

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Phone: (707) 585-3708, FAX: (707) 585-1201, E-mail: stelizseton@sbcglobal.net



January 7, 2018 – Epiphany

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas K. Diaz, Pastor
Joe Olsen, Deacon--Phone: 536-7332
Liz Black, Office Manager
Char Mayclin, Religious Education
Robert Ito, Youth Ministry
Stephanie Bodi, Parish Council President



Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 p.m. (vigil)

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday-Saturday 8:15 a.m.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, as a community united in the spirit of Christ, are called to grow in our relationship with Him, to proclaim His Gospel and to serve the needs of others. We are striving to become a more worshipping, loving, welcoming, and serving faith community.

Office Information:

Hours: Monday-Friday 9-1:30 p.m.
Website: www.st-elizabeth-seton.com
Religious Education Office: (707) 585-8821
Youth Ministry Office: (707) 585-2905

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism: 1-month notice for preparation class (on the last Sunday of the month at noon) before Infant Baptism. Please contact Deacon Joe.
Reconciliation: After the Tues. evening Mass, after the Saturday morning Mass and by appt.
Marriage: 6-month notice. Please contact Fr. Tom or Deacon Joe.
Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Tom.

Epiphany, January 7, 2018

Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime? In this Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out. The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born because they could interpret the parts in the Old



Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too. For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes.

But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate?

Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either. But it isn't powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who did not know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi didn't tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King didn't know.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.

Eleonore Stump

Question: At the end of this story Joseph, Mary and Jesus ended up running from Herod. Do we find "Herods" in the world today? Who are "Joseph, Mary and Jesus" running from today?

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Stewardship:

Plate Offerings:

12-2 & 3 \$4,594.00

12-9 & 10 \$3,928.00

12-16 & 17 \$4,914.28

12-23 & 24 \$3,514.04

Christmas Day \$10,305.00

Retirement Fund Relig. \$2,540.00

Immaculate Conception \$797.00

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Jan. 6	5:00 pm	+Al & Catherine Andreucci
Sun. Jan. 7	8:30 am	no intention
	10:30 am	For the Parish
Mon. Jan. 8	8:15 am	no intention
Tue. Jan. 9	6:30 pm	+Fr. Phil Ryan
Wed. Jan. 10	8:15 am	+Margaret Cloughesy
Thur. Jan. 11	8:15 am	+Br. Dominic Berardell FCS
Fri. Jan. 12	8:15 am	+Davi Olivera
Sat. Jan. 13	8:15 am	no intention
	5:00 pm	+Glen Brown
Sun. Jan. 14	8:30 am	Timmy Badum
	10:30 am	For the Parish

□

Looking Ahead in the Parish

Children's Faith Formation:

The Elementary classes begin this Tuesday, January 8 at a new time: **3:45 – 4:45 pm.**

1st Communion is Saturday April 21, 2018.

The Wednesday Confirmation class starts this Wednesday, January 10 at the regular time 7 pm.

Confirmation is Tuesday May 1, 2018.

Any question call Char 953-6257.

Women's Guild:

Next meeting on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:15 pm In the Large Meeting Room. Guest speaker – Pat Anderson. She is a Registered Nurse and is actively involved in public health issues and education. Her presentation will provide a review of making End of Life Decisions, what are the important papers you need to have completed, tips for how to plan and discuss this topic with your families.

All women of the parish are invited to attend this special presentation and stay for the meeting to follow. Refreshments will be served.



Sat. January 27, 2018 The Knights of Columbus Council 9090 Crab Feed Tickets are now on sale \$45 per person with children under 7 free, children 8-12 \$15, Tickets can be bought after the weekend masses, at the parish office and by calling Linda Marlatt @771-0003 or Ron Ciarasso @529-8063 Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. and the menu will be: Clam Chowder, Salad, Pasta Pesto **CRAB**, Garlic Bread and dessert.

Events Outside the Parish

Monthly Grief Workshops for children, teens and their families through Hospice Services, St. Joseph Health. Pre-registration required. Please call Gina Carini at (707) 568-1094.

Help Us Help Others - Society of St. Vincent DePaul is having "Volunteer Fridays" to keep the momentum of volunteers coming since the fires. A catered lunch will be served to all volunteers every Friday. Help is needed to go through bags of clothes and sort and hang them for display. Please call 584-1579 to schedule a date to help.

Hospice Services-St. Joseph Health Wednesdays at Hospice is a free Community Education series running January 2018 thru June 2018. Food for your Mind, Body and Spirit, each offering highlights a variety of topics relevant to our daily lives.

Please join us at any or all the events. All are offered twice a month (except for June), once at Hospice of Petaluma office and once at Memorial Hospice office in Santa Rosa. Contacts: Petaluma Hospice: 778-6242; and Memorial Hospice: 568-1094. www.sonomacountyhospice.org; No reservations required!

St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School

Kindergarten registration opens January 8, 2018! Find info about our engaging program and dynamic community at one of our events: Parent Info Tours on Thurs., Jan. 11 and Tues., Jan. 23 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Kindergarten Open House for parents and children: Meet the teacher, explore the classroom and spend time visiting on Wed., Jan. 17 from 5-6:30 p.m. Call to reserve your spot: 762-6426 www.svelem.org.

All married and engaged couples are invited on January 27, 2018, to the natural family planning class taking place in Santa Rosa. These English-speaking classes are from 7-9 p.m. For more information, you may call (707) 542-3635 or visit The Couple to Couple League website at www.ccli.org.

Walk for Life January 27, 2018, will mark the 14th Anniversary of the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. The Walk will begin at the Civic Center Plaza at 12:30 p.m., and, after the Rally, will proceed down Market Street towards Justin Herman Plaza.

Before the Walk, Archbishop Cordileone welcomes you to concelebrate Mass with him and his brother bishops at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. For assistance, please email info@walkforlifewc.com or call (415) 658-1793.

Looking Way Ahead.....Circle your calendars: The diocese youth office is calling all teenagers to a Youth Day at Cardinal Newman gym on March 11th from 11a - 4p.m. We will be celebrating our faith in a powerful way – a day filled with music, inspirational talks, and Mass with Bishop Vasa. Register at www.sryouth.org.

Humor: Humor: Why we have laughter in the bulletin Ever heard of Laughter Sunday?

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to me, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world.

Laughter Sunday (also known as Holy Humor Sunday, Hilarity Sunday, God's Laughter Sunday, Bright Sunday or Holy Fools Sunday) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one

another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. The observance of Risus Paschalis was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together. Other traditions celebrate Laetare Sunday (also known as 'Mothering Sunday') on the fourth Sunday in Lent. "Laetare" simply means 'rejoice,' and comes from the opening collect for that day: 'Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow.' On this Sunday, the usual Lenten purple vestments and altar cloths are replaced by rose-colored ones instead.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy. G. K. Chesterton —described it this way: "Alone among the animals, [man] is shaken with that beautiful madness called laughter; as if he had caught sight of some secret in the very shape of the universe hidden from the universe itself." Laughter is so much a part of who we are as human beings that to lose the sense of humor is as injurious as to lose one of the other, more physical, senses — sight or hearing or touch or taste or smell.

Humor can become a prelude to wisdom and to worship, as a spiritual discipline of the virtue of hope. (*Toward a Theology of Humor*

Paul Thigpen.)



Pastor's Corner.

Pope Francis "Jesus' message is uncomfortable and inconvenient for us, because it challenges worldly religious power and provokes consciences," the Pope said Dec. 26, adding that after his coming, "it's necessary to convert, to change mentality, to renounce thinking like before...to convert."

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