

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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Third Sunday in Lent-March 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

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 Third Sunday in Lent, March 4, 2018



Worthless Women

The Gospel Reading tells the story of a woman who is worthless by the standards of Jewish society at that time.

Jesus has sent his disciples off for food, and he is sitting at a well when she comes to draw

water. There is every reason why he shouldn't talk to her at all.

First, she is a woman. It is only the disciples' awe of Jesus that keeps them from asking him what he thought he was doing when they return and find him talking to her, without even a chaperone by her.

Secondly, she is a Samaritan. As she herself points out to him, Jews don't talk to Samaritans. Samaritans are self-made outcasts, from the Jewish point of view; and self-respecting Jews stay away from them.

Thirdly, this Samaritan has the sort of history that makes women pariahs even in their home communities. Jesus knows her status, and he lets her see that he does. She has had five husbands—*five* husbands! and she is currently living with a man to whom she is not married. Even by the lax standards of our own day, this sort of history would make people look askance at her. In her village, she is undoubtedly a shamed person.

So, taken it all and all, she's a worthless person, isn't she? What Jew or Samaritan would want to invite her to lunch?

But, you might be thinking, the savior of the world could certainly spare a crumb even for a shamed Samaritan woman. He could preach to her that her sins are forgiven, you might be supposing, or he could offer her some other kind of pastoral help. But he doesn't, does he? No, he asks *her* to help *him*. He opens conversation with her by asking her to give him a drink.

Then look at how the story ends: she brings belief in Jesus to her village, and the villagers come to Jesus because of her. She isn't worthless then, is she? Indeed she isn't. On the contrary, because of Jesus, she takes her rightful place among the apostles. The evangelization of the whole village is *her* accomplishment.

And so when Jesus asks her to care for him, he starts a process that brings her from being worthless to being the apostle to her village.

The remedy of love for human worthlessness is modeled for us here. Eleonore Stump

Question: In the desert, filled with thirsty panic, the Israelites grumbled against God. When was the last time you grumbled against God?

Today's Readings

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7

Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Parish Events this Week

Tue. Mar. 6, 3:45 pm. Child Faith Formation

Wed. Mar. 7, 7:00 pm. Confirmation

7:00 pm. Adult Faith Formation RCIA
Topic Devotions & Practices

Thur. Mar. 8, 1:00 pm. Soup with St. Mark "The last Supper and the beginning of the Passion;"

6:30 pm. Movie Night

Fri. Mar. 9, 1:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Fri. Mar. 10 6:00 pm. Meatless Dinner - Spaghetti
Hosted by Cursillo

7:00 pm. Stations of the Cross

Stewardship: Plate Offering for February

2/3 & 4 \$3979.00. Flowers \$1265.24

2/10 & 11 \$3038.00. Eastern Europe \$930.00

2/17 & 18 \$4468.78. Maintenance \$1553.00

2/24 & 25 \$3454.00 Debt Reduction Fund \$517.00

The 2nd collection next weekend is for two National

Collections: **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** and **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCCH)**.

Collected funds in this combined collection are distributed by the respective agencies for either international (CRS) or national (CCHD) needs. We know that it is not possible for us to offer direct assistance to all of the poor or to all those in distress but we can through our prayers and contributions help those served by CRS and CCHD. 50% of the funds contributed to CCHD provide for the anti-poverty grants and education programs here in the United States. 50% of the money donated for CCHD is designated by CCHD for local Diocesan needs. In the Diocese of Santa Rosa this money is given to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa to help support the work they do on behalf of us all.

Funds collected for CRS allows that agency to provide funding for international emergency needs. The presence of CRS is most notably visible when natural disasters such floods, hurricanes or earthquakes afflict areas already suffering with poverty.

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Mar. 3	5:00 pm	+Ellen & Gary Stevens
Sun. Mar. 4	8:30 am	+Cynthia Marshall
	10:30 am	+For the People
Mon. Mar. 5	8:15 am	+Beverly D'Amore
Tue. Mar. 6	6:30 pm	+Joseph Rodriguez
Wed. Mar. 7	8:15 am	+Josephine Laskodi
Thur. Mar. 8	8:15 am	No Intention
Fri. Mar. 9	8:15 am	No Intention
Sat. Mar.10	8:15 am	Int. Paulo & Macaria Badum
	5:00 pm	+Adam Fleming & Gloria Sagon
Sun. Mar.11	8:30 am	For the People
	10:30 am	+Elvira Capurol

Children's Faith Formation:

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

Dates to remember: No classes March 13th

Reconciliation 1st Communion, Tue. March 6, 3:45pm.

1st Communion is Saturday April 21, 11am

Confirmation is Tuesday May 1, 7pm

No Wed. Confirmation class March 14, 7pm

No Liturgy of the Word for Children, during the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, March 18 and Easter, April 1. Any questions call: Char 953-625

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.**

March 8th Monthly Movie night at St. Elizabeth's

Join us at 6:30-8:30 for the film, "Miracles from Heaven". Free popcorn will be provided. The movie is an excellent one and is a true story that came out a few years ago. It is a movie for all ages from 8 up.



