

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

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 are open from 7:30am.-6:30pm .

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Love Your Enemies

Pastoral Staff and Extensions

Rev. Thomas Diaz, Pastor, #4, Day off-Mondays

Chris Giacometti, Office Manager, #1

Mass times: Extension, #2

Jennifer Bedoka, Faith Formation, #3

Sacraments and Devotions

Reconciliation: Sundays 9:45-10:15am., and by app. _

Marriage: One year notice to the pastor.

Infant Baptism: One-month notice. Next Baptismal class

Today February 23rd at 3:00pm/CI

Welcoming Church: Sundays: 12:15pm/classroom.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call Fr. Tom.

Exposition and Benediction: Thurs. After Mass for ½ hr.

The Rosary: ½ hr. before weekday Masses.

The Divine Chaplet: Tues. after noon Mass

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 1pm. in the hall, last session

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat. Feb. 22, 4:00 pm. + Abraham Diab & Mike Sweeney

Sun. Feb. 23, 8 30 am. + Esperanza Pedrin
10:30 am. People of the Parish

Tue. Feb. 25, 12:15 pm. + All Souls



Wed. Feb. 26, 8:15 am. + Paul Morales

Thu. Feb. 27, 12:15 pm. Int of Fr. Tom

Fri. Feb. 28, 8:15 am. + Alfonso Genido & Rosalina

Alvarez

Genido

Sat. Mar. 1, 4:00 pm. + Ellen & Gary Stevens

Sun. Mar. 2, 8:30 am. People of the Parish

10:30 am. + Josephine Reginato

Events of the week

Sun. Feb. 23, 12:15 Welcoming Church/Tour of church
3 Baptismal Preparation/Clas/CI

Tues. Feb. 25, 1 Bible Study Reflection

Wed. Feb. 26, 12 Potluck Luncheon

Sat. Mar. 1, 5 Mardi Gras Dinner, Dance & Auction

Readings for this Sunday

Reading I: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23.

Reading II: 1Corinthians15:45-49.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Scriptural Reflection

Love Your Enemies In the Gospel Reading, Jesus commands us to love our enemies. In other words, every one of us is commanded to love each person who counts as an enemy to us.

Many people suppose that no one except a saint could fulfill this command. Other people think that this command is nothing more than permission to connive with evil, because if you love your enemy instead of clobbering him, you enable him to continue his wrongdoing.

But consider what love is. As Aquinas explains it, love consists in two desires: (1) a desire for the good of the beloved person, and (2) a desire for union with that person. So, Paula loves her enemy Jerome only if she desires the good for Jerome and union with Jerome.

But now notice that what the good for Jerome is will depend on Jerome. Desiring Jerome's good requires Paula's foregoing punishment for him if that would be for his good—or insisting on punishment for him if *that* would be for his good. What is best for Jerome is whatever it takes to bring him to a morally good condition in mind and will; and that might include Paula's calling the police to arrest him.

For this same reason, Paula's desire for union with Jerome need not include a desire for companionship with him. If Jerome is entirely unrepentant, then Paula's desire for union with him should not involve a willingness to be in his company. In that worst case, Paula's desire for union with Jerome can appropriately come to no more than the desire that Jerome will repent and reform, so that companionship

becomes a possibility for them. The desire of love is a desire to be at one with the beloved person, but you can be unified with a person only if you each love the good. The proverb says that there is no honor among thieves, but there is no unity among them either.

To love your enemy, then, is not to enable him to continue to do morally wrong acts against you or anybody else either. If you want what is good for your enemy, you will want for him what you want for yourself: to be a person who has love for the Lord and obedience to him. And if you want union with your enemy, you won't want him to go to hell because he has hurt you. You will be glad if in love and obedience to the Lord, he finds his way to heaven too.

So that is what it is to love your enemy. Each one of us can do this, can't we? Eleonore Stump

Discussion Questions: Can you show respect for someone yet disagree with him/her? What do you think the outcome is when neither side respects the other?

Please pray for our infirmed: Elizabeth Chang, Gus Chang, Patrick Dempsey, Marlene Dentoni, John Diaz, Tim Diestel, Marcella Dorado, Father Balaswamy Govindu, Alan Hennessy, Jan Hoermer, Tony Madia, Bill Mish, Debbie Molakides, Mary Jane Nolan, Sione Palu, Nicholas Patrick, Rivas Family, Raymond Pellinacci, Theresa Rosser, Abel Sagon, Robert Scarpone, and Jim Turegano, Betty Vega, George Yates.

Please pray for the soul of: Arlita Johnson and keep her family in your prayers.

Parish Stewardship February 16th \$5,794. The 2nd collection for Liability Insurance \$2,051. Your generosity was appreciated.

Faith Formation Ministry

Quote of the Week

“Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today.”

