



# October 9, 2022

## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Upcoming Dates

Oct 23, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm  
 Nov 2, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm  
 Nov 16, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

### Mass Intentions

**Sat 4pm:** For all parishioners  
**Sun 9:30 am:** Diane Bei. Virgie Helt†  
**Sun 11 am:** Paul and Sheila Juilly [health]

### Readings

2 Kgs 5: 14-17  
 Ps 98: 1. 2-3. 3-4  
 2 Tm 2: 8-13  
 Lk 17: 11-19

### Parish Donations

To make a donation online, scan the QR code.

October 1 - 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$339.00	\$313.00
St. Catherine	\$405.00	\$272.00
St. Colman	\$124.00	\$92.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,545.00

### Pastor's Desk

A major newspaper [The Wall Street journal]. once ran a cartoon that depicted a preacher standing in front of his congregation with the ushers preparing to take up the offering. The preacher says, **"I want to remind you, good people, that the cost of salvation has gone up too."**

Indeed, the "cost of salvation" has gone up in a material, institutional sense. The cost of maintenance, services, materials, and everything it takes to keep this congregation going has gone up. We do what we must in this regard, and it's not unimportant. But when we are all finished with the details and mechanics of organized religion -- when we have sifted it all down through the last bit and only the pure gold remains, it is just a question of whether we have compassion. That is what makes the difference. When people mention your name and an immediate image is conjured up, do they think "compassion"?

Do you come across as that kind of person? This is the way it should be with the followers of Christ. Whatever else they

think about you -- whatever talents, or gifts you may or may not have, are you a person of compassion? When we talk about having compassion, we are not talking about some abstraction that sounds sweet and sentimental. We are talking about something at the very heart of our daily existence -- the way we live.

The amount you put in the collection basket can be a measure of your gratitude for life and all its blessings -- one way of saying, **"Thank you, Lord!" But what matters is the level of sincerity behind your gift.** Unfortunately, when it comes time to sincerely thank God for the experience of His caring, loving, healing presence in our lives, many of us often seem ready to change the subject -- as Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel Lesson.

As Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem along the border between Samaria and Galilee, ten lepers come to meet Him. They call out to Him: "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!" (Luke 17:13). Jesus responds by curing all ten, but only one -- a Samaritan -- finds time to thank Him. Jesus asks, "The other nine, where are they? It seems no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner" (Luke 17:18). Then, turning to the grateful Samaritan, He says, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you" (Luke 17:19). **Where, indeed, were "the other nine?" Would you believe they'd gone to Church?**

First, God gives us the gift of compassion by giving us a new appreciation of ourselves. Modern psychiatry has performed a great service by reminding us that we must accept and love ourselves in a creative, affirmative way before we can love anybody else. We need to have a mature love for ourselves that allows us to value our uniqueness and respect our integrity as individuals. Without it, we end up taking life from others -- draining their energy and vitality and making unreasonable demands on them.

The second thing about God's gift of compassion is that it gives us a new appreciation of others. There are few people, it seems, who have a natural gift of sensitivity for others. Some do. But most of us need to work at this. We need to work at being truly sensitive to other people. We need to work at being able to rejoice when we see other persons coming into their selfhood. We need to work at not being threatened by people who do not conform precisely to what we think they should be. We need to work at being able to really listen to the other person and to really see the other person. Compassion is a gift from God that many of us haven't accepted yet, down in the

depths of our being. Too often, we either take each other for granted or we take advantage of each other. Did you really see the people you greeted on your way here today? Or did you merely see a few hands to be shaken? Do you see the friendly neighbor across the street as a real live person with feelings, responsibilities, and aspirations, or do you see him merely as the owner of a ladder you can borrow from time to time? Do you see that unbearable person you work with as a brother whose very unpleasantness may be his way of saying, "Something is wrong in my life; for God's sake, help me"? Or do you see him merely as an object to be avoided at all costs? We must consider these questions seriously, especially regarding our close relationships: husband and wife, parent, and child. For most of you, that is where it all begins.

Jesus has spoken to us today about those others. He cured ten lepers. Nine were fellow Jews. The tenth was one of those "others"-- a Samaritan, an outcast. But Jesus didn't see it that way. He didn't cure just nine. He cured the ten who cried out, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" You can almost hear a voice from the crowd gathered around the group saying, "Look. Do you see what I see? He is going to cure one of those others!" Jesus' compassion cannot be contained by the artificial barriers we use to create categories of persons we call "those others." At the very end, there is only one question: "Do we have compassion fatigue -- or genuine compassion?"

Peace and blessings!  
 Fr. Luis

*P.S. Last Tuesday was the feast of St. Francis and I did the blessings of the animals at St. Coleman outdoor church. I was going to mention it last Sunday to bring your pets this Sunday and I will bless them after Sunday mass.*

*So, can we do it next Sunday if and only if we are at the outdoor church, I'm not sure how the weather will be by next Sunday. It would be wonderful to have that tradition every year and eventually extend it to the community. WHAT DO YOU THINK?*

### Announcements

#### **St. Phillip's Catholic Church - Women's Retreat**

St. Phillip's Catholic Church in Occidental is having a women's retreat on October 21. They're inviting us to join them at 9am for mass then a speaker and reflection until noon. If you would like to attend but need a ride, call MaryAnne at 707 869-0323.

#### **Sign up to host Hospitality**

We are inviting families to sign up for Hospitality. To prepare and pick up the donuts and coffee at Safeway for our fellowship after the 9:30 am mass. The items are already paid for. It gives family a chance to participate and know our community and it gives us chance to get to know your family.

#### **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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577) to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

### 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

#### **First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17**

1. Naaman was expecting special and involved treatment, though his directions from Elisha were simply to wash in the river. How could this be sufficient to cure his illness? Which do you think God uses more often to communicate with you, extraordinary signs or ordinary ones? Explain.

2. Have you ever brought sand, shells, rocks, anything else from foreign places back to your home? What does Naaman's taking holy ground back to Syria say to you? Where is your holy ground?

#### **Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

1. What saints would you say have suffered for the gospel? Who suffers for the gospel today? Do you? in what ways?

2. Paul says, "I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus." How would this work? Is Paul saying that your suffering is linked to the salvation of others? Has your faith been affected by the cloud of witnesses who surround you and those who have gone before you?

#### **Gospel: Luke 17:11-19**

1. This Sunday we see foreigners who were grateful: the Syrian blind man, and in the First Reading the foreigner, Naaman. Does God offer generous love regardless of a person's origins or accomplishments? Do you give of yourself or your goods when there is ingratitude? Do you take note when God pours grace into your life? Are you grateful?

2. According to Pope Francis, what is a most important message Jesus gives us in his healing of the ten lepers? Is there any little thing that you can do to heal someone else's wounds?

*I urge you ... to see the Lord in every excluded person who is hungry, thirsty, naked; to see the Lord present even in those who have lost their faith, or have turned away from the practice of their faith, or say that they are atheists; to see the Lord who is imprisoned, sick, unemployed, persecuted; to see the Lord in the leper—whether in body or soul—who encounters discrimination! We will not find the Lord unless we truly accept the marginalized!*

*Pope Francis, Holy Mass with the New Cardinals  
 February 15, 2015*

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

\* of February, May, August and November

