

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



First Sunday in Lent-February 18, 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.

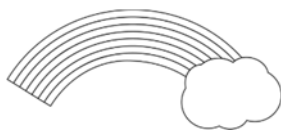
Baptism: 1-month notice for preparation class (on the last Sunday of the month at noon) for infant baptism. Please contact Deacon Joe, 536-7332.

Reconciliation: Tues. evening 7p.m., Sat. 9 a.m., Fri 12:30-1p.m. and by appt.

Marriage: 6-month notice. Please contact Fr. Tom or Deacon Joe.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Tom.

The First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2018



The Rainbow and the Goodness of God

In the First Reading, God gives Noah the rainbow as a reassuring sign of his

goodness: God will never again do what he has just done. God will never again destroy everything with a flood. But why isn't it bad enough that God did it once? God brought it about that every human being, except for Noah and his small family, died by drowning in one great natural catastrophe. Where is the goodness of God in the story of the flood? Well, here is one way to think about God's action.

Consider the medical treatment for certain fatal cancers. For those deadly diseases, doctors can try to save the patient with an autologous bone marrow transplant. The doctor takes bone marrow from the patient and hunts for any cells that are not cancerous. He saves those healthy cells, but he kills the cancerous ones. Then he clones the healthy cells and puts them back into the patient. By this painful measure, there is a chance that the doctor can save the life of his patient.

In the story of the flood, God tries the analogue of this same procedure on the human race, doomed to die because of sin. God takes a few morally healthy human beings and puts them into a new world, to reproduce there. The morally sick and destructive population of the old world dies in God's flood.

But, you might think, what dies in the treatment for cancer is only cells. What died in the flood is human beings!

True, but notice this other difference between the medical treatment and the flood. In the flood, the selection between the sick and the healthy people is made by the people themselves. Those who aren't on Noah's boat don't want to be on it. To get on the boat, they would have to acknowledge their sins and accept God's means to safety. They would be among the healthy, the righteous invited on the boat, if they repented. But this is what they refuse to do.

The boat is there for those who don't refuse it. And, as the Gospel reading makes plain, that boat is always there, in Christ, who saves all those who do not reject him.

And so the rainbow *is* a sign of the goodness of God, who calls everyone to salvation.

Eleonore Stump

Question: God made a covenant with us and included every living thing. Does that reconfigure your attitude toward all creation - "our common home," including the environment—How?

Today's Readings

Reading I: Genesis 9:8-15
 Reading II: 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Parish Events this Week

Tue. Feb. 20 3:34 pm. Children's Faith Formation
Wed. Feb. 21 7:00 pm. Confirmation
7:00 pm. Adult Faith Formation RCIA
 Topic-The Mass
Thu. Feb. 22 1:00 pm. Soup with St. Mark
Fri. Feb. 23 1:00 pm. Stations of the Cross
Fri. Feb. 24 6:00 pm. Meatless Meal: Clam
 Chowder and Minestrone
 Soup put on by Fr Tom
7:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Stewardship: Plate Offering 2/12/18

**Plate: \$3,038.00, Building Maint. \$1,386.00,
 Deficit reduction fund \$497.00**

**The National 2nd collection this weekend is for
 the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.**

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Feb. 17	5:00 pm	+Jon Farr
Sun. Feb. 18	8:30 am	Int. Karen Panfiglio
	10:30 am	For the parish
Mon. Feb. 19	8:15 am	+Christina Maine
Tues. Feb. 20	6:30 pm	No Intention
Wed. Feb. 21	8:15 am	No Intention
Thur. Feb. 22	8:15 am	+Christina Schenk
Fri. Feb. 23	8:15 am	No Intention
Sat. Feb. 24	8:15 am	No Intention
	5:00 pm	+Gunner Hanna
Sun. Feb. 25	8:30 am	For the people
	10:30 am	+Lillian Waltermire

Children's Faith Formation:

Elementary Classes begin at **3:45-4:45 pm**. If you drop off your child early, there may be **no** teacher here to supervise your child.

Dates to remember: No classes March 13th

1st Communion is Saturday April 21, 2018

Confirmation is Tuesday May 1, 2018

Any questions call: Char 953-6257

Parish Events Coming Up:

The Ministry of Bethlehem Handicrafts

Association will be selling religious articles after the masses **this weekend**. 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%. Please assist them by buying some religious articles

The Women's Guild will be selling raffle tickets for a handmade Quilt and the following baskets: Gardening, Breakfast, Wine and Child. Tickets will be sold at all the masses beginning Feb. 17th. **The winning raffle tickets will be drawn March 25th after the 10:30 Mass.**



Our Knights of Columbus will be putting on a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with all the Fixings on Saturday, March 10th here at the parish hall. Doors open at 6 pm. Tickets go on sale next weekend.

Medical Assist "911" Meeting is scheduled for **March 15, Thursday** in the Crying Room. Jeff Keena, a Paramedic, will attend and give us info as to how best help people who are having a medical issue while attending Mass. All Parish Members are welcome to attend. **Contact Diane Ruzicka at 584-5981** for any questions.

Anniversaries for February 2018

You are invited to pray for and with these couples during the 10:30 mass on Sunday, February 25th:

50 yrs. or More: Robert & Anastasia Neal, Charles & Mary Thayer

40 yrs. or More: Joseph & Pam Stafford, Joe & Karen Panfiglio

30 yrs. or More: Richard & Laura Kane, Keith & Janice Langan, Charles & Melissa Hosey, Karl & Patty Turner, Alex & Agnes Silva

20 yrs. or More: Dennis & Malgosia Barney,

10 yrs. or More: Bill & Loretta Sousa, Zac & Nancy Pacheco, Daniel & Susana Martin,

5 yrs. or More: Jose & Laura Gomez, Chester & Marilyn Currier

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA.

