

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
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(707) 585-3708

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

The Church is open weekdays 7:30-6:30pm,
Saturdays & Sundays 7:30 - 5:15



Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill them.

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 Heric

Sacraments and Devotions

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

Marriage: One year notice to the pastor.

Infant Baptism: 1 month notice. The preparation session will be today at 4pm/Hall

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

The Welcoming Church: Sundays 1pm.

Exposition & Benediction: Thu. 12:15-1:45pm

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Sat/Feb 14, 4:00pm Ints Charles McCollum

Sun/Feb 15, 8:30am Ints Maureen Sheridan Scott

10:30am People of the Parish

Tue/Feb 17, 12:15pm +Salud & Joaquinito Dayanghirang

Wed/Feb 18, 8:15am ASH WEDNESDAY

12:15pm ASH WEDNESDAY

7pm ASH WEDNESDAY

Thu/Feb 19, 12:15pm +James Dayanghirang

Fri/Feb 20, 8:15am +Felix Rojas

Sat/Feb 21, 4:pm +Myrna Wills

Sun/Feb 22, 8:30am People of the Parish
10:30am + Bill Bates

Events in the Parish

Sun/Feb 15, 9:30am SVDP Mtg/Hall

11am Hispanic Ministry Mtg

1pm Welcoming Church/Hall

4pm Baptismal Prep/Hall

Tue/Feb 17, 1pm Bible Study/Hall

Thu/Feb 19, 6pm Executive Board Mtg/CI

Fri/Feb 20, 6pm Men's Club Lenten Dinner

7pm Stations of the Cross

Sun/Feb 22, Men's Club Breakfast After Masses

1pm No Welcoming Church today

Stewardship

Plate Donations for February 8th: \$5,135. Building Maintenance \$2,175. Thank you for your generosity. Second collection today is for Liability Insurance. The Ash Wednesday collection is 75% for Youth Faith Formation and 25% Adult Faith Formation.

Highlights from last Sundays Homily

- We are called to bring out the best in people as salt brings out the best in food flavors.
- But do we bring out the best in people?
- We are the light of the world.
- What is darkness for you?
- Do we help people in darkness?

Sunday Scripture Readings

Reading I: Sirach 15:15-20, **Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, **Gospel:** Matthew 5:17-37

Sunday Reflection

Fulfilling the Law In the Gospel Reading Christ says that he has not come to do away with the law but to fulfill the law. In fact, no one will get into heaven unless his righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the law-observing scribes and the Pharisees. The scribes and Pharisees thought that murderers and adulterers are shut out of heaven. As Christ explains it, sins in your heart, such as hatred or lust, will shut you out of heaven just as effectively.

This is a perplexing saying, isn't it? What happened to salvation by faith and not by works? Isn't the law of the old covenant re-placed by the new covenant of grace? How are we to understand Christ's saying that he has come to fulfill the law?

And it's also a troubling saying, worrying enough to make a person groan out loud. Isn't the burden of guilt heavy enough without Christ's telling people that they will be excluded from heaven unless their righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees? The burden of the Law was great enough, wasn't it? What happened to Christ's saying "come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest"? (Mt 11:28)

But think about heaven. Those in heaven have everlasting life. What would that life be like if Christ's saying were false? If it were false, a person who hated his brother or lusted after someone else's wife could still have everlasting life in heaven.

And now, think about living forever in the psychic pain of surreptitious hatred or secret lust. How could anyone with such a psyche be in heaven? Anywhere a person like that goes automatically ceases to be heaven. His own unrighteousness will make him miserable. He carries the absence of heaven in his unrighteous heart.

And so, Christ is correct: no one will enter into heaven whose righteousness does not exceed the righteousness mandated in the law.

This is a very heavy burden indeed. What could anyone do to carry it?

