

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tue.- Fri. 9am - 1pm

The Church is open daily 7:30am – 7pm

September 27, 2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



THE PARABLE OF THE BETTER SON.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Diaz #4

Office Manager: Chris Giacometti: #1

Mass times: #2

Youth Faith Formation: Jennifer Bedoka #3

Executive Board: Tony Madia/Chairperson,
Linda Biondini/Vice Chairperson, Katie Chase,
Larry Ruminson, Diane Colbrook

Floral Decorations: Cesira Rantissi Heric
(707)338-3959

Sacraments and Devotions

Reconciliation: Sundays: 9:45-10:15am,
Thu 1-1:30pm

Marriage: One year notice to the pastor.

Infant Baptism: 1 month notice. The next
preparation session TBA

Anointing of the Sick: Please call Fr. Tom.
Usually, it is celebrated after 10:30 Sunday Mass

The Rosary: ½ hr. before weekday Masses.

Divine Chaplet: Tuesdays after the 12:15 Mass

Exposition & Benediction: Thu. 12:45-1:45pm.

Adult Initiation Sessions: Starting Oct. 14th 6pm

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Sat/Sep 26	4pm	+Cristina Gandola
Sun/Sep 27	8:30am	Ints. for Members of SVDP
	10:30am	People of the Parish
Tue/Sep 29	12:15pm	+Katherine Convoy
Wed/Sep 30	5pm	+Loring Moi
Thu/Oct 1	12:15pm	Special Intention
Fri/Oct 2	8:15am	+Richard Capuchino
Sat/Oct 3	4pm	+Abel Sagon
Sun/Oct 4	8:30am	Ints of Jennifer Bedoka
	10:30am	People of the Parish

Stewardship for September 19th & 20th

Plate: \$3,911.88 We have not been this low in our collection in over a year but thank you. **2nd Collection for Seminarians** \$2,130. Our seminarians thank you.

Events of the Parish

Sun/Sep/27 10:30am Children's Liturgy of the Word

Wed/Sep/30 Noon Potluck Luncheon

Fri/Oct/2 4:30pm Social Justice Mtg/CI

Sun/Oct4 1pm Blessing of Animals /Plaza

Last Sunday's Homily Highlights

- God is very generous with His mercy.
- We should show mercy as Jesus did.
- God's ways are not our ways.
- Our wisdom is a joke to God.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Reading I: Ezekiel 18:25-28 **Reading II:** Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Sunday Reflection

Motivation Sometimes God appeals to people's self-interest to get them to do what is right. Many of us need it, so that, through self-interest, we can overcome our self-interest.

We are shown this in the First Reading, where we find a straight-out argument between the people and God. They claim that "The Lord's way is not fair!"

They quote the famous saying, "The parents eat sour grapes, but the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ez 18:2). Apparently, their argument is that sin belongs to their fathers or mothers, not to them.

So, God is punishing unjustly. God's reply in this reading is as follows: The house of Israel says, 'The Lord's way is not fair!' Is it my way that is not fair, house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

Then he shows them that punishment comes to those who actually commit an iniquity, not to those who just happen to be born of sinful parents. It is your own actions that matter. If you sin, it is fair that I punish you. If you do virtue, it is fair that I give you life.

Jesus' parable in the Gospel takes it one step further. There we hear about a man whose father asks him to go work in the vineyard. The man says, rudely, "I will not." Surely, he would be counted as one of the sinful people described above. Or maybe he just had a headache, or was not a morning person, or whatever.

But when his father leaves the house he changes his mind and goes out to work hard on the vines. He has a brother. This one says in effect, "Yes, of course I will go out and do your will!" Isn't this exactly what God had been telling the people in the First Reading?

I am sure the father in the present parable was pleased, especially after the rude reply he had gotten from his first son. Of course, as we know, this brother changed his mind and did not bother to go at all.

This second brother's selfish interests were served by saying "yes, yes" to his father. It made him look good. But he did not trouble himself to actually do what he had promised. Self-interest did not get him to do good, but only to seem to do good.

So finally, God decided to show us motivation that cannot be reduced to self-interest. If we want motivation, as well as encouragement, solace in love,

participation in the Spirit, compassion, and mercy.

St. Paul says to look at what Christ did (Second Reading). Then you will not act out of selfishness, but will serve others humbly, as Christ did. This is the ultimate motivation in Christianity.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus. Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this God greatly exalted him.

Self-interested motives are not the only ones. Just look at Christ—when you are at prayer and at Mass—and let him form you in humility.

