

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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Easter Sunday - April 1, 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 8 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:

Hours: Monday-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

Baptism: 1-month notice for preparation class (on the last Sunday of the month at noon) before Infant Baptism. Please contact Deacon Joe.
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.

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018



Night's dark soul awakens. Tiny chirps of life tug at its ear. Just the smallest candle full of light peeks through its shadows. Dawn

tiptoes in. It is the balance-point of all time.

Easter. Friday tempted us to guilt—about his wounds, thinking that our sins caused them. About his arms, still marked with shrill hurts. And maybe that is why he can hold us, enfold us so well. Maybe the wounds know somehow the shape of our small selves. Mothering Christ.

The deacon at Easter Vigil sings these words: O truly necessary sin of Adam, blotted out by the death of Christ! O blessed fault, which has merited such a Redeemer, so great a Redeemer.

Isn't the deacon singing in praise of the sin of Adam and Eve? "O necessary fault"? Christ's death has taken their sin away. Is it right to rejoice about sin being "necessary"? Original sin does not really seem like a good or blessed event. Nor our selfish penchant for misdeed.

Yet it is true. Without such a sin, such a Savior would never have had reason to come. Now Christ's wounded arms can sweep us up, comfort and absolve and hold us. We are blessed beyond words. Sins always carry in their revolt the pledge of forgiveness. Night always carries in its midst the promise of light.

O truly blessed night, in whom earth is wedded to heaven, and humans to God!

The church awakens to Christ's gentle light. And, quickly, the rest. Morning has eased their faces into daylight, into the soft, humble glow.

Jesus became the night. Jesus is the light. We can see him for who he has been all along. The Christ of God. The essence of love. The modest flame who softly lights the world.

John Foley, SJ

Question: The same women who came to anoint his body in the morning had been with Jesus when he died. Were they deterred from their task by fear or an immovable stone?

Readings for Easter Sunday

Reading I: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Reading II: Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Celebrating the Easter Season

Easter is a seven-week season of joy and grace. Starting with the Triduum in Holy Week and ending with Pentecost Sunday, this 50-day season has been called "the radiant center of the liturgical year." We keep celebrating so that we might continue to enter into the meaning of the resurrection and to deepen the way it touches our daily lives.

After Easter Week's resurrection stories, the first reading for the rest of this long and glorious season is from the Acts of the Apostles. Every day we see how Jesus' followers reacted to his death, the challenges to their witness and the unexpected courage that comes to them. John's Gospel is used for the entire Easter Season, the one time of year we can enter into his poetic and layered stories on a daily basis. Easter only begins with Easter Sunday. These daily prayers and meditations come together to remind us that Jesus is with us. He is not dead, but alive. And, that makes all the difference in the world in how much hope and courage we have, before any struggle, any possible fear of death. In these 50 days, we are Easter People!

Who is going to say the Blessing of Easter Meal at your table?

O Lord, who has blessed five loaves in the desert, graciously give us bread for life's needs. Almighty God, let not Your gifts lead us to sin. Let not the



glass of wine induce us to misdeeds. While we enjoy our feast, let us also in charity remember All those who suffer want and hunger. May not the pleasure of the body stifle the inspirations of Your Holy Spirit, O Lord.

The custom of blessing food for Easter arose from the discipline of fasting throughout Lent and the special Easter fast during the Easter Triduum. Easter was the first day when meat, eggs, and other foods could again be eaten. Although not of obligation, the special fast during the Triduum may still be observed as well as the tradition of blessing food for the first meal of Easter.

The Easter Egg

In the United States, it is common for children (and even adults) to partake in an Easter egg hunt as part of the Easter Sunday celebrations. In other parts of the world, the Easter egg tradition is incorporated not through games but through the blessing of eggs by the parish priest. Indeed, even in the secular world, the Easter egg could be the most prominent symbol used for the "holiday season". But what is the origin of the Easter egg?

The egg as a symbol of the Resurrection

Probably the most well-known explanation of the Easter egg today is the symbolic representation of the Resurrection. As the egg appears to be lifeless, yet holds much life within itself; so too, the tomb appeared to be utterly lifeless, but from it Christ arose. Of course, we mention here that there is a great difference in the way a chick comes forth from the egg and the way Christ came forth from the tomb.

The Easter Bunny and the Egg

Easter is a sign of life and in German folklore not necessarily Christian, the ideas of a bunny was much compared to St. Nicholas during Christmas in making sure children were good and rewarded. So the Easter Bunny hopped around giving special eggs to children. Bunnies were also a sign of fertility, which is a sign of life.

The Church during the Lenten season in many areas had people fast from eggs. Now one could celebrate by eating them again.

