

# ST. ELIZABETH, Guerneville

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, Monte Rio • ST. COLMAN, Cazadero

(707) 869-2107 • 14095 Woodland Drive, Guerneville, CA 95446

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Father Luis Peñaloza, PASTOR**

**Baptisms:** By appointment. Preparation classes required.

**Marriages:** Engaged couples are required to meet with the priest 6 months before the wedding date.

**Confessions:** By appointment. Call the Rectory.

**Religious Education:** RCIA. Call the Rectory.

Contact the Rectory at St. Elizabeth, 707-869-2107

Email: churchelizabeth@comcast.net

www.rrchurches.com



## St. Elizabeth, Guerneville

### *Mass Schedule*

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Tue - Fri. 9:00 a.m.

Outdoor church July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend through  
Labor Day weekend.



## St. Colman, Cazadero

### *Mass Schedule*

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

*Outdoor church  
Memorial Day  
through Labor Day*

## St. Catherine of Siena, Monte Rio

### *Mass Schedule*

Saturday 4:00 p.m.



**WELCOME to the communities of St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine of Siena & St. Colman!** If you would like to become a member of one of our churches, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket or mail to St. Elizabeth,

14095 Woodland Drive, Guerneville, CA 95446.

Email: churchelizabeth@comcast.net

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September 22, 2024  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Special Events

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Sept 22<br>12:00 pm | St Colman Guild Meeting                                       |
| Sept 28<br>10:00 am | Eucharistic Retreat<br>at St Hubert's Hall                    |
| Oct 6<br>9:30 am    | Blessing of the Animals<br>at the St Elizabeth outdoor church |

### Mass Intentions

Sunday 9:30 am John Nicolai for healing  
requested by Virginia Wallace

Gustavo Alvarez, Luis Antonio Padilla  
requested by Ana Maria Alvarez-Padilla

### Readings

Wis 2: 12. 17-20  
Ps 54: 3-4. 5. 6-8 (6b)  
Jas 3: 16 4: 3  
Mk 9: 30-37

### Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Those in need of prayers:  
Annie E, Gustavo Alvarez, Rose

### Parish Donations

You can donate online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the bulletin or by visiting [stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give](http://stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give)

|                   |                                       |            |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Collection Period | 1 <sup>st</sup> Collection            | \$1,394.00 |
| September 14-15   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection            | \$545.00   |
|                   | <i>Thank you for your generosity!</i> | \$1,939.00 |

### Announcements

#### Eucharistic Retreat

Eucharistic Retreat given by Fr. Donal Godfrey will be held on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at St Hubert's Hall. A light lunch is included and Fr. Donal will celebrate Mass at 4pm at St. Hubert's Hall. Please sign up after the 9:30 am Mass, see Susan Poirier or call the church office (707) 869-2107.

### Outdoor Mass Schedule & Blessing of the Animals

Outdoor Mass will be extended this year through Sunday, October 6th (weather permitting) which we will have the Blessing of the Animals.

### Annual Ministry Appeal 2024

The work of the Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA) is at heart your work, the work to which you are oriented by your Baptism: the service of God through service of your brothers and sisters in Christ. By making a gift to the Annual Ministry Appeal, One Family in Mission, you are able to touch souls and change lives throughout our diocese. Thank you to all who have already pledged, moving us closer to our goal as a parish community. Every gift is sincerely appreciated!

### 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 McDonnell, Ana Maria Padilla and Marti Lownes. 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.

### Pastor's Desk

*I just wanted to say that I am so appreciative of all that is happening with our parishioners here in River area. Each of you are a blessing to me and I enjoy celebrating the Eucharist with you. Knowing all of you for several years now, I feel this wonderful spiritual intimacy whenever we celebrate the Eucharist.*

This Sunday **Everly Jean Johnson** will be receiving her First Holy Communion, what a happy occasion! Her parents are **Kaitlin and Bronson Johnson**, Kaitlin is Dennise and Brian Britton's daughter, and we enjoy seeing her being active in our parish. They are a lovely couple and we are praying for their continued growth in our parish life.

In our own experience of our First Holy Communion was a great experience, and our understanding that it is Jesus that we are receiving without really knowing what it means to our journey of faith.

