

# St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

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## The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time-February 4, 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](http://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.

# The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time-February 4, 2018



**Serving the Lord Well** In the Gospel Reading, Jesus comes to Peter's house and he finds that Peter's mother-in-law is sick. And finding her sick, Jesus heals her. It is a familiar

story about Jesus, who heals all kinds of diseases and infirmities.

But then look what happens. The whole town hears of her healing and rushes all their sick to Peter's house. The Gospel says that by the evening the whole city was gathered at the door of Peter's house (Mark 1:33)! Now, all of a sudden, Jesus seems to have become a one-man hospital. The Gospel says that Jesus healed very many of them.

What is needed to serve God well, then, is not endless good things that other people want from you.

If the whole city is at the door of Peter's house by the evening, then Jesus must have been healing well into the night. The Gospel says that Jesus left the house well before day and went into a secluded place to pray.\* He was so besieged by those who wanted healing that he couldn't pray in the house.

When his absence was finally detected, his disciples went looking for him. "Hey," they say when they find him, "Everybody is looking for you!" They seem to think that his urgent-care clinic should be open at all hours.

Now, of course, it is a good work to heal the sick. And, of course, those who love the sick are right to want them healed. And yet how absurd it is to suppose that prayer should take second-place to work, no matter what the work is! And how sadly and understandably absurd it is to suppose that the mission of Jesus is to be a "Doctor Without Borders."

And so maybe it isn't hard to figure out what Jesus was praying about in the early morning in the countryside.

Each healing Jesus does is a good thing. But good things can actually get in the way of serving God well. To serve God well, a person has to do not just any good things that others want him to do. He has to do those good things that God has called him to do. It may take prayer to figure out which good things to turn down.

Jesus' disciples feel that Jesus needs to hurry back to Peter's village to keep practicing medicine. What Jesus tells them, after his prayer, is that he is leaving Peter's village to continue his ministry—not

of medicine but of preaching in other towns. Preaching is the purpose for which he came.

What is needed to serve God well, then, is not endless good things that other people want from you. What is needed for the Lord's service is prayer first. And after that comes fidelity to just those few good things that fulfill that particular purpose to which the Lord has called you. Eleonore Stump

**Question:** Why you think God allows suffering? Can you have faith in God, even if you don't understand why people suffer?

## Today's Readings

Reading I: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

## Stewardship:

### Plate Offerings for the month of January:

1-6 & 7	\$3,685.92	1-20 & 21	\$3,732.38
1-13 & 14	\$3,518.00	1-27 & 28	\$2,782.00
Church in Latin America:		\$1,262.00	
Church Maintenance:		\$1,392.00	
Solemnity of Mary:		\$ 588.00	
DRF:		\$ 313.00	

The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection next weekend is for Building Maintenance

## Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Feb. 3	5:00 pm	+Alvie Vaughn
Sun. Feb. 4	8:30 am	Int. Frank Stranzl
	10:30 am	For the People
Mon. Feb. 5	8:15 am	+Cynthia Schlosser
Tues. Feb. 6	6:30 pm	+Mr. & Mrs. A. Macasael
Wed. Feb. 7	8:15 am	+Mr. & Mrs. A. Macasael
Thur. Feb. 8	8:15 am	Int. Martha Brankline
Fri. Feb. 9	8:15 am	+Jack Parsons
Sat. Feb. 10	8:15 am	+Art Jorin
	5:00 pm	+Richard Wong
Sun. Feb. 11	8:30 am	Int. Lily & John Badum
	10:30 am	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.**

We could also use a wheel chair, if anyone has one they would like to donate.

### Parish Events this Week

- Tue. Feb. 6 3:45 pm** Children's Faith Formation  
**Wed. Feb. 7 7:00 pm** Confirmation  
**7:00 pm** RCIA-Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Thu. Feb. 8 1:00 pm** Soup with St. Mark  
**6:30 pm** Religious movie night, in the Crying Room. Free. Story of St. Bernadette. Popcorn will be served. All are welcome.

### Pastor's Corner

**A special "Thank you" and "Congratulations" to our Knights of Columbus** for the delicious Crab Feed. It was a lot of work and the clam chowder was "The Best."

Mailings from the **Office of the Diocesan Annual Ministry Appeal** were mailed out to many of you for the 2018 appeal. Last year our goal was \$18,500 and 68 families pledged and \$19,603 came in. So \$1,103 was returned to the parish. I find that 68 families is a low number. I would never expect you to pledge unless I did. This year the goal is \$28,584 and I will be talking about the Appeal during Lent as lent is a time to look at our generosity in giving. The reason the goal amount is more is that Fr John negotiated with the diocese to keep the goal low last year to help pay-off the debt. The diocese said that was a one-time favor. At the same time calculations on the pledge amount were changed as the formula for the amount was faulty. Start praying to discern how much to give as giving is also a prayer.

**The Five Year Capital Campaign** will be over in the Spring of 2019. This is different from the Annual Appeal. So far 558,635.00 has been pledged by 142 families and the target was \$305,000. All monies received after the initial \$60,000 went to the diocese to pay off the parish debt. So far \$340,518 has been paid into the campaign. As of Dec. 31 2017 \$218,117 is still pledge money to come in. The debt is about \$88,000 and all monies received should pay off the debt and leave us a good amount to put into savings for building maintenance.

