



January 29, 2023

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Feb 1, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
 Feb 5, Bishop Vasa presiding 9:30am
 Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm
 Feb 18, Annual Crab Feed 4pm
 Feb 26, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm

Readings

Zep 2: 3; 3: 12-13
 Ps 146: 6-7. 8-9. 9-10
 1 Cor 1: 26-31
 Mt 5: 1-12a

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Miranda Muniz

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Joan Brown

Parish Donations

You can easily donate online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the bulletin or by visiting stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give

January 21-22	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$1,134.00	\$225.00
St. Catherine	\$427.00	\$314.00
St. Colman	\$125.00	\$120.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,345.00

Pastor's Desk

Consider the walnut! If you compare a walnut with some of the beautiful and exciting things that grow on our planet, it does not seem to be one of creation's great marvels. The walnut is common, rough, not particularly attractive, and not the most valuable in any monetary sense. And it is small. Its growth is limited by the hard shell surrounding it – the shell from which it never escapes during its lifetime! Of course, that's the wrong way to judge the walnut.

Break one open and look inside. See how the walnut has grown to fill every nook and cranny available! It had no say in the size or shape of that shell, but given those limitations, it achieved its full growth potential. How blessed, how happy we will be if we blossom and bloom in every crevice of the life given us! Take heart! If one nut can do it, so can we all! Let go of all your anxious worries!

Immerse yourself into the Being of God. Experience His loving Presence. Let go of the anxiety that has made you so rigid. Trust God in this way! Build this attitude into a whole style of life, and you will begin to experience genuine happiness -- and it will begin to rub off on others.

The "Sermon on the Mount," possibly the most famous discourse Jesus ever delivered, begins by saying that we're blest if we're poor in spirit -- thus reminding us that we are ultimately dependent on God for everything. And the most blest -- the happiest persons -- are the ones who recognize how poor they are apart from God;

how empty their lives are unless they give themselves over to God in utter trust and total dependency.

And yet, when Jesus tells us of our need to admit our poverty, helplessness, and emptiness, there's something inside us that says, "No, I cannot do that. I have not been raised that way. I am not conditioned that way. I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul." In other words, "God, you are wrong!" At this point, our God of Mercy must surely smile at our foolish pride.

Again, in today's Gospel, Jesus gives us our blueprint for Christian living. And it is based on the premise that we have acknowledged total dependence on God, not just for the life He has given us, but for the instruction for what we should be doing with that life. It's easy to read, but it's hard accepting. Our human nature is such that there is no way we can follow this blueprint for life apart from an attitude of complete trust in the Divine Architect. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you" (Lk. 6:27). That calls for some powerful trusting in God. "Give to all who beg from you ... lend without repayment ... be compassionate ... do not judge ... do not condemn" (Lk. 6:30,35,36,37).

It can't happen in a life lived apart from a powerful dependence on God's authority to make such demands. But it's not a question of blind trust and mindless obedience. That's why the Gospel is Good News. God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ, not as the "Man with the big stick" but as the "Man with the big heart." God doesn't ask us to trust Him and be dependent on Him, period. God wants us to trust Him and depend on Him because He loves us and knows what is good for us.

Peace and blessings!
 Fr. Luis

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.

Announcements

Visit from Bishop Vasa

Reminder that Bishop Vassa is coming February 5th to celebrate Mass with us! Everyone's invited to join us at the 9:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth Church.

Celebrate Marriage Mass

The 4th annual "Celebrate Marriage Mass" will be held on World Marriage Day, Sunday, February 12th at the 10:30 am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. Bishop Vasa is inviting married parishioners within the Diocese of Santa Rosa to attend and prayerfully celebrate the joy of married life in the Catholic Church. Couples celebrating "milestone anniversaries" that is, every 5-year anniversaries (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, etc.) will be recognized.

Crab Feed 2023!

February 18th 4:00-7:00 pm at St Hubert's Hall, tickets \$75.00.

It's that time of year! I cannot believe this is our 4th year for the crab feed, we're here to stay!! If you'd like to join us, please let me know as seating is limited. Checks can be mailed to the rectory, given to me at Mass or brought the day of the crab feed.

There will be the usual donation bar and some great raffle prizes. Email or text me if your interested.

I am also looking for underwriters to help with the cost of the "feed" this year. Prices have risen and underwriters would be welcome.

Some have asked and yes, I WILL BE WEARING THE CRAB PANTS!!

Thank you for all the support you have all shown in the past, it is so appreciated!

Sincerely, Linda
 (707) 953-9166 cocomokidd@aol.com

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

