



November 5, 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Nov 12	Priest Appreciation Day
Nov 15 4:00 pm	Finance Committee meeting
Nov 26 12:00 pm	St Colman Guild meeting
Dec 6 1:00 pm	St Elizabeth Guild meeting

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners.

Readings

Mal 1: 14b 2: 2b. 8-10
Ps 131: 1. 2. 3
1 Thes 2: 7b-9. 13
Mt 23: 1-12

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Bill Aguirre, Rhonda Hallum, Barbara Stephens, Yvonne Spencer, Mike Barry

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	\$1,996.00
October 28-29	2 nd Collection	\$755.00
	<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$2,751.00

Announcements

The Book of Remembrance

We will be praying for our deceased loved ones throughout the month of November. Names will be read from the Book of Remembrance at Saturday and Sunday Masses. If you have loved ones that you would like to remember, please email the names to churchelizabeth@comcast.net, or, drop a list of names, written legibly, in the collection basket at Mass. Please indicate at which church you would like the names to be mentioned.

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

Priest Appreciation Day

Sunday, November 12 is Priest Appreciation Day. The Santa Rosa Diocese' Family Support Network encourages you to celebrate and honor those "In Persona Christi". Some ways you can show your appreciation are cards, flowers, favorite treats, Novena Prayers, dinners at your home, gift cards, arrive early for Mass, volunteer for needs around the parish. We are especially appreciative of Fr Luis' fortitude in putting up with the lengthy rectory repair, and his needing to be re-housed to various locations this year!

A GriefShare Event: Surviving the Holidays

November 18, 2023, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Santa Rosa. Please join us for the parish workshop, Surviving the Holidays, a program from GriefShare. Father Ron will open the workshop, God will provide the Scripture basis for our discussions, and light refreshments and fellowship will offer you welcome and compassion. For more information or to register to attend this free event visit www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/48739

Christmas See's Candy Sale

Our 4th Annual Fundraiser! Please consider purchase of a favorite holiday or family candy tradition. Our list is inserted in the bulletin to accommodate preordering or you can use our online store (with an easy QR code link) to place an order directly. All sales benefit St Elizabeth's parish and our goal is \$2,000. Michele, Sherry, Barbara and Jeannine will be available after Masses beginning the week before Thanksgiving to deliver pre orders, selling available candy or answer questions about our online storefront. Many thanks to those who have already ordered, your early response is appreciated! Questions: email Michele McDonnell at mmmcdonell@gmail.com or call/text her at (707) 486-1739.

Capital Campaign

The renovation of our Parish rectory and its foundation repair has been progressing for the past few months. It is our hope that this beautiful building, which has been part of our Parish and community history for over a century, will regain some of its former luster. As we repair it, not only structurally, but also visually, with new bathrooms, flooring, some new windows and paint, we hope to restore it and add the safety needed to carry this lovely Parish home into the next 100 years. It is not difficult to realize that the upkeep and maintenance of our Churches, Hall and Rectory is an expense. Large projects can

not be paid for by weekly collections alone. Therefore, the Finance Committee and the Parish Council, along with Fr. Luis, have decided to embark upon a Capital Campaign to replace our savings which is being spent on this renovation. We are asking our Parishioners to consider an investment in our Parish by digging deep in their pockets and making a pledge to help us pay for this work. Please look for the pledge cards to assist you in making a pledge. Once you have completed your pledge card, please drop it in the collection basket or, turn it in to any council member. This will enable us as a church community, to know what financial support we can expect over the next few years. We are confident in your love for our Parish, your devotion to our community, and the passion of your faith.

If you need assistance with your pledge or donation toward the Capital Campaign, please call Chris Kollaja at 415-308-6768 or email at ckollaja@gmail.com.

Temporary Church Office Phone Number

Until our church office at the rectory is restored, the temporary office phone number is (707) 486-8645.

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 McDonnell, Chris Kollaja, Mary Helt and Martha "Martie" 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

Humble Contradictions

Jesus faces us with a highly controversial statement this Sunday and then he makes a remark which seems completely contradictory. But it all boils down to humility.

Do I have your attention?

First the controversy. "Call no one on earth your father. You have but one Father in heaven" (Gospel). What can this mean? In another chapter, Matthew 6:9, he teaches us to say precisely "Our Father, who art in heaven...": Are we now supposed to

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 (707) 486-8645 (temporary office phone number).

cease using this very name that Jesus taught us? It is the way we address our dad (or, less formally, daddy, pa, pop, papa, and in Ireland, da, etc.). Also, the normal address for a priest is "Father." Some take scandal at using this title because of the present Gospel passage.

Let's look at it.

"You have but one Father in heaven." This is profoundly accurate. Next to God's beautiful, tender parental love (Second Reading), you and I, as father or mother or priest, are just pale imitations. Who do we think we are?

But there is another meaning. Suppose we are not meant to compete with God's love but to share it and be vessels from which it is poured. Could we not be called "father" just because we humbly accept the outflow of God's own fatherhood and motherhood, which he wants to share with us? In this understanding, it all depends on our attitude.

Why didn't Jesus just say it this way? Well, maybe he was using what we in English have called hyperbole*, or exaggeration. As a speaker he had to use not only a very loud voice but also strong emphasis, in order to reach the "crowds and ... his disciples" to whom he was preaching.

Second, the contradiction. Jesus says, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12). What kind of sense does this make? If I humble myself, I should end up being humble, not exalted. If I exalt myself the result would seem to be, quite simply, that I am exalted and not humble. Our Gospel reverses this logic and presents instead an enigma.

Agreed. But again there is a way to understand. Suppose you have a water-glass that you fill with concrete, and let it harden. Are you now able to pour water into it? Certainly not. Same thing for your soul. If it is filled already, then not much else can go in. Maybe you do perform all your works in order to be seen. Maybe you do want the places of honor. Maybe you are very fond of being greeted in "the marketplace." These are not such bad or evil desires, but, like the concrete, they can harden into a way of life that has no room left for the cooling spring-water of God's presence.

But if we humble ourselves instead, refusing to build our life out of honor and praise, then there is room. God can "exalt" us by entering humbly into our deepest soul.

What am I talking about? Look at Sunday's Responsorial Psalm. It is only three lines long but its mild words describe what it is like to be "exalted" by God. We become "like a weaned child on its mother's lap." Why not open your bible and take time with this beautiful psalm.

The answer to the puzzle we started with and the contradiction? That riches, honor and pride fill up our souls. Weaned humility lets us be where we belong: open to receive.

