



# October 30, 2022

## 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Upcoming Dates

Nov 2, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm  
 Nov 16, Finance Committee meeting 4pm  
 Nov 27, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm

### Mass Intentions

**Sat 4pm:** For all parishioners  
**Sun 9:30 am:** MaryJane<sup>†</sup> & Larry Poirier Sr<sup>†</sup>  
**Sun 11 am:** For all parishioners

### Readings

Wis 11: 22 12: 2  
 Ps 145: 1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13. 14  
 2 Thes 1: 11 2: 2  
 Lk 19: 1- 10

### Parish Donations

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

October 22-23	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$845.00	\$316.00
St. Catherine	\$175.00	\$167.00
St. Colman	\$393.00	\$356.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,252.00

### Spirituality Of The Readings

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

Our universe is so tiny.

Wait! It cannot be tiny. The James Webb Space Telescope tells us just the opposite: how terribly vast the universe is. There are billions of galaxies out there which are just like our Milky Way. And get this: each one contains literally millions or even trillions of stars.

On the other hand, the First Reading says, “the whole universe is as a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.” Obviously that scripture writer hadn't looked through the James Webb!

Alright, is the universe large or small?

Imagine this. Picture an old fashioned weighing scale with “pans“ on either side.\* Now add just a single grain of sand to one of the pans. Does the scale move? No. Now add the vast totality of all that exists (in other words, the entire universe) on one side, and imagine God on the other side.

God outweighs this universe, big time.

Get ready for the worst part. Lodged within this balance are you and me. We are the size of microbes. Impossible that so huge a God could or actually would love microorganisms like us.

Alright, but don't be discouraged. The greatest surprise in the universe is waiting:

You love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? ... You spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things! [First Reading]

God's imperishable spirit is in each grain of dust and each one is beloved to God. Look, reader: you and I are beloved to God. We are cherished by the “Lord and lover of souls.”

Now look at Zacchaeus in Sunday's Gospel. He was small of stature, so short he had to climb a tree just to see over the crowd to Jesus. And Jesus laughed out loud! He said, in effect, “Zacchaeus, come down quick. I want to have dinner in your house tonight, not out here on a tree branch!”

Zacchaeus was a tax-collector, officials who were selfish and in bad repute. Did God therefore withhold love and grace from him?

Not at all.

The Christ of God came in person to Zaccaeus' door and waited patiently for him to scramble down. Are you and I bold enough to have the master of the universe over to

dinner tonight? Even though our clothes may be torn and dirty? Even small and unworthy as we are?

Let us try it.  
*John Foley, SJ*

### Announcements

#### Variety Show Update

Our committee is happy to report that our event made over \$156,000. After expenses (many that will not be needed next year) our net distribution will be in excess of \$137,000. St Catherine's will receive over \$45,000. Per agreement with our Pastor in 2004, 2/3 of the net proceeds are shared with two other non-profits in Monte Rio, established to benefit the Monte Rio Fire Services Foundation and the Monte Rio School Foundation. Net distributions are anticipated within the next thirty days.

Thank you again to all who helped support this event through their time, talent and/or financial resources.

#### See's Candy Christmas Treats 2022

See's Candy Sale is back! This year, the church has pre-purchased best sellers from 2020 and 2021 seasons and will have them available for purchase the weekend before Thanksgiving. We will also have a Storefront on line for individual purchases, which will include items available after Mass in addition to other best sellers that could not be purchased in advance.

Our link is:

[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stecc\\_st\\_elizabeths\\_christmas\\_treats45/Mic\\_McD9043/candy](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stecc_st_elizabeths_christmas_treats45/Mic_McD9043/candy) (we will get this out via an email via church trac). Our goal is to raise \$2,500!

#### 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.

#### Discussion Questions

##### First Reading: Wisdom 11:22-12:2

1. “For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made.” What things do we think of when we hear this? If God's attitude toward every created thing is love, what is your attitude? Do you show reverence for creation? For your neighbor?

#### 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.

2. This reading is about God's transcendence (God as beyond our limits or so far above us). At the same time it is about God's imminence (his Spirit in all things, he pitched his tent among us, God with us, at home with us). How do you feel about God when you think of these attributes?

#### Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

1. When you are “shaken out of your mind suddenly” on your spiritual journey, do you think God can use your fellow believers or even non-believers to help you out? Give some examples of how this might work.

2. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that he was constantly praying for them. Does it help you to know people are praying for you? Explain. Does it help you to pray for other people? How?

#### Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

1. A man climbs a tree in order to see. A holy man goes to a “sinner's” house for dinner. A repenting person gives half of all his possessions to the poor. How do you explain these events? Does knowing Jesus Christ elicit extraordinary behavior from you? What?

2. How does Pope Francis use the story of Zacchaeus to help the United Nations develop goals that impact the “structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protecting the environment, ensure destructuralized and productive labor for all, and provide appropriate protection for the family”?

*It is the encounter between Jesus Christ and the rich tax collector Zacchaeus, as a result of which Zacchaeus made a radical decision of sharing and justice, because his conscience had been awakened by the gaze of Jesus. This same spirit should be at the beginning and end of all political and economic activity. The gaze, often silent, of that part of the human family which is cast off, left behind, ought to awaken the conscience of political and economic agents and lead them to generous and courageous decisions with immediate results, like the decision of Zacchaeus. Does this spirit of solidarity and sharing guide all our thoughts and actions?*

*Pope to UN: Resist the Economy of Exclusion, Sept 5, 2014*

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