(Saint Padre Pio)

Sunday, February 23rd

9:30 am 1st Year Confirmation

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-6:30pm 2nd Year Confirmation

Tuesday, February 25th

4-5:30 pm Atrium L1 and L2

Wednesday, February 26th

2-3 pm 1st Year Sacramental Prep

3:30-4:30 pm 1st Year Sacramental Prep

Sunday, March 2nd

9:30 am 1st Year Confirmation

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-7 pm Youth Group

SAVE THE DATE

Sun., March 16th 10:30 am. 1st Communion for four Adolescents

Fri., April 4th 5:30 pm. Confirmation

Sat., May 31st 1:30 am. 1st Communion

ALL ARE INVITED CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 6TH THROUGH 12TH IT'S RETREAT TIME!

***FLIERS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE!
Invite their friends!***

Event Calendar in February and a bit of March

Sun. Feb. 23rd Baptismal Preparation Class
3:00pm./CI

Wed., Feb. 26th Monthly Potluck at noon

Sat. Mar. 1st Mardi Gras Dinner Dance

Wed., Mar. 5th **Ash Wednesday**
Masses at 8:15, 12:15 & 7pm.

Fri., Mar. 7th Lenten Meal by the Men's Club & Stations of the Cross



A reminder of our upcoming Wednesday Potluck.

We are very much looking forward to seeing all of you at SES Hall on Wednesday, 2/26 at noon.

Please bring a main dish, or dessert to share. We'd love for you to invite friends to join you for fellowship and food. Linda, Jo and Larry

SEAS Women's Guild Scholarship is excited to announce we are now accepting applications for the 2025 scholarship program. The scholarship amount is \$1000. Applications can be picked up in the parish office.

This will be awarded to a high school senior student who plans to attend a college, university, or trade school. **Eligibility:** be a practicing Catholic and member of the SEAS parish and in good standing academically with their current school/education program

Deadline: turn into the parish office by Wednesday April 30, 2025

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Mardi Gras
This Coming Saturday, FROM 5-9 PM.**

Dinner Tickets \$25 ea.

DANCING

Silent Auction

Limited to 100 Adults

On sale Now

**No Host Bar: Beer,
Wine, & A Mardi Gras Mocktail**

Music by Andy Darrow

& The Band

tickets at the door

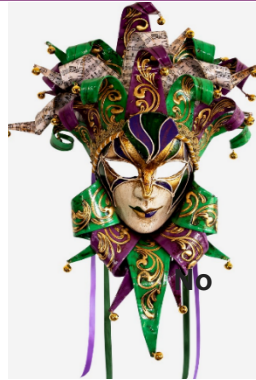
All proceeds go the

Hall Kitchen Renovation

Mardi Gras Committee Note: Please bring cash

\$\$\$ or checks to take advantage of the

wonderful Silent Auction



Monetary donations for the food items, hams, and chickens can be placed in an envelope marked "Easter Meal" and dropped off at the church office or the Sunday collection.

We are going to ask parishioners to help prepare the baskets of food on Thursday, April 10th, and deliver them Saturday, April 12th. If you are interested in helping with these tasks, you can contact Larry Ruminson at 707-548-7058.

The Men's Club would like to thank all parishioners who participated in the Super Bowl Pool. We were able to donate \$2000 to the church for the Hall renovation.

Pool #1

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st Quarter	Diane Colbrook	\$200	
2 nd Quarter	Diane Arenson	\$200	
3 rd Quarter	John Buhagiar		\$200
Final Score	Beth Turegano		\$400

Pool #2

Quarter	Dan Mederios	\$200	
2 nd Quarter	Dan Mederios	\$200	
3 rd Quarter	Rich Endreszl	\$200	
4 th Quarter	Scott Zayal	\$400	

Checks for the winners have been given to you personally or mailed to you. A special thank you to Tony Madia who worked tirelessly to put this event together. Thank you

Ministry Schedule Feb.22nd & 23rd

4pm. Mass

Readers: Tony Sacramento

EMS: Gloria Bacani, Luisa Bustillos, Dave Grundman

Ushers: Mark Johnson, Tony Turegano

Greeters: Roxanne Bialkoski, Olivia Salazar

8:30 am Mass

Readers: Scott Crossen, Marie Ebbing

EMS: John Bughagiar, Milambo Guadence, Patty Ramos

Ushers: Liz Ritchie, Mary Thayer

Greeters: Larry & Jo Ruminson

10:30 am Mass

Readers: Evelyn Estrella, Marie Horwitz

EMS: Julie La Plante, Nora John, Mila Morrical

Ushers: Nativity Mata, Mila Morrical

Greeters: Fred & Janet Adam

Pastor's Corner

Special thanks to the Mardi Gras Committee for all their hard work in preparing for next Saturdays celebration.

Our check for last year's Diocesan Annual Ministry Appeal Rebate for \$42,410 will be arriving to us in March from the diocese. I thank all those who have given to this year's Diocesan Ministry Appeal. Pledge envelopes are in the vestibule in the book rack. You do not have to give money now but please make your pledge and remember to pray first.



Easter Meals

What to do on the Greatest Day for Christians SVDP with



the help of our parishioners will provide an Easter Basket with dinner items, which will include a Ham or chicken for **needy** families.

