

# St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane Rohnert Park, CA 94928

(707) 585-3708

Website: [www.Stelizabethrp.com](http://www.Stelizabethrp.com)

E-Mail [stelizseton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stelizseton@sbcglobal.net)

Office Hours: Tues. through Fri. 9am. -1pm.

Church doors are open from 7:30am - 7:30pm.

March 30, 2025

## Fourth Sunday in Lent



### The Prodigal Son was lost but now is found

#### 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.,

Tues: 11:45 -12:10pm, Thurs: 1-1:30  
and by appointment.

**Marriage:** One year notice to the pastor.

**Infant Baptism:** 1month notice. Next class TBA

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

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call Fr. Tom.

**Exposition and Benediction:** Thurs. after Mass for 1hr.

**The Rosary:** ½ hr. before weekday Masses.

**The Divine Chaplet:** Tues. after noon Mass

**Evening Office:** Sundays during lent at 6 pm.

#### Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat. Mar. 29, 4 + Karis-Say Cavecche

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

10:30 Ints. Char Mayclin

Tue. Apr 1, 12:15 + Paul Kenavy

Wed. Apr 2, 8:15 + Salud & Joaquinito

Dayanghirang

Thu. Apr 3, 12:15 + Celerina Alfonso

Fri. Apr 4, 8:15 All Souls

Sat. Apr 5, 4 Ints. Catherine Cardozo

Sun. Apr 6, 8:30 People of the Parish

10:30 + James Doolittle

#### EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Sun. Mar. 30 10:30am. Liturgy of the Word for children

6pm. Evening Prayer/Church

6:30pm. Seder Meal by invitation/HI

Mon Mar, 31 6pm. Socials Committee Mtg. CI

Wed. Apr, 2 4pm. Filipino American Ministry Mtg./Ch

Fri. Apr. 4 5:30pm. Confirmation/Ch

#### Readings for this Sunday 4 & 10:30

Reading I: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12, Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

#### Scriptural Reflection

**Cowering** Have you noticed the way dogs hang their heads and grovel when they are scolded, wheedling their way back into good graces.

To us humans it looks as if they are saying "I'm really, really sorry for what I did, and please, please, please forgive me. To make up for it, I will do any base thing you want. Poor dog. We assume that God is angry.

And poor prodigal son in this week's Gospel. Like a dog at Easter table, this son ate up his father's money on riotous living in a faraway country. Obviously, he would run out of funds, but was having too much fun to notice.

Then there came the terrible famine. This once pampered youth now had to feed somebody's herd of pigs just to live. He would have been happy to gobble their husks.

It took a while for the truth to hit him, what he had done to himself and to his family. He first noticed that he was starving. He made a forced but perhaps humble decision to go back to his father and ask for mercy, hanging his head just like dogs do. "Please, please, please, please forgive me."

He dragged down the dusty road to his father's estate, practicing his speech over and over.

*Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.*

In other words, he would "grovel and do any base thing needed." He would even admit the sins he was so embarrassed about.

You and I might have such an occasion too, once in a while.

Often, we are terrified that anyone even would know our faults. And we think God will respond with rage against us if he finds out. So, we make Lenten "firm purposes of amendment," and urge our New

Year's promises (or whatever else). We want to be "worthy" before God, with our sins hidden from sight.

But in the parable does this father fold his arms and put on a "parental" angry face? No. He spots far down the road his prodigal son (who is still memorizing the his lines) and sets out running to the lost one. See them meet, enveloped in thirsty road-dust. Father embraces his son and kisses him. The boy tries to blunder his lines. Father, I have sinned terribly! I am no longer worthy of ...

But his dad drowns him out, calling for the finest robe in the house, a ring for the boy's finger, sandals for his feet, and a huge banquet of celebration. This father shows that he does indeed understand. And he is ecstatic that his son came home.

Apply that now to you and me. We assume that God is angry. Our shame says, "Father, I am no good. I am totally unworthy."

But God is saying, "I know what you have done, child. You needn't cower. You are precious to me, not because you never sin. I know that it can happen, and I am all forgiveness! Come, come, have back your brothers, sisters, neighbors and, most of all, your Father. "Let me hug you."

Because he invites us so close to his heart, God is most willing to absorb the losses we inflict. Even if we were to join forces with evil in the world, God would wait and pray, welcome us back, sins and all, with open arms. And help us overcome the evil that plagues the world.

