

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-6:30pm.



Oct. 26th, 2025
30th Sunday of Ordinary Time



**Two Men, Two Prayers, Two Attitudes,
Two Verdicts.**
Luke 18:9-14

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

Floral Decorations: Cesira Heric

Sacraments and Devotions

Reconciliation: Sundays: 9:45-10:15am & Thurs
1-1:30

Marriage: One year notice to the pastor.

Infant Baptism: 1month notice. Preparation TBA.

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

The Rosary: ½ hr. before weekday Masses.

Divine Chaplet: Tuesdays after the 12:15 Mass

Exposition and Benediction: Thursdays 12:45-1:30pm

The Welcoming Church for Adults: Sundays 1pm

Mass schedule and Intentions for the Week

Sat/Oct.25 4pm Ints. Krista Budimirobic

Sun/Oct.26 8:30am People of the Parish
10:30 am Int of Mila

Tue/Oct.28 12:15pm Ints. of Dely, James, Jude

Wed/Oct.29 8:15am Ints. Claudia Ritchie

Thu/Oct.30 12:15pm + Alan Short

Fri/Oct.31 8:15am +Salud & Joaquinito
Dayanghirang

Sat/Nov.1 4pm + Lydia Leano

Sun/Nov.2 8:30am Ints. of Bishop Vasa

Sun/Nov.2 10:30am People of the Parish

Weeks Events

Sun/Oct. 26 9:30-12:30 Men's Club Breakfast
1pm. Welcoming Church/Hall

Mon/Oct. 27 9:30am. St Vincent de Paul Mtg/Hall

Tue/Oct. 28 6:30pm Live Rosary

Wed/Oct. 29 Noon Potluck Luncheon/ Hall

Sat/ Nov. 1 10am-4pm Craft Faire

Sun/Nov. 2 9am-1pm Craft Faire

Mon/Nov. 3 6:30pm Men's Club Mtg/Hall

Last Sundays Homily

- Pray always and do not lose heart.
- Faith means trusting that God will act at the right time, even when we do not understand how.
- Staying close to God, praying with patience, and relying on our faith community help us remain strong and hopeful.

Sunday Readings

Sirach 35: 12-18, 2 Timothy: 4:6-8.16-18, Gospel
Luke 18:9-14

The Worst Kind of Pride In the Gospel Reading, Jesus tells a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector in order to teach a lesson about pride. As Jesus tells the parable, the Pharisee is not pleasing to God; the tax collector is.

In the parable, what the Pharisee says in his prayer is this: "I thank you, God, that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income." The tax collector just prays for God to have mercy on him, a sinful man.

Now what exactly is wrong with the Pharisee's prayer? Notice that the parable doesn't doubt the Pharisee's truthfulness: he does have real moral excellence. And notice too that the Pharisee doesn't congratulate himself on this moral excellence in himself. He thanks God for it; he gives God all the credit for it.

So what exactly is wrong with this Pharisee? Think about it this way. Aquinas says that there are four kinds of pride.

- (1) There's foolish pride. You think you have an excellence which you don't have, like a child who thinks he's the best basketball player in the world.
- (2) There's the pride of the self-made man. You think you have an excellence you do have, but you think you got that excellence for yourself, without anybody's help.
- (3) There's the sneakily self-congratulatory pride. You think you have an excellence you do have, and you recognize that God gave it to you; but you assume God gave it to *you* because he knew that *you* would make such good use of it.
- (4) And then there's the most self-deceptive kind of pride. You think you have an excellence you do have, and you recognize that you have it because God gave it, and you acknowledge that God gave it because he is so good, not because you are so nice—but you are glad others don't have it and you hope they don't get it.

Now we see what is wrong with the Pharisee, don't we? He accepts that his excellence is a gift from the Lord. He just doesn't want anybody else to have what he has. He likes looking down on that tax collector! And that is the worst kind of pride.

True humility is seeing that every excellence you have is a gift from your loving Lord and is given to you so that you can share it with others in love and rejoice with them when they have it too. Eleonore Stump

Discussion Question: Is your prayer at times to God or to yourself?

Family Connection

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong with the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that Your family will be free from unhealthy competition.

Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.

Parish Stewardship for October 18th & 19th: Plate \$6,039. 2nd collection for Foreign Missions & Campaign for Human Development \$1,991. Thank you for your generosity!

