

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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Second Sunday of Easter - April 8, 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:

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

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.

Second Sunday of Easter, April 8, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday



One Heart, One Mind Here is what the Readings for this week claim. By his cross, Christ conquered sin; by his resurrection, he destroyed death. At Easter, we celebrate his victory with joy. The Second Reading affirms that Christ's

victory is ours. If we have faith that Jesus is the Christ, then we are begotten by God. If we are, then we conquer the world. And if we do, then we love God, we love the children of God, and we keep God's commandments obediently. In that condition, we are victorious with Christ.

But these lines in the Second Reading look like joy-destroyers, don't they? If we don't keep God's commandments, if we don't love God's children, we don't conquer the world. And if we don't conquer the world, then we aren't begotten of God. And in that case we don't really have faith. How do we have victory then? And it gets worse.

In another place, the same Epistle says that anyone who says he doesn't have sin is a liar (1 John 1:8). So it seems that there is a Catch-22 here. If you sin, you aren't victorious. You are a loser. But if you try claiming that you don't sin, you are guilty of lying, which is a sin; and so you aren't victorious in that case either.

It seems that whether you think you sin or think you don't sin, you lose. So what happened to our victory? Where is joy?

The solution is to notice what faith is. Faith is the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the one who—the one who *what?* Well, the one who conquers sin and death.

So here is the message from the Readings. For our part, we are saved from sin and death by *believing* that we are saved from sin and death—by Christ. There is no Catch-22. Even in our sinful state, where truth forces us to confess our disobedience and our failures in love, we are victorious—over the sin and death in ourselves—as long as we believe that Christ won the victory for us.

This faith is what God requires of us, and the Second Reading is right: this requirement isn't burdensome. So here is our joy: as long as we believe that Christ won the victory for us, the victory of Christ is ours.

Eleonore Stump

"Doubting Thomas" from today's Gospel was

broken-hearted because he thought that such love had died. He warded off his grief by simple denial. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe!"

And in the gospel of Luke it was the women, not the men, who had seen the empty tomb and the angels, and they took it seriously. But " ... their words seemed an idle tale, and [the disciples] did not believe" (Lk 24:11). In Matthew, Jesus came first to the women, who told the men where he would meet them. They went and "worshipped him, but they doubted" (Mt 28:17). In Mark, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, but when she went to the apostles, you guessed it, they rejected her testimony (Mk 16:9). Nor did they listen to the men who had met Jesus walking to Emmaus (Mk 16:12-13).

Hard to miss the fact that women usually believed and men usually did not. The women dared to trust what they saw. John Foley, SJ

Question: Which is more important, belief in Jesus or performance of good deeds? If you believe deeply and personally in Jesus will good deeds spring from that belief and love?

Today's Readings

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31



Divine Mercy Sunday The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans, when in Poland a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the Index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

When she was canonized in 2000 under the direction of fellow countryman Pope John Paul II, he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday, thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina's visions, already popular in many communities.

Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Apr., 7, 5:00 pm	+Manuel & Melencita Bacani
Sun. Apr., 8 8:30 am	+Helen Stranzl
10:30 am	+David Frey
Mon. Apr., 9 8:15 am	+Michael Tran
Tue. Apr., 10, 6:30 pm	+Angelita Castro
Wed. Apr., 11 8:15 am	+Beverly D'Amore
Thur. Apr., 12 8:15 am	+Ernie Dorado
Fri. Apr., 13 8:15 am	+Pancha Lagunes
Sat. Apr., 14 8:15 am	+Selina Gold
5:00 pm	+Steven Undorte
Sun. Apr., 15 8:30 am	Int. Gemma & Gonzalo Badum
10:30 am	For the People

Stewardship:

Easter Plate -\$8,981.32, Holy Land - \$581.00

The 2nd collection today is for Building Maintenance.

We need to replace the arbor entrance in front of the parish hall due to wood rot.

The 2nd collection on the 21/22nd of the month is for **Catholic Home Missions**. Four out of every ten dioceses in the United States struggle financially to offer their people basic pastoral care or to provide priestly formation and lay ministry training. The Catholic Church of the United States takes up an annual collection so that designated grants may be offered to these Dioceses. The millions of Catholics who live in these places, called Home Mission Dioceses, rely on generous support from the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. This collection is especially significant for us since we are among those Dioceses which receive very generous grants for our Diocesan work. Thus, when we help the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal** we are truly helping ourselves.

Children's Faith Formation:

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

Mon., April 9 6:30pm Mtg on reviewing "Rebuilding Church"

Wed., Apr. 11 7:00pm Adult Faith Formation RCIA, "What do we offer the newly initiated as a parish"

Thurs., Apr.12 6:30pm Monthly Movie Night – "Ocean of Mercy"

Sat., Apr. 14 10 am "Day with Jesus" for all First Communion Students in the Crying Room/Church
12 noon CPR Class/Hall

911 Medical Assis Ministry We are having a CPR Class on Saturday, Apr. 14, 2018 at noon. There are a few slots still open. You must sign up ahead of time. Cutoff is Wednesday April 11, 2018. For details call Diane Ruzicka 584-5981.

