# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish 4595 Snyder Lane Rohnert Park, CA 94928 (707) 585-3708

Website: www.Stelizabethrp.com E-Mail stelizseton@sbcglobal.net Office Hours: Tues. through Fri. 9am. - 1pm Church doors open from 7:30am - 8pm.

August 3, 2025, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



#### 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, Julie La Plante,

# Sacraments and Devotions

**Reconciliation:** Sundays: 9:45-10:15am. **Marriage:** One year notice to the pastor.

Infant Baptism: 1month notice. Next class Sun, Aug 24th

1-3 pm,

Anointing of the Sick: Please call Fr. Tom.

The Rosary: ½ hr. before weekday Masses.

The Divine Chaplet: Tues. after noon Mass

Exposition-Benediction: Thurs. after noon Mass

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat/Aug. 2 4 Ints. Of Charles Mc Collum Sun/Aug. 3 8:30 For the People of the Parish

10:30 + Arturo Rico

Tue/Aug. 5 12:15

Wed/Aug. 6 8:15 + Marie Courard Thu/Aug. 7 12:15 For All Priests

Fri/Aug 8 8:15 + Pat Balitbit

Sat/Aug 9 4 Ints. of Charles McCollum

Sun/Aug.10 8:30 People of the Parish

10:30 + Hai-Van Tran

#### **Weekly Events**

Mon. Aug/ 4 6:30 pm Men's Club Mtg

Wed. Aug/ 6 4:30 pm Filipino Ministry Mtg. /Hall

# Thoughts from last Sunday's Readings and Sermon Marriage is a gift from God

 To make a couple's love more blessed they need to pray as a couple out loud together, giving thanks to God for their blessings in each other.

- If you are having problems and thinking about divorce, think about Marriage first.
- Couples can get so used to being a mom and a dad.
   What about being husband and wife. You need to
   romance with each other by taking turns each week and
   doing what the other wants. Rebuild your marriage and
   see that your love is not something finite but infinite as
   love comes from God.

#### **Sunday Readings**

Reading I: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23, Reading II: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11, Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

In Vain, in Vain The word "vanity" has come to mean "excessive belief in your own abilities or your attractiveness to others." But the original meaning of the word, the one that makes sense of the <a href="First Reading">First Reading</a>, was "empty or valueless." "In vain" comes closer to the meaning.

So when Qoheleth, the presumed author of this Reading says, "vanity of vanities! All things are vanity," he means that everything we do is in vain. This is like a statement of despair. Likely he would be diagnosed today with depression. Maybe you or I, at the bottom of our hearts, would be tempted to this dark vision also, especially with so many things going wrong today. Is the answer found when the beer commercials tell us "it doesn't get any better than this," illustrating people as they drink too much, with laughing, perfect smiles? We have to wonder if maybe there is something more to live for than this.

So let us ask whether the <u>First Reading</u> is correct, that our lives are truly "in vain." The reading gives a dark answer. What profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are their occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest.

Do we recognize this state?

Is our life devoted to riches or looking good? No? Then are we dedicated to "the bottom line," to fighting for "enough" (so we will have something to live for)? Qoheleth says we seek these things in vain. Maybe we should listen to him. Maybe we should stop ignoring the poor, for instance.

Look at the <u>Gospel</u>. There Jesus says succinctly that our life should not consist of possessions, even though we may have plenty. He tells the famous parable about a very rich man who produces a huge harvest and is busy tearing down his barns to build still larger ones in order to hoard more.

Is that a reasonable way to live?

Must be, because we can find it all through Americanized cultures, constructing ever flashier buildings in our cities even while drugs and poverty beset our very lives. Don't we say that values are unnecessary? Do we use other people to get what we want? Just like the man in Jesus' story. Just like what Qoheleth calls "vanity."

Well, this particular rich man got a nasty surprise

when he went about eating, drinking and being merry (Gospel). God said to him, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?" Thus, it will be for all who store up treasure for themselves.

Could this be said to you or me? "You fool!" Whether we are rich or poor, are we trying to hoard what we have? Are we being children of God or children of mammon?

Truth is, human beings are fashioned in such a way that we are able to open up to the source and summit of all love, God. This might be the one thing that makes life worth living! If we cannot see over the piles of possessions we have (or wish we had), aren't our honors and gains in vain?

If death were on its way to us this very night, what would God say to us?

John Foley, SJ

**Discussion Question:** Is there more of "toil and anxiety" than you want in your life? Would an increase in faith serve the same purpose as a pill for curing anxiety?

## **Family Connection**

Family life helps us learn about the values of solidarity and the common good. As a family, we strive to respect the rights of each family member and make decisions that promote the common good of the family. Talk about what it would be like if the family ordered a pizza and then divided it unevenly, with some members getting as many pieces as they wanted while others got only a half slice. Talk about how you work to make sure that everyone in the family has his or her fair share.

Talk about how your family is also a member of the human family, called to share the goods of creation fairly and justly. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to remember that the goods of the world are intended to be shared by all. Read aloud Luke 12:13-21.

