

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 24, 2017



*"Faith lifts the soul,
hope supports it,
experience says it must
and Love says
let it be!"*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas K. Diaz, Pastor
Joe Olsen, Deacon
Karen Panfiglio, Secretary
Mary Thayer, Secretary
Cynthia Lusk, Bookkeeper
Stephanie Bodi, Parish Council President
Char Mayclin, Religious Education
Robert Ito, Youth Ministry
Liz Black, Welcoming the New Catholic

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. (vigil)

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday of this week 7:00 p.m.

Office Information:

Hours: Monday-Friday 9-1:30 pm.

Phone: (707) 585-3708

FAX: (707) 585-1201

E-mail: stelizseton@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.st-elizabeth-seton.com

Religious Education Office: (707) 585-8821

Youth Ministry Office: (707) 585-2905

Sacramental Preparation:

Baptism: 1-month notice before Infant/child Baptism for preparation class. 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.

Confirmation: Please contact Char at the Religious Education Office.

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.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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What Is Owed to the Laborer

In the parable in the Gospel Reading, the laborers who work all day receive the same wage

as those who work just one hour, and so they complain.

You can see their point. Justice is giving a person what is owed to him. A person who works many hours deserves a bigger wage than a person who does the same work but for only one hour. Or so it seems.

But think about how Jesus might have unpacked this parable if he had explained it to his disciples in the way he showed some of his other parables to them.

Here's one possibility. The vineyard owner is God. The laborers are human beings who are doing God's work in this life. The wage given is eternal life in union of love with God in heaven. If we think about the parable this way, the laborers' complaint looks a lot less reasonable. When it comes to eternal life, what is justice? What does any human person deserve? What, actually, does God owe him?

Well, here is the first thing to see: No one—that is, absolutely no one—is owed eternal life in union with God. To think otherwise is to suppose that you can work your way to heaven. And you can't. Salvation is God's free gift. He gives it generously to anyone who will receive it, but it is still God's free gift.

The problem with the laborers who complain, then, is that they think the vineyard owner owes them something. In their eyes, their work deserves a reward, a really big reward, more than the vineyard owner gives them. And so here is what we can see about them: they were working for themselves, to get that big reward for themselves.

And that is why they are last, not first, in the final distribution of God's rewards. God's people are meant to work for God, and not for what they can get from God for themselves.

What God gives to people who work for God in this way is gift. It isn't deserved payment. What's more, the gift is God himself. Those who understand their work and God's wage in this way may have come late to their labor, but they are the ones who are first in God's eyes.

Eleonore Stump

Question: What helps you in your life to "find God in all things"?

Readings for this Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 55:6-9

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

Mass Schedule and Intentions this Week

Sat. Sept 23, 5:00 pm +Carl Gilbert

Sun. Sept.24, 8:30 am +Linda Hankins

10:30 am For the Parish

Mon. Sept. 25, 8:30 am +Glena Shutz

Tue. Sept. 26, 7:00 pm Int. Spencer Compton

Wed. Sept. 27, 8:30 am Int. Mike Vossbrink & Family

Thu. Sept. 28, 8:30 am Int. Adjoua Oka-Dearborn

Fri. Sept. 29, 8:30 am +John Richard

Sat. Sept. 30, 8:30 am +Lydia Bozzoli

5:00 pm +Fang Tai Wong & Fleming Sagon

Sun. Oct. 1 8:30 am +Elizabeth Dolcini

10:30 am For the Parish

CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS

Sept. 16 & 17 - \$3,817; Hurricane Relief -\$3,169

Parish Events this Week

Sun. Sept. 24, 10:30 am Mass Liturgy of the Word for Children

Anniversary Mass

12 pm Baptism Prep/Classroom

Wed. Sept. 27, 12 pm Potluck Luncheon/

Large Meeting Room

Fri. Sept. 29, 7:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Group

Sun. Oct. 1, 10:30 am Filipino Choir at 10:30 Mass

Liturgy of the Word

for Children

A Baptism Preparation Class will be held from Noon until 1:30 pm, today, Sunday-September 24th. Please attend this class if you are the parent of a child to be baptized, or if you have been asked to be a godparent. For additional information, call Deacon Joe at 707-536-7332.

Fourth Wednesday Potluck Sept. 27th @ 12:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you there this **Wednesday at noon** in the large meeting room.

Please bring a dish to share and bring a friend! Any questions, please contact Jo and Larry Ruminson at 584-3779 or Lanny and Linda Marlatt at 584-1893.



SVDP NEWS

On **September 27**, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor." Together with your gifts, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to "bring good news to the poor," by assisting 53 families with food and hope. Thank You!

Looking Ahead

Do you want to understand Mass? Coming in October **A Scriptural Walk Through Mass** in six sessions. Sunday afternoon, Mon. or Thurs. evenings. Call Maureen Sheridan Scott 584-0586 or scottmcs@sonic.net with your choice of day and time.

Polenta Dinner sponsored by our Knights of Columbus on **Oct 28** at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall at 6:30 pm: polenta, green salad, rolls butter, dessert. Children 7 & under (free); 8-12 \$7; 13 & over full price \$15.00. Tickets on sale this weekend after the Masses.

Women's Guild Raffles, Crafts & Baked Goods Sale

We are having a raffle for several themed baskets and a handmade quilt. Tickets will be sold prior to and after all Masses beginning October 7 through November 5.

We will have our Rummage Sale, which will include Crafts and Baked Goods, on **Saturday, November 4** from 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and **Sunday, November 5** from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the parish hall. We will have the raffle drawings for the baskets on Sunday, November 5 at the end of the sale. You do not need to be present to win.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss attending this event on November 4 & 5. There will be something for everyone!



Rummage Sale

Pastor's Corner

I thank Fr. Loren Allen who will be covering for me this weekend at the 5 pm. Mass as I am away to celebrate/witness a wedding in San Jose. Deacon Joe will be preaching at all Masses this weekend.

We had 20 people at Mass last Tuesday evening at 6:30. This week, the Tuesday evening Mass will be at 7 pm, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and individual confessions to 8:30, closing with benediction. Next week we will have a permanent time for the Mass on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 or 7 pm.

In the vestibule, the greeting area in the church, I have a schedule on the old altar for those that want to make an appointment with me. Also on the table are books for the taking that I gave out in my past parishes.

Next week we will have the results of how many parishioners signed-up from the Ministry Faire.

The parish has an abundance of furniture that is going to be given away. If you know of anyone in need of a couch, end tables or desks, please let me know ASAP.

Does anyone know what happened to the hidden key for the sacristy rooms?

Humor: In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?'

She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat, you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?' She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, he cheats his clients and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. The defense attorney nearly died.'

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'

Crestwood RCFE

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