By the way, notice that Jesus' arms are wide open on the cross. John Foley, SJ

**Discussion Question:** Do you forgive easily? Is it easy or difficult for you to ask for forgiveness?

### Readings for this Sunday 8:30 am

**Reading I:** 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, **Reading II:** Ephesians 5:8-14, **Gospel:** John 9:1-41

### Scriptural Reflection

**The Blind Man Who Wanted for Nothing** The Psalm says, "The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want."

But the Gospel Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man born blind have something that he lacks? When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage.

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to ally their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. "Why was this man born blind?" they ask Jesus. "Did this man sin or was it his parents?" If it was anybody's sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't come to their families, at least it won't come if they all try hard not to sin.

But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it?

It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?

Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future—not something about the past—that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him.



So that is Jesus' explanation for the man's blindness, but it looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the

works of God can be manifest in him later?

But think about that blind man himself. At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished outcast, a beggar, a nobody. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.

Who would not want to be like him? And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says. Eleonore Stump

**Discussion Question:** Can you relate to your own spiritual blindness slowly turning to light in your life?

**Please pray for our infirmed:** Kendall Campers, Veronica Campers, Elizabeth Chang, Gus Chang, Patrick Dempsey, Marlene Dentoni, John Diaz, Tim Diestel,, Marcella Dorado, Louise Galassi, Alan Hennessy, Jan Hoerner, April Lynch, Tony Madia, Patrick Maloney, Frank Manhoso, Bill Mish, Char Mayclin, Debbie Molakides, Mary Jane Nolan, Sione Palu, Nicholas Patrick, Rivas Family, Raymond Pellinacci, Theresa Rosser, Robert Scarpone, Don Scott, Dominique Tarrant, Cecilia Tarrant, Jim Turegano, Betty Vega, Arthur Walsh, Ellen Walsh, and Zachary Walsh.

**Parish Stewardship: 3/23 Plate \$4,463.**  
Thank you!

**LENTEN INFORMATION:** Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of Abstinence from meat applies to all who are 14 years old and up.

### Faith Formation Ministry

#### Quote of the Week

*"The role of the family in building a culture of life is decisive and irreplaceable."*

*"Pope John Paul II"*

#### Sunday, March 30th

9:30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-7 pm Youth Group

#### Tuesday, April 1st

4-5:30 pm Atrium L1 and L2

#### Wednesday, April 2nd

2-3 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Year Sacramental Prep

3:30-4:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Sacramental Prep

#### Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

6 pm Lenten Meal by Faith Formation

7 pm Stations of the Cross by Faith Formation

#### Sunday, April 6th

9:30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm Atrium Level 3

5-7 pm Youth Group

**CANDY AND ORDER FORMS  
AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES ...FUNDS  
WILL HELP BRING  
CATHOLIC SPEAKERS TO OUR  
PARISH AND YOUTH RETREATS  
IN 2025-2026...STAY TUNED!**

**Dine and Donate**

**Panda Express April 2nd**



**Let us help you  
prepare for Lent,  
stop by Monday, March 31st in the  
atrium as we meditate on scripture: journal and pray  
on your Lenten journey.**



### Filipino American Ministry

**Join us on April 2nd at 4 pm** as we pray to our Mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We will gather after prayer, for our meeting in the atrium to discuss and critique our Lenten Stations of the Cross. We are always looking for those who want to promote our culture. No need to be Filipino to join!



### Coming Events Next Week and Beyond

**Wed April 9, 6pm Time for confession with priests**

**Fri April 11, 6 pm. The last Lenten Meal/Fr. Tom  
7pm. Stations 8:30/Choir**



### THE EASTER MEALS

**What to do on the  
Greatest Day for  
Christians.**

St. Vincent de Paul is  
helping our parish!



