

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time-January 28, 2018

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

New Office Hours

Hours: **Tuesday-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) for infant baptism. Please contact Deacon Joe, 536-7332.

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.

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The One and the Many In the Gospel Reading, Jesus heals a man who was possessed. But notice that when the demon-possessed man first talks to Jesus, he uses the first-person *plural* pronoun to refer to himself. He says, “What have

you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? Why does he say ‘us’? Why doesn’t he say ‘me’?”

The answer, I think, is that although there is only one human body giving voice to these words, there is more than one mind behind the words. That is why that one man’s voice says ‘us’ to refer to himself. When Jesus heals the man, he does so by ridding him of all minds but one, the man’s own. In healing him, Jesus makes him single-minded. And so the Gospel Reading calls to our attention what an affliction it is to be double-minded.

Even just dealing with the double-mindedness of a long bad habit can be miserable and devilishly difficult. Someone says to you when you are trying to diet and not doing particularly well, “Do you want another helping of pasta?” And what is the answer? Do you want more pasta? You do, you know you do, don’t you? And yet somehow you really don’t either.

And so, as we know from our own painful experience, being double-minded is a kind of slavery to our worst selves.

Real freedom is being able to do what you want to do. But if you have two minds about something, which mind is the real you? How can there be one real you when you are in two minds about something? That’s why you aren’t free when you are double-minded. No matter what you do, you aren’t doing what you want to do because there isn’t just one you.

Like the demon-possessed man in the Gospel Reading, you will be free only when you are single-minded. But the demon-possessed man in the Gospel Reading was single-minded only after Jesus had healed him.

And so here is the lesson for us. In another Gospel text (John 8:32), Jesus tells his disciples that they will know the truth, and the truth will make them free. For those who will come to Jesus to be freed from their demons, he himself is that healing Truth that will make them free. Eleonore Stump

Question: Pope Francis said, “Being prophets may sometimes imply making waves. Prophecy makes

noise, uproar, some say ‘a mess.’ But in reality, the charism of religious people is like yeast: prophecy announces the spirit of the Gospel.” Can you think of people who have caused an “uproar” or made “a mess” announcing the spirit of the Gospel in our time? Who are they?

Today’s Readings

Reading I: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Stewardship

Collection: \$3,692.38

Church in Latin America: \$1,262.00

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat., Jan. 27	5:00 p.m.	+Joy Gee
Sun., Jan. 28	8:30 a.m.	For the People
	10:30 a.m.	+Ibrahim Diab
Mon., Jan. 29	8:15 a.m.	+Mr. & Mrs. A. Macasaet
Tues., Jan. 30	6:30 p.m.	+Mr. & Mrs. A. Macasaet
Wed., Jan. 31	8:15 a.m.	+Mr. & Mrs. A. Macasaet
Thurs., Feb. 1	8:15 a.m.	+Eline Moret
Fri., Feb. 2	8:15 a.m.	Int. of the Hill Family
Sat., Feb. 3	8:15 a.m.	+Paulo & Macaria B.
	5:00 p.m.	+Alvie Vaughn
Sun., Feb. 4	8:30 a.m.	Int. Frank Stranzl
	10:30 a.m.	For the People

During this past year, six people have fainted or passed out during Mass. Please know that there is a blue box in the rack that holds the missals on the right side as you enter the church. There is a red sign indicating Emergency Supplies.

Parish Events this Week We are still in January through Wed you have wrong dates

Sun., Jan 28 12 noon Baptismal preparation
Tue., Jan. 30 3:45 p.m. Children’s Faith Formation
5:00 p.m. Pre-Confirmation 6th Grade
Wed., Jan 31 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. RCIA-Marriage & Priesthood
Thu., Feb., 1 1:00 p.m. Soup with St. Mark (chicken noodle)

Events Outside the Parish

St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School News

Registration has opened for Kindergarten and transfer students in all grades! Find out more about our engaging program and our dynamic community. OPEN HOUSE today, Sunday, January 28 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Call for more information: 762-6426 or www.svelem.org. Applications request by **February 15.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Valentine's Day

Fundraiser Event, February 3, 2018 from 8 p.m. to midnight. In support of Our Lady of Guadalupe, tickets are: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Mary A. Furth Center, 8400 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor. Purchase tickets at their Parish Office or call 707-530-9088.

7th Annual Polenta and Stew Dinner by St. Rose Young Ladies Institute #132, Saturday,

February 10 at 6:30 pm, No-Host Bar/ 7:00 Dinner. St. Rose Parish Hall, 322 Tenth Street, Santa Rosa. Adults: \$20, Children 7-12 \$8, and under 7-Free. For tickets, contact Elizabeth Black 584-1914. **No tickets will be sold at the door.**

St Joseph in Cotati's Mardi Gras Feb 10th with dinner and dancing with the doors opening at 5pm. 25\$ per person before Feb 4th and more afterwards. For info call St Joseph 's office at 707 795-4807

Catholic Charities has openings for two positions:

Resource Connector, Bilingual; and Receptionist, Bilingual. Contact Catholic Charities at www.srcharities.org/about/career for additional information about these positions and other exciting opportunities at Catholic Charities. Applications can be found at the above-mentioned website.

Pastor's Corner

I want to thank all those responsible for the beautiful Santo Nino Celebration last week. It took a lot of planning and the reception afterwards was a delicious dinner with so many dishes. Wouldn't it be nice if other cultures came forward to share their faith at a mass and have a reception afterwards for the community.