The solution is to listen when Christ says, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

The rest which righteousness gives comes to us only when we come to Christ. **Eleonore Stump**

Discussion Question: Do you accept the Spirit of the Law or the Letter of the Law

Sunday Connection

Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

Please pray for the health intentions of: Sherman Chan, Gus Chang, Mary Couto, Patrick Dempsey, Lupita Diaz, Marcella Dorado, Anthony Eger, Evelyn Estrella, Jeanne Fields, Cedric Fontana, Kathy Fontana, Louise Galassi, Elsa Garcia, Dave Grundman, Theresa M, Nancy Keegan, Patricia Lauterjung, Kelly Limberg, Frank Manhoso, Rudy Melano, Charles McCollum, Larry Ng, Pat O'Brien, Robert Perrill, Mary Piccioni, April Piehoff, Lisa Rivas, Patricia Sack, Robert Scarpone, Dominique & Cecilia Tarrant, Jessica Thompson, and Malik Whitehorse.

If you want a name on the list, please call the office

Today is Part II of the Diocesan Annual Appeal: Why our diocese needs it.

Faith Formation Ministry

Quote of the Week

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

Pope Francis

Sunday, February 15th

9:30 am 2nd Year Confirmation Class/CL

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word

5-6:30pm Youth Group/Hall

5-6:30pm pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
L3/Atrium

Tuesday, February 17th

3:30-5 pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

L1/Atrium

Wednesday, February 18th

No 1st Year First Communion

3-4:30 pm 2nd Year First Communion

3-4:30 pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
L3/Atrium

*Do you pray each day?
We are looking for
parishioners to be prayer
partners to students who
will be receiving their
sacraments this year. Please take time to think if
this is something you can do for our Communicants
and Confirmandi.
Email sesreled@gmail.com if you're interested
in joining our ministry!*



The Mardi Gras committee would like to thank all parishioners who attended the Mardi Gras Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction. Everyone had a great time enjoying good food, conversation and fellowship. Also, many thanks to Andy Darrow for volunteering to be our DJ for the night and Brandy Moore and Miguel Gamboa for volunteering to be our bartenders and doing a great job. We also want to thank many parishioners who donated items and gift cards to the silent auction. A big shout out to those Women's Guild members who baked all the desserts that were served and for donating gift cards that were part of the Fat Wallet auction item. The total amount of ticket sales was \$3,225.00 and the Mardi Gras and Silent Auction totaled \$7,109 for a grand total of \$10,334. We will be donating \$7,109.00 to the Kitchen Renovation fund.

Super Bowl Square Winners

Pool #1

1st Quarter \$200-Larry Rumminson

2nd Quarter \$200-Stan Cordero

3rd Quarter \$200-Teresa Fonseca

Final Score \$400-Ofelia Cutrone

Pool #2

1st Quarter \$200-Jacob Zayac

2nd Quarter \$200-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

3rd Quarter \$200-Mario Lomelli

The Social Justice Ministry team is conducting a Clothing Drive of warm clothing to benefit Catholic Charities through next Sunday. A chest will be in the vestibule to drop off the warm clothing for people of all ages. WHAT TO DO ON THE GREATEST DAY FOR CHRISTIANS-- EASTER MEALS



LENT 2026

“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence, that is, limited to a single full meal and abstinence from meat.
- The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-derived products,
- **The law of fasting permits** only one full meal a day, but it does allow the taking of some food in the morning and a second light meal at noon or in the evening, as you prefer. **Persons who are 18-59 years old are obligated to fast.**
- **The law of abstinence** from meat applies to all **persons who are 14 years old and up. However, it is highly recommended that children from ages 7 to 13 years also follow the law of abstinence.**
- All Catholics who have received their first Holy Communion are encouraged to receive Holy Eucharist frequently during Lent and to receive the Sacrament of Penance so that all may be prepared to celebrate more fully the paschal mystery. The determination of these days of obligatory penance, as listed above, should not be understood as limiting the occasions for Christian penance.



WHAT TO DO ON THE GREATEST DAY FOR CHRISTIANS-- EASTER MEALS

St Vincent de Paul 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 each week during Lent for the Easter Basket, starting on Saturday, February 21st, and ending on Sunday, March 22nd.