Talk about the parable of the rich fool and ask family members to describe what they think he did wrong. Emphasize that although the man in the story doesn't seem bad, Jesus points out that this man's flaw was that he was thinking only about himself and his own comfort and security. Emphasize that when we fail to think about the needs of others, we call that a sin of omission.

Remind your children that each time we go to Mass, we ask forgiveness for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. We call this prayer the *Confiteor*. End this time together by praying the *Confiteor* ("I confess to almighty God..."). Loyola Press

Parish Stewardship for July: 5-6: \$4,928, 12-13: \$7,451, 19-20: \$3,868, 26-27: \$4,738, Mission Appeal \$3,008, Church Maintenance \$5,007, Online donations: \$1,601 Average weekly 1st collection: \$5,646

<u>Please pray for our infirmed:</u> Sherman Chan, Gus Chang, Mary Couto, Patrick Dempsey, John Diaz, Marcella Dorado, Louise Galassi, Dave Grundman, Theresa M, Nancy Keegan, Patricia Lauterjung, Kelly Limberg, Frank Manhoso, Nativity Mata, Larry Ng, Robert Perrill, Mary

Piccioni, Robert Scarpone, Dominique and Cecilia Tarrant, Jessica Thompson, Malik Whitehorse, and Janice Wright. If you want a name on the list, please call the office.



Sat. Aug. 2: 5-7pm & Sun. 3: 8-11:30am.

bikes, exercise equipment, camping gear, wall art, books

Rummage Sale Days

Fri, Aug 8th 4-7, Sat, Aug 9th 7-5:30 Sun, August 10th 9-1



Filipino American Ministry. All are invited on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm as we pray to our Mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We will gather after prayer in the atrium for our monthly meeting. We are are always looking for those who want to promote the Filipino culture. Mark your calendars and join us. You do not need to be Filipino to join our

ministry. We will be discussing our Fall schedule and planning for the Fiesta picnic on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Faith Formation Ministry Quote of the Week

"Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments." (St. Ambrose)

Catechism is for all. We are excited to offer catechesis for all ages through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a faith program (Ages 3-6, 6-9, and 9-12) where your child will experience the Holy Scriptures in a whole new light, where we focus on the Kingdom of God and their place in it.

#### Checkout www.cgsusa.org

Is your child ready to receive Jesus?

Help your child prepare for Jesus by registering for our two-year First Communion Preparation program held on Wednesdays from 3-4:15 pm. We will focus on learning about God, Jesus, and get a deeper understanding of the Mass and liturgical seasons.

Your child will explore their Catholic faith through classes mixed with fun, crafts, learning, and prayer. Your child grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> still has time to register for Confirmation or youth group for the 2025-2026 school year!

Registration forms are in the vestibule and in front of the office. Please turn in forms to the rummage drop off areas after mass or to the office. Email any questions to sesreled@gmail.com.

Registration closes August 10th.

# Save the Date for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton High Tea Event

It is a refined tea experience that includes elegant attire and a variety of savory and sweet treats.



September 20th
12-3pm in the Parish
Hall
\$20 p/p with limited
seating
Contact: Marie Felis
mariefelis@aol.com
or
510-612-0224
cell/text

# Special Day this Week

The Feast of the Transfiguration, Aug 6th, celebrates the event described in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew



17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36), where Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to a high mountain. There, he is transfigured, his face shining like the sun and his clothes becoming dazzling white. This moment is significant as it reveals Jesus' divine nature and foreshadows his resurrection and glory in heaven. The presence of Moses and Elijah during this

event symbolizes the Law and the Prophets, affirming Jesus' role as the fulfillment of both. the old and the new.

O God, who in the glorious
Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son
confirmed the mysteries of faith
by the witness of the apostles and wonderfully
prefigured our full adoption to sonship,
grant, we pray, to your servants,
that listening to the voice of your beloved Son,
we may merit to become co-heirs with him.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

#### Pastor's Corner

I would like to thank Larry Ruminson for helping prune the roses.

The lawn area is now open for walking on but be easy on it for another month.

To all parishioners: If you are homebound and would like to receive the sacraments or a visit from Fr. Tom and lay ministers or if you are aware of someone who needs a check-in, please contact the office.

Are you organized, people-oriented, and passionate about supporting faith formation for adults? We Need a Co-Coordinator for the 2025–2026 Adult Faith Formation year: welcoming new members who wish to

receive Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion and who would like to help with the Bible Study this year. I need a topic for the Bible Study so drop me a line.

People are asked not to park in the white zone behind the church if your time here is more than 15 minutes. The restrictions are 24/7(everyday).

# Pope at Audience: May our means of communication heal you and not trouble you



During his Wednesday

General Audience, Pope Leo encourages the faithful to learn to speak properly, using words that heal and not hurt.

By Vatican News

Wednesday saw the conclusion of Pope Leo XIV's catechetical series on the public life of Jesus, which he described as being marked by encounters, parables, and healings.

Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for his weekly General Audience, the Pope brought everyone's attention to the present, noting that "this time we are living through also needs healing".