Please pray for the health intentions for: Sherman Chan, Gus Chang, Mary Couto, Patrick Dempsey, John Diaz, Lupita Diaz, Marcella Dorado, Anthony Eger, Evelyn Estrella, Jeanne Fields, Louise Galassi, Dave Grundman, Edith House, Theresa M, Nancy Keegan, Patricia Lauterjung, Kelly Limberg, Frank Manhoso, Charles Mc Collum, Larry Ng, Robert Perrill, Mary Piccioni, Lisa Rivas, Robert Scarpone, Kathleen Schick, Maureen Sheridan Scott Dominique & Cecilia Tarrant, Jessica Thompson, Malik Whitehorse. If you want a name on the list, please call the office.

Faith Formation Ministry Quote of the Week

"Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe."

St. Augustine of Hippo

Congratulations to the Shami Family for winning Bible Trivial this month. We hope you enjoy your dinner out with your family!

Sunday, October 26th

9:30 am 2nd Year

Confirmation/CL

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm CGS Level 3/LG Atrium

5-6:30 pm 1st Year Confirmation/CL

Wednesday, October 29th

3-4:30 pm 1st and 2nd Year 1st Communion Classes

3-4:30 pm CGS Level 3/LG Atrium

Sunday, November 2nd

9:30 am 2nd Year Confirmation/CL

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30 pm CGS Level 3/LG Atrium

5-6:30 pm 2nd Year Confirmation/Hall



Thank you to the youth and parents that served Forget Me Not Farms this past weekend. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services' animals help heal abused children and serve a wide variety of organizations in Sonoma County. We cleaned the animals stalls, worked in the vegetable garden, and fed the animals:



Email

sesreled@gmail.com if interested in joining us!

All Saints Day (November 1) is not a holy day of obligation in 2025 because it falls on a Saturday, and the obligation to attend Mass is lifted on this day. No need to use your

envelopes for All Saints Day but you can always drop it in the collection at Sunday Mass as an extra!



*Praying for loved ones
who sleep in peace.*

Tue. Oct 28th at the parish

Come early, 6pm. to prepare an angel ornament in the name of a departed loved one.

The Rosary begins at 6:30pm.



**Potluck Luncheon this
Wednesday, October 29th / Hall**



Come at noon and please bring an entrée or dessert to share.

Jo, Larry and Linda



MENU:

PORK/PUERCO

CHICKEN/POLLO

VEGGIES/VEGETALES

**DELICIOUS
TAMALE SALE**

**PRICE: \$20.00 FOR 6
\$35.00 PER DOZEN**

**PRE-ORDERS TAKEN AFTER MASSES STARTING
TOMAREMOS PEDIDOS DESPUES DE CADA MISA
EMPEZANDO**

NOV. 1ST - 15TH

PICK UP /RECOGER

SAT. NOV. 22ND FROM 5-7PM

We thank Msgr. Dan Whelton for celebrating the Mass this Tuesday, as Fr. Tom has a funeral in Eureka for a dear friend.

**The Hispanic Ministry is having a Tamale sale only (pre-order). If you would like to help us make them just ask us after mass, Nov 1st.
*El Ministerio Hispano tendrá una venta de tamales. Solo pre ordenados. ¿Te gustaría ayudar hacerlos? Preguntanos después de misa.***

Filipino Ministry



A BIG thank you to our Filipino American Ministry for making our Filipino Saint Celebration such a fun event. It was welcoming and so hospitable with authentic Filipino food made with such love for our faith, our friends, and our church family. Thank you to the parish for joining us in our celebration.