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

Dates	Size	Item
Mar 29-Apr 4	20 oz. can	Sliced Pineapple

Apr 5-9	15 oz. box	Corn Bread Mix
---------	------------	----------------

Food donations can be placed in the baskets that are in the church entrance. 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 in the Sunday collection. **We could use more canned string beans.**

**SEAS Women's Guild** is accepting applications for the 2025 scholarship program. The scholarship amount is \$1,000. Applications can be picked up at 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. The **Deadline:** turn into the parish office by Wednesday April 30, 2025

### Ministry Schedule Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

#### 4pm. Mass

**Readers:** Linda Biondini, Tony Madia

**EMS:** Janice Dyer, Dianne Foppoli, Beth Turegano

**Ushers:** Mark & Selina Johnson

**Greeters:** Ron & Deb Ciarasso

#### 8:30 am. Mass

**Readers:** Scott Crossen, Linda Anderson

**EMS:** Armando Argueta, John Buhagiar, Larry Biondini

**Ushers:** Remie Alinas, Diane Cook

**Greeters:** Diane Van Anne, Patty Ramos

#### 10:30 am Mass

**Readers:** Mila & Scott Morrical

**EMS:** Giovanna DeSimone, Evelyn Estrella X

**Ushers:** Mila Morrical, Augustin Gonzalez

**Greeters:** Fred & Janet Adam

### Ministry Schedule Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

#### 4 pm. Mass

**Readers:** Tony Sacramento, Heigi Pillor

**EMS:** Joanne Bishop, Jovita Bishop, Luisa Bustillos

**Ushers:** Dianne Foppoli, Janet Dyer

**Greeters:** Roxanne Bialkoski, Pat Yates

#### 8:30 am Mass

**Readers:** Marie Ebbing, Caroline Stevens

**EMS:** Dave Grundman, Patty Ramos, Maureen Sheridan Scott

**Ushers:** Mary Thayer, Sally Shami

**Greeters:** Allan & Caroline Kalaw

#### 10:30 am Mass

**Readers:** Linda Biondini, Mary Denson

**EMS:** Nora John, Julie LaPlante, Nativity Mata

**Ushers:** Nativity Mata, Scott Morrical

**Greeters:** Julie LaPlante, X

### ALMSGIVING DURING LENT

Lent provides an opportunity to detach ourselves from money and direct our love to God.

**Why not give to the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.**

Envelopes are available in the vestibule



### **Do I believe in Mortal Sin?**

A mortal sin is defined as an offense against the law of God that is serious enough to destroy the charity necessary for eternal life. It involves three components: grievous matter, sufficient reflection, and full consent of the will 2. When committed, it removes grace and supernatural charity from the soul, placing the created object and oneself above God3. Unrepented, it can lead to eternal death

**What is serious matter to you? Look at the examinations of consciences following and ask yourself if these are serious matters? Holy Mother Church thinks so.**

**Do I rationalize my thoughts, actions and words to think that my sins are not that serious?**

**We will have more Examinations of Conscience next week to prepare ourselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation-Confession.**

### **Brief Examination of Conscience Based on the Ten Commandments**

**I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.**

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

**You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

**Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation with enthusiasm

Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body?

Do I look for ways to spend time with family on Sunday?

**Honor your father and your mother.**

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible?

Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

**You shall not kill.**

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?

**You shall not commit adultery.**

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself? Does "sex" run my life

**You shall not steal.**

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

**You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse.**

Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

**You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

### **Examination of Conscience in Light of Catholic Social Teaching**

#### **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

Do I respect the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death?

Do I recognize the face of Christ reflected in all others around me whatever their race, class, age, or abilities?

#### **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**

Do I try to make positive contributions in my family and in my community?

Are my beliefs, attitudes, and choices such that they strengthen or undermine the institution of the family?

#### **Rights and Responsibilities**

Do I recognize and respect the economic, social, political, and cultural rights of others?

Do I live in material comfort and excess while remaining insensitive to the needs of others whose rights are unfulfilled?

Do I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that the rights of persons in need are realized?

#### **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

Do I give special attention to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in my community and in the world?

Am I disproportionately concerned for my own good at the expense of others?

#### **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**

As a worker, do I give my employer a fair day's work for my wages?

As an owner, do I treat workers fairly?

Do I treat all workers with whom I interact with respect, no matter their position or class?

#### **Solidarity**

Does the way I spend my time reflect a genuine concern for others?

Is solidarity incorporated into my prayer and spirituality?

Do I lift up vulnerable people throughout the world in my prayer, or is it reserved for only my personal concerns?

#### **Care for God's Creation**

Do I live out my responsibility to care for God's creation?

Do I see my care for creation as connected to my concern for poor persons, who are most at risk from environmental problems?

Do I litter? Live wastefully? Use energy too freely?

Are there ways I could reduce consumption in my life?