



December 25, 2022

The Nativity of The Lord

Upcoming Dates

Dec 25, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
 Jan 4, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
 Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners

Readings

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Is 9: 1-6	Is 52: 7-10
Ps 96: 1-2. 2-3. 11-12. 13	Ps 98: 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6 (3c)
Ti 2: 11-14	Heb 1: 1-6
Lk 2: 1-14.	Jn 1: 1-18

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Tony Madrid

Parish Donations

You can scan the QR code to make a donation.

December 17-18	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$1,683.00	\$312.00
St. Catherine	\$169.00	\$227.00
St. Colman	\$230.00	\$300.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,921.00

Pastor's Desk

Merry Christmas to all! And for this year I'm SHARING this article from one of Catholic exchange article that I hope you enjoy as you celebrate your Christmas. May your day be a blessing to all your families and friends as well as may the presence of Christ be in your gathering this Christmas!

Ten ways to celebrate Christmas this year, by Fr. Ed Broom

1. Clean the stable of your heart

Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, is a very propitious time to clean our heart, mind, soul and total being by means of making a good Sacramental Confession. Even with only a few days of Advent, it's still a great way to prepare for the Lord. Sin sullies or dirties the inner beauty

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

of our soul; a good sacramental confession sweeps out the dirt and makes us clean. The Prophet Isaiah expresses this clearly: Though your sins be as scarlet they will be made white as the snow (Is. 1).

2. Seek silence

Strive to cultivate a silent and recollected heart. Try to avoid all unnecessary noise. When we have moments of silence it is then that God's Holy Spirit can speak to us, give us certain lights or insights, and send heavenly inspirations. In a world filled with so much noise — you might even call it noise pollution—we really need more silence. Pope Paul VI in one of his reflections for the Christmas Season states that the Holy Family prayed, worked, and appreciated silence. So should we!

3. More frequent and fervent prayer

Saint Paul states that we should pray constantly and give thanks to God in our hearts. Jesus also said that it is necessary to pray always without giving up hope. (Lk. 18:1) However, offering fervent and frequent prayers is even more necessary in the strong seasons of the year—both Advent and Lent. Set aside more time to talk to the Lord, Mary, and Saint Joseph in the depths of your heart.

4. A Christmas Carol

To set the stage for a fruitful Christmas viewing a good movie or two can be exceedingly fruitful. One of the greatest classics is a movie that came from a novel written by the great English novelist Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.

5. Find joy in giving more than having

The essential message of A Christmas Carol is that true joy can only be attained inasmuch as we learn the art of giving freely, generously, and continually to others. Scrooge lived a really miserable life until he dreamed of his mortality — one day he would surely die — which rocked his comfortable and materialistic existence. Let us seek out ways that we can give to others, especially those most in need. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta asserted: Give until it hurts!

6. Live out the Mass in your life

In a real sense, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a daily Christmas. How, you might ask? Very simply: the priest consecrates the Host which is transformed into Jesus. He is

really born in the hands of the priest. Then, when you approach to receive Holy Communion with a pure and loving heart, Jesus is born in your heart. Your soul becomes a real Bethlehem—House of Bread. Therefore, try to attend Holy Mass as often as possible and let Jesus be born in your heart in the worthy reception of Holy Communion.

7. Visit the poor, the aged, the sick, and abandoned

Living out the Gospel of love is a perennial task. However, to really live out Advent to the fullest extent possible and experience the joy of the Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem, we should seek out helping those in our society who suffer most. Remember the words of Jesus: Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you have done to me.

8. Reconcile

The great English poet Alexander Pope wrote: To err is human, to forgive is divine. Christmas is not a time in which we should be at enmity with others, especially members of our own family. Two of the most difficult but important phrases that should issue from our hearts and lips are: I am sorry... and... I forgive you!!! If you are angry, resentful, bitter, and even hateful towards anybody, now is the time to reconcile. Be humble! Take the initiative and reconcile. Even though possibly very difficult, this gesture of reconciliation is very pleasing to God and will fill your heart with a deep peace that maybe you have not experienced in years!

9. Kind words and a word of cheer

In our social dealings one of the most important things, we can do is to be kind to others. Get into the habit of saying kind words to others, especially to your family members. A compliment, a thanks, a word or two of encouragement—all of these can change a sad and desolate heart into one of joy and exultation! Remember the Golden Rule and apply it to your speech: Do to others what you want them to do to you... say to others what you would like them to say to you!

10. Mother Mary & Christmas

Of course, Christmas would not have taken place if it were not for the generous yes of Mary! Stay close to Mary. Pray the Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem. Be with her in the stable as she brings forth Jesus for your salvation. Place Mary in Advent and Christmas and Jesus will be born in the depths of your heart.

Merry Christmas to all and may you create lasting memories with family and friends!

Peace and Blessings, Fr. Luis

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. 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 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

Announcements

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th 4:00 pm, St. Elizabeth (Christmas Carols begin 15 minutes before Mass).
 December 25th 9:30 am, St. Elizabeth (Christmas Carols begin 15 minutes before Mass).
 December 25th 11:00 am, St. Coleman.

Religious Calendars

The calendars have arrived and are available in the churches for all parishioners.

Visit from Bishop Vasa

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, Bishop Vasa will be here at St Elizabeth to celebrate Mass. **For the weekend of January 7-8, we will have only one weekend Mass which will be the Sunday 9:30 am Mass at St Elizabeth.** (No Mass at St Catherine or St Colman on the weekend of January 7-8.) After the 9:30 am Mass, there will be a pancake breakfast at St Hubert Hall. Please come and enjoy breakfast and friendship.

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

Courtesy of Anne Osdieck, St. Louis University

Isaiah 9: 1-6/Isaiah: 62:11-12

1. "For a child is born to us, a son is given us. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." What do these names mean to you? Would you expect to see someone named God-Hero born in a stable? Who is born in stable-like places today? Give an example.

2. "They shall be called a holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, and you shall be called 'Frequented,' a city that is not forsaken." Why are they called holy? Why is this a time of universal goodwill? Is this grace offered to all people? What does this mean to you in your daily life?

Hebrews 1:1-6

1. "In time past, God spoke in partial and various ways." Name a partial way God has spoken. What are some of the various ways God speaks to you? Do you look for God in the lowly events of your life as well as the great ones?

2. What does St. Paul mean when he says that the Son is the very "imprint of the Father's being"? What would any of us look like if we were the imprint of Christ? Have you been acquainted with Christ lately?

