



February 11, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Feb 17 4:00 pm	Annual Crab Feed
Feb 21 4:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Feb 25 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild Meeting
Mar 16	St Elizabeth Retreat

Mass Intentions

Sunday 9:30 am Bernadette Gersh[†]
requested by Mary Helt

Readings

Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46
Ps 32: 1-2, 5, 11 (7)
1 Cor 10: 31 -- 11: 1
Mk 1: 40-45

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Fr. John Boettcher

Who have been called to eternal life: Bernadette Gersh

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	\$1,368.00
February 3-4	2 nd Collection	\$475.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$1,843.00

Announcements

Annual Crab Feed

Our annual Crab Feed will be held on February 17th, 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and seating is somewhat limited so get your tickets early. Fliers available at the back of all the churches. Crab, Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Raffle too! If you'd like to volunteer please let me know (set up, serving and cleanup). I am also looking for

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

Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall	* of February, May, August and November
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman	

underwriters for the crab again this year, and your help would be greatly appreciated! Contact me for tickets, volunteering or underwriting; Linda 707 953-9166 or email cocomokidd@aol.com

Thanks for all your support in all our endeavors!

Sincerely,
Linda

Bishop Vasa to celebrate Mass at St Elizabeth March 3

Bishop Vasa will be celebrating Mass with us on Sunday March 3, 2024. This is the third Sunday of the Lenten season. Please come to Mass on March 3rd at St Elizabeth in Guerneville at the 9:30 am Mass to share in this special Mass celebration.

Save the Date! St Elizabeth Retreat.

Saturday, March 16, 2024. Topic--Prayer and Renewal. More information to follow.

Parish Council

Our church has a Parish/Pastoral council. It consists of 9 members -Linda Payne, Barbara and Otto Kobler, Maryanne Gustafson, Susan Poirier, Patrick McDonell, Chris Kollaja, Mary Helt and Martha "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

Have you ever read a book so good or so transformational that all you wanted to do was talk about it with everyone? You were bursting with excitement about this book and may have shared a few spoilers because, after all, you had to tell someone! Your life

changed after reading it, and you knew others would have the same transformational experience.

In our Gospel readings Jesus cured a leper, he touched him and made him clean. How long had it been since this person had had any physical contact with another person? Individuals were afraid to touch lepers, as they feared the same ostracism. Another human may not have touched him in months or years.

When Jesus healed him, he warned the leper not to share what happened.

It is hard enough not to spoil a good book; imagine how difficult it would have been for this leper to keep this miracle a secret. He would not contain his excitement and spread the message of Jesus to all he encountered.

The spoiler alert of the story is that Jesus is always going to transform lives.

We, like the person with leprosy in today's gospel, need to be willing to share the message with others so everyone knows the transformational power of the Christians narrative.

Peace and Blessings!
Fr. Luis

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

The liturgical year and the spiritual life coincide.

This is a certainty. But how to explain it? Let me say what I understand, since it is the reason I write these reflections each week.

(1) The goal of spiritual life is to let oneself be increasingly open to the God of all creation. Doesn't liturgy help in this?

(2) You and I are constructed so that we become ourselves completely when (and only when) we do #1 explicitly or implicitly.

(3) We love and are loved insofar as this takes place, whether we know it or not.

(4) Jesus lived among us as a human being in time and space. Liturgy gradually exposes us to that.

All the above is the "spiritual life," at least in this way of looking at it. Maybe we can think here about number (1) and this week's Gospel.

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.

The gospel stories this year are being told by Mark, just as they were told last year by Matthew. The most vivid of the gospels is Mark's. He is direct and uses fewer words, but he has more concrete details. Last week Jesus did not just "cure" Peter's mother-in-law, a bland way of putting it. He "grasped her hand, and helped her up." When Jesus stills the storm at sea, he is not just "in the boat," he is "at the stern" of it according to Mark, and he is not just asleep, but asleep "on a cushion."

Mark's approach helps us to get the texture of the story, to listen with our imaginations, to let the life of Jesus enter in. As we receive Jesus, the Word of God, we open to the God of all creation. We share his life spiritually, partaking of it in ritual: we recall it in the readings and we receive it as sacrament. Whether we realize it explicitly or not, our goal is to "know him more clearly, love him more dearly, follow him more nearly."

So, as hearers, we begin by quieting down, perhaps admitting how little each of us is, and we let the life of Jesus speak to us in the readings.

We might notice several things in this Sunday's Gospel: the man who walks up to Jesus covered with scales and scabs is breaking the law. As long as the sores are on him he should "dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp," according to the explicit instructions of the First Reading. He should be ringing a bell and crying out "Unclean, unclean!"

But Jesus does not mind. In Mark's words, Jesus is "moved with pity." Just three words, but they tell us so much.

There follows a wonderful statement from the leper. "If you wish, you can make me clean." He has to believe in Jesus' power in order to say such a thing. It is a confession of faith.

Jesus answers, "I do will it. Be made clean." Direct, honest, so revelatory of God. The whole life of Jesus seems to consist of this desire to help those who are in trouble, to give to those who have a seed of faith, who are sharing in "spirituality."

Finally, in an extraordinary move, Jesus stretches out his hand and touches the man. The ancient belief was that this sickness was communicable, and at the very least it was disgusting. Yet Jesus reaches out to him with care and says, "Be made clean."

Let's pray and ponder in our hearts this wonderful story from Mark. It tells us about God.

Doesn't it help us open to the God of all creation?