We are going to collect specific food items during Lent each week for the Easter Basket starting on Wed. March 5th, and ending on Sunday, April 6th.

We will be collecting specific food items each week during Lent, based on the following dates:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Item</u>
Mar 5,8/9	4 oz. box	Scalloped Potatoes
Mar 15/16	15 oz. can	Peas and Corn
Mar 22/23	7.5 oz. box	Mac & Cheese
Mar 29/30	20 oz. can	Sliced Pineapple
Apr 5/6/15	oz. box	Corn Bread Mix

Food donations can be placed in the baskets that are located in the church entrance beginning Mar 5th.

We are in need of a plumber to take care of a leaky irrigation pipe on Snyder Lane near the hall.

Our insurance company does not approve of people taking drivers training in the parking lot...Sorry!

People always ask when the church door are open. The doors open by 7:30 am. and close after 6:30 pm. The closing times will change when daylight savings time returns.

Preparing for Lent Lent begins in just over a week.

Don't blink. Lent will be here before you know it. Isn't that how it always is? The Christmas season is behind us and it feels like Ordinary Time has only just begun—

But suddenly it's Ash Wednesday, and we're scrambling to decide what we're doing for [Lent](#) and wondering whether our choice of penance is too hard or too easy.

This year, don't let Lent take you by surprise—have your plan in place. Before Ash Wednesday catches you unawares, make a point of sitting down—at the kitchen table, or at the chapel—and give some thought to how you want to spend this Lent.

If you have no idea where to begin, rest assured: there is a solid foundation to work from. The Church doesn't leave us to figure things out ourselves.

There are three holy practices which Catholics are called to embrace in penitential seasons such as Lent and Advent. These three practices are **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.**

When you make your Lenten plan, choose something specific from each category—and you're on your journey to Easter.



1. Prayer Lent is the perfect time to build virtuous habits. It gives us the grace to tackle what we couldn't otherwise.

Since daily prayer is difficult for anyone who isn't a living saint, now is the time to counter this by developing consistent habits of prayer.

Start by asking yourself: *what are my prayer habits now?*

As Catholics, we ought to pray every day. Prayer is conversation and communion with the God who made us and loves us. No relationship would flourish if we failed to spend time in the presence of a loved one, conversing with them and offering them genuine attention.

If you are praying once a week at Sunday Mass or saying only a quick "Good morning, God!" as you

head to work, make a simple commitment to daily prayer—and don't overdo it, in case you set yourself up for failures and guilt trips.

How much time should we set aside for daily prayer? Spiritual advisors say that fifteen minutes is the absolute minimum. That's a solid goal for all of us.

Fasting is largely misunderstood today. Most Catholics think that fasting is a broad category of abstinence that includes giving up social media, music while driving, Netflix, and so on. That's not really fasting, however. Now, don't get me wrong: it's important to practice discipline and self-control over the things mentioned above. When you do, you are strengthening your will and overcoming the desire for instant gratification and constant mind-numbing pleasure. Absolutely be encouraged to incorporate such disciplines into your life!

True fasting, however, relates to food—to our physical appetite—and cannot be replaced by anything.

On the Fridays of Lent, Catholics aged 14+ are required to abstain from meat. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (with exceptions for expectant women, for example) are required to fast. We do this by having only one full meal that day and two smaller meals that, added together, do not amount to the full meal.

Of course, this itself is a *moderate* form of fasting. Fasting formerly meant taking *no food.*

Due to our structure and habits of eating today, many of us find this practically impossible. However: there is a way to build an ability to fast that is simpler than you might think. Not easy—it does take a firm decision—but simple, with the right help: Dr. Jay Richards wrote about it in his book [Eat, Fast, Feast](#). I sincerely recommend it. I read [Eat, Fast, Feast](#) and used Dr. Richards's guide for Lent last year. I discovered that it's *amazing* what the human body is capable of when it comes to fasting—and the benefits are truly God-given.

Almsgiving is often forgotten. Yet almsgiving is a crucial work of charity that we Christians are called to participate in.

Jesus praised the poor widow who gave "all she had" to the temple treasury (Luke 21:1-4). St. James reminded us that faith must go hand-in-hand with

good works, such as care for the poor: Lent is an important time for almsgiving, and each of us must give according to our situation. I was reminded by my parish priest that **almsgiving is not the tithing you're already doing**—it's giving above and beyond what you normally give. It is a true penance. This isn't easy to say, but

when we give alms, we are supposed to give not merely from our “plenty,” but enough to make it hurt—or at least pinch. For those who can’t give money, we can seek to give our talent or our time (volunteering at a homeless shelter or pregnancy center etc.).

In

summary: Pray about what alms you can give and to who, your parish, and organization, etc. Discuss it with Jesus. “Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Another thing to do to prepare for Lent:

Go to utube to: [Father Mike Schmitz on Preparing for Lent](#) . He has lots of topics and [his presentations are short and to the point.](#)