A few people have **organized Movie Night in the Parish**. Last month was a movie on St Elizabeth Seton and this month the movie night will be this Thursday in the Adult Formation Rm. (the crying room) at 6:30 p.m. You can bring snacks and dinner for yourself. The movie is **Bernadette** of Lourdes. It came out in 2000 and is an excellent and touching movie for people of all ages. It is shown in Lourdes daily and is in English.

**How to go to Holy Communion.** Sometimes we need reminders on how to receive the Body of Christ.

1. Stay in the pew reflecting on the Lord coming to you and when the people in the pew in front of you are in the aisle please stand and go out of the pew and get in line

2. Before you receive the Lord's Body please bow

3. You may either receive the Lord's Body in the hand or on the tongue.

A. If on the tongue please stick out your tongue.

B. If Communion is received in the hand, the hands should first of all be clean. If one is right handed the left hand should rest on top of the right. The host will then be laid in the palm of the left hand and then taken by the right hand to the mouth. If one is left-handed this is reversed. It is not appropriate to reach out with the fingers and take the host from the person distributing. Please do not put your hands side by side when receiving as some people flip the host from one hand to the other.

4. The person distributing Communion says audibly to each person approaching, "The Body of Christ" The communicant should audibly respond before receiving the Host, so do not whisper or mumble, "Amen," (indicating by that response his or her belief that this small wafer of bread is the soul and body of the Lord).

5. Please take a step to the side and consume the host before you walk away. It is not to be taken back to the pew to consume.

6. You may make the sign of the cross after you consume the host but please do not bow or genuflect as the Lord is in you.

**Lent** begins next week Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have the instructions for Lent and the calendar of Lenten happenings in the parish. Looking ahead. We will have 3 masses: 8:15 am., 12:15 pm. and 7pm.

For the dirty linen in the Hall Kitchen, there is a plastic container, that says **Dirty Towels**, in the kitchen. Why? **Please take the linens you dirty & wash them**, so they do not stink and grow moldy in the Kitchen. Don't forget to bring them back!

### 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. SVES-130 years of Faith, Academics & Service in Petaluma. Call for more information: 762-6426 or [www.svelem.org](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>** with dinner and dancing with the doors opening at 5pm. 25\$ per person before Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

**Hospice of Petaluma & Memoria Hospice, services of St. Joseph Health,** is having February

presentation of "Wednesday at the Hospice House". This free six-month education series is our way of thanking the community for the incredible support we have received. Any questions, please call Karen Bramblett (707) 568-1094. Email: [Karen.Bramblett@stjoe.org](mailto:Karen.Bramblett@stjoe.org)

## **Preparing Before Lent Begins**

Taking some time to get ready for Lent will ensure that we aren't going to miss the first week or two of Lent, because we are just getting started. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but we want to be ready to really take off on that day, rather than just beginning to think about Lent on that day. Part of what makes a vacation or a special anniversary so special is the build-up to it.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" This question may require that I slow down a bit and listen to my inner spirit. For example, even if I'm very busy, I realize I'm hungry when I hear my stomach start "growling." "What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?" Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, except that I manage to get to church and get ashes on my forehead. Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday? How will fasting and abstaining happen for me, for

my family on that special day?

It doesn't a lot of time to prepare for the beginning of Lent. It just takes desire and focus. God can do so much with that. We can give God more of a space to touch our hearts if we begin to establish some simple patterns. We could wake up each morning, and for something like a half a minute to a minute, stand by the edge of our beds, and just ask the Lord for the grace to let this day be one in which I long for the beginning of Lent. Perhaps we need to ask for specific helps or graces to get ready to begin Lent. Whatever we try to say, our Lord can understand the Spirit trying to speak through our simple words. And all it takes is the time to find and put on our slippers. And each night, in the days ahead, we can practice giving thanks to God before I go to bed. This simple pattern, in the morning and evening can stir our spirits to look forward to and prepare for Lent, as a season of grace.

**Pope Francis: Don't let technology replace real encounters, Francis says on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>** Pope Francis told consecrated men and women Friday that they are called to have real encounters with their brothers and sisters, and that technology should never have a higher priority than time spent with God and others.

"Today's frantic pace leads us to close many doors to encounter, often for fear of others," the Pope said Feb. 2. "Only shopping malls and internet connections are always open."

"Yet that is not how it should be with consecrated life: the brother and the sister given to me by God are a part of my history, gifts to be cherished. May we never look at the screen of our cellphone more than the eyes of our brothers or sisters, or focus more on our software than on the Lord."

Pope Francis cautioned against getting trapped by the "life of this world," pointing out how consecrated life, and vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, are about turning away "from fleeting riches to embrace the One who endures forever."

"The life of this world pursues selfish pleasures and desires; the consecrated life frees our affections of every possession in order fully to love God and other people," he said. "Worldly lives aim to do whatever we want; consecrated life chooses humble obedience as the greater freedom."

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