



# September 24, 2023

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

### Upcoming Dates

Sept 24 St Colman Guild meeting 12pm

Oct 4 St Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm

Nov 15 Finance Committee meeting 4pm

### Mass Intentions

Sat 4:00 pm Lotte Murphy† req by Michele McDonnell

Sun 9:30 am Patricia Power†, Ralph Hitchin†  
requested by Susan Poirier

Thurs 9:00 am Cindy Cassady [successful surgery and return to good health] req by Michele McDonell

### Readings

Is 55: 6-9

Ps 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)

Phil 1: 20c-24, 27A

Mt 20: 1-16a

### Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

**Who are ill or in pain:** Terry Devlin

**Who have been called to Eternal Life:** Ralph Hitchin,  
Patricia Power

### 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	\$1,733.00
September 16-17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$729.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,462.00

### Announcements

#### ***Journey Together Towards Holiness***

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul District Council of Sonoma County Is hosting a Retreat: Journey Together Towards Holiness. All are welcome. When: Tuesday September 26th Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM At: Holy Spirit Church, 1244 St. Francis Rd. Santa Rosa. For more information contact: [jimandchrisnanman@gmail.com](mailto:jimandchrisnanman@gmail.com) Or Call 650-274-9941.

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

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

### ***Blessing of Animals***

On October 8th, Father Luis will bless the animals following Mass at the outdoor church.

### ***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](mailto: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.*

#### ***Just Imagine***

I taught grade school religion for a short semester when I was about 22. By accident I discovered a great trick of teaching, one I needed very much. The class, you see, was in complete chaos each time I arrived in mid-day.

But if I told a story, even the simplest story, the pandemonium ceased. It morphed into rapt attention; you could hear a pin drop. Until the story ended, that is, and then anarchy resumed.

I never did find another way besides stories to reach these little cherubs, even though I memorized each name and each picture in the long list and called different ones out for serious talks, etc.

I concluded that there must be a special part of the brain devoted to stories.

It was only years later that I applied this insight.

Why does the gospel reading get such special attention at Mass? Why do we hold the book up and parade it to the

### ***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).

pulpit? Because it is a story, the story of Jesus. We are struck by the narrative about him, much more than we are by the sometimes complicated theology in Paul's letters. And within the gospels, which are themselves stories, we find the parables Jesus told.

Stories.

Take a good look at the parable in Sunday's [Gospel](#) and let that story lead you. See if it works. Imagine the landowner hiring laborers for his vineyard, as he shakes their rough hands and invites them to work. You can see their satisfied smiles, since they know they will get the usual daily wage.

The day gets hotter. And hotter. High noon has come and the owner treks back to town to shop for this and that. He glances around. Men, leaning on buildings, loitering really, bored but still hopeful. The owner crosses over to them and offers to hire them. They come to life and hurry off to his vineyard to earn just half a day's wages. It is more than nothing.

Then the workday is about over. The owner is still in town for whatever reason, and what should he see but strong men lolling about in doorways, wet with sweat from the heat and from their dejection. To their surprise, he hires them too.

Day ends and "just wages" are handed out. But look: it is the exact same amount for every worker, no matter how many or how few hours each had worked. Look at the faces. The late ones smiling sheepishly. Anger in the ones who had slaved all day. This is not fair! We demand our rights! We put in the time and these oafs did nothing.

What does the story mean? You will find the answer if you sense the scene rather than just use brain power. Let your imagination see the kindness in the owner's face. Call to mind the gloom of the ones hired so late. See their amazement now.

Obviously such wages are not a strict remuneration for hours worked. They more like a gift from a fond heart. How does this feel to you?

Didn't Jesus tell his parable to show how God's caring heart works, how he gives a depth of love to each person in this world, especially to ones who suffer and are left behind?

If it is hard to see, ask for light.

