

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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Second Sunday in Lent-February 25, 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 Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2018



Sacrifice In the First Reading, Abraham offers his beloved son as a sacrifice to God. The Gospel Reading identifies Jesus as God's beloved Son.

The two readings together remind us that God offers his beloved Son as our sacrifice to God. Christ, our Passover lamb, is sacrificed for us.

And so the First Reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect on sacrifice. What is a sacrifice? And why would God want one, from Abraham or from us through Christ?

The first thing to see is that a sacrifice is a peculiar kind of gift.

In the case of ordinary gifts, which aren't sacrifices, the person who gets the gift is the one who benefits from the gift-giving. That person has the thing given, and if that thing was good enough to give, it is a good thing to get too. So the gift-receiver is the primary beneficiary of ordinary gift-giving.

But a sacrifice is a different kind of gift. When one person gives something as a sacrifice, however great his gift is, in the giving of it he himself receives something of very great value. In sacrifice, the gift-giver is the primary beneficiary of gift-giving.

To see this point, consider Maximilian Kolbe, who sacrificed his life for Franciszek Gajowniczek at Auschwitz.

The Nazis had randomly selected 10 prisoners to die, and Franciszek Gajowniczek was one of them. When he was picked, he cried out, "Oh, my poor wife! My poor children! I will never see them again!" But Maximilian Kolbe stepped forward and offered to take Franciszek's place. Kolbe knew that the selected prisoners would be slowly starved to death in a dark and airless bunker. But Kolbe offered his life for that of his fellow prisoner anyway. Witnesses reported afterwards that Kolbe prayed and sang hymns until the end when his voice failed.

In his sacrifice, Kolbe became a person in whom the beauty of love shone so brightly that his story now illumines all who hear about it. He gave his life to give life to Franciszek, but he himself received far more than he gave. Who would not want to be

as lovely a soul as Kolbe was?

And so God, who lacks for nothing, is glad to have the gift of our sacrifices, not because he gets something great from them, but because we do.

Eleonore Stump

Question: Abraham had blind trust. Where do you fall on the continuum when blind trust is required of you, with 1 being low and 10 being high?

Eleonore Stump

Today's Readings

Reading I: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Reading II: Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Parish Events this Week

Tue. Feb. 27 3:45-4:45 pm. Child Faith Formation

Wed. Feb. 28 12:00 pm. Parish Potluck-In Hall

7:00 pm. Confirmation

7:00 pm. Adult Faith Formation RCIA
Topic-Christian Spirituality

Thu. Feb. 29 1:00 pm. Soup with St. Mark

Fri. Mar. 1 1:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Fri. Mar. 2 6:00 pm. Salad, Mac & Cheese
7:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Stewardship: Plate Offering 2/18/18

Plate: \$4468.78.00, Eastern Europe: \$930.00

Flowers: \$1265.24

.Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Feb. 24	5:00 pm	+Gunner Hanna
Sun. Feb. 25	8:30 am	For the Parish
	10:30 am	+Lillian Waltermire
Mon. Feb. 26	8:15 am	No Intention
Tues. Feb. 27	6:30 pm	No Intention
Wed. Feb. 28	8:15 am	No Intention
Thur. Mar. 1	8:15 am	+Sal Salcido
Fri. Mar. 2	8:15 am	Intention Hill Family
Sat. Mar. 3	8:15 am	Int. Paulo & Macaria Badum
	5:00 pm	+Ellen & Gary Stevens
Sun. Mar. 4	8:30 am	+Cynthia Marshall
	10:30 am	For the Parish

Children's Faith Formation:

Elementary Classes begin at **3:45-4:45 pm**

Dates to remember: No classes March 13th

Reconciliation 1st Communion, Tues. Mar 6, 3:45 pm

1st Communion is Saturday April 21, 2018 11:00 am

Reconciliation Confirmation, Wed. Feb. 28, 7:00 pm

Confirmation is Tuesday May 1, 2018 7:00 pm

Any questions call: Char 953-6257

Parish Events Coming Up:

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 Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul" In this 10 week series, Vincentians volunteer across the country to bring effective, personalized help to those in poverty and share with you their stories of Christ's love along the way. The series runs on EWTN from Sunday March 4th thru May 16th at 3:30 am and 1:30 pm and Saturdays starting March 10th thru May 1 at 3pm. The Society of St. Vincent's at St. Elizabeth's Church meets the 3rd Sunday each month after 8:30 am Mass in a church classroom. All are welcome! For more information call Laure at 548-4741.

March 8th Monthly Movie night at St. Elizabeth's Join us at 6:30-8:30 for film about "Miracles from Heaven". Free popcorn will be provided.



Our Knights of Columbus will be putting on a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with all the Fixings on Saturday, March 10th in the parish hall. Doors open at 5:45pm. Tickets are: Adults \$20.00, Children (8-12) \$10.00, under 7, free. Tickets on sale after mass or in the office.

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.

