

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time-February 11, 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 and Devotions

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 11, 2018



In the Gospel Reading, Jesus reaches out to touch a leper; and by touching him, Jesus heals him.

Leprosy is a disease worth fearing. It disfigures and disables a person. The ancient world thought it could be transmitted by touch. For

the sake of the health of the community, the law made lepers outcasts; but, even without the law, nobody wanted to touch a leper. The leper healed by Jesus must have lived for a long time without the touch of another human being.

How welcome the touch of Jesus must have been to that leper! And how overjoyed the leper must have been when he found himself healed!

Leprosy is not the only thing that severely disfigures and disables a person. Sin does so too. And the touch of Jesus that heals leprosy heals sin as well. That is why, at Mass, we pray, "Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed." Forego touch, Lord! We would be so overjoyed if you just said the word! Your healing would be so welcome to us!

But we say those words at every Mass, week after week, year after year. And still we struggle with our sins. Somewhere Nietzsche says unkindly about Christians, "They don't even look like the redeemed!" That is a painful accusation, isn't it? Why aren't we healed, by word or by touch, as the leper was? Why do we have to keep asking for the Lord's healing touch at every Mass?

But think about it this way: how would Nietzsche know what the redeemed look like? For that matter, how would we? Why should we think that we are in a position to see the healing that the Lord does in our lives? Why would we think that we are in a position to judge how far we have come in conquering the sin in ourselves? The Lord tells us not to judge others (Mt 7:1). Why should we think we are able to judge ourselves?

So we do not have to see the effects of the healing touch of the Lord in order for it to do its work. The touch of the Word, for whose healing word we pray at every mass, does its healing deep within. Our job is to be open to that touch.

Question j If you come to Jesus with a problem, do you think he will be moved with pity and touch you in some healing way? Can you help heal those who are ailing around you?

Sunday Readings

Reading I: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Parish Events this Week

Mon, Feb 12 6:30 pm. Parish Council Dinner & Mtg.

Tue, Feb. 13 No Classes Children's Faith Formation

Wed. Feb. 14 No Class Pre Confirmation

No Class Confirmation

No Class RCIA **See Thu**

Thu. Feb. 15 1:00 pm. Soup with St. Mark

7:00 pm Angels & Saints

Fri. Feb. 16 1:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Fri. Feb. 16 6:00 pm. Meatless Meal put on by the K of C

7:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Stewardship: Plate Offering

2/4/18 - \$3979.00

The 2nd collection this weekend is for Building Maintenance. The Ash Wednesday collection is for Easter flowers and decorations. The 2nd collection next weekend is for *the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (Interesting that I cannot get an answer in why we take up this collection. FT)*

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Feb. 10	5:00 pm	+Richard Wong
Sun. Feb. 11	8:30 am	Int. Lily & John Badum
	10:30 am	For the People
Mon. Feb. 12	8:15 am	+Cynthia Schlosser
Tues. Feb 13	6:30 pm	Int. Javiga Resundiz
Ash Wednesday		
Wed. Feb. 14	8:15 am	+Beverly Damore
	12:15 pm	No Intention
	7:00 pm	No Intention
Thur. Feb. 15	8:15 am	No Intention
Fri. Feb. 16	8:15 am	No Intention
Sat. Feb. 17	8:15 am	+Cynthia Schlosser
	5:00 pm	+John Farr
Sun. Feb. 18	8:30 am	Int. Karen Panfiglio
	10:30 am	For the people

Eleonore Stump

Pastor's Corner

Lent begins this Wednesday. We have three masses scheduled: for early risers, those who do not like to go out at night, and for those getting home from work with their families. Ashes will be distributed at these times. Please see Mass schedule.

Lenten Regulations: The current discipline is as follows: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence, that is, limited to a single, full meal and abstinence from meat. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. **The law of fasting** permits only one full meal a day, but it does allow the taking of some food in the morning and a second light meal at noon or in the evening, as you prefer. Persons who are 18 years of age and older but not yet 60 are obligated to fast. **The law of abstinence** from meat applies to all persons who are fourteen years old. However, it is highly recommended that children from ages seven to fourteen years also follow the law of abstinence. All Catholics are encouraged to receive **Holy Eucharist** frequently during Lent and to receive the **Sacrament of Penance** so that all may be prepared to celebrate more fully the paschal mystery. Those who have received their first Holy Communion are to receive Holy Communion during the Easter season.

Hopefully I will see more of you at mass during the week.