Let God make you good. John Foley, S.J.

Discussion Question: When we turn away from wickedness we are turning toward God. Spiritual writers call this “conversion.” Are we converted just once or do we experience conversion many times in our lifetime?

Sunday Family Connection

The example Jesus poses in today’s Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus’ story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today’s Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist’s message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is *conversion*. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words.

Please Pray this week for: Joe Arigoni, Bibi Ballesteros, Giselle Ballion, Sarah Bardoni, Catherine Delara, Diva & Gaba Delara, Giovanna DeSimone, John Diaz, Marcella Dorado, Maryann Eger, Marcus Esplada, Jim Estrella, Rosita Faltado, Amanda Fernandez, Janet Fenstermacher, Kathy & Cedric Fontana, Carl Hilton, Nancy and James Keegan, Sue Kennedy, Trinidad Legasti, Frank Manhoso, Ruth McAllister, **Judith Miller**, Joseph Patrick, Mary Piccioni, Vivian Pruett, Emi Jade Przyborowski, Linda Sime, Cecilia Tarrant, Diane Thrailkill, Beverly Thomey, Jim Turegano, Tiffany Valentine, Kenneth Wagdy, and Steve Werle.

To put a name on the list, please call the office.

Please pray for the soul of Tom Randazzo. Keep his family in your prayers.

Quote of the Week



“The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother”

Saint Therese of Lisieux

Our workshop for September has been postponed and hope we can bring a workshop in the future. If you would like to support our youth, please reach out to faith formation and find ways you can serve them.

Faith Formation Schedule

Sun., September 27th

9:30am 1st Year Confirmation/CL

5pm 2nd Year Confirmation Level 2/CL

Wed., September 30th

3:30pm First Communion Level 1/CL

3:30pm First Communion Level 2/CL

Sun., October 4th

9:30am 1st Year Confirmation/CL

5pm 2nd Year Confirmation Level 2/CL

Tues., October 13th CGS

3:30pm Level 1 Ages 3-6 3:30-5pm/ L1 Atrium

All Parents, Catechists and Aides, please check your emails regarding Signup Genius.

Reminder to bring your mass cards to mass and get them stamped.

Volunteer Opportunities please sign up using the link below: Stamp Mass Cards,

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AA5AF2AA0F9C52-65333187-20262027>

Assist Wednesday evenings from 3:15pm-5pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AA5AF2AA0F9C52-65333056-20262027>

DID YOUR CHILD RECEIVE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION AND YOU WANT THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR FAITH?

We need parishioners who want to help grow the faith of our youth to help in class or have ideas to spread the “Good News”. Let us know your ideas!

Questions? Email sesreled@gmail.com

or text 707-888-9672



Please join us for our monthly potluck. We will gather Wed, at noon in the hall. Please bring either a main dish or a dessert to share.

Looking forward to seeing you on Wed.

Jo, Larry and Linda

Ministerio Hispano We would like to invite you to be part of our Hispanic Ministry where we can all brainstorm, plan, and share our traditions. We meet every third Sunday after 10:30 am Mass.



¡Te invitamos a ser parte del ministerio hispano! Acompañanos a decidir, planear y compartir nuestras tradiciones. Nuestras juntas son cada tercer domingo del mes después de misa de 10:30 am.

Pastor's Corner

We will be putting out envelopes beginning next weekend for those that want to use them for the regular collection and for 2nd collections. Below is a miniature cover of a collection envelope for those who do not have them sent to them from Our Sunday Visitor.

Grab one before you go into the church next weekend to put your offering in it if you want a record for the IRS from the church. You can use your old number from our old collection envelope company. If you do not have a number, we will give you one if you contact the office this week. Only take an envelope(s) weekly if you plan on using them.

The 2nd collections and special collections for October will be on the bulletin board.

Envelope Number

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Monetary Gift

*"How can I give back to the Lord
for all the good He has done for me."*

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

I want to thank Marie Freitas for the floral arrangements last week and Linda Biondini for the arrangements this week for the sanctuary. If you have flowers you want to donate please call Cesira whose name and number are on the front cover of the bulletin

We are in need of ushers to assist in taking up the collections. If you can help let the office know this week. You must be 18 years old.

Sunday, Oct. 4th is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. I will be blessing animals from 1-1:20 pm. in the plaza.

A Prayer for Pets
Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.



You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless our pets. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)
Known to us as the Welcoming Church, is important because it is the Catholic Church's official, holistic process for welcoming and forming adults who wish to become Catholic or deepen their Catholic faith. It is more than a class or ceremony — it is a **journey of conversion, prayer, learning, and community** that prepares people to live fully as Catholics.