The more we work on our relationship with Jesus the more we understand the Eucharist. I recall sitting in the pews for the first

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

St. Colman Guild Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12 pm St. Colman

time in my life and feeling drawn to and a strong urge to receive the Eucharist. It was the first time that I realized that the Eucharist helps us to be the body of Christ. Receiving the Eucharist completes our worship. I heard His word and received Him after encountering Him. What a wonderful feeling!

When I was in the Seminary in Mt. Angel, Benedictine Monastery, I experienced the contemplative prayer through the scripture. Enjoying the time by myself sitting in the chapel at night before bed in front of the Eucharist gave me that experience of His true presence in the Blessed Sacrament. This habit still is precious in my own spirituality.

While I was in the Seminary, there was someone I would try to avoid due to a personality conflict. During one of our daily Masses, I observed him receiving the Eucharist. I could feel his loving devotion to the Eucharist. That really helped to change my perspective and allowed me to be more accepting of his flaws and acknowledge that I too have flaws that may irritate others.

The celebration of the Mass is a great experience, it is a great celebration! Everyone sings, all are participating as one body of Christ, there is a community of faith all growing to what God wanted us to share that experience united in love. I hope each of you are experiencing and encountering Jesus among our parishioners.

Another perspective of receiving the Eucharist is that it is not only about what we receive but about giving ourselves to Him. During the offertory we bring up the bread and wine, a simple meal made by human hands - a gift we offer, just as we offer ourselves as a gift. Jesus accepts and blesses these gifts, transforming and elevating them in the most divine way, they become His body and blood. I realize children might not fully comprehend what's going on, however, when we offer the children's presence during the Mass, they themselves are being transformed.

The final understanding and it's not the last, is the word "Deification," the theology of understanding that when we take the Eucharist we are transformed into Christ, the mind of Jesus becomes our mind. Recently I have been meditating that Theology of Transformation. I'm not there yet but I see my own growth of my intimate relation with Christ.

There are other things that I have noticed my understanding of the Eucharist and each of you have their own personal insight, and I would love to hear from you.

Peace and blessings!  
Fr. Luis

*P.S. Join us in our reflection on the Eucharist Retreat, next Sunday September 28th Saturday at St. Hubert's Hall. I would like to thank Francine and Danny for being flexible of the food bank give away. Much appreciated, Fr. Donald was only available that weekend.*

## **Spirituality Of The Readings**

*Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University*

### ***Childish Behavior***

For the past Sundays Jesus has been shocking the disciples by showing himself as the "The Just One," as in today's First Reading:

### ***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.

He is telling them and us the most intimate fact of his life.

First, the setup. People known as "the wicked" practiced what we could call a version of childish self-interest. They say the equivalent of the following:

Look at this "righteous one." He thinks he is so wonderful. Let's use his high opinion of himself and "test it." Let us see how revilement and torture will affect him. Let us see what a slow death will do to someone supposedly so patient and gentle.

The First Reading quotes these "evil ones" as saying, sarcastically, doesn't this Just One claim that "God will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes"? We'll see.

So, they practice mockery and cruelty, all based on self-deception.

Mockery: "If he says he is so wonderful, if he has God on his side, surely he will pass our little test. We are just conducting an 'interesting experiment'."

Translation: he's on the wrong side, kill him.

Cruelty: "He thinks he is so holy. We will give him torture, revilement, and a shameful death. This is just reasonable research, to see how he will react."

Translation: holiness is all a sham, a way for people to get what they want. Well, we want him dead.

Self-deception: we do not need this God stuff. We base our lives in what is real.

Translation: we are more important than God and this Jesus H. Christ. Self-interest will always win.

All these are seductively false. No human being can become truly and freely human unless he or she puts God in first place, valuing everything else in relation to God's love—even power, even wealth, and especially pride.

The disciples, out of confusion, engage in a long argument about which of them is the greatest! It is as if they are children fighting for the best toys.

Instead of this, Jesus says in the Gospel that, in fact, the Son of God was going to be condemned to this shaming torture, the one that the wicked had planned, and would be killed. It would look exactly as if God did not care.

"This is what I am going to do," he says. I will be saying "I love you," to my Father. But I will do it by not resisting insults and humiliating death, because I love God above these things. And I love the world, and everything in it.

And I love you, with the fullness and warmth and generosity of God's everlasting love.

Even if it is hard for us to believe, God's promise is that good can emerge out of suffering and death. Ultimately it seems that good can come only from these.

So, in the end, shocking or not, God does defend us and deliver us from the hand of our foes!



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