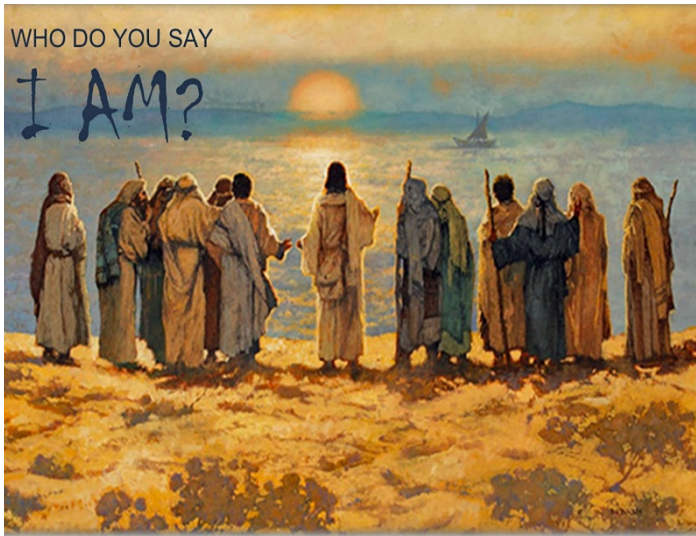


St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church 4595
 Snyder Lane Rohnert Park, CA 94928
 (707) 585-3708
Website: www.Stelizabethrp.com
E-Mail stelizseton@sbcglobal.net
 Office Hours: Tue.- Fri. 9am - 1pm
 The Church is
 open daily 7:30am – 8pm

August 23, 2026
21st 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, Diane Colbrook
Floral Decorations: Cesira Rantissi Heric
 (707)338-3959

Sacraments and Devotions

Reconciliation: Sundays: 9:45-10:15am, Wed. 5:45-6:15pm, Thu 1-1:30
Marriage: One year notice to the pastor.
Infant Baptism: 1 month notice. The next preparation session is on Sept. 20th noon-2pm.
You must register in the office for the class.
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
Exposition & Benediction: Thu. 12:45-1:45pm.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Sat/Aug 22 4pm +Elizabeth Yabut
Sun/Aug 23 8:30am People of the Parish

10:30am +Delores Calvi
Tue/Aug 25 12:15pm +Jean Bryan
Wed/Aug 26 5pm +Duk Guong Wan
Thu/Aug 27 12:15pm +Jose Araiza
Fri/Aug 28 8:15am Int of George Fiori
Sat/Aug 29 4pm +Sam Aggio
Sun/Aug 30 8:30am People of the Parish
10:30am +Lourdez & Nelson Galvez

Events in the Parish

Sat/ Aug 22 5pm Men's Club Chicken Dinner
Sun/ Aug 23 9:30 & 11:30 SEAS Café after Masses
Wed/Aug 26 Noon August Potluck Luncheon

Stewardship For August 15th & 16th

Plate: \$4,287.80 Thank you but Ouch! 2nd collection for Building maintenance \$1,832. Thank you!
The next 2nd collections are Sept. 2nd Sunday: Building Maintenance and the 3rd Sunday: Seminary Formation.
You can still make a donation for the Mission Appeal we had with Br. Felix of the Passionist Missionaries in Kenya.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Reading I: Isaiah 22:19-23, **Reading II:** Romans 11:33-36,

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20.

Last Week's Homily in Brief

- What obstacles stand in your way of success?
- What obstacles stand in your way of faith in the Lord?
- The Canaanite woman had such persistence and faith in asking the Lord for help.
- Jesus healed her daughter because of her faith shown.

Sunday Reflection

It Takes Two: On previous Sundays Jesus has been curing people. Yet an odd thing happens in each case. He tells them, "Your faith has saved you." That creates a mystery. Quite obviously Jesus does the healing, so why does he say their faith did it? Why didn't he just say "Go in peace, I have healed you"?

Let us seek the answer in Sunday's Gospel. This will be a roundabout way to get at an answer, so I ask you to wait for it.