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 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. **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. Office: 542-6448

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 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: John Smith was a non-baptized who moved into a large Catholic neighborhood. On the first Friday of Lent, John was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill. Meanwhile, all of his neighbors were eating cold tuna fish for supper. This went on each Friday of Lent. On the last Friday of Lent, the neighborhood men got together and decided that something had to be done about John. He was tempting them to eat meat each Friday of Lent, and they couldn't take it anymore. They decided to try and convert John to Catholicism. They went over and talked to him. John decided to join all of his neighbors and become a Catholic, which made them all very happy.

They took him to church, and the priest poured some water over him, and said, "You were born a non-believer, you were raised a non-believer, and now you

are a Catholic."

The men were so relieved, now their biggest Lenten temptation was resolved.

The next year's Lenten season rolled around. The first Friday of Lent came, and, just at supper time, when the neighborhood was settling down to their cold tuna fish dinner, the smell of steak cooking on a grill came wafting into their homes. The neighborhood men could not believe their noses! WHAT WAS GOING ON?

They called each other up and decided to meet over in John's yard to see if he had forgotten it was the first Friday of Lent. The group arrived just in time to see John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was pouring some water over his steak on the grill, saying, "You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish."

Lenten Practices

Eating: Lent is a great time to change our eating patterns. This is not about "losing weight" or "getting in shape," though for most of us, paying attention to what we eat, will make a difference in our overall health. This is about being more alert. Anyone who has tried to diet knows that something changes in us when we try to avoid eating. The monks in the desert, centuries ago, discovered that fasting - simply not eating - caused a tremendous boost to their consciousness. Not only did their bodies go on "alert," but their whole person seemed to be in a more heightened state of attention. The whole purpose of fasting was to aid prayer - to make it easier to listen to God more openly, especially in times of need. Among Catholics, only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are named as days of fast, we all do together. (And that fast is simply to eat only one full meal in the day, with the other two meals combined, not equal to the one.) On the Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, we may want to try to fast more intentionally. Of course, always conscious of our health and individual nutrition needs, we may want to try to eat very little, except some juices, or perhaps a small amount of beans and rice. We will experience how powerfully open and alert we feel and how much easier it is to pray and to name deeper desires. Not only will I feel less sluggish and tired, I will feel simply freer and more energized.

The other powerful advantage of fasting is that it can be a very simple gesture that places me in greater solidarity with the poor of the earth, who often have very little more than a little rice and beans each day. Powerful things happen in me, when I think about those people in the world who have so much less than I do. And, it's a great cure for self-pity.

Generosity: Almsgiving has always been an important part of Lent. Lent begins with the powerful Isaiah 58, on the Friday and Saturday after Ash Wednesday. It is important to give ourselves the experience of fasting from being un-generous. Generosity is not simply giving my excess clothes to a

place where poor people might purchase them. It's not even writing a "generous" check at the time a collection is taken up for a cause that benefits the poor. These are wonderful practices. Generosity is an attitude. It is a sense that no matter how much I have, all that I have is gift, and given to me to be shared. It means that sharing with others in need is one of my personal priorities. That is quite different from assessing all of my needs first, and then giving away what is left over. A spirit of self-less giving means that one of my needs is to share what I have with others. Lent is a wonderful time to practice self-less giving, because it takes practice. This kind of self-sacrificing generosity is a religious experience. It places us in solidarity with the poor who share with each other, without having any excess. It also joins us with Jesus, who gave himself completely, for us. Establishing new patterns of giving will give real life and joy to Lent. Almsgiving has always been an important part of Lent. Lent begins with the powerful Isaiah 58, on the Friday and Saturday after Ash Wednesday. It is important to give ourselves the experience of fasting from being un-generous. Generosity is not simply giving my excess clothes to a place where poor people might purchase them. It's not even writing a "generous" check at the time a collection is taken up for a cause that benefits the poor. These are wonderful practices. Generosity is an attitude. It is a sense that no matter how much I have, all that I have is gift, and given to me to be shared. It means that sharing with others in need is one of my personal priorities. That is quite different from assessing all of my needs first, and then giving away what is left over. A spirit of self-less giving means that one of my needs is to share what I have with others. Lent is a wonderful time to practice self-less giving, because it takes practice. This kind of self-sacrificing generosity is a religious experience. It places us in solidarity with the poor who share with each other, without having any excess. It also joins us with Jesus, who gave himself completely, for us. Establishing new patterns of giving will give real life and joy to Lent.

Pastor's Corner I am in consultation with a gardener/landscaper for a plan for areas that need landscaping around our facility. I used this landscape gardener when I was at Holy Spirit Church 4 years ago. When he comes up with a plan the finance committee will decide what we can afford. A bid will then go out to get the work done. Please sign-up this weekend for helping plan and coordinate the celebrations during Holy Week. I am still at a loss as to why the daily mass attendance has not increased for Lent. Usually attendance has doubled in my past parishes. make a Lenten discipline, to show for mass on time. We still have quite a few trickling in after mass begins. Remember the words of the Lord," Can you not stay with me and pray a little longer. I want to thank the Women's Guild for this coming weeks Meatless Friday Meal,

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