In all these traditions we must remember that Christ performed the greatest miracle of all, rising from the dead. It is a sign to us that anything good is possible with God, especially turning the Good Fridays we have in life to Easter Sunday Joy. That is why we need to remind people before the Easter meal of praying grace before meals.

So again...Who is going to lead the grace and maybe use the one printed on this bulletin.

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Mar.,31	8:00 pm	+Jose Tingcay
Sun. Apr., 1	8:30 am	For the People
	10:30 am	For the Parish
Mon. Apr., 2	8:15 am	No intention
Tue. Apr., 3	6:30 pm	Int. Joy & Rick Nambaya
Wed. Apr., 4	8:15 am	No Intention
Thur. Apr., 5	8:15 am	No Intention
Fri. Apr., 6	8:15 am	No Intention
Sat. Apr., 7	8:15 am	Int. Hill Family
	5:00 pm	+Manuel & Melencita Bacani
Sun. Apr., 8	8:30 am	+Helen Stranzl
	10:30 am	For the Parish

Prayers are needed for our sick and weak George Cox , Priscilla Sagon and Irene Rodriguez.

Stewardship:

Plate Offerings for the Month:

3-3 & 4: \$4,186.00, 3-10 & 11: \$3,894.00,
3-17 & 18: \$3,014.14, 3-24 & 25: \$3,332.00
Catholic Relief: \$1,139.00, Pay off the debt:
\$10,496.00, Church Maintenance: \$1,138.00

Children's Faith Formation:

Because of a disinterest by people to assist Char with the Liturgy of the Word for Children at the 10:30 Mass Char has decided to cancel it from now on. We can still have people come forth to lead the program

Days to Remember.

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

First Communion Practice: Thurs., April 19, 4 pm

First Communion: Sat., April 21 at 11 am

Confirmation: Tues., May 1 at 7:00 pm

Parish Events this Week

Wed., Apr. 4 7:00pm Adult Faith Formation
RCIA: Easter Reflection

Women's Guild raffle winners of the handmade quilt & gift baskets are:

Quilt – Rosie Beers

Breakfast Basket – Judy Krona

Wine Basket – Mary Denson

Garden Basket – Cathy Gleason

Man's Basket – Dave Kosmala

Child's Basket – Mike Rantissi

The Burning of the Mortgage

I would like to thank the people who have expressed an interest in organizing the "Big Event": Jane Ginn, Joyce Varak, Tony & Beth Turegano, Nora John, Giovanna DeSimone, Gabriella O'Halloran, Maureen Sheridan Scott. I would like to have a dinner/dance with the event.

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church is sponsoring a Casino Night, proceeds to go to our Cub Scout Pack. Dinner/Dancing/Casino Tables and Silent Auction Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 6-10 p.m. Tickets on sale in the church office.

Events Outside the Parish

Monthly Grief Workshops for children, teens and their families through Hospice Services, St. Joseph Health. Pre-registration required. Please call Gina Carini at (707) 568-1094.

Hospice Services-St. Joseph Health Wednesdays at Hospice is a free Community Education series running January 2018 thru June 2018. Food for your Mind, Body and Spirit, each offering highlights a variety of topics relevant to our daily lives.

Please join us at any or all the events. All are offered twice a month (except for June), once at Hospice of Petaluma office and once at Memorial Hospice office in Santa Rosa. Contacts: Petaluma Hospice: 778-6242; and Memorial Hospice: 568-1094. www.sonomacountyhospice.org; No reservations required!

Pope Francis: At his annual Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday, Pope Francis said that a good priest is one who is close to his flock and who makes Jesus' presence felt in people's lives – as more than an abstract idea.

The Pope said, "A priest who is close to his people walks among them with the closeness and

tenderness of a good shepherd; in shepherding them, he goes at times before them, at times remains in their midst and at other times walks behind them."



Pastor's Corner

I wish to thank all those who have worked so hard for the celebration of Holy Week, especially during the time of Holy Triduum, Holy Thursday-the Easter Vigil, the servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, musicians, Deacon Joe and those who decorated the church.

I will be away from Monday morning to Friday afternoon. We will have all daily weekday Masses celebrated by Fr John Boettcher, Msgr. Dan Whelton, and Fr. Lawrence Mutiso. There will be no confessions or Exposition of the Holy Eucharist on Tuesday night though.

Fr Tom

Humor: One Palm Sunday, little Johnny was sick and stayed home from church. When his brothers and sisters came home carrying palm branches, Johnny asked where the palms came from.

His father replied, "When Jesus walked by, people held palm branches over his head." "Just my luck!" Johnny said. "The one time I don't go to church, Jesus shows up."

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