

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



March 11, 2018 --The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.

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Eye Witness Sunday's Gospel is about the cure of a blind man—and about the blindness of those who think they can see. The healing takes place on the Sabbath: Jesus makes clay with his own saliva (an earthy detail)

and sends the blind man to wash in the "Pool of Siloam." When he comes back, Jesus is not there anymore but the man's sight is! Confusion reigns among the bystanders. "This can't be the blind guy that used to sit and beg." "No, it is someone else." "Ok, but it looks just like him." And so on. They drag him to the Pharisees, and now confusion conquers all. "The law says thou shall keep the Sabbath holy," one Pharisee says. "Look at the facts. This Jesus fellow pretended to work a miracle on the Sabbath day. "Therefore, he is a sinner and cannot have come from God." Another finishes the thought, "... so he certainly could not work a miracle!" They make up a rule for themselves: "Anyone who now can see must always have been able to see!"

"Let's go get proof," they say. "His family must know he was never blind." They run and find the parents. But they reply blandly that their son certainly had been blind since he was born!

So they go back to the man with a new strategy. They pretend that they believe in the cure and are fascinated by it. They pose a cynical question. "How did this Jesus accomplish such a wonderful miracle?" The blind man's tart reply is: "I told you already and you did not listen. Do you need to hear it again? Or is it that you want to be his disciples, too?" Sarcasm in the gospel! The Pharisees are outraged, and they begin insulting the man.

Why are these Pharisees so impassioned? Because they will lose their power and their wealth and control if Jesus actually has divine power. He will take over. They have to blind themselves to the truth or else.

What is that truth? Jesus has given not only sight but depth of sight to a man born without it. This is why the fellow was blind in the first place, Jesus tells us, so that the works of God could be made seeable. Does the man accept this? "I do believe, Lord," he says. His heart had been healed in addition to his eyes.

Who can understand such a cure? Not the Pharisees. Not you or me if we are protecting our place in the world. They lusted for control over others, for respect and self-will. They need spittle put on their souls so they will see clearly. So do we. Surely, given the chance,

we would act the same way.

And that is why this long Gospel is presented now, during Lent, the time of preparation. You and I are preparing for a still greater healing at Easter, and we need to start washing out our souls to see it. Jesus will suffer from the world's blindness and will die from it. But the world, by killing him, will be healed from death and suffering, from hate and fear, healed by events that began with hatred itself. Jesus descended into darkness in order to open our eyes to a love stronger than dark. John Foley, SJ

Question: In the beginning of the Gospel, the blind man was simply a man on the street. By the end of the Gospel he was thrown out of the synagogue for defending Jesus. What changed him into a disciple? Which of these titles fits you: passer-by, believer or disciple?

Readings for Today

Reading I: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Parish Events this Week

Sun., Mar. 11	11:45 a.m.	Palm Sunday planning
	1:00 p.m.	Holy Thursday planning
Mon., Mar. 12	6:00 p.m.	Review of the first 3 chapters of the book, "Rebuilt Church."
Tues., Mar. 13	3:45 p.m.	No Child Faith Formation
Wed., Mar. 14	7:00 p.m.	No Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation-RCIA, Seder Meal/ hall
Thurs., Mar. 15	1:00 p.m.	Soup with St. Mark. Last class
Fri., Mar. 1	1:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Fri., Mar. 16	6:00 p.m.	Meatless Dinner – Filipino American Soc.
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Sun., Mar. 18	11:45 a.m.	Easter Vigil Planning Mtg.

Stewardship: Plate Offering for March

3/5/2018 Plate: \$4,186.00, Debt Reduction Fund:

\$10,172.00

The 2nd collection this Sunday is for Building Maintenance.

The 2nd Collection next weekend is for two National Collections: **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** and **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** as was in the bulletin last week.

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat., Mar. 10	5:00 p.m.	+Adam, Fleming & Gloria Sagon
Sun., Mar. 11	8:30 a.m.	For the People
	10:30 a.m.	+Elvira Capurol
Mon., Mar. 12	8:15 a.m.	No Intention
Tue., Mar. 13	6:30 p.m.	No Intention
Wed., Mar. 14	8:15 a.m.	Int Tim Mayclin
Thur., Mar. 15	8:15 a.m.	+Joel Magallanes
Fri., Mar. 16	8:15 a.m.	+Tim McGrath
Sat., Mar. 17	8:15 a.m.	+ Marie Gipson
	5:00 p.m.	+Cornelius Natividad
Sun., Mar. 18	8:30 a.m.	For the People
	10:30 a.m.	+Capurol Family

Children's Faith Formation

No classes Tues., March 13.

"Day with Jesus" for all First Communion Students on Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m., this includes a First Communion practice.

First Communion practice is Thurs., April 19, 4:00 p.m.

First Communion is Saturday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation is Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.

No Wed. Confirmation class this week

No Liturgy of the Word for Children during the

10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 18, and Easter Sunday, April 1. Any questions, call Char at 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, Child, and a Man's basket. Tickets are sold before and after masses. **The winning raffle tickets will be drawn March 25 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the hall with refreshments for all, especially the anniversary couples.**

Medical Assist "911" Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 15** in the Crying Room. Jeff Keena, a Paramedic, will attend and give us info as how best to 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

Youth Day: The diocese youth office is calling all teens to a Youth Day at Cardinal Newman gym on this Sunday, **March 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** 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.

"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 4 thru May 16 at 3:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and Saturdays starting March 10 thru May 1 at 3 p.m.

The Society of St. Vincent's at St. Elizabeth's Church meets the 3rd Sunday each month after 8:30 a.m. Mass in a church classroom. All are welcome! For more information call **Laure at 548-4741**.

