



# February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent

## Upcoming Dates

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

Gn 9: 8-15  
Ps 25: 4-5. 6-7. 8-9  
1 Pt 3: 18-22  
Mk 1: 12-15

## Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

**Who are ill or in pain:**  
Fr. John Boettcher, Doug Hollis

**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](http://stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give)

Collection Period	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$1,432.00
February 10-11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$642.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,074.00

## Announcements

**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.

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

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

## **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**

Greetings, to all!

This is the first Sunday of Lent and If you have attended the Ash Wednesday Mass I talked about the significance of Ash on our forehead. It's an ancient Jewish tradition that is found in the Old Testament books such as Genesis, Daniel and the Book of Esther.

Ash signifies repentance of sin, the belief of our mortality and most of all is the interceding for others redemption.

Ash Wednesday is an invitation for all Catholics to gather and fast and pray as a community of faith, like the Jewish feast of Yom Kippur, the feast of Atonement, the start of the Lenten private devotion of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. As a disciple of Christ, it is important to keep in mind the three practices in

Lent are just for Lenten season but an everyday practice of the disciple of Christ and during Lenten season we intensify these three practices of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

Lenten Season is not just fasting or abstinence but all three of these practices.

We do Lenten season because Jesus spends forty days in the desert to deal with the three temptations that Adam failed at the Garden-of Eden. Jesus was tempted as we hear in our Gospel in the First Sunday of Lent. He was tempted from the sin of pleasure of flesh, the pleasure of coveting and the sin of pride.

And these are the things that every human is being tempted with all the time in our journey of faith. Today as we start our celebration of the season of Lent, I encourage each one of you to take time to reflect and prepare for the coming of Easter and take advantage of the books we have available for you to have a deeper prayer time and reflection of this season.

Peace and blessings  
Fr. Luis

## **Spirituality Of The Readings**

*Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University*

### **What Is Lent?**

Ash Wednesday was a few days ago, starting the Lenten countdown toward Holy Week and Easter. But maybe some of us are not completely clear as to why these weeks of preparation are there in the first place.

One opinion is that Lent is a time to deprive yourself. You give up candy or smoking or desserts or heavy meals or ... well, choose your favorite and then give it up. These are part of Lenten practice.

Lenten deprivation gave birth to Mardi Gras (literally meaning "Fat Tuesday"). In contrast to the toughness of Lent. Mardi Gras, at least in non-covid-19 years, had you eat all the fat you could, parade around in costume, go wild. The public usually does not recall that Mardi Gras has something to do with what is to them a quaint old practice, Lent. But that sharpens the

## **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.

question: what have they or we forgotten about Lent and its practices?

Lent prepares us to witness the reality of our savior.

Well, what if we described Lent as a "Retreat"?

A Retreat is a space of days taken out to pray and to be with the Lord. Often one goes to a retreat house to do these. In St. Louis, for instance, there is a beautiful place called "White House"—different from the one for the president—which has a stunning view of the Mississippi River. For many decades Jesuits have preached retreats there every weekend and sometimes during the week. Sizable groups of men or women stay for two or three days to meditate, listen to talks, and refresh their spiritual lives.

I am not saying that you should disappear to the nearest retreat house for the five weeks of Lent. But what about letting each Lenten day partake of certain retreat practices? For instance, what about setting aside a little time each day to let your insides settle down for a while, to create a space within you to welcome God. Maybe set up a special place in your home or someplace else just to pray. How about a picture or crucifix or maybe a candle? Or just 10 minutes of silence?

And why not use some time to read in advance the gospel from the upcoming Sunday Mass? Sit down, read it slowly, and let the scene described take place within the your heart and mind. This week you could ask Jesus how it felt to have the Spirit drive him into the desert, as described in this week's Gospel.

The point?

Let the Lord's loving deeds be your motivation for "giving up" anything during Lent. Make a gift of gratitude to God—rather than just refraining from something or other. How does any of this prepare you for Holy Week and Easter? By doing exactly what Jesus does when he makes of himself a gift consisting of suffering and death. He is returning a gift of love to the Father. Lent prepares us to witness this reality of our savior.