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>
Feb 21/22		Scalloped Potatoes
	4 oz. box or pkg.	
Feb 28/Mar 1		Green Beans
	14 oz. can	
Mar 7/8		Corn
	15 oz. can	
Mar 14/15		Sliced Pineapple
	20 oz. can	
Mar 21/22		Corn Bread Mix
	15 oz. box	



Does Breakfast Sound Good??

Then join our parishioners for breakfast as they enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our Men's Club. The breakfast is

on February 22nd in the Hall after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. **IT'S FREE !!** Donations, however, are much appreciated. Hope to see you for good food and great fellowship.

**Ministry Schedule
February 14th & 15th**

4pm Mass

Readers: Linda Anderson, Heigi Pillor
EMS: Janice Dyer, Dianne Foppoli, Bill Yates
Ushers: Janice Dyer, Tony Turegano
Greeters: Ron & Debra Ciarasso

8:30am Mass

Readers: Scott Crossen, Liz Ritchie
EMS: John Buhagiar, Diane Cook, Mary Thayer
Ushers: Diane Cook, Barry Goff
Greeters: Larry & Jo Ruminson

10:30am Mass

Readers: Marie Horwitz, Maureen Sheridan Scott
EMS: Dianne Foppoli, Nora John, Nativity Mata
Ushers: Scott Morrical, Milagros Morrical
Greeters: Fred & Janet Adam

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:15am

Readers: Liz Ritchie, Maureen Sheridan Scott
EMS: Joanne Bishop, Diane Cook, Beth Turegano
Ushers: Diane Cook, Milagros Morrical

12:15pm

Readers: Linda Anderson, Tony Madia
EMS: Dianne Foppoli, Victoria Gregorio, Tony Turegano
Ushers: Dianne Foppoli, Tony Turegano, Jovita Bishop
Greeter: Olivia Salazar

7pm

Readers: Nora John, Scott Morrical
EMS: Dave Grundman, Mary Thayer, Bill Yates
Ushers: Gus & Liz Chang
Greeters: Sally Shami, Pat Yates

February 21st & 22nd

4pm Mass

Readers: Tony Madia, Tony Sacramento

EMS: Joanne Bishop, Janice Dyer, Beth Turegano

Ushers: Janice Dyer, Tony Turegano

Greeters: Roxanne Bialkoski, Olivia Salazar

8:30am Mass

Readers: Dolores Sanchez, Maureen Sherida Scott

EMS: John Buhagiar, Diane Cook, Mary Thayer

Ushers: Barry Goff, Mary Thayer

Greeters: Alan & Caroline Kalaw

10:30am Mass

Readers: Scott Morrical, Milagros Morrical

EMS: Lorraine Datu, Victoria Gregorio, Nora John

Ushers: Dianne Foppoli, Sally Shami

Greeters: Lorraine Datu, X

Pastor's Corner

Another year another Lent. Which did you do for Lent last year? Are you a better person today for it?

If not, maybe you need a new approach. Many times, Lent is like going on a diet for many. When it is over, many of us go back to our old selves and there is no difference a month later. Our Lenten practices should become a part of our lives after Lent is over. Think about it.

I want to thank Kate Ingram for the floral arrangements. That our present until Lent when we will have a drastic change in the art and environment in the church.

I say this every week, "make sure your cell phones are turned off." I am now asking you to not bring them into the church. I still see people checking e-mails and more when in the church. Leave the secular world outside and focus on the things of heaven inside.

I am also asking people not to bring water bottles into the church. People leave them in the church. The only food and drink in the church is the body and blood of Christ. Next week we will have dixie cups and water where the old fountains are in the vestibule. Get a cup of water and drink it before you enter the church main.

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 The first day of Lent

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.



Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak other words.

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

Recently, movements have developed that involve pastors distributing ashes to passersby in public places. This isn't considered taboo, but Catholics should know this practice is distinctly Protestant. Catholics should still receive ashes within the context of Mass. In some cases, ashes may be delivered by a priest or a family member to those who are sick or shut-in.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes

Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told

"Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return." Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.