Last Sunday there were 88 bodies in the church at 10:25 am. By 10:40 there were 189 and more came in later. What kind of statements are we making by these actions (no one wants to be late). If you go to sports or performing art events, people try to be early or you would not be able to be seated until later so as not to distract people. Please begin a Lenten practice by arriving at least 5 minutes before mass to settle in and put all distractions behind you.

The crying room is for families with small children. If people are using the room because of sickness, please do not go to mass until you are better. If the chairs are more comfortable be patient as we will be cushioning some of the pews up front shortly.

Lenten meals on Fridays. Different individuals and groups will be assisting me by providing Meatless Meal Dinners at 6pm. to 15 minutes before **Stations on Friday evenings at 7.** These are "**inhouse meals**". The meals are not open to the public (unless they want to go to the Stations of the Cross and there will be a basket out for donations for the meals as there will be no cost. After the dinners all are expected to go to the Stations of the Cross.

We also have the Stations of the Cross at 1 pm on Fridays for those who do not like to drive at night.

As reported last week, people leave **dirty towels and rags in the kitchen.** They were still there after last Sunday, stinking with gnats flying around and so I threw them out. Please take home the dirty laundry when using the kitchen.

Pastor's Corner continued...

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 to the aisle

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 "**Amen.**" before receiving the Host (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

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The Ministry of Bethlehem handicrafts

Association will be selling religious articles after the masses **next weekend.** Events Outside the Parish. Most of the Christian families that are assisted by this ministry are catholic but with the problems still in the Middle East the Christian percent of people in the Holy Lands has dropped from 63% to 2%. Many of these religious articles are not cheap because of the cause from which the monies go to so.....

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. Applications request by Feb 15. **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.

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

Catholic Cursillo fellowship gathering Come join us. Develop friendships, enjoy singing and fellowship, hear how other Catholics are living their life of holiness and pray as a group before the Blessed Sacrament. Fellowship gatherings of Catholics are held twice a month. Catholic Cursillo is a movement based on friendship. We would love to be your friend. Join us on March 7, from 6-8 pm at St. Eugene's in Santa Rosa. Join us March 17 from 2-4pm at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park. For further information call Debbie Simonson at 904-463-1070 or Priscilla Silvey at 707-567-7957. Our website: www.catholiccursillomovementofsantarosa.com/

Youth Day: The diocese youth office is calling all teens to a Youth Day at Cardinal Newman gym on **March 11 from 11am to 4 pm**. 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: A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. When, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, gesturing the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Mass' bumper sticker. Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."

Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") and Carnival ("Farewell to Meat") precede Ash Wednesday and Lent around the world, even where Lent has ceased to have much religious meaning. It was natural to develop a festival, a "last fling," before the prayerful fasting and abstinence of Lent.

How can we give this day before Ash Wednesday some religious meaning for us? It may be that we are going to a Mardi Gras party and there will be much feasting. Our country may celebrate Carnival with gusto. Perhaps we can have a special family dinner together, with meat. What's important is that we let our feasting anticipate our fasting. One way to do that is to begin to focus on the meaning of the day, when we first get up. It can create a sense of anticipation all day, that something very new is about to begin tomorrow.

We can prepare for whatever we will do, no matter how purely "social" or simply ordinary our day will be. Knowing why we go to a party, or enjoy the planning or preparation for a special meal, will add much meaning to this day.

What about "giving up something" for Lent?

When many of us were children, we might remember our giving up candy for Lent. And, it seemed like a real sacrifice. As we grew up, it was often more difficult to decide what special thing to do, to make Lent a special season - to get our attention and to prepare ourselves for deeper sacrifices.

What would help me grow in freedom? That's the question to ask. For some of us, it could be, committing ourselves to give up judging others, every single day of Lent. For others, it could be giving up a bad habit we've developed. For still others, it is obvious what seems to be the important choice for me during Lent.

For many of us, the choice may not be to give something up, but to add something to our daily lives during Lent. We may commit ourselves to extra prayer time. We may decide to do some service to the poor, once a week during Lent. We may choose to increase our almsgiving to the poor - perhaps related to something we choose not to do, e.g., some might choose not to go out to eat one night a week, and to give that total amount to the poor.

Whether it is fasting, abstaining or other acts of penance, the whole desire we should have is to use these means to help us grow closer to our Lord and prepare ourselves "to celebrate the paschal mystery with minds and hearts renewed." (First Preface of Lent).

What Needs Changing in My Life? We start to come to know that by asking for help. "Lord, help me to know what needs changing." It is often said, "Be careful about what you ask for." This is one of those requests that God must surely want to answer.

Lenten Reflection

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