

# St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane Rohnert Park, CA 94928

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 8, 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 Phone: 536-7332  
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. & 5:00 p.m. (vigil)**

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

**Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.,  
and Tuesday 6:30 p.m.**

## Office Information:

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-1:30 p.m.  
Phone: (707) 585-3708  
FAX: (707) 585-1201  
E-mail: [stelizseton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stelizseton@sbcglobal.net)  
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 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.

# October 8, 2017, Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time



The Real Story This Sunday we hear two stories about a vineyard. Let's compare them.\*

The First Reading tells about "a friend" who carefully built a vineyard, clearing stones, building a watchtower, planting the choicest vines. He even "hewed out a wine press." But his vineyard yielded bad grapes.

In vivid language, God tells the chief priests and elders that they themselves are this vineyard and that he is going to destroy them and trample them down because they would not let God's love grow up among them!

Then in the Gospel Jesus takes the same tale and embroiders it. In just one sentence he handles the part about planting a vineyard, digging the wine press, building the tower. Does God punish those who fail to produce?

But then he goes further. He has the owner rent his rich vineyard to tenants (as was the custom). Then he trusts his tenants to raise choice grapes. When in due season he sends servants to collect the yield—which must have been great because the tenants dishonestly want to keep everything, including the vineyard—they beat or stoned or even killed his servants!

In a surprising twist to the tale, seemingly an implausible one, Jesus says that the owner kindly decides to send his own son. He thinks that the tenants will surely respect his beloved offspring. Would you have done this? Wouldn't you have said, "I will keep my family away from these criminals"? I surely would have. Not this owner. He sent his beloved son directly into the trap. The tenants kill him. The owner has spent all his resources, even his own son, with no response. So at last he ejects the tenants and gives care of his vineyard to people who will listen.

Our First Reading tells the dishonest vineyard that God will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but will be overgrown with thorns and briars.

The details of these two parables are different, aren't they? But aren't they the same story, about *God punishing those who fail to produce*? Does God punish those who fail to produce? Be careful, because the stories do not turn out to be identical at all. As Jesus puts it, have you never read in the scriptures that, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes.\*\*

This is not a generic condemnation of disobedient servants. The person who is telling this

parable is himself the very "stone that the builders rejected"! Our repeated failure to accept God's love has resulted now in a final invitation, one concerning the teller of the tale, God's own child.

Many do not see it this way, as we know. Our Jewish sisters and brothers hope for Christians to stop blaming them for the death of the messiah. We respect that, at least I hope and plead that we do. And of course, the secular world of our day simply washes all belief away in favor of cell phones and digital phones and the world's buying power. And so on.

**John Foley, SJ**

**Question:** What kind of "grapes" will God find in your vineyard?

## **Readings for this Sunday**

Reading I: Isaiah 5:1-7

Reading II: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

## **Mass Schedule and Intentions this Week**

|               |          |                                |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sat., Oct. 7  | 8:30 am  | Int. of the Celebrant          |
|               | 5:00 pm  | + Hugh P. McGovern             |
| Sun., Oct. 8  | 8:30 am  | Special Intention              |
|               | 10:30 am | +Robert, Kevin, & Mark Mendoza |
| Mon., Oct. 9  | 8:30 am  | Int. Katya & Marcus Retana     |
| Tue., Oct. 10 | 6:30 pm  | +Margaret Cloughesy            |
| Wed., Oct. 11 | 8:30 am  | Int. Mike Vossbrink & Family   |
| Thu., Oct. 12 | 8:30 am  | +Paulo B.                      |
| Fri., Oct. 13 | 8:30 am  | +Lydia Bozzoli                 |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | 8:30 am  | Int. Frances Garcia            |
|               | 5:00 pm  | +Ethel Medlin                  |
| Sun., Oct. 15 | 8:30 am  | Int. J. D. Panfiglio           |
|               | 10:30 am | For the People                 |

## **CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS**

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 - \$4,520. Special 2<sup>nd</sup> collection **this weekend** for disaster relief in Mexico and the Caribbean.

## **Parish Events this Week**

|                       |                 |                          |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Sun., Oct. 8</b>   | <b>1:00 pm</b>  | Bible Study (6 wkly)     |
|                       | <b>6:30 pm</b>  | Sr. Youth Grp. Gathering |
| <b>Tues., Oct. 10</b> | <b>3:30 pm</b>  | Faith Formation/Children |
|                       | <b>6:00 pm</b>  | Knights of Columbus Mtg. |
|                       | <b>7:00 pm</b>  | Women's Guild Mtg.       |
| <b>Fri., Oct. 13</b>  | <b>7:00 pm</b>  | Charismatic Prayer Grp.  |
| <b>Sat., Oct. 14</b>  | <b>11:00 am</b> | Sesto Memorial Svc.      |
|                       | <b>8:30 am</b>  | Sr. Youth Grp-           |
|                       |                 | Empire Food Bank         |

## Events this week

**Today, Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.** A Scriptural Walk Through Mass in six Sunday sessions. We will start at 1:00 pm this afternoon in the large classroom of the Church. Bring your Bible. All are welcome.

## Looking Ahead

### 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<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>.

We will have our Rummage Sale, which will include Crafts and Baked Goods, on **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and **Sunday, November 5** from 9 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in the parish hall. We will have the raffle drawings for the baskets on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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. You can also get tickets at the parish office.

## Events Outside the Parish



**You are invited to the Annual Candlelight Living Rosary** celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, Portugal, Friday,

October 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Eugene's on Friday at 7:00 PM, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be carried in procession to the cathedral. There we will have a candlelight Rosary and Benediction followed by a brief talk by the director of Catholic Charities. An ice cream social will follow. This event will support mothers and children in Catholic Charities' shelters. Please bring a gift for babies; unexpired formula and larger diapers are most needed.

**The Harvest Ball** is a semi-formal young adult dance co-sponsored by the Diocese of Santa Rosa and the Archdiocese of San Francisco. All young adults ages 20-39, single or married are welcome to attend on Saturday, October 14 at 7 p.m. The

lovely location at St. Hillary's in Tiburon overlooks the Bay. You'll enjoy wine and appetizers as you dance the night away. For tickets, search "Santa Rosa Catholic Events."

## **Pastor's Corner**

I return on Friday from some time off. I thank Fr. Loren who is covering the parish.

Next weekend there will be a list of all registered families in the parish. You will be asked to check-off your name so we can keep our parish list up-to-date. The list will be up for a few weeks.

I am looking for a licensed painting contractor and a licensed landscaper. Please give the office names of people you recommend.

**Humor Bagpipes** As a bagpiper, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace," the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car when I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

**Pope Francis:** True Christians are not sad or gloomy, but have the specific task of being bearers of hope, Pope Francis said Wednesday – and not only with their words, but with actions as simple as a smile or an act of charity.

In his Oct. 4 general audience, the Pope said it is encouraging to know that the disciples "are announcers of Jesus' resurrection not only in word, but with facts and with the testimony of their life!"

Jesus, he said, "doesn't want disciples capable only of repeating learned and memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope with their way of welcoming, smiling and loving."

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