones doing the inviting? How does this banquet not only sustain life but also transfigure it?

For questions about future parish events, please contact Linda Payne at: (707) 953-9166 or cocomokidd@aol.com

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

