



# September 25, 2022

## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Upcoming Dates

Sept 25, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm  
 Oct 5, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm  
 Nov 16, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

### Mass Intentions

**Sat 4pm:** Relief for the famine in Somalia and the flood victims in Puerto Rico  
**Sun 9:30 am:** Tillie Manick†, For all Parishioners  
**Sun 11 am:** For Paul and Sheila Juielly

### Readings

Am 6: 1a. 4-7  
 Ps 146: 7. 8-9. 9-10 (1b)  
 1 Tm 6: 11-16  
 Lk 16: 19-31

### Parish Donations

New feature: Scan the QR code to make a donation.

September 17 - 18	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$977.00	\$252.00
St. Catherine	\$335.00	\$436.00
St. Colman	\$170.00	\$140.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,310.00

### Pastor's Desk

There is a primitive bridge in South America made up of interlocking vines which support a precariously swinging wooden walkway -- hundreds of feet above a river. Author Philip Yancey once stood at the edge of the great gulf trying to decide whether to cross over. "I knew the bridge had supported hundreds of people over many years," he said, "and even as I stood there, I could see people confidently crossing over."

He reasoned, "The engineer in me wanted to weigh all the factors; measure the stress tolerance of the vines; test the wood for termites; survey all the bridges in the area for one that might have been stronger. I could have spent a lifetime determining whether the bridge was trustworthy. But eventually, if I really wanted to cross, I had to take a step. And when I finally put my weight on the bridge and walked across, even though my heart was pounding and my knees were shaking, I was making a statement -- declaring my position."

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

\* of February, May, August and November

The author continued, *"In the Christian world, I sometimes must live like this, making choices which contain inherent uncertainty. If I wait for all the evidence to be in, for everything to be settled, I'll never move. Often, I have had to act on the basis of the bones of the Christian faith before those bones were fully formed in me and before I understood the reason for their existence. Bone is hard, but it is alive. If the bones of faith do not continue to grow, they will soon become dead skeletons."* [Yancey, P. & Brand, P., "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"]

In the story, the destinies of the rich man and Lazarus are ultimately fixed. There is no possibility of change for either of them. Our problem, however, is not fixed. Thus, we can identify with the rich man's five living brothers. Their future is open. They need to repent. Their ultimate fulfillment depends upon a willingness to change. And it is the same way for us. They may keep on resisting even if someone should rise from the dead. And sadly, so might we!

Indeed, Christ has risen from the dead. He is in our midst, calling us to repentance and change -- urging us to make a conscious decision now to embrace the new life He is offering us. The Risen Christ is in our midst, pointing the way to genuine happiness.

There is a small, rural town where the three main streets are named "This Way," "That Way," and "Anyway." But the road which runs past the local Church is named "His Way." And it's the road less traveled.

For us, not my way, but His Way is the only way to go if we want to experience genuine happiness. It's the way of loving service: sharing, giving, empathizing. His Way is the way of compassion.

Lazarus lays at your doorstep in as many forms as there are human needs. Whenever you encounter him, show him that you have heard a message of great joy from One who is risen from the dead. Show him that you have made a conscious decision to share the Good News of the Risen Christ. Show him that you have found a way to live a purposeful life through your ministry of loving service. Take a step across the great gulf to show him you are on the right road. Show him not "your way," but the Way of the Lord.

Peace and Blessings!  
 Fr. Luis

### Announcements

#### **Church Parish Picnic and Pee Wee Golf**

The September 18<sup>th</sup> church picnic was cancelled because of the rain. It has been tentatively rescheduled for April 16, 2023. Please call Francine Korn at 707-484-9747 or 707-869-9341, to request return of admission ticket money if you won't be able to attend in April.

#### **Sign up to host Hospitality**

We are inviting families to sign up for Hospitality. To prepare and pick up the donuts and coffee at Safeway for our fellowship after the 9:30 am mass. The items are already paid for. It gives family a chance to participate and know our community and it gives us chance to get to know your family.

#### **Confessions**

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

#### **Spirituality Of The Readings**

*Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, St. Louis University*

A wise man came to a banquet, dirty and dressed in rags. The host protested his sloppy appearance and told him to go dress properly. Then he would be welcome.

So the prophet went and bathed in the river and then dressed himself in the finest clothing he could borrow. Returning to the party he found himself warmly welcomed and even honored.

But as the evening proceeded, someone noticed the man sitting in a corner. The host demanded to know why the man was putting all the expensive food, spoon by spoon, into the sleeve of his fine garment!

The man answered, "It was not me that you invited to the banquet; obviously it was my clothes. So I am giving them what a guest should receive!"

Which is more important, the human person or the luxuries of life by which s/he is surrounded?

A second story, this one from the Gospel for Sunday.

A rich man went to hell.

#### **How can I help during these hard times?**

You can now easily donate online *by scanning the QR code with your smartphone* or using the donate button at [stelizabeth.churchtrac.com](http://stelizabeth.churchtrac.com). Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit [smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577) to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.



In life a poor beggar had lain at his door, starving, but he had ignored this tramp entirely. When both of them died, the poor man, surprisingly, was cradled in heaven in the bosom of Abraham, while the rich man was agonizing in flames. Fine food and fine clothes, his normal fare, did not save him.

The First Reading has a description of the luxury which the rich man had preferred instead of his fellow human being. God used this story to describe the complacent people in Zion, who were

*lying on beds of ivory. ... They eat lambs taken from the flock and calves from the stall! ... They drink wine from precious bowls and anoint themselves with the best oils. ...*

God says they shall be the first to go into exile.

If you live in the "First World"—in the United States, for example—the amount of coddling you receive every single day far surpasses anything described in these stories. Our population uses a tremendous portion of the world's resources. Are you and I helping to overlook the world's people as we "stretch on our couches" and gobble up our television shows? Are we, like the rich man, never glancing at the poor outside our door? In death, that man got exactly what his whole life had pointed to: a future empty of true relationship to anyone else!

The rich man cried out from hell, "Send Lazarus [the poor man] to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames." But father Abraham replied from heaven that the gulf was too wide. The rich man then at last thought to ask help for someone else: "send someone from the dead to warn my five brothers so this does not happen to them too!"

Father Abraham answered,

*If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.*

Listen to those words!

Someone at last has risen from the dead. Will you and I be persuaded finally to give people in need what they deserve, or will we continue, totally absorbed in how we are fed and dressed?