



April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Upcoming Dates

Apr 26 12:30 pm	Golf Tournament at Northwood
Apr 28 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild Meeting
May 5 10:30 am	Fr. Luis's 25th Anniversary of Ordination
May 15 4:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting

Mass Intentions

Sunday 9:30 am
Nicolas Detweiler†
requested by Mary Theresa Marsh

Julie Stamalia and granddaughter Maia
for blessings and good health
requested by Mary Theresa Marsh

Readings

Acts 4: 8-12
Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)
1 Jn 3: 1-2
Jn 10: 11-18

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	\$774.00
April 13-14	2 nd Collection	\$668.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$0.00

Announcements

Golf Tournament at Northwood

We are excited to announce the 5th year of our golf tournament! A great time is always guaranteed, just ask anyone who has attended in the past. You don't have to be a golfer; you can come join us after golf for dinner at Northwood Restaurant.

Date: Friday April 26th
Place: Northwood Golf Course and Restaurant

Sign in at 12:30pm.
Shotgun start at 2:00pm.
Dinner at 6:00pm.

Price: \$180.00 for green fee, golf cart and dinner or \$75.00 for dinner only.
Sponsorships: \$200.00

For info or reservations contact Linda Payne (707) 953-9166
cocomokidd@aol.com

Visit
<https://rchurches.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/MacKenzieClassic2024/tabid/1426478/Default.aspx>

25th Anniversary of Fr. Luis's Ordination to the Priesthood

Come enjoy brunch to celebrate with Fr. Luis on May 5th at St Hubert Hall after the 9:30 am Mass. There will be no Mass at St Colman that day so Fr. Luis won't have to race off after the 9:30 am Mass. There is no charge for brunch so please everyone come and celebrate with Fr. Luis! Please call Denise at 707 869-1553 or Francine 707 869-9341 for a reservation. We need you to call so we have an accurate count.

Annual Ministry Appeal 2024

The work of the *Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA)* is at heart your work, the work to which you are oriented by your Baptism: the service of God through service of your brothers and sisters in Christ. By making a gift to the *Annual Ministry Appeal, One Family in Mission*, you are able to touch souls and change lives throughout our diocese. Thank you to all who have already pledged, moving us closer to our goal as a parish community. Every gift is sincerely appreciated!

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

Is Greed a Virtue?

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus compares the good shepherd to a mere hired hand. The hired one cares about his salary and maybe when he gets off work. A good shepherd cares about his sheep.

There is nothing wrong with working for hire and doing your job even if you do not like it. I imagine that a lot of us are like that about our jobs, out of necessity.

Look at it this way.* Imagine that there are "handles" on things, poetically speaking. Everything I own—honors that come to me, possessions, etc.—all of this has "handles" that someone could grab in order to wrestle it away. Home, car, looks, reputation, career, money saved up for the children's education, respect from others, pleasure, youth, you name it.

We grab the handles tight. We want to keep what we have.

Who can blame us? But an ominous power comes into play at that point. The forces of greed and evil tell our hearts that everything in the whole world is there just to be grabbed for myself and kept. "*Greed is a virtue*," these forces say, in fact it is the only true virtue.

But there is an alternate way of life. It has to do with love, the kind of love that the good shepherd shows us. It says, "the real value in life is to receive, not to grab and possess." All that you have and all that you are is a gift from God. You can open your hands and let God pour into them whatever you really need. And if you keep your hands open, you can easily let what you have pass on to others, those who are without.

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.

Two ways of life, then: on one side, "Grab and Keep." On the other, "Receive and Let Go." The hired hand says the first, the good shepherd the second.

Do you understand, thus far? Good, because the story continues.

There comes an epic battle between these two ways of life. It is waged on the cross. Evil applies its weapons: it seizes and tears away from Jesus everything with "handles" on it—friends, followers, career, respect, relation to God, ordinary comfort, slaking of thirst, the ability to breathe, and then life itself.

It takes everything. Evil wins.

Except ...

... there is a fatal flaw in the grab-and-keep philosophy. Since this viewpoint thinks that everything whatsoever has handles on it, there is an important reality that it cannot recognize at all.

Love.

Love lets go, receiving humbly, giving humbly. The devil has no way to perceive love since there are no handles on unselfishness. The devil has to misinterpret what he sees, as just another form of self-interest.

So he burrows down to the innermost sanctum of Jesus' soul, greedy to seize the ultimate prize itself, the reality of God. Salivating for it, ravenous, unable to hold back, he throws open the tabernacle doors of Jesus' soul.

He finds that this sacred space is empty. Completely empty! Present are the quiet stillness of receiving gratefully and lightly letting go, but they are without handles. The devil gives up and goes on his way, confident that everything is now his.

But it isn't.

Love wins because it has given everything away.

Shall we try it this Easter season?

With help from the Good Shepherd?

** I learned this simple poetic explanation from Rosemary Haughton. It helped me understand the*

contrast. This is one of my favorite insights so I have tried to boil it down and present it to you in this whole reflection. I make no promises about whether I succeeded. Haughton's book is The Passionate God (New York: Paulist Press, 1981), especially pp. 112 ff.

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

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



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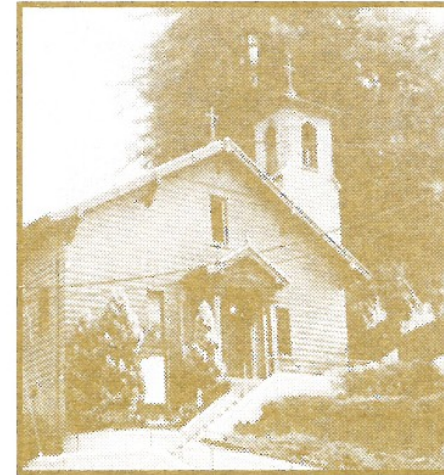
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St. Elizabeth, Guerneville

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Tue - Fri, 9:00 a.m.
 Outdoor church July 4th weekend through Labor Day weekend.

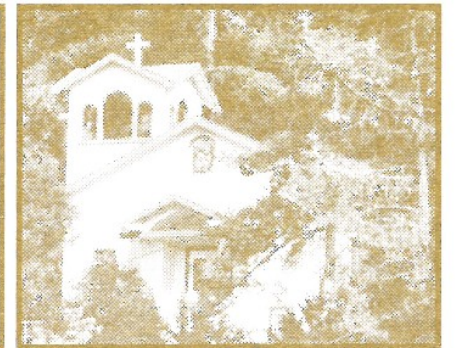


St. Colman, Cazadero

Mass Schedule
 Sunday 11:00 a.m.
 Outdoor church
 Memorial Day through Labor Day

St. Catherine of Siena, Monte Rio

Mass Schedule
 Saturday 4:00 p.m.



WELCOME to the communities of St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine of Siena & St. Colman! If you would like to become a member of one of our churches, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket or mail to St. Elizabeth, 14095 Woodland Drive, Guerneville, CA 95446. Email: churchelizabeth@comcast.net
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