Thursday Movie Night in the Parish is showing "Ocean of Mercy". At the dawn of the 20th century, three voices rose up from Poland to proclaim an urgent message, a message powerful enough to alter the course of an age plunging into spiritual darkness. Filmed on location in more than 20 cities across Poland and the United States, this true story examines and chronicles the phenomenal lives and spiritual legacy of Saint Faustina Kowalksa, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Blessed John Paul II, modern day "Apostles of Mercy". This story journeys across a dramatic visual landscape to document their heroic struggle and herald the message of Divine Mercy to all mankind.

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

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.

Contacts: Petaluma Hospice: 778-6242; and Memorial Hospice: 568-1094.

www.sonomacountyhospice.org; No reservations required!

The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Center for Education and Spirituality present:
In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World – Panel Conversation with the Authors.
Sunday, May 6, 2018, 2-4 pm – Freewill offering.
Dominican Center, 43326 Mission Circle (entrance off Mission Tierra), Fremont, **RSVP by April 9** at http://bit.ly/2018_FrPoulin or call 510-933-6360

They also present: **Spirituality of Creativity** with Fr. Arthur Poulin Saturday April 14, 2018, 9-11:30 am - Presentation-\$20. 1-3 pm Open Gallery with the Artist. (refreshments available for purchase after the presentation, for those attending the Open Gallery at 1pm), at the same address as above.

RSVP by April 9 call 510-933-6360

Natural Family Planning Program-NFP will having a classes on April 14. Information & registration for the English classes may be found at <http://www.ccli.org>. Classes in Spanish start April 21 at St. Eugene's. To register please call. Maria Sanchez 542-6984

Pastor's Corner

I want to thank Char Mayclin for her dedication in the area of Children's Religious Education Formation. In May Char will be stepping down and we are looking for a new director. We are looking for a new director not just for children's formation but also for adult faith formation.

At the same time **Tim Mayclin** has stepped down as the Finance Chairperson in the parish because of time constraints as he is an accountant, busy time. I want to thank Tim for all his dedication to the parish in the financial affairs over the years.

Next Sunday after the 10:30 Mass we will have an open discussion in the church on the location of the tabernacle. I would ask that when people leave a phone message to please repeat their phone number twice. Sometimes people's voices seemed garbled and the phone numbers cannot be made out. I know that we must look at the phone system in the parish as when the office is phoned at any time, the phone also rings in the rectory at all house. If I am home I answer it. I would like to get an up-to-date system, but it costs \$\$\$.

I am not sure when but the church will be closed for a few days during the weekdays for cleaning and buffing of floors. When this happens, mass will be in the Hall. I will ask for a crew of parishioners to help do some cleaning beforehand.

Humor: A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Franciscan were walking along an old road, debating the greatness of their orders. Suddenly, an apparition of the Holy Family appeared in front of them, with Jesus in a manger and Mary and Joseph praying over him. The Franciscan fell on his face, overcome with awe at

the sight of God born in such poverty. The Dominican fell to his knees, adoring the beautiful reflection of the Trinity and the Holy Family. The Jesuit walked up to Joseph, put his arm around his shoulder, and said, "So, have you thought about where to send him to school?"

Pope Francis: On Wednesday Pope Francis said the Eucharist is key to living an authentic Christian witness, and that those who leave Mass unchanged, continuing to gossip or hold onto unholy habits, have missed the point.

"While the Mass ends, the commitment for Christian witness opens. We leave the church to go in peace to bring the blessing of God to our daily activities, to our homes, to our work, to the affairs of the earthly city, glorifying the Lord with our lives,"

The Mass, he said, is not just a weekly commitment that can be forgotten once people exit the church doors.

"No. Christians go to Mass to participate in the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, and to live as better Christians," he said. "If we leave the church gossiping" or talking badly about other people, then "the Mass didn't enter into my heart, because I am not capable of living Christian testimony."

"Every time I leave Mass I must leave better than I went in," he said, adding that the Eucharist should leave a person with a better heart, a better spirit and "a stronger desire to live as a Christian."

Also, "Pope Francis will next week publish an apostolic exhortation on holiness titled *Gaudete et exsultate*, or "Rejoice and be glad. Subtitled "on the call to holiness in the contemporary world".

Gaudete et exsultate will be the third apostolic exhortation issued by Pope Francis. In 2016 he issued *Amoris laetitia*, on love in the family, and in 2013 *Evangelii gaudium*, on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world.

An apostolic exhortation is one form of the ordinary teaching authority of the Pope. Through an exhortation, the Pope conveys a message to faithful about a particular area relevant to living out the Catholic faith.

An apostolic exhortation is often written as a follow-up document to a Synod of Bishops, as was the case for *Amoris laetitia*.

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