Nov 1st

Next weekend we celebrate All Souls Day

For the last few years I have had people print the names of those who have died on lists in the vestibule of the church and I would mention their names at Mass during Nov. I will be doing this again this coming month as I have 17 Masses to do this. Please limit your list to five names five couples or on one line "the Smith family"

Ministry Schedule

October 25th & 26th

4pm

Readers: Heigi Pillor, Tony Sacramento

EMS: Janice Dyer, Dianne Foppoli, Tony Turegano

Ushers: Tony & Beth Turegano

Greeters: Ron & Debra Ciarasso

8:30am

Readers: Liz Ritchie, Scott Crossen

EMS: Mary Thayer, Dave Grundman

Ushers: Diance Cook, Barry Goff

Greeters: Larry & Jo Ruminson

10:30am

Readers: Nora John, Marie Horwitz

EMS: Nativity Mata, Julie La Plante, Mila Morrical

Ushers: Sally Shami, Scott Morrical

Greeters: Fred & Janet

November 1st & 2nd

4pm

Readers: Heigi Pillor, Linda Anderson

EMS: Bill Yates, Linda Mish, Gloria Bacani

Ushers: Olivia Salazar, Selina Johnson

Greeters: Roxanne Bialkoski, Pat Yates

8:30am

Readers: Delores Sanchez, Maria Van Anne

EMS: Armando Argueto, Remie Alinas, Vickie Gregorio

Ushers: Liz Chang, Barry Goff

Greeters: Diane Van Anne, Mary Thayer

10:30am

Readers: Nora John, Mary Densoon

EMS: Mila Morrical, Julie La Plante, Nativity Mata

Ushers: Scott Morrical, Sally Shami

Greeters: Fred & Janet Adams

Catholicism and the History of Halloween The celebration of Halloween began in the early Church to honor collectively all the saints who have given faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church. If you're used to modern-day celebrations of Halloween, that may strike you as strange. However, the word "Halloween" derives from "All Hallows' [i.e., "Saints" in German] Eve," affirming that the day marks the Eve/day before/vigil for All Saints Day, similar to how the Church has long commemorated other celebrations, including

Christmas Eve or the Easter Vigil.

In the early days of the Church, Christians celebrated each martyr's feast on the anniversary of his death. As the number of martyrs increased over time, though, and because the liturgical calendar can only accommodate a limited number of Christian luminaries in its 365-day cycle, the Church began honoring all martyrs on a single day. By the later A.D.300s and the early 400s, the Church began to celebrate a feast for all those who had given their life in witness to Christ and his Church. In 609 or 610, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all martyrs, choosing May 13 to honor the martyrs. Pope Gregory III (731-741) extended the feast to include all saints, moving its celebration to November 1, which explains why All Hallows' Eve is celebrated on October 31, the day before. Later, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) made it a feast for the entire Western Church, keeping November 1 as the day of the celebration and also recognizing and respecting the same feast of Eastern Catholics, which remained earlier in the year.

Before the Church's liturgical reforms in 1955 under Pope Pius XII, All Saints Day included both a vigil and an octave, encouraging Catholics to do penance for the faithful departed. All Saints also introduced a month dedicated to prayer for those who had died, beginning with All Souls Day on November 2, a practice which continues to the present day.

Christians prayed, fasted, visited cemeteries, and shared food in remembrance of the faithful who had had gone before them in death. This period of prayer and remembrance was also shaped by the Christian mindset of *memento mori*, a Latin saying which means, "remember you must die." It serves as a reminder to the faithful to live each day in light of our own mortality.

Is Halloween Pagan? There is no substantial evidence that Halloween has pagan origins. Some have argued that the Celtic tradition of Samhain was adopted by the Church to convert members, but this is not true.

Samhain was a festival that marked the beginning of winter in Ireland, but the historical evidence does not support the idea that it involved jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts, or religious ceremonies. In his book *The Stations of the Sun: A History of the Ritual Year in Britain*, historian Ronald Hutton explains:

The medieval records furnish no evidence that 1 November was a major pan-Celtic festival, and none of religious ceremonies, even where it was observed.

In contrast, Halloween's origins are anchored in Christian history.

Ultimately, Halloween is a feast that celebrates Christ's triumph over sin, Satan, and death, testifying to the beatific vision that awaits the faithful departed in heaven.

Unfortunately, due to the secularization and associated distortions of the holiday, many of the faithful ask, "Can Christians celebrate Halloween?" or "Is Halloween Demonic?"

The answer is no—Halloween is not demonic, and Christians can celebrate Halloween! While unhealthy interest in the demonic world, movies that glorify gore, and costumes which trivialize evil should all be avoided, Christians are encouraged to participate in Halloween. For if we believe in the communion of saints, commemorating those who have died is a beautifully rich tradition that our Lord Jesus Christ and his Church have given us—and to which we should give joyful faithful witness.