



July 16, 2023

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

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| July 23 | St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm |
| July 27 | 112 th Annual Monte Rio Variety Show |
| Aug 2 | St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm |
| Aug 16 | Finance Committee meeting 4pm |

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners.

Readings

Is 55: 10-11
 Ps 65: 10, 11, 12-13, 14 (Lk 8:8)
 Rom 8: 18-23
 Mt 13: 1-23

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Luke Poirier Martinsson, Geoff 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

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| Collection Period | 1 st Collection | \$1,397.00 |
| July 8-9 | 2 nd Collection | \$783.00 |
| | <i>Thank you for your generosity!</i> | \$2,180.00 |

Announcements

Capital Campaign

My name is Chris Kollaja and I would like to discuss the ongoing 2023 Capital Campaign and the need for all of us to participate. You have heard previously why raising this money is critical for the parish. But today, I thought I would step back a little and discuss why my faith compels me to participate.

Faith, hope, and love are the three theological virtues that define the essence of Catholicism. They are gifts from God that enable us to live in communion with him and with our fellow human beings. Among these virtues, I think love is the greatest, because it reflects the very nature of God, who is love itself.

Love is not just a feeling or an emotion, but a decision and an action. Love inspires us to give our time and talent for the community, because we recognize that we are all members of one body, the Church. We are called to share our gifts and resources with those in need, to support the mission of the Church, and to build up the kingdom of God on earth.

Our love for our parish is also a manifestation of our love for God. Our parish is not just a building or an organization, but a family of faith, where we worship, learn, serve, and grow together. Where we support each other.

Our parish exists today because of this love. It is a legacy that was given to us by those who came before us, who sacrificed and contributed to make it what it is today. We are grateful for their generosity and faithfulness. We want to honor their memory by continuing their work and honor God's love by being the connection between the past and the future of this parish.

I think a lot about the future parishioners and how our work now is vital to ensuring there is a vibrant community here for future generations. I see a future where our parish is vibrant, welcoming, diverse, and an even more an important part of the larger community. This requires us to invest financially, spiritually, and personally in the parish. It encourages me to participate in its life and ministry, to share my gifts and talents, to invite others to join us, and to deepen my relationship with God and one another.

When we do this, we are not only creating a new legacy for our parish, but also for ourselves. We are becoming more like Christ, who gave his life for us out of love. We are fulfilling our baptismal call to be his disciples and witnesses in the world.

Faith, hope, and love are the foundation of our Catholic identity and our parish community. Let us pray that God will increase these virtues in us, and that he will bless our efforts to create a new legacy of love for our parish.

Finally, let us make love the foundation of our legacy, the motivation of our giving and the measure of our living.

112th Annual Monte Rio Variety Show - Thurs, July 27

We are approaching our show date at the end of the month on July 27th. If you are attending and can offer volunteer time

before, after or during the show, please see Michele or Patrick after the Masses or call/text Michele at (707) 486-1739.

Our raffle is set and tickets are available after Masses and at the show. Also, our auction items will be active as of 7/20, but you can go in now to see some of the items as we post them. <https://mrvs2023.ggo.bid/>

Raffle Tickets are 1 for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00 and 8 for \$20.00

Raffle Prizes: Jelly Belly Basket: Value \$500 · Golf for 4 at Northwood: Value \$250 · Taste of Monte Rio with canvas handprinted bag by Ingrid (Gift Certificates including Kayak rentals, Bartlett's sandwich, 5 Yoga classes, Taste of Sonoma Ice Cream, Salvador Hair Cut; beach towel with MRVS imprint, Notecards from RRHS, RRHS Bag, and One Year Membership, Tye Dye Apron, Firefighter Tee, MRVS Cap/Beanie, MR School Tee) Value \$500 · Two (2) Tickets to 2024 Show with w Camp Chairs (we might even indicate "preferred seating" allowing the placement of their chairs by committee w/out having to "attend" the chair stampede?) Value: Priceless · 24 bottles of Taste of Sonoma County Wines with tasting and lunch for 8 at Freeman Winery Value: \$2,000

<http://www.monterioshow.org> for more details!

Temporary Church Office Phone Number

Until our church office at the rectory is restored, the temporary office phone number is (707) 486-8645.

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

Yearning for God's Goodness

The readings for this coming mid-summer Sunday reflect the beauties of the earth, its golden harvests, its astonishing Spring, its delicate birds, beasts, mountains, hills and plains. Infinite surprise for those whose eyes can see.

The Jesuit poet Hopkins was so filled with the world's beauty that he can speak here, in the poem called "Pied Beauty."

*Glory be to God for dappled things—
 For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow;
 For rose-moles in all stipple upon trout that swim;*

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).

*Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
 Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;
 And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.*

*All things counter, original, spare, strange;
 Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
 With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
 He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
 Praise him.*

Some of the language is unusual, I admit. But if you spend time with these glorious images you will come to love our ever-evolving blue planet like someone bathing in the gentle tide of ocean swirl. All of it luxuriant, all of it precious.

The Lord uses this ebb and flow of seasons in the First Reading to show how his visceral love for the earth works. Just as the rain and snow come to earth, he says, so too does God's word, which then returns to the heavens when it has done its job of watering. It does not return until it has moistened and nourished life in every single creature that will receive it. A fruitful harvest, says the Psalm.

St. Paul speaks of all creation groaning in labor pains even until now (Second Reading). Human beings too groan within themselves like seeds which break open and push their way through tough ground and then evolve into full trees that stretch up for Christ's light.

Can such rich images apply to you and me? How good is our own soil? God pours his grace into it always. Do you and I groan and yearn for the goodness of God which is ready to be lavished upon us? Do we take time each day to let love in? Or do we listen on Sunday, perhaps with some interest, but then forget everything by Monday? Or not at all?

Jesus lists a number of things we might have to correct in order to accept the gifts he has ready for us. We might be shallow ground, he says. Or rocky soil. Weeds might choke us. How discouraging. Must I pretend to be rich soil, though I know my shallowness? No. I must be fully myself and allow God to do the rest.

That great poet from India, Tagore, put it this way:

*"The cloud stood humbly in a corner of the sky.
 The morning crowned it with splendor."*

Let's us be humble! Let's join in the revolving refreshment of all earthly things! Open our leaves! Allow in the sun!

John Foley, SJ

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

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

* of February, May, August and November

