

# St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

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## **Third Sunday of Easter - April 15, 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](http://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.

# Third Sunday of Easter, April 15, 2018



## The Rest of the Story

Folks of a certain age will remember the Paul Harvey radio show called “The Rest of the Story.” Harvey always reserved until the last thing in his show a surprise ending to the story he had been reporting that week.

Well, Sunday’s Gospel

contains the surprise ending to a tale we all know well, the Emmaus story. As you remember, two disciples, walking in sorrow to that small town, had been joined by a stranger who began explaining to them the story of Christ as foretold in the Jewish scriptures. When the three arrived at Emmaus they ate, and the men had known in a flash who this was—at the moment he broke the bread. They had run to Jerusalem as fast as they could, to tell the remaining apostles.

Then, this week’s Gospel contains “The Rest of the Story.” The two men were very excited, (though the account in Luke just says that they “recounted” what had happened). In the midst of their enthusiasm, suddenly, without warning, Jesus stood there in their midst. “They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.”

John Foley, SJ

**What Are We Supposed To Do?** Once, in perplexity, people asked Jesus, “What are we supposed to do?” (John 6:28). The Second Reading raises this question for us too.

The Second Reading says that if you don’t keep God’s commandments but say that you know the Lord, you are a liar.

Being a liar is bad enough. But the Second Reading also says that if you don’t keep the Lord’s commandments, you don’t know the Lord.

**If we believe that Jesus is the Savior, sent by God to save us from our sins, then, sinful as we are, we are in fact keeping the commandment the Lord gave the people.**

That is the worst, isn’t it? Especially because the test for whether or not you know the Lord is not whether you have fervent prayer or sweet religious experience. No, the test is just whether you keep the Lord’s commandments. That is why you lie if you don’t keep the Lord’s commandments but still try to tell yourself and others that you know the Lord.

In another passage, this same Epistle (1John 1:6-8) claims that if you say you have no sin, you are a liar, too.

And now we have a real puzzle, don’t we? To avoid the sin of lying, you have to confess that you do sinful things. But then you are confessing that you aren’t keeping the Lord’s commandments, aren’t you? And in that case, you are a liar, and you don’t know the Lord.

Well, then, what *are* we supposed to do? The answer is in what Jesus told the people when they asked him that very question. Jesus said, “Believe in the one whom God has sent.” (John 6:29) Notice that this is a command.

And here is what it means. We can tell the truth: we are sinful. But it doesn’t follow that we don’t keep God’s commandments. If we believe that Jesus is the Savior, sent by God to save us from our sins, then, sinful as we are, we are in fact keeping the commandment the Lord gave the people when they asked him what they were supposed to do.

It can be true then both that we are sinful and that we keep the commandment of the Lord if we believe that he will save us from our sinfulness.

So this is what we are supposed to do: know *him*.

Eleonore Stump

**Question:** He appeared in their midst. But why did Jesus say, “Peace be with you” to his disciples? What was the emotional atmosphere in the group at that time? Are there times in your life when you are distraught and you need some peace?

## Today’s Readings

Reading I: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

Reading II: 1 John 2:1-5a

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

## Parish Events this Week

- Sun., Apr. 15 11:45am** Mtg.in church about the Tabernacle location
- Wed., Apr. 18 7:00pm** Adult Faith Formation RCIA, “What do we offer the newly initiated as a parish
- Thu., April 19, 4:00pm** Practice for First Holy Communion

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## Looking Ahead

- Tues., May 1, 7:00 pm** Confirmation with Bishop Vasa

### Mass and Intention Schedule

Sat. Apr., 14 5:00 pm +Steven Undorte  
Sun. Apr., 15 8:30 am Int. Gemma & Gonzalo Badum  
10:30 am For the People  
Mon. Apr., 16 8:15 am +Angelita Castro  
Tue. Apr., 17 6:30 pm +Pancha Lagunes  
Wed. Apr., 18 8:15 am +Harry Kordesh  
Thur. Apr., 19 8:15 am +Gail Mara  
Fri. Apr., 20 8:15 am Int. Greg Gollan  
Sat. Apr., 21 8:15 am Int. Greg Gollan  
**11:00 am First Communion Mass**  
5:00 pm +Steven Undorte  
Sun. Apr., 22 8:30 am +Wanda Godsey  
10:30 am For the People

### Stewardship:

**Plate - \$3,145.00, Church Maintenance - \$999.00**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection on this third Sunday 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.

