



February 25, 2024 Second Sunday of Lent

Upcoming Dates

Feb 25 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild Meeting
Mar 16	St Elizabeth Retreat
May 15 4:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting

Mass Intentions

Sunday 9:30 am Bernadette Gersh†
requested by Mary Helt

Josh Lewis [special intention]
requested by Mary Helt

Readings

Gn 22: 1-2. 9a. 10-13. 15-18
Ps 116: 10. 15. 16-17. 18-19
Rom 8: 31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

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

Collection Period	1 st Collection	\$1,118.00
February 17-18	2 nd Collection	\$465.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$1,583.00

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

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

St. Vincent High School

St. Vincent high school is open and plans on being open for another 100+ years under a new Independent School Board. Contact the admissions office and join the rush of public school transfers. (Kerry Pedersen - kpetersen@svhs-pet.org).

Want more information on the importance of a Catholic School education visit www.srdiocese.org/catholic-schools AND support St. Vincent high by contacting their development office (Gina Jacquez - gjacquez@svhs-pet.org), you can also support them through their Go Fund Me to help the current St. Vincent de Paul parish administration by donating at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-st-vincent-de-paul-high-school>.

Summer Youth & Young Adults

June 23rd - 29th Summer 2024: Eureka Mission Trip, Little Flowers Girls Camp, and other Youth Summer retreats, camps, conferences registration will open after Easter. For more info email Stephen Morris dsryouth@srdiocese.org

Pastor's Desk

What an amazing turn out for our "Crustacean Sensation" event last Saturday. I was surprised to see the Hall full of people enjoying their crab and celebrating the festivity, but most of all is seeing summer parishioners and other people that I never seen before. Thank you for all who have participated and assisted to make this fund raising a success.

In our Second Sunday of Lent, we have the story of Abraham sacrificing his son on Mount Moriah and the gospel reading is the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor.

This Sunday we are the inheritors of these surprises. God did not just act then on those holy mountains. This same God calls us to the trust of Abraham and the glory of the transfiguration.

But unlike Abraham, knife raised, or Peter, James and John, Baffled and terrified, we know how the story ends. God's own Son will be sacrificed on another holy mountain, and this will become the path of both his glory and ours.

Like Abraham, Jesus and the apostles, we must first travel the way. We cannot skip the intermediate steps, avoiding our Calvary or Mt. Moriah, nor can we remain always on Mt. Tabor in the safety of our tents. We are called to obey the God that made us, not the God we create in our imaginations. We are called to walk through our desert times, all the while believing in life. We are asked to go beyond the boundaries we have established, to risk all in order to be saved, to love those who seem unlovable, to do the works of God in the world and find in the end that we have followed the path to glory.

This is our active pursuit of a God not made in our own image and likeness.

Peace and blessings!

Fr. Luis

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, Saint Louis University

Light from Light

I have told you this story before, probably, but it bears on Sunday's Lenten readings.

The incident occurred a long time ago, just before I was ordained. For some reason—why I cannot remember—I had been chosen to give the Easter Vigil homily at the hugely packed College Church at Saint Louis University.

There was a complication, of course. I was scheduled to be on my ordination retreat at the very same time.

No problem. I rode in with four other Jesuits from the retreat place, way out in the countryside, into the city, into 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.

church, into the sacristy, into an alb and stole, and out to the altar. Needless to say I was very nervous, since I had only given a few homilies before in my whole life.

It happened that a huge thunderstorm had struck just the night before. I had watched it through the high plate glass doors of the retreat house. If you are tired of rain or snow all over this country, you may no longer see what used to be the beauty of our rain storms. Dark rain pouring down, unexpected volcanic lightning flashes, blistering forth in naked power. Every single smallest detail of the landscape visible for seconds, as if twenty thousand florescent lights had suddenly flashed on and then off again.

This tremendous power dwarfed me.

It reminded me of what God had told the prophet: "Do not look at me directly as I pass by; the sight is too much for your eyes" (Ex 33:20). In other words, we are too small for such brilliance.

I found a much more humane version of light at Easter Vigil. The Easter Candle of course was lighted from the fire at the back, and the large assembly lit their small tapers gradually from its flames.

Since I was in the sanctuary I could witness for the first time this soft light spreading forth from countless miniature candles, combining the crowd into a gentle oneness, a hearth of human faces, wrinkles forgiven. Comforting glow made each face a vessel which held deep inside itself the quiet being of the person and of the Lord.

Such a contrast: thunderous power, followed so quickly by warmth, love, small light. It enacted the true contrast between God's transcendent greatness—too much for human eyes—and Jesus' quiet love. Jesus absolved wrinkles and crippled legs and unseeing eyes. He is our glimpse of the awe-filled intensity of God-the-infinite, but through our tiny, finite eyes. Jesus is God and also one of us. He is lightning turned into candle glow.

Alright, you say, that is very interesting, but what about Lent and this week's Gospel? Well, in his transfiguration, Jesus, who was quiet light, reversed himself and showed up as God the infinite fire. My mere encounter with lightning was nothing compared to this.

Why such a transformation?

One appealing speculation would be that at the very center of each bolt of lightning is the same stuff that gently caresses our faulty faces and makes them glow.

God does not extinguish his own light. But he can filter it and offer it to anyone who will look.

