



August 20, 2023

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Aug 27	St Colman 100 th Anniversary Celebration BBQ after the 11am Mass
Aug 27	St Colman Guild meeting 12pm
Sept 6	St Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
Sept 17	Parish Picnic 1pm
Nov 15	Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Mass Intentions

Sun 9:30 am Margaret Maher[†] requested by Mary Helt

Readings

Is 56: 1. 6-7
Ps 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (4)
Rom 11: 13-15. 29-32
Mt 15: 21-28

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Barbara Kobler, Gena Helt, Sue Moeckel

Parish Donations

You can donate online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the bulletin or by visiting stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give

Collection Period	1 st Collection	\$1,565.00
August 12-13	2 nd Collection	\$696.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,261.00

Announcements

St Colman 100th Anniversary Celebration

Come celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St Colman on Sunday August 27, 2023. Mass at 11 am, followed by a BBQ. This event is located at St Colman Outdoor Church--5695 Cazadero Hwy, Cazadero, CA. Hope to see everyone there!

Parish Picnic September 17

It's soon going to be that time again for our Parish Picnic. The date for this year is Sunday September 17, 2023 and the time is 1pm. Place Guerneville PeeWee Golf. Tickets are \$10 for

adults and kids 10 and up, under 10 \$5 and 5 and under free. If you paid last year and told us to keep it as a donation we thank you. If you would like that money to go towards this years ticket please call Francine at 707 869-9341 so we have you in the count. Come and join us for another fun afternoon of golf, Tim's delicious barbeque and sides, sweet treats, a great raffle and a Summertime celebration with friends. You can call Francine for reservations or see a Guild member at our masses. See you there!

Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress

The Diocese of Santa Rosa invites everyone to attend the annual Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress on Saturday, September 23, 2023. This event is free. This year's theme is "Liturgy, Devotion, and the Most Holy Eucharist". Workshops are in English and Spanish. Come hear great speakers. For more information check out the diocesan website @ www.srdioocese.org

Monte Rio Variety Show Update

Thank you to all volunteers, in-kind supporters and our show producers and entertainers that collaborated on a great success for our 112th Annual Variety Show. Our tentative results indicate that our show financially outpaced 2022, indicating another record set for our legacy event. More details should be available to publish in the next two weeks. Until then, mark your calendar for next year. Our show is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024. Gratefully, Michele and the Variety Show Committee

Capital Campaign

The renovation of our Parish rectory and its foundation repair has been progressing for the past few months. It is our hope that this beautiful building, which has been part of our Parish and community history for over a century, will regain some of its former luster. As we repair it, not only structurally, but also visually, with new bathrooms, flooring, some new windows and paint, we hope to restore it and add the safety needed to carry this lovely Parish home into the next 100 years. It is not difficult to realize that the upkeep and maintenance of our Churches, Hall and Rectory is an expense. Large projects can not be paid for by weekly collections alone. Therefore, the Finance Committee and the Parish Council, along with Fr. Luis, have decided to embark upon a Capital Campaign to replace our savings which is being spent on this renovation. We are asking our Parishioners to consider an investment in

our Parish by digging deep in their pockets and making a pledge to help us pay for this work. Please look for the pledge cards to assist you in making a pledge. Once you have completed your pledge card, please drop it in the collection basket or, turn it in to any council member. This will enable us as a church community, to know what financial support we can expect over the next few years. We are confident in your love for our Parish, your devotion to our community, and the passion of your faith.

If you need assistance with your pledge or donation toward the Capital Campaign, please call Chris Kollaja at 415-308-6768 or email at ckollaja@gmail.com.

Temporary Church Office Phone Number

Until our church office at the rectory is restored, the temporary office phone number is (707) 486-8645.

Parish Council

Our church has a Parish/Pastoral council. It consists of 8 members-Linda Payne, Barbara and Otto Kobler, Maryanne Gustafson, Susan Poirier, Patrick McDonell, Chris Kollaja, and Mary Helt. The committee meets monthly with Fr Luis, to discuss current and future projects and plans for the parish, and we advise Father on agenda items as needed. Please feel free to reach out to any council member with questions or concerns about our parish.

Monthly Collection Report

The Parish Council has decided to publish the collections on a monthly basis beginning January of 2023. This collection report will show both the collections at Mass but also our online collections. It also shows the estimated expenses that are required to operate our Parish and Mission Churches. We hope to update this on or after the 15th of the following month.

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

Food for Dogs?

Sunday's Gospel can give a headache both to preachers and to people in the pews. Jesus refuses to hear a Canaanite woman because she is, in his metaphor, one of the "dogs."

OUCH.

You know the story. The Canaanite woman cries out for help and Jesus at first will not even talk to her. The disciples demand that he send her away because she is a trouble-maker, and he seems to agree with them. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," he says.

If she is from Canaan, she is not from Israel.

Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory to confirm with him, so that he knows to stay late on Friday or arrive early on the weekend. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory at (707)-869-2107 (707) 486-8645 (temporary office phone number).

Finally, the poor woman walks right up, does "homage" to Jesus and says, "Lord, help me." Jesus would never ignore such words, at least so we Christians and Catholics believe. Nor should we ever be deaf to words like this in our own daily lives.

However, he says to her, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

Ouch indeed. This is the line that is so hard for us to understand. So un-Jesus-like.

There are clues. She first called out to him with the words "Son of David." This is a term hallowed by use in the ancient Hebrew scriptures, always referring to the Messiah. She is a Canaanite, and they did not believe in any Messiah-to-come, especially not one that would descend from David. Yet this woman, against her whole background, seems to show a belief in Jesus as Messiah.

She then calls him "Lord." This is an explicit admission in Matthew's Gospel that Jesus and God are one. Going just on her language, it is proof that she believed in him as the Savior.

Surely, he sensed this

But Israelites and Canaanites had long been in strife. How could "they" with their strange gods produce a woman who believes in the one God and in Jesus as the Christ? Is it possible that Jesus was drawing her out, teasing her in order to strengthen her belief?

Perhaps he was quoting the word "dogs" as a reference to names the two peoples called each other. Something like this: "my people of Israel believe in the one God and your people do not. How can I give their food to you 'dogs,' as we call you?"

The woman's quick wit provides a wonderful, humble, bantering response that wins the day. She says, "even dogs eat scraps that fall from their master's table." It is a riposte, a parry, a counter-thrust, and Jesus loves it. She is saying, "It does not matter what a person's status is as long as they believe. And look, Lord, I do believe."

I'll bet Jesus smiled a great smile as he told her how great her faith was. Maybe he laughed at her fast repartee. And of course he gladly gave her what she asked: he cured her daughter.

Doesn't Christ's Holy Spirit smile within you and me when you ask for what you need; when you let nothing stand in the way, like your own origins, your status in life, your sins, and maybe even your rejection by others?

Remember when you approached Communion and held out your hands and said in effect, "Son of David, have pity on me." This is a paraphrase of the Canaanite woman. Our response is "Amen," which means "I do believe," just like the woman.

Let us mean it this Sunday.

For questions about future parish events, please contact Linda Payne at: (707) 953-9166 or cocomokidd@aol.com

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 st Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

* of February, May, August and November

