



February 12, 2023

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm
 Feb 18, Annual Crab Feed 4pm
 Feb 26, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
 Mar 1, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm

Mass Intentions

Sat 4pm: Joan Brown† requested by Michele McDonell
Sun 9:30 am: Joan Brown† requested by Michele McDonell
Sun 11 am: For all parishioners

Readings

Sir 15: 15-20
 Ps 119: 1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34 (1b)
 1 Cor 2: 6-10
 Mt 5: 17-37

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Miranda Muniz, Harry Vogl

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Joan Brown

Parish Donations

You can easily donate online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the bulletin or by visiting stelizabeth.churchtrac.com/give

February 4-5	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$1,399.00	\$533.00
St. Catherine	\$300.00	\$105.00
St. Colman		
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,337.00

Pastor's Desk

Everyone had a wonderful time last Sunday as Bishop Vasa celebrated mass with us. Thank you for those who showed up and had a chance to meet and welcome the bishop during the reception. Check my Facebook or the church Facebook to look at the pictures.

Thanks to the Guilds, Francine, Jean and MaryAnn, for the reception snacks. For Carlos who was the acolyte

during the mass, for Paxton and Tatum who were the Mitre and Staff bearer for the bishop. For our Lector, Susan Poirier, for Larry our sacristan, for our cantor, Zenia, our pianist, Leilani and all those who supported us during the bishop visit.

In our Sunday Gospel Jesus invites his followers and all of us today to rethink our relationship with obedience to the law. So often, the focus rests upon the specifics of what we can or cannot do: the law itself.

What would our faith look like if your focus was truly on the motivation behind the rules and laws rather than the law itself?

In Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus paints a picture of lives lived without the sins of anger and lust. To be clear, Jesus does not imagine a superhuman life without any emotion or temptation; instead, he describes how disciples are called to defuse anger and pursue reconciliation in our broken relationships. Scripture scholar Barbara Reid writes, "killing another person is the epitome of broken relationships." Thus, when a relationship is beyond repair, broken rather than bent or damaged, our anger is prone to be out of control and therefor damaging----not just to the other person but to ourselves, God, and the entire Body of Christ, to which we belong. Consider the spaces, privately and publicly, in which anger is typically expressed.

Whether expressed in a rant or text to a friend or a post on social media. Anger is both a symptom and a root cause of damaged relationships.

Psychological studies actually show that the more emotional attention we dedicate to something [such as a rant to a friend], the more acute and powerful the emotion we experience. Venting our anger, therefore, leads to more anger. Christ challenges his followers to exercise detachment and healthy boundaries so that emotion do not control them and cause more harm.

Obedience to God or neighbor comes out of right relationship. If anger or lust comes about and overwhelms, that is a sign to examine our relationships and motivations. Obedience is not simply following a list of rules out of obligation; it springs forth from love, trust, and faithful relationship with another.

Peace and blessings!

Fr. Luis

P.S. Just a reminder: the Crab Feed fundraiser is next weekend, don't miss out!

Announcements

Crab Feed 2023!

February 18th 4:00-7:00 pm at St Hubert's Hall, tickets \$75.00.

It's that time of year! I cannot believe this is our 4th year for the crab feed, we're here to stay!! If you'd like to join us, please let me know as seating is limited. Checks can be mailed to the rectory, given to me at Mass or brought the day of the crab feed.

There will be the usual donation bar and some great raffle prizes. Email or text me if your interested. I am also looking for underwriters to help with the cost of the "feed" this year. Prices have risen and underwriters would be welcome.

Some have asked and yes, *I will be wearing the crab pants!* Thank you for all the support you have all shown in the past, it is so appreciated!

Sincerely, Linda
 (707) 953-9166 cocomokidd@aol.com

Discussion Questions

Courtesy of Anne Osdieck, St. Louis University

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

1. Which do you choose, life or death? Good or evil? Do you always know which is which? When you don't know for sure do you trust in God and go with your best guess? Why did God give us free choice?

2. "But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven," Do you think people like Dorothy Day, Archbishop Romero, Daniel Berrigan will be called "greatest"? What were they teaching us?

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.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

1. Discuss a beautiful scene in nature that you like. Or your favorite painting, or your most preferred music. Take your time. Now read from the Second Reading what St. Paul tells us God has prepared for those who love him. Can you sense something of what that will be?

2. How is it that the Spirit can scrutinize the depths of God? Is that same Spirit present in you? Can remembering that calm you down? Make you act on an inspiration? Do you think people like Romero, Berrigan, Gandhi and Martin Luther King were acting on their inspirations from the Spirit?

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

1. Jesus is critical of the Pharisees' type of righteousness, which focuses on externals. They make sure everyone sees when they fast, pray on street corners, wash hands, etc. How do these things relate to the inner Spirit of the law? How do they relate to loving God and neighbor?

2. According to Pope Francis, how does accepting the spirit of the law, not just the letter, lead to personal freedom?

Jesus wants his followers to move from a formal observance of God's commands to an interior acceptance of them. ...

He encourages passing from a formal observance of the law to a substantial observance, welcoming the law in one's heart, which is the center of the intentions, decisions, words and gestures of each one of us. Good actions and evil ones start in the heart. ...

Accepting the law of God in your heart, you understand that when you do not love your neighbor then to some degree you kill yourself and others because hatred, rivalry and division kill the fraternal charity that is at the basis of interpersonal relationships. ...

Jesus knows that it is not easy to live the commandments in this all-embracing way. He came into the world not only to fulfill the law, but also to give us his grace so that we can do the will of God by loving him and our brothers and sisters."

*God's commandments lead to freedom
 Angelus Address
 Feb 18, 2020*

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

