

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

weekdays 7:30–6:30pm,

Saturdays & Sundays 7:30 - 5:15

May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord



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 next preparation session TBA

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/May 16 4pm +Felix Rojas

Sun/May 17 8:30am People of the Parish
0:30am Ints. of Rosa Gomez

Mon/May 18 11am Funeral Mass for Claire Ribiero

Tue/May 19 2:15pm +Helen Kenavy

Wed/May 20 8:15am +Anabel Mabait

Thu/May 21 12:15pm +Moyra Moy

Fri/May 22 8:15am +Vincent Raguro

Sat/May 23 4pm +Kathleen Skirra

Sun/May 24 8:30am +Felix Rojas
10:30am People of the Parish

Events in the Parish

Sun/May 17 8:30-12:30 Men's Club Free

Breakfast

11:30am Hispanic Ministry Mtg/hall

1pm Welcoming Church

Sun/May 24 9:30am SVDP Mtg/Hall

Stewardship for May 10th

Plate: \$4,998. Building Maintenance \$1,835. 2nd collection today is for Liability Insurance. Your help with this expense is appreciated.

Diocesan Annual Ministry Appeal through April

Goal: \$19,300, Pledges: \$65,097, Donors: 189, Gifts received: \$41,986 Rebate so far: \$22,686, Percentage of Parish Families participating so far: 32% Compared to last year we are ahead of schedule!

Last Year April 2025 Goal: \$20,300, Donors: 149, Pledges: \$55,373, Rebate: \$35,600

Last Week's Homily Highlights

- Jesus will not leave us orphans
- The Holy Spirit will guide us in all things
- How have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- How can you help others feel the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives?

Sunday Readings

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday Reflection

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates the fortieth day after the Resurrection when Jesus ascended body and soul into Heaven and took His seat at the right hand of His Father. Traditionally, the location of the Ascension is believed to be less than a mile east of the Old City of Jerusalem, and that spot is marked by the Chapel of the Ascension, which is said to contain a miraculous imprint of the footprints of Christ before He ascended. The event of the Ascension is found in the Gospels and Acts (Mark 16:19–20; Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:6–12). It is also alluded to in various other passages (John 6:62; Ephesians 4:7–10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21–22).

Only Jesus and His Blessed Mother have entered into the glories of Heaven, body and

soul. Jesus' Ascension implies that He did so by His own authority and power. The Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption implies that she entered Heaven, body and soul, by God's power, and not her own.

The Ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission. He first united His divine nature with human nature through the Incarnation at the moment of the Annunciation. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that from that moment on, Jesus, the Son of God, experienced three types of knowledge. First, being God, He had beatific knowledge, that is, a direct knowledge of His essence, the Father's essence, and the Holy Spirit's essence. Second, He had the perfection of infused knowledge, that is, a bestowal of all truths given to the angels in Heaven, especially those truths necessary for the completion of His divine mission. Third, He began to acquire learned knowledge, or experiential knowledge. This was the form of knowledge attained through His human nature from the senses and His human reason.

As Jesus fulfilled His mission through life, His learned knowledge continued to grow until it was perfected in human form. It was never imperfect in the sense of sin, but only in the sense of growth through human experience and human love. He experienced all things, allowed the perfection of His beatific and infused knowledge to guide His human experiences and brought those human experiences and knowledge to perfection. His free embrace of the Cross manifested the perfection of divine love in human form, and His Resurrection brought that perfect unity of human and divine love to a new and transformed resurrected state of human existence. But that was not all. Today we commemorate the fact that Jesus took His perfected human nature into the Beatific Vision, enabling humanity itself to follow. The Blessed Virgin Mary was the first to do so given her sinless state.

The final stage of the salvation of humanity will take place when Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead. At that time, every human body will rise, will endure the final purification and transformation, and will share in the new and resurrected state in which the faithful will be able to stand, body and soul, before the Most Holy Trinity and experience the fullness of the Beatific Vision forever. What Jesus has already accomplished in His human form is what we look forward to in hope at the end of time.

The Feast of the Ascension was celebrated annually from as early as apostolic times. Saint

John Chrysostom, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, and Saint Augustine all attest to this fact. When the Council of Nicaea set the date for the celebration of the Resurrection in 325, it chose to keep Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox in spring. This decision also set the day for the Ascension being forty days after Easter, on a Thursday. Today, many ecclesiastical provinces transfer the Thursday celebration to the following Sunday to provide for a wider celebration.

Though every aspect of Christ's life is shrouded in mysteries which will only be fully understood by the faithful when they stand before Him and behold the Beatific Vision, today we especially ponder this beautiful and profound mystery of our faith. As we celebrate the Ascension, try to prayerfully meditate upon the perfect unity of Jesus' human and divine natures. Ponder further the truth that because the Son of God is both God and man, and He beholds His Father and the Holy Spirit as both God and man, He invites each of us to begin to share in that glorious vision. Only after we fully die in and with Him and rise to new life in and with Him will we be able to know Him clearly and share in His glorious resurrected and ascended life. Until that moment comes, it's important to ponder that which is incomprehensible. We must know that we do not know, believe what is beyond belief, hope in that which is more than we can understand. God is a mystery; the Ascension is a mystery—but they are mysteries that must be penetrated by prayer. Do so today as we commemorate this holy culmination of the earthly life and mission of Christ.

Prayer:

My Ascended Lord