Lenten Mini-Retreats: Lent is a time for us to pause and make extra time for prayer, penance and reflection. The Cathedral of St. Eugene is offering four mini-retreats on consecutive Saturdays during Lent. The retreat begins with 8:00 a.m. Mass each week. The talks will begin at 9:00 a.m. 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 17**—The Lenten Call to Spiritual Combat with Fr. Andrew Pacheco. Please join us on our Lenten journey.

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 p.m.** at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park. Join us on **April 4 from 6-8 p.m.** at St. Eugene's in Santa Rosa. Join us on **April 24 from 2-4 p.m.** at St. Elizabeth in Rohnert Park. For further information, call Debbie Simonson at 904-463-1070 or Priscilla Silvey in Napa at 707-567-7957. Our website: www.catholiccursillomovementofsantarosa.com/

Chrism Mass: The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, along with the Diocesan and Religious priests of the Diocese invite you to participate in the **Mass of the Chrism** at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa on **Thursday, March 22**, at 5:30 p.m. The **Mass of the Chrism** is celebrated once a year, during which the Bishop blesses the oil of the Catechumens, the oil of the Sick, and the oil of Chrism. This Mass is one of the principal expressions of the fullness of the ministerial priesthood that the bishop has received, and it also signifies the unity the priests have with the bishop, who share in the same ministerial priesthood. During this Mass, the Diocesan and Religious priests will renew their commitment of Priestly service.

Pastor's Corner

I want to thank those who helped with the Holy Week mailing this week: Linda Shane, Diane Colbrook, Diane Foppoli, Pat Grundman, Linda & Lanny Marlatt, Gloria Rapp, Roxanne Bialkoski, Liz Black. A recent check came anonymously to the parish for \$10,000 to help

pay off the parish debt. **I want to thank the person for their generosity.**

I also want to thank the Cursillo group for the meatless meal this past Friday and the Knights for leading the stations. Next week the Filipino American Society will be doing the meatless meal, Pansit. In the vestibule on the old altar is a sign-up for those that want to assist with the **‘Burning of the Mortgage’ celebration next year.**

If you remember last year we had a check-off list in the vestibule for parishioners to assist the office with **up-to-date information on registered parishioners.** It was a failure as there was only a 33% response. So in the Holy Week mailing has a self, addressed post card for easy registration for all. On May 1st there will be a drawing of five of those postcards filled out for \$100 (courtesy of Fr. Tom). It is terrible to have an outdated parish list.

Monday night is a gathering of parish council members and those who were asked to read the first three chapters of “Rebuilt Church.” We will gather in the crying room.

Lent

Practicing Penance When I sprain my ankle, part of the healing process will involve physical therapy. It's tender, and perhaps it is swollen. It may be important to put ice on it first, to reduce the inflammation. I may want to wrap it and elevate it and stay off of it. Then I will need to start moving it and then walking on it, and eventually, as the injury is healed, I'll want to start exercising it, so that it will be stronger than it was before, so that I won't as easily injure it again.

Penance is a remedy, a medicine, a spiritual therapy for the healing I desire. The Lord always forgives us. We are forgiven without condition. But complete healing takes time. With serious sin or with bad habits we've invested years in forming, we need to develop a therapeutic care plan to let the healing happen. To say "I'm sorry" or to simply make a "resolution" to change a long-established pattern, will have the same bad result as wishing a sprained ankle would heal, while still walking on it.

Lent is a wonderful time to name what sinful, unhealthy, self-centered patterns need changing and to act against them by coming up with a strategy. For example, if the Lord is shining a light into the darkness of a bad pattern in my life, I can choose to "stop doing it." But, I have to work on a "change of heart" and to look concretely at what circumstances, attitudes, and other behaviors contribute to the pattern. If I'm self-indulgent with food, sex, attention-seeking behaviors and don't ask "what's missing for me, that I need to fill it with this?" then simply choosing to stop the pattern won't last long. Lasting healing needs the practice of penance.

Pope Francis The Church is responsible for encouraging civil leaders to respond to migration on the basis of Catholic social teaching, the Pope told the International Catholic Migration Commission Thursday.

“Together we must encourage countries to coordinate more suitable and effective responses to the challenges posed by issues of migration; and we can do this on the basis of the essential principles of the Church’s social teaching,” Pope Francis said March 8 to the members of the commission's plenary council.

“I ask the Holy Spirit to continue to enlighten all of you, as you carry out your vital mission of showing forth God’s merciful love to our migrant brothers and sisters.”

He commented that “your commitment has deepened in response to the inhumane living conditions experienced by millions of our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters in various parts of the world. Just as he did at the time of Israel’s enslavement in Egypt, so too the Lord hears their cry and sees their sufferings.”

He referred again to Moses' commission from the Lord to free the Hebrews from Egypt, and said that “In order to set free those who today are oppressed, rejected and enslaved, it is essential to promote open and sincere dialogue with government leaders, a dialogue that takes into account people’s actual experiences, sufferings and aspirations, in order to remind everyone once more of his or her responsibilities..

Humor. A priest is called away for an emergency. Not wanting to leave the confessional unattended, he calls his protestant minister friend across the street to help him out and the minister comes and sits in on a few confessions with the priest, so he knows what to do.

After a few minutes a woman enters and says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned." The priest asks, "What did you do?". The woman says, "I committed adultery". The priest says, "How many times?" And the woman says "three." The priest says, "Say two Hail Mary's, put \$5 in the poor box and go and sin no more."

A few minutes later a man enters the confessional and says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned, and I have "I committed adultery three times." And the priest says, "Say two Hail Mary's put \$5 in the poor box and go and sin no more."

The minister tells the priest that he thinks he's got it, so the priest leaves.

A few minutes later another woman enters and says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned as I have committed adultery once, The minister says "Go do it two more times. We have a special this week, three for \$5."

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