**Are you one of the 15% of the parish who have given to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, which financially assists the ministries in our diocese?**

**If you are one of them, I thank you!**

**If not....Envelopes are available. Fr. Tom**

**St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church** is sponsoring a Casino Night, proceeds to go the Cub Scout Pack. **Catered Dinner/Dancing/Casino Tables and Silent**

### **Auction Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 6-10 p.m.**

Tickets are \$25 each and on sale in the church office and after the weekend masses in the vestibule. May our sponsorship of our Cub Pack be successful

### 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](http://www.sonomacountyhospice.org); No reservations required!

### The Dominican Chorale Celebrates 60!

Sunday April 22 at 5:00 PM

at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
35 Liberty St. Petaluma. Admission is \$20.00 / \$15.00 seniors / under 18 free

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### **Pastor's Corner**

**Welcoming and greeting people** In Spring 2016, a research study was done that looked at effectively evangelistic churches. Using research team members, they wanted to understand what activities help a previously unchurched person or a semi-church goer become part of a church. The research revealed a number of different answers.

Based on the interviews, however, the first and most important activity of effectively evangelistic churches is to offer a welcoming, inclusive environment most importantly on a Sunday morning, but extending into all of the endeavors of the church.

The majority of the answers from previously unchurched or semi-church participants centered on feeling that the church community genuinely wanted to include them. Ten of eleven of those interviewed highlighted their amazement at being welcomed rather than encountering judgment and prejudice.

For each person, the welcome began outside the church with a personal invitation of a co-worker, classmate, or family member. Then, when they attended a church service, they often described experiencing a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, which was followed by more intentional actions on the part of the both congregants and the pastor to connect with and include them.

Finally, this welcome went beyond their initial Sunday experience into deeper, ongoing relationships in the church.

My question to all of you is: "Do you invite people to come to church with you and do you welcome people at church? **We will talk about the need for greeters for our parish next week.**

**Please pray for our children and young people preparing for their First Holy Communion on Saturday.** You are all invited to the Mass at 11 am. Caitlyn Vella, Evie Levindofske, Elisabeth Jensen, Hailey Sotelo, Hazel Ito, Hope Ehmantraut, Micheal Gomez, Rigo Gamino, Tyler Sanderson, William Engh, Kaleb Cook, Adanny Zuniga, Isabel Green, Mariah Green, Jaslene Lopez, Jorge Alcazar, Lorelai Matzen, Milagros Thomas, Kailey Turner, Ryan and Curtis Steiner.

**Ministers who bring Holy Communion to the sick** or those wishing to do so... There will be a gathering/meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am. A simple continental breakfast will be available. Please get your **parish registration forms** in before the end of the month. Forms are available in the vestibule of the church.

**Humor** While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip.

When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turnaround in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grumpy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card."

**Pope Francis** spoke about the sacrament of Baptism on Wednesday, emphasizing the importance of the Catholic practice of baptizing infants, since the grace of the Holy Spirit helps them to grow in virtue.

"Why baptize a child who does not understand?" the pope asked April 11. "When we baptize a child, the Holy Spirit enters that child, and the Holy Spirit makes... the Christian virtues grow in that child, who will then flourish."

Though we hope that when a child grows up he or she will understand and desire Baptism for themselves, to withhold the sacrament from a child "means not trusting in the Holy Spirit," he

said.

"We must always give this opportunity to everyone, to all children, to have inside of them the Holy Spirit that will guide them throughout their lives. Do not forget to baptize children!" Pope Francis spoke about infant Baptism during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square. He also emphasized that the graces of the sacrament are not something one earns through understanding, intelligence, or worthiness, but as pure gift.

"Nobody deserves Baptism," he said, "[it] is always a free gift for everyone, adults and newborns. But as happens for a seed full of life, this gift takes root and bears fruit in earth fed by faith." Baptism also, by virtue of the Holy Spirit, "immerses us in the death and resurrection of the Lord," the pope said. In the sacrament the "old man," dominated by sin, gives way to the "new man," who has been recreated in Christ Jesus.

"But for us Christians it must not escape that if the body is immersed in water, it is the soul that is immersed in Christ to receive forgiveness from sin and shine with divine light," he stated.

He quoted St. Paul's reminder to the Christians of Rome: "Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

Furthermore, Pope Francis spoke about how Baptism, through immersion in Christ, also makes us members of Christ's body and his mission in the world, which is the Church.

"We baptized are not isolated," he said, "the same life, that of the Holy Spirit, flows from Christ to the baptized, uniting them into one Body, crested by holy unction and nourished at the Eucharistic table."

As he has done on several previous occasions, Francis asked the people gathered in the square if they remember the date of their Baptism, "because perhaps many do not remember this."

"But if we celebrate the day of birth, how can we not celebrate – at least remember – the day of rebirth?" he asked, assigning a little bit of "homework:" to ask parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles what their baptismal date is

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