Jesus is in Caesarea Philippi and the disciples are just back from their mission of preaching. He asks them who people think he is.

The disciples laugh boyishly and repeat some answers they have heard. Obviously they regard these guesses as absurd. Something like this: Believe it or not, some think you are John the Baptist returned from the dead!

The ones I talked to said you were the prophet Elijah! It was hilarious!

A few of them said you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets! They just don't know what to make of you. Laughter all around.

But Jesus' question was a curve ball and now it crosses the plate. He says abruptly, "And what about you? Who do you say I am?"

Eyes wander, feet scuff, laughter turns into a cough. The disciples' faith is still young and perhaps they are confused about it, not to mention the fact that up to this point they have not been required to profess anything out loud. Red faces. Peter is bold, awkwardly walking on water again, figuratively this time. He stammers out his best answer.

You ... you are ... the, uh, ... yes, uh, the ... the Son of ... you are the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Silence and then nods and relief all around.

"Simon, how great is your faith," Jesus says.

"Whatever you open with this faith will stay open. Whatever your faith shuts will remain shut, not only here but in heaven."

A high compliment to Peter's tottering belief status.

But does this help with the contradiction we began with? Is it Jesus' action or an act of their faith?

Jesus is always seeking a two-way liaison between himself and us, not just one-way. He wants us to have a relationship to the fullness of who he is. Besides being a charismatic leader or a good friend, he is *the very reality of God's love, present in the world, wide open to loving each of us—and being loved in return*. He wants a mutual love-relationship with you and me, one in which we open up our hearts and let Godly love in—and return it. The name of that openness to God's love on the part of a person is "faith." Faith.

So, the answer is truly, "your faith has saved you." *But it is faith in Jesus' cures*. These are never just a matter of him acting on his own, like a mechanic replacing spark plugs. They are love being given and love being received. The ones who were cured must have opened themselves and have at least a beginning relationship with Jesus as the loving Messiah.

Healing is then at last able to take root.

John Foley, SJ.

Discussion Question: To answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am," you have to know him. Which of the following could help you know Jesus:

- music by Vivaldi
- Michelangelo's David or Van Gogh's Irises
- a good homily
- a good book

- good friends
- suffering
- joy
- meditation
- successes
- weaknesses
- family flowers
- homeless people

Family Connection

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

As you gather together as a family, talk about people whose faith has helped you to be a member of the Church and talk about what you have learned from leaders in our Church today. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20. Talk about what you know about Peter and his importance to the early Christian community. Talk about what we can learn from Peter and his profession of faith about Jesus. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm 138 or an Act of Faith.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe
that You are one God in three Divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that Your Divine Son became man
and died for our sins,
and that He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches,
because You have revealed them,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
Amen.

Youth Faith Formation

REGISTRATION CLOSING NEXT WEEK

Please use the QR code provided or fill out a packet located in the vestibule. Families can turn in registration forms at the rummage sale! Classes begin, **Wednesday, September 16th!**



Reminder to stop by on Sunday, September 23rd to see how you can walk with the youth of our parish this coming school year. We will be meeting in the large classroom at the end of the hall, one of our Atriums.

Our Faith Formation Rummage Sale was a big success!

Thank you to everyone for your incredibly generous donations! Through your generosity we were able to raise \$4,630.25 and most of all we go to know our youth and their families while doing corporal works of mercy. We were able to help Catholic Charities, Una Vida in Petaluma, St Vincent de Paul, Society, United Cerebral Palsy, Animal Shelter, Home Cares, Goodwill, Redwood Gospel Mission, Restore, and we found families needing baby items.

August Potluck Luncheon



Please join us on Wednesday, August 26th at 12 noon for our monthly potluck. We will gather in the parish hall to share food and fellowship.

Please bring either a main dish entree or a dessert to share.