Pope Leo described today's world as being marked by "a climate of violence and hatred" that deeply wounds human dignity. Our society, he said, is growing ill, not from isolation, but from a kind of overload. "We are hyperconnected," he said, "bombarded by images, sometimes false or distorted." Social media, he warned, has produced a kind of emotional 'bulimia', where too much input leaves us exhausted and confused.

In the midst of this, many feel tempted to shut down, continued the Pope. "We might even prefer to feel nothing at all," he said, noting that words themselves are increasingly fragile.

### The Church, accompanying others

With this in mind, Pope Leo reflected the reading, taken from the Gospel of Mark, which recounts the healing of a man who was deaf and mute. The man does not seek healing for himself; he is brought to Jesus by others. These figures, said the Pope, can be seen as an image of the Church - those who accompany others, especially when they have lost their voice or ability to listen.

After meeting Jesus, the man begins to speak again; and this detail, Pope Leo said, reveals a deeper truth. Perhaps he had been silent because he didn't know how to speak, or didn't feel adequate. How often, asked the Pope, do we stop speaking because we feel misunderstood?

Bringing his address to a close, the Pope reminded us that true communication is not only about being effective but rather it is about healing, about not hurting others with our words. "Speaking correctly is the beginning of a journey," he said. And this journey leads us to Jesus Himself, through His Passion and Cross.

"Let us ask the Lord," concluded the Pope, "to heal our way of communicating, and to help the Church remain a place where every person can hear His Word, be healed, and become a messenger of His salvation.

### HOLY DAY OF OLBIGATION THIS MONTH!



August 15th is the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven and this day we treat like a Sunday.

Masses:12:15 and 7pm.

#### Definition and Dogma

The Assumption of Mary refers to the belief that Mary was assumed into heaven, both body and soul, after completing her earthly life. This doctrine was formally defined as a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII in his apostolic

constitution Munificentissimus Deus on November 1, 1950. In this document, the Pope stated that Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God, was taken up into heavenly glory, affirming that this belief is divinely revealed and requires the assent of the faithful as it is dogma.

#### **Historical Context**

The origins of the Assumption can be traced back to early Christian traditions, although it is not explicitly mentioned in the New Testament. The belief in Mary's Assumption was prevalent among early Christians, with references appearing in apocryphal writings, such as the Transitus Mariae, from the 4th and 5th centuries. These texts reflect a widespread belief in Mary's bodily assumption into heaven.

#### Significance in Catholic Theology

The Assumption of Mary holds deep spiritual significance for Catholics. It emphasizes Mary's unique role in salvation history as the mother of Christ and her sinless life. The belief also serves as a promise of resurrection and eternal life for all believers, reflecting the hope that they too will be united with God in heaven.

#### Celebration and Feast Day

The Assumption is celebrated annually on August 15 as the Feast of the Assumption, which is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. This feast day commemorates Mary's entry into heaven and encourages the faithful to reflect on their own journey towards eternal life.

## Conclusion

In summary, the Assumption of Mary is a foundational belief in Catholicism that underscores the

honor and dignity of Mary as the mother of Jesus. It is a dogma that not only highlights her unique role but also offers hope to all Christians regarding their own resurrection and eternal life with God. The celebration of this event serves as a reminder of the ultimate goal of the Christian faith: to be united with God in heaven.

## Ministry Schedule Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### 4pm. Mass

Readers: Tony Madia, Heigi Pillor

EMS: Janice Dyer, Beth Turegano, Dianne Foppoli

Ushers: Janice Dyer, Dianne Follppoli

**Greeters:** Tony & Julie Piazza

#### 8:30 am Mass

<u>Readers:</u> Maureen Sheridan Scott, Liz Ritchie <u>EMS:</u> Dave Grundman, Patty Ramos, Mary Thayer <u>Ushers:</u> Diane Cook, Mary Thayer

**Greeters:** Patty Ramos

#### 10:30 am Mass

Readers: Linda Biondini, Scott Morrical EMS: Julie LaPlante, Jovita Bishop, Mila Morrical

<u>Ushers:</u> Lorraine Datu, Mila Morrical <u>Greeters:</u> Fred & Janet Adam

# Ministry Schedule Aug.9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

4 pm. Mass

<u>Readers:</u> Linda Anderson, Tony Sacramento <u>EMS:</u> Gloria Bacani, Tony Madia, Bill Yates

Ushers: Mark & Selina Johnson

Greeters: Roxanne Bialkoski, Pat Yates

#### 8:30 am Mass

Readers: Liz Ritchie, Maria Van Anne

EMS: Remie Alinas, Larry Biondini, Diane Cook

<u>Ushers:</u> Liz Chang, Sally Shami <u>Greeters:</u> Larry & Jo Ruminson

#### 10:30 am Mass

Readers: Mary Denson, Marie Horwitz

EMS: Lorraine Datu, Giovanna DeSimone, Nora John

**Ushers: Volunteers needed** 

**Greeters:** Lorraine Datu, Giovanna DeSimone