Lenten Mini-Retreats: Lent is a time for us to pause & make extra time for prayer, penance & reflection. The Cathedral of St. Eugene is offering 4 mini-retreats on 4 consecutive Saturdays during Lent. The retreat begins with 8:00 am Mass each week. The talks will begin at 9:00 am. in the Cathedral. The talks will be in three 45 min. segments, followed by 15 min breaks with refreshments available in the adjacent Parish Life Center. **Feb. 24** – The Return of the Prodigal - Repentance & Forgiveness, with Fr. James Zakowicz.

March 3 – The Nuts & Bolts of Confession, with Fr. David Jenuwine. **March 10** – Sharing the Passion & Resurrection of Christ, with Fr. Gary Sumpter. **March 17** – The Lenten Call to Spiritual Combat, with Fr. Andrew Pacheco. Please join us on our Lenten journey.

Healing Mass and lunch for Fire Victims at St. Rose Parish, Saturday March 10th. A bilingual Lourdes Healing Mass beginning at 10:30 am, with lunch in the St. Rose Parish Hall, with a Health, Life and Job Fair. To help those serving food please call the Parish office to let them how many will be attending.

St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School News
Registration has opened for Kindergarten and transfer students in all grades!
For more information: 762-6426 or www.svelem.org. Applications are still being accepted..

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. E-mail: Karen.Bramblett@stjoe.org

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

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 **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/

Humor: A bartender notices that every evening, without fail, one of his patrons orders three separate beers and drinks them. After several weeks of noticing this pattern, the bartender asks the man why he always orders three beers. The man says, "I have two brothers who have moved away to different countries. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond." Several weeks later, noticing that the man only ordered two beers, the bartender said, "Please accept my condolences on the death of one of your brothers."

You know, the two beers and all..." The man replied, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

Lenten Practices

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. Then, we have to listen. With a little bit of reflection, most of us will just begin to "name" things that make up our ordinary habits and ways of being who we are, that we aren't very proud of. Things we do and things we never get around to doing. We can "feel" the call to change our attitudes, our self-absorption, or our way of interacting with others. Perhaps a spouse, a loved one, a friend, a family member, a co-worker has told me something about myself that gets in the way of communication, that makes relating to them difficult. Maybe I don't take God very seriously. I go to Church on Sunday, and contribute my share, but I don't really take time to deal with my relationship with God. Perhaps I've let my mind and fantasy get cluttered with escapist litter. I might begin to name a number of self-indulgent habits. I may realize I rarely, if ever, hear the cry of the poor, and can't remember when I've answered that cry. It could be that dishonesty on all kinds of levels has become a way of life. One of the roadblocks in my relationship with God and others may be deep wounds or resentments from the past, things I continue to hold against others or myself.

Lent is the time to start new patterns of prayer. Perhaps I haven't been praying at all. This is a great time to choose to begin. It is important to begin realistically. I can start by simply pausing when I get up and taking a slow, deep breath, and recalling what I have to do this day, and asking for grace to do it as a child of God. I may want to go to bed a half an hour earlier, and get up a half an hour earlier and give myself some time alone to read the readings for the day, and just talk with the Lord about those readings or about the stuff of the day. I may choose to go to Mass each day during Lent. I may choose to get to church on Sunday, just 15 minutes earlier, so I can reflect a bit. Lent may be a time I would want to choose to start to journal the day to day reflections that are coming, the desires I'm naming and asking for, the graces I am being given.

Pope Francis At Mass for Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis invited everyone to live the 40 days of Lent as a time to "pause" from things which keep us from virtue and to return home to the loving and merciful

embrace of God the Father.

"Return without fear to those outstretched, eager arms of your Father, who is rich in mercy, who awaits you. Return without fear, for this is the favorable time to come home," the Pope said Feb. 14.

"Lent is the time for allowing one's heart to be touched..." he continued, explaining how "persisting on the path of evil only gives rise to disappointment and sadness. True life is something quite distinct and our heart indeed knows this. God does not tire, nor will he tire, of holding out his hand."

In his homily at Mass, Pope Francis criticized distrust, apathy and resignation, stressing that Lent is the ideal time to uproot these and other temptations from our hearts. He listed out different ways we can do this through the actions of pausing, seeing, and returning to the Father.

He offered several suggestions of how to pause, including refraining from showing off, or from an attitude which gives rise to unproductive thoughts and self-pity, and which lead us to forget our call to encounter others and share in their burdens.

He also urged an end to the desire "to control everything, know everything, destroy everything," which he said stems from a lack of gratitude for our life and what we've already been given.

Lent is also a good time for the "creative power of silence" in order to "leave behind the unrest and commotion that fill the soul with bitter feelings which never get us anywhere," he advised

Pastor's Corner

Lenten reading materials are available in the vestibule for free.

Please join us on Fridays for Stations at 1 pm. or at 7pm. **A meatless meal** is served at 6pm. with two soups, Clam Chowder and Minestrone and crusty French bread served this Friday at 6pm. No cost just a donation. If you go to the meal you will need to go to the evening stations

In my former parishes the **mass attendance on weekdays during Lent** doubled. I have high expectations that we will try to follow a Lenten practice of going to mass on a weekday at least once a week. We do have one evening mass during the week.

Just to remind people that **St. Elizabeth Seton property is smoke free.**

Catholic Charities has openings for two positions: Resource Connector, Bilingual; and Receptionist, Bilingual. Contact Catholic Charities at www.srcharities.org/about/career .

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