Looking forward to seeing you on Aug 26 at noon in the hall.
Jo, Larry and Linda

Please pray for the health intentions of: Joe

Arrigoni, Bi Bi Ballesteros, Giselle Ballion, Catherine Delara, Diva & Gaba Delara, Giovanna DeSimone, John Diaz, Marcella Dorado, Maryann Eger, Marcus Esplada, Jim Estrella, Rosita Faltado, Amanda Fernandez, Janet Fenstermacher, Kathy & Cedric Fontana, Nancy Keegan, Sue Kennedy, Trinidad Legasti, Fatima Manhoso, Ruth McAllister, Judith Miller, Joseph Patrick, Mary Piccioni, Vivian Pruett, Emi Jade Przyborowski, Linda Sime, Cecilia Tarrant, Diane Thrailkill, Jim Turegano, Tiffany Valentine, Kenneth Wagy, and Steve Werle.

To put a name on the list, please call the office

Woman of the Year 2026

The Pastoral Council would like to thank all those parishioners who took the time to nominate an exceptional woman from our parish to be recognized for the SRDCCW Woman of the Year. We are pleased to announce the St Elizabeth Ann Seton Woman of the Year for 2026 is **Beth Turegano! Beth is the chief money counter, makes quilts for parish raffles, does liturgical laundry for the altar, a sacristan, in charge of ushers, goes to Mass daily and more.**

She will be in good company with others who have been Woman of the Year: Maureen Sheridan-Scott, Evelyn Estrella and Giovanna DeSimone. Congratulations and most of all a sincere thank you for all that you do for our parish and our community. You are a blessing to us all! Beth will be recognized at the annual WOMAN OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION MASS

AND LUNCHEON on October 17 at St. Francis Solano Church in Sonoma. Please look to the bulletin board for information if you would like to purchase a ticket to attend this special celebration. The registration forms are across from the office on the 2nd shelf.

PICNIC NEWS



Any bakers out there? The Picnic Committee would like to ask for volunteers to bake cupcakes for our upcoming

Parishioner Picnic on Sunday, Sept 13th. If you would like to make two-dozen cupcakes for the picnic, please let us know and we will give you all the details. You can text Jo Ruminson at 707-806-1066. Thank you for volunteering!

Pastor's Corner

Some work has started on the Kitchen renovation. It seems that the grease trap was put in backwards and this has caused problems with the drain, as many of you know, who have used the kitchen. We are getting bids at this time to deal with making it right.

If you have not made your donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the donation envelop is attached to this bulletin. Please, we have only a 32% participation. Remember that all money that comes in now goes to the parish to pay the bills as the Sunday Collection needs more generosity and participation, especially to pay our liability insurance.

The Mass on Wednesdays at 5pm has not turned out the way I wished. It was to be a time for families and individuals who do not regularly attend a weekday Mass to come not out of obligation like a Sunday Mass but out of love of God on another day. The regular time will return at 8:15am starting Sept 2nd.

A financial statement will be going out in late September so you can see where our money comes from and goes to.

Please be careful in letting down **the pew kneelers** in church. I am looking for a type of cushion that can be attached so when pew is lowered or raised it will not sound like a herd of elephants.

Keep me in your prayers as many of you can see at mass that I have a neck problem, deterioration of the C-1 and C-2 of my spine that starts at the neck. My doctor says it is "Old Age." I am having a simple procedure on Monday to have six steroid shots in my neck area. If it works, my pain will be a lot less or gone for up to 5 months as I have pain all the time.

THE WELCOMING CHURCH

Registration forms are available across from the office for those **wishing to join the Welcoming Church** in order to be baptized, be received into the Church from another faith, make their First Holy Communion, or receive the sacrament of Confirmation. It can also be for those who want to refresh their faith beliefs. Forms must be returned to the office for privacy and Fr. Tom will be the only one to review the registrations

The Welcoming Church will consist of getting to know each other and what their story is when it comes to the faith, reflecting on the Sunday scripture readings, and learning about the beliefs, life of the church, etc. **We will begin on Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 14th from 6-7:15pm.** We will have food available for those who have not had their dinner.

