

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 4th 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.

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January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

Mass Intentions

Sat, Jan 11 4:00 pm **Bill Hatch†, Michael Murphy†**
requested by Michele McDonell

Jeremiah Price [illness]
requested by Michele McDonell

Readings

Is 40: 1-5, 9-11
 Ps 104: 1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)
 Ti 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7
 Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Those called to Eternal Life:
 Allen Mitchell, Ramona Lopez Luque

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	\$15,114.00
December 2024	2 nd Collection	\$2,645.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$17,759.00

Parish Expenses

December 2024	\$18,234.00
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Announcements

Candlelight Concert Postponed

We are sorry to announce that the January 12th concert has been canceled. Michael is a bit under the weather but will reschedule after he fully recovers.

See's Candy Fundraiser Results

We raised over \$2,600 with our See's Candy fundraiser. Thank you to all who generously supported this initiative and those that helped with the sales: Sherry K, Barbara S., Michele P, Linda P, and Jeannine R.

Children's Mass Library

Do you have young children with you at Mass? Feel free to borrow a book from our new Children's Mass Library located in the vestibule! Please remember to return any books after Mass. The books are intended to help children learn more about the Mass, connect with familiar bible stories, and enrich their faith.

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

St. Colman Guild Meeting 4th Sunday, 12 pm St. Colman Resuming February 2025

Connecting Hearts, a SR Diocese Survey

To help us improve communication across the Diocese, we invite you to complete a brief survey. Your feedback will guide us in enhancing our communication strategies to better serve everyone. The survey is available on our website <https://srdiocese.org/>

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, 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.

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

Staying With

Today marks the formal end of the Church's Christmas season. Jesus' birth has now been sufficiently celebrated. His public life comes next and his baptism makes him ready, even though the vestment color is still white.

I know, I know, Christmas has been over for ages and we are making ready for Easter eggs or whatever else. But the Church has sense and gives us a Christmas season of weeks instead of just ripping down decorations and going on to the next thing.

Good for the Church.

But what about Jesus' public life, and does it begin with Baptism? In the Gospel we hear the voice of God the Father speaking to him. This only happens twice in the Gospels, though on the other hand, Jesus talks and prays to his Abba often. Here, it is the same message from God both times.

“You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased”
 (Gospel).

Who would not want to hear these words over and over? I would. The beloved of God! It is like having candy and circuses and ice cream and all your favorite things. God has settled upon you as his special one. Everything will be fine.

Except that “being fine” is not the real meaning of “beloved.”

I was visiting a Jesuit friend of mine in Washington DC, Pete, who is a prankster. He was in the kitchen cooking up homemade spaghetti. Icky sticky mess.

I asked him what time something or other was going to happen and he said, "I don't know, but we can ask Joe." Joe was another Jesuit who on that Saturday was working at his job in the Jesuit Conference building. My friend put the kitchen phone on its speaker and floured in a phone number.

Joe answered and Pete said, "hi, how are you doing, Joseph?"

Joe said, "just great."

Pete said, "how wonderful, since you are spending your weekend working."

Joe said, "No it is ok. God told me everything was going to be fine."

Yeah that's what he told his Son," Pete said without skipping a beat.

I was on the floor laughing at such a funny, quick, piercing reply, delivered seemingly with no forethought at all.

But notice what is behind that joke. God does in fact tolerate pain and suffering, now in his beloved son, on the cross. This is the other side of being the beloved of God.

Suffering, temptation.

Jesus heard the voice from the cloud and went to the desert to ponder. Maybe by now he saw the implications. The devil was going to give him huge, slick temptations to help win him over. Build up your earthly power and honor, use your now public status as "Beloved." Be big.

Directly and deeply contrary to Jesus' mission, of course, but God let the temptation happen.

Why? Well, God is like a parent watching a teenager's growing pains. Help all you can, but definitely do not stop the growing.

Temptation and suffering create an urgent need in a person to open up, to broaden the scope, to better understand what love is, to see that love does not mean God taking charge and making everything alright but rather God staying with the beloved, continuing to love and admire him or her, since love at its root means sharing another's life, not taking it over.

To paraphrase the Father's words at the Jordan: receive my love that never runs away, never lets go, even in the desert, even on the cross.

Discussion Questions

Courtesy of Anne Osdieck, Saint Louis University

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

1. God says, "here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased." Then a voice came from

heaven, saying to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. What are the implications?"

2. Wastelands, deserts, rugged land and rough country (Isaiah 40). Could these words describe our world today?

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

1. In the reading from Acts, Peter is quoted as saying this about Jesus: "He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil (Acts 10:38)." Compare this with Isaiah in the First Reading: "I formed you ... to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness."

2. Did we do anything to earn salvation? Why does God give it to us? What does St. Paul in his letter to Titus say about the extravagance of God's gift to us?

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

1. John the Baptist was the middleman. He pointed back to Isaiah and forward to Jesus, connecting the whole plan. What or who are the "middlemen or women" who connect you with God? Can you serve as a middle-one?

2. "After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, ..." then, what? What do you think he was praying about? What does Pope Francis say this teaches us about prayer?

It is a great lesson for us: we are all immersed in the problems of life and in many complicated situations, called upon to face difficult moments and choices that get us down. But if we do not want to be crushed, we need to raise everything upwards. And this is exactly what prayer does. It is not an escape route; prayer is not a magic ritual or a repetition of memorized refrains. No. To pray is the way to let God act within us, to understand what he wants to communicate to us even in the most difficult situations, to pray to have the strength to go forward.

Many people feel they cannot go on, and they pray: "Lord, give me the strength to continue." We too, very often, have done this. Prayer helps us because it unites us to God, it opens us up to the encounter with him. Yes, prayer is the key that opens our heart to the Lord. It is dialogue with God, it is listening to his Word, it is worshipping, remaining in silence, entrusting what we are experiencing to him. And sometimes it is also crying out to him like Job, venting with him. ... He is the father; he understands well. He never gets angry with us. And Jesus prays.

*Angelus for Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Jan 9, 2022*

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.



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