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 are 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 THESE UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA.

"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.**

3 Day Lenten Mission Titled: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, A Treasure to be Rediscovered, with Theologian, John Galten, **March 6, 7, 8 2018 7-8:15 pm.** We will explore: *the devotion of the Sacred Heart, *the richness of the Sacred Heart in our Catholic spiritual life, *the Sacred Heart and the family. Please join us - All are Welcome! In St. Sebastian Catholic Church, 7983 Covert Lane, Sebastopol, CA. Phone # (707) 823-2208.

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 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.

Youth Day: The diocese youth office is calling all teens to a Youth Day at Cardinal Newman gym on **March 11th 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 2-4 pm 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/

Pastor's Corner

I would like to thank all those who signed up for **Holy Week planning**. The first planning session will be for Palm Sunday on next Sunday the 11th after the 10:30 mass in the Crying Room. Holy Thursday will be on the 11th at 1pm. The Easter Vigil planning will be on the 18th after the 10:30 mass in the Crying Room, and Good Friday at 1:30pm on the 18th in the Crying Room

There is no Holy Water in the containers as the Gospel we are using this weekend is the Woman at the Well. As she thirsts for water and more...the Messiah, we are called to thirst for Jesus in our desert journey of Lent, "Parched by the desert sand Jesus we thirst for you."

I am looking for a contractor/carpenter for some repair work in the rectory and in front of the hall. We will pay for the work by the way.

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday.



Lenten Practice What if I'm at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on? I began with the best of intentions, but I am not sure what I'm doing or what I want to be doing. Can my Lent be 'rescued'? Can a six, week journey be completed in the remaining next two or three weeks - waiting for my heart to be open? Of course, the answer is "yes." It doesn't take long for God, when we are ready. How to begin again

The first step to beginning again has already begun, if I have the desire for something real during Lent. A therapist once said that "we get better when we get tired of not being better." This isn't the same as "guilt." Feeling guilty for not doing much about Lent won't get us very far. What we need is a real desire - a real sense of expectation that God has something for me to hear, to learn, to change, and I want to be ready to listen. This desire can co-exist with fear, with resistance, with bad habits that have been obstacles in the past. God doesn't need much of an opening to begin to free us and show us a transforming love.

A little desire is enough to shape deeper desires. Once we can say we want to make something of these precious days remaining in Lent, then we can start naming some more specific desires. For some of us, it is obvious. Most of the time, however, it takes a little reflection, a bit of honest examination of conscience to really see what is getting in the way of my being a follower of Jesus. After some reflection, I might admit that there is a streak of stubbornness or impatience or harshness that keeps putting me at odds with people. Perhaps there is an old wound or a fresh experience of hurt or loss that has turned into a festering anger that robs me of simple joys and sorrows or compassion for suffering of others. Maybe I am obsessed with how I look - how others see me -

and my choices each day are guided by what will make other people like me, and my mood each day goes up and down depending upon people's response to me. I might somehow know that I'm compensating for some emptiness or loneliness or sadness or insecurity by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction - over-eating, drinking too much, escaping in sexual fantasy or pornography or masturbation. Perhaps I know that my conflicts with my spouse are getting to a bad place, but because my spouse won't do what I want him/her to do - won't be self-sacrificing in loving me - so I refuse to die to myself in loving him/her. Or it might have gotten worse - to the point that I'm punishing him/her by my silence or withdrawal of attention, affection, time. And, maybe a homily or something I read recently made me realize that I really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor - and perhaps I've even taken stands and voted against issues and candidates who stand on the side of the poor. After some reflection, I may just realize I'm not very grateful for what has been given me, and therefore, I'm just not very happy, generous or free. Lent begins when I can say "Help me Lord!" Now I can turn to the Lord, with some real, concrete desires. Now I can practice waking up each morning and naming a desire - while I'm putting on my slippers or taking a shower or getting dressed: "Lord, it feels so good to be honest with myself before you. Let me know your presence today. Help me face the challenges that will be there today. Give me some more freedom to make different choices, and act on the graces you are giving me, to refrain from escaping, but rather to give myself to loving, as you have loved me." Imagine all the different prayers like that - one minute long - that would shape our day! With these desires to let God's grace transform me, then I can pause before going to bed each night and look back through the day to thank God for the places I felt God's presence and help. Focusing Lent with a Plan If we have a plan, we are more likely to follow it.

Pope Francis In his prayer video for March, Pope Francis asked for prayers that Christians be better educated to discern between the voices of the "culture of death" and the voice of God, calling them to carry out his mission in the world. "Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to 'read within' his or her life, and to understand where and to what he or she is being called by the Lord, in order to carry on his mission,

Humor: As you get older you've got to stay positive. for example, the other day I fell down the stairs... instead of getting upset I just thought, wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years."

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