Ministry Schedule August 29th & 30th

4:00pm Mass

Readers: Linda Anderson, Evelyn Estrella

EMS: Gloria Bacani, Janice Dyer, Beth Turegano

Ushers: Liz Ritchie, Tony Turegano

Greeters: Tony Piazza, Pat Yates

8:30am Mass

Readers: Heigi Pillor, Maria Van Anne

EMS: Remie Alinas, Diane Cook, Patty Ramos

Ushers: Barry Goff, Mary Thayer

Greeters: Alan & Caroline Kalaw

10:30am Mass

Readers: Scott Crossen, Milagros Morrical

EMS: Jovita Bishop, Giovanna Desimone, Victoria Gregorio

Ushers: Scott Morrical, Sally Shami

Greeters: Janet Adam, Giovanna Desimone

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities invites Catholics to pray and act to stop the spread of abortion pills.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action against the spread of abortion pills, starting on August 18th and lasting until October.

"Every abortion involves the death of a child and harm to the mother. Now with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks," said Archbishop Paul Coakley, USCCB President, and Bishop Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Conference's Pro-Life committee, in a joint invitation released on Aug. 18.

The invitation includes a prayer in English and Spanish that can be said for the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life. It also encourages Catholics visit the USCCB's Respect Life Prayer and Action website, where they can learn about the danger of abortion pills and send messages to



pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies that are involved.

The initiative was launched in order to overlap with the Respect Life Month, which is observed every October by the Catholic Church in the United States.

A system that leaves women vulnerable "The Food and Drug Administration has enabled a nationwide mail-order abortion industry by allowing abortion pills to be prescribed in telehealth appointments and sold both at neighborhood pharmacies and online, circumventing state laws that protect life in the womb," the Bishops' invitation explains.

"This leaves women vulnerable to suffering an abortion alone at home, without any medical supervision. It also sets up additional opportunities for exploitation by violent partners or human traffickers."

In May, the US Supreme Court extended an order that temporarily continues to allow for abortion pills to be prescribed through telemedicine and sent by mail, as a legal dispute over this issue takes place in a lower court. The bishops urged Catholics to visit the **USCCB's Respect Life campaign website**,



Pope at Audience: Sacred music is to glorify God and sanctify the faithful

During his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Leo XIV reflected on sacred music in the liturgy, praising it for giving voice

to prayer and expressing the faith, always with the main objective of glorifying God and helping the faithful grow in holiness.

**Do you sing at Mass? It is
an Expression of prayer and of
faith**

The Pope observed that singing and playing sacred music in the liturgy "means to pray, attuning one's heart to that of our sisters and brothers and to God, through active participation in the mystery that is being celebrated."

Recalling that music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, Pope Leo cited when St. Augustine said, "*Cantare amantis est*," translated as "singing belongs to those who love."

"This," the Pope reflected, "is very important because it helps us to open our hearts to God's action in grace and to allow ourselves to be molded by it."

Moreover, the Holy Father recalled that singing fosters communion. "It contributes to the unity of hearts," he said, "overcoming differences between people and bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices."



**Saint of the Week: St.
Monica, Thu., Aug. 27th**

**Prayer to St. Monica for
Our Children**

O blessed St. Monica, faithful
mother and tireless intercessor,
you wept for your son with a
love that would not yield,

trusting in God's mercy when all seemed lost.

Look with compassion upon our children—those
who wander far from truth, those who doubt,
those who are wounded in spirit.

Gather them gently in your mantle of
prayer and lead them back to the embrace of
Christ.

Obtain for us the grace to persevere in love, to
speak with wisdom, to wait with patience,
and to hope without ceasing.

May our homes be places of faith and
peace, where God's light never fades.

Through your intercession, may our children's
hearts be softened, their steps guided, and their
souls restored to the joy of the Gospel. St.

Monica, steadfast and tender, pray for us and
for all our children, now and at the hour of our
need. Amen