In a few days we will have another school here leasing our classrooms from 7am. -3:30 pm. until school ends in June. This school deals with high school students with learning disabilities. The school was in need of a place as their lease at another place is ending here in Rohnert Park. Any lease money will go towards utilities and hopefully for some remodeling in our classrooms. Many of these students are troubled and their language and conduct could come into question. Be patient with them and realize "That for the grace of God there go I." There should not be much interaction with them as the school area of our center can be closed off.

Lent is coming up in a few weeks, Feb 14th, and our masses will be at 8:15 am. and 7 pm. We will add more time for confessions and a second time for Stations of the Cross for those who do not want to go out at night. Before the evening stations on Fridays we will have a meatless meal for those who go to the "Stations."

Housekeeping: In using the parish center you are asked to clean-up afterwards, vacuum if needed, clean -off the tables and empty the garbage.

Please refrain from bringing food and drink into the church. We are finding chewed gum, bottled water, and lozenge/candy wrappers in the church,

In using the hall an Allen Wrench key is hanging from a hook next to the kitchen slide-up window, next to the coat rack. Please use the key to unlock the doors of the hall on the inside when in use.

We have sanitizer at the doors of the church for those who want to use it during cold and flu season.

I am still evaluating the sizes and prices for bulletin announcements.

Pope Francis: In his message for the World Day of Social Communications, published Wednesday, Pope Francis said that in a world of lightning-fast communication, there is a responsibility to combat falsehood and misinformation with truth, treating journalism as a people-oriented mission.

"In today's world, [the work of journalists] is, in every sense, not just a job; it is a mission," the Pope wrote in his message released Jan. 24.

"Amid feeding frenzies and the mad rush for a scoop, they must remember that the heart of information is not the speed with which it is reported or its audience impact, but persons."

"Informing others means forming others; it means being in touch with people's lives," he continued.

"That is why ensuring the accuracy of sources and protecting communication are real means of promoting goodness, generating trust, and opening the way to communion and peace."

Francis' message for the next World Day of Social Communications was released Jan. 24, the feast day of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists.

The 52nd annual celebration will take place May 13, 2018, on the theme: "The truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:32). Fake news and journalism for peace."

"In today's fast-changing world of communications and digital systems, we are witnessing the spread of what has come to be known as 'fake news,'" the Pope said.

"In this way, I would like to contribute to our shared commitment to stemming the spread of fake news and to rediscovering the dignity of journalism

and the personal responsibility of journalists to communicate the truth."

The best "antidote" to the spread of falsehoods in 'fake news' aren't strategies, he stated, but people.

"People who are not greedy but ready to listen, people who make the effort to engage in sincere dialogue so that the truth can emerge; people who are attracted by goodness and take responsibility for how they use language."

Everyone has the duty to counter the lies found in 'fake news,' he said. But an even weightier responsibility falls upon those whose job it is to provide the world with information, namely, journalists, the "protectors of news."

Francis went on to encourage everyone to promote "a journalism of peace," which he said doesn't mean some saccharine or sentimental reporting that refuses to acknowledge the existence of real and serious problems.

Rather, he emphasized, a journalism of peace is journalism that is "truthful and opposed to falsehoods, rhetorical slogans, and sensational headlines. A journalism created by people for people, one that is at the service of all, especially those – and they are the majority in our world – who have no voice."

A journalism, he continued, that is less focused on breaking news, and more on exploring the underlying causes of conflicts, so that it can promote a deeper understanding and contribute to resolutions "by setting in place virtuous processes" and offering alternatives to "shouting matches."

The first 'fake news,' Francis said, was that created by the "crafty serpent" in the Book of Genesis, who used falsehood to tempt Eve into disobeying God.

"The strategy of this skilled 'Father of Lies' (Jn 8:44) is precisely mimicry, that sly and dangerous form of seduction that worms its way into the heart with false and alluring arguments," he said.

Eve's temptation by the serpent "brings to light an essential element for our reflection: there is no such thing as harmless disinformation."

He pointed out how constant exposure to deceptive language can also have harmful consequences on our interior life, as illustrated by a quote from Fyodor Dostoevsky's the *Brothers Karamazov*.

Humor: Farmer John lived on a quiet rural highway. But as time went by, the traffic slowly built up and became so heavy and so fast that his chickens were being run over at a rate of three to six a day.

So one day Farmer John called the local police station and said, "You've got to do something about all of these people driving so fast and killing my

chickens."

"What do you want us to do?" asked the policeman. "I don't care, just do something about those crazy drivers!"

So the next day the policeman had the county road workers go out to erect a sign that said:

SLOW: SCHOOL CROSSING

Three days later Farmer John called the policeman and said: "You've got to do something about these drivers. The School Crossing Sign seems to make them go even faster!"

So, again, the policeman sent out the county road workers.

SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY

That really sped them up. So Farmer John called and called and called every day for three weeks.

Finally, he asked the policeman, "Your signs are not doing any good at all ... Can I put up my own sign?"

The policeman said, "Sure, go ahead." He was willing to let Farmer John do just about anything in order to get him to stop calling to complain.

The policeman got no more calls from Farmer John. Three weeks later, curiosity got the best of the policeman.

He decided to give Farmer John a call. "How's the problem with those drivers? Did you put up your sign?"

"Oh, I sure did, and not one chicken has been killed since then. I've got to go. I'm very busy," replied Farmer John. He hung up the phone.

The policeman was really curious, and he thought to himself, "I'd better go out there and take a look at that sign ... it might be something that WE could use to slow down drivers."

So he drove out to Farmer John's house, and his jaw dropped the moment he saw the sign.

It was spray painted on a sheet of wood...

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