



November 19, 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Nov 23 9:30 am	Thanksgiving Day Mass at St Elizabeth Church
Nov 26 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild meeting
Dec 6 1:00 pm	St Elizabeth Guild meeting
Dec 17	Parish Christmas Dinner
Dec 20 4:00 pm	Finance Committee meeting

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners.

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Jim Riley, Stella Dunne, Margaret McAtee

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	\$1,131.00
November 11-12	2 nd Collection	\$761.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$1,892.00

Monthly Collection Report

	Collection	Online	Total
St Elizabeth	\$7,446.00	\$3,492.00	\$10,938.00
St Catherine	\$3,140.00	\$814.00	\$3,954.00
St Colman	\$1,147.00	\$362.00	\$1,509.00
Monthly Total			\$16,401.00
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

Readings

Prv 31: 10-13. 19-20. 30-31
Ps 128: 1-2. 3. 4-5
1 Thes 5: 1-6
Mt 25: 14-30

Announcements

The Book of Remembrance

We will be praying for our deceased loved ones throughout the month of November. Names will be read from the Book of Remembrance at Saturday and Sunday Masses. If you have loved ones that you would like to remember, please email the names to churchelizabeth@comcast.net, or, drop a list of names, written legibly, in the collection basket at Mass. Please indicate at which church you would like the names to be mentioned.

Thanksgiving Day Mass at St Elizabeth November 23rd at 9:30 am.

Please bring a nonperishable food donation for St Vincent de Paul. Fr. Luis will say a blessing over a food item that you will be serving at your Thanksgiving meal, so please bring something to be blessed.

Parish Christmas Dinner

Save the date! This year's Christmas Dinner will Sunday, December 17th 5pm at the Highland Dell in Monte Rio. Good food and fun to be had by all! More information to follow.

Christmas See's Candy Sale

Our 4th Annual Fundraiser! Please consider purchase of a favorite holiday or family candy tradition. Our list is inserted in the bulletin to accommodate preordering or you can use our online store (with an easy QR code link) to place an order directly. All sales benefit St Elizabeth's parish and our goal is \$2,000. Michele, Sherry, Barbara and Jeannine will be available after Masses beginning the week before Thanksgiving to deliver pre orders, selling available candy or answer questions about our online storefront. Many thanks to those who have already ordered, your early response is appreciated! Questions: email Michele McDonell at mmmcdonell@gmail.com or call/text her at (707) 486-1739.

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 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.

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

The Fear Factor

The Gospel story is pretty simple. A wealthy man assigns his goods to each of three servants to care for while he is gone. He doesn't give them instructions, at least none that we are told of. When he returns, he sees that two of the three servants have invested the money and got back twice the amount.

He is delighted.

So at this point the moral of the story would be: "make the most of what you have."

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).

But if we look at just the successful servants (as does the shortened version of the Gospel in the lectionary!!!), we miss the most interesting part of all. We miss the fascinating and puzzling story of the third servant. This poor soul did not invest the money at all.

He buried it.

Quite simply, he was afraid of what might happen if he committed it and as a result, lost it. Given the owner's attitude, he was right to be afraid.

Having heard the fearful servant's story, the owner then had the man thrown into "the darkness outside," where there would be "wailing and grinding of teeth." Quite an overreaction, it seems. Hadn't the poor servant just wanted to keep the owner's money safe?

But there is much more to it.

The monetary unit "talent" in Jesus' time was not a small amount. Even one talent could be worth more than a laborer would earn in a lifetime. And the owner entrusted a lot more than just money to the servants—he left them all his possessions, everything he had. In fact, the owner took a great risk and he wanted them to do the same, not leave the investment decaying somewhere. That is the story.

Ok, now make the switch. Assume that the parable was about God. Maybe God entrusts an even greater amount to you and me. Life, abilities, the gift of loving, the living breathing human beings around us, and—every so often—real and open acts of unselfish love. God gives all this free of charge, gives to us our lives with all their rewards and catastrophes, and he says to us, dive in. You are my beloved!

This seems wonderful. But then an awful question arises. Does God curse those who are afraid and who bury what they are given? Jesus at least seems to say so.

To everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. (Gospel)

Ouch!

There is one thing I know of that will go away if it is buried, but which gets greater if you use it.

Love.

Think about it. If fear closes the door tightly against love, guess where the unloved one will be: in the darkness outside the door, wailing and gnashing those teeth. Without love.

We are all frightened.

And God always has compassion upon us. God waits for ages to see if we will accept just a bit of the love he offers. And also, if we will even find just enough courage to invest some of it in other people. God is often disappointed and I'm sure he says, "oh no, not again" when we fail.

But this is the disappointment of someone who loves us very well.

The message to you and me? Let love in. See what happens!