The Welcoming Church integrates three "pillars" of Catholic identity:

- **Prayer** - developing a personal prayer life and participating in the liturgy.
- **Education** - learning Catholic teaching and sharing the Gospel.
- **Living the Way** – serving, making moral choices, and building the Kingdom of God in daily life

This ensures that new Catholics are not just informed but transformed disciples.

Spiritual and Community Formation

The Welcoming Church provides time and space for individuals to ask questions, explore the faith, and discern their call to follow Christ. It is rooted in the early Church's tradition of catechesis, where faith was nurtured through study, prayer, fasting, and community life. The process is designed to meet each person's unique needs and allow faith to "ripen" over months or years.

Last year we had 22 people who wished to be baptized, make a profession of faith coming from another Christian tradition, want to make their First Holy Communion, be Confirmed or just want to know the way of the Lord better as Catholics.

This process needs the help of you as followers of Christ. It **connects individuals to the parish community**, fostering a sense of belonging and shared mission. Can you help as we begin on Wednesday evenings starting Oct 14th. We need people to take charge:

- To bring snacks to the classroom in the hall,
- People to greet people when they come.
- People to lead discussions.
- and later on, beginning in Nov, sharing the

Sunday readings with a guide they will be given. If your faith makes you ready now to assist in this endeavor, please call the office this week, so I can meet you all before we begin.

Registrations are available for those who want to take the journey to receive the sacraments as adults across from the office.

But remember, I need your help in this venture as volunteers, to show others how vital our faith is.

Special Days in the Church Year this Week

Thursday, Oct 1st. St Therese of the Child Jesus

January 2, 1873- September 30, 1897



St. Thérèse had a simple yet powerful message that still resonates in the hearts of millions today. She died at the age of 24, believing that her life was really just beginning for God, promising to spend her heaven doing good on earth. Called "the Little Way." Her promised "Shower of Roses"

began and has become a torrent in the Church ever since.

The Little Way is St. Thérèse's simple path to holiness: doing small, ordinary actions with great love, grounded in childlike trust and total surrender to God.

To know more about her go to:

Who Is St. Thérèse - Society of the Little Flower - US

Prayer to St. Therese

St. Thérèse, Flower of fervor and love, please intercede for us. Fill our hearts with your pure love of God. Shower roses and grace upon us, and help us to love God with full confidence. I now place with confidence in your hands (mention your petition here) so that I might imitate your 'Little Way' each day. Amen."

Friday, Oct 2nd. Feast of the Guardian Angels



Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to

aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Devotion to angels began to develop with the birth of the monastic tradition. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great

12th-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day. A feast in honor of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16th century. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar.

Devotion to the angels is, at base, an expression of faith in God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person day in and day out.

**Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.**

Ministry Schedule September 26th & 27th

4:00pm Mass

Readers: Tony Madia, Liz Ritchie

EMS: Gloria Bacani, Linda Mish, Beth Turegano

Ushers: Tony & Beth Turegano

Greeters: Roxanne Bialkoski, Tony Piazza

8:30am Mass

Readers: Evelyn Estrella, Heigi Pillor

EMS: John Buhagiar, Dave Grundman, Mary Thayer

Ushers: Diane Cook, Maureen Sheridan Scott

Greeters: Larry & Jo Ruminson

10:30am Mass

Readers: Fred Adam, Mary Denson

EMS: Dianne Foppoli, Victoria Gregorio, Nora John

Ushers: Dianne Foppoli, Sally Shami

Greeters: Fred & Janet Adam



Pope Leo News

Please pray or Pope Leo as he completes his trip to France.

Before he left Pope Leo upheld Fulton Sheen's legacy of beatification

Pope Leo XIV expressed his hope that the new American Blessed's example will inspire innovative

ways of spreading the Gospel with joyful enthusiasm.

He paid tribute to Venerable Fulton Sheen, highlighting the late American Archbishop's media apostolate in his beatification in Saint Louis, Missouri. On Sept 24th.

Speaking at the Wednesday General Audience in St. Peter's Square, the Pope recalled the upcoming beatification and held up Archbishop Sheen as an example for everyone engaged in evangelization. "May the example and intercession of this holy bishop, known for his evangelizing work through the media, inspire many others likewise to find new ways of spreading the Gospel message with joyful enthusiasm," said Pope Leo.

Beatification constitutes a first step toward canonization and permitting public veneration: