



October 1, 2023

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Oct 4	St Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
Oct 22	St Colman Guild meeting 12pm
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

Readings

Ez 18: 25-28
Ps 25: 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 (6a)
Phil 2: 1-11
Mt 21: 28-32

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

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

Collection Period	1 st Collection	\$1,556.00
September 23-24	2 nd Collection	\$905.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,461.00

Monthly Collection Report August 2023

	Collection	Online	Total
St Elizabeth	\$7,083.00	\$2,541.00	\$9,624.00
St Catherine	\$4,811.00	\$1,298.00	\$6,109.00
St Colman	\$2,253.00	\$290.00	\$2,543.00
Monthly Total			\$18,276.00

Est. Monthly Expenses \$22,000.00

Note: Monthly expenses are based upon last year's annual operating expenses on a monthly basis with an estimated amount included for building repairs and replacements.

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

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

Announcements

Blessing of Animals

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

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.

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

Why Be Good?

In the early Old Testament there seems to have been an ongoing belief, one that we hang on to today sometimes: that good people are rewarded and sinners are punished even unto death.

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he ... does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life. (First Reading)

There is so much good sense in this reading. Sin really does mess up our lives, letting them come apart at the seams, doesn't it? And those who live lives of virtue usually are edging toward integration and freedom. The Psalm for this Sunday is a straightforward request for being included with the favored ones: "Remember your mercies, O Lord. ... "

But throughout the Hebrew Testament, an opposing and terrible observation gradually arose. Good people do suffer and die while scoundrels often have a fine time of it.

How can this be? How could a good God be unjust? We hear that question today from the Ukraine. Many Psalms are filled with the same lament also. The Book of Job is an ancient and puzzling repetition of the same question.

Before reading further, you might want to think about your own answer to the question. Why do bad things happen to good people?

There are clues. First, how many people do you know who are completely good or completely bad? A childlike, over-simple belief says that good friends are always good. Adults, on the other hand, know how mixed the human reality is. Each of us has a jumble of "good plants and weeds" within us. That is what the Gospel is about.

A father asks his younger son to go work in the fields and the son says "yes, of course I will do that for you, father." He must be the good one, mustn't he? But in fact he does not do what he promised. He becomes the famous prodigal son.

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).

The older son originally says something like, "No. I will not go out in the heat and pull your damned weeds. Why should I?" Yet of course, he does go out and work all day. Today we know him as the good son, though he had been mean at the beginning.

The lesson? God the father loves everyone, whether they are sinners or not. And in order for any of us to love like God does, we must prepare to love them in spite of the drawbacks in their personality, the hurts we receive, not just the good things. This can be horrifying!

The great example of a good man suffering is Jesus' cross. The Second Reading puts it this way:

Though he was in the form of God, [he] did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death.

Though God's son was perfectly blameless, he took upon himself the mixed nature of human beings. He showed once and for all the mysterious reason why good people suffer, as he suffered.

Let God make you good.

Discussion Questions

Courtesy of Anne Osdieck, Saint Louis University

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

If we turn away from wickedness we are turning toward God. Spiritual writers call this "conversion." Are we converted just once or do we experience conversion many times in our lifetime?

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5

The reading says "... humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." Who is doing this now where you live?

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Using the idea of "conversion" from above,* discuss the two sons in this reading. Which one needed to change and turn toward his father? Are you presently in need of conversion in any area of your life? What counts more in building community, saying some good words, or actually doing some good deeds? At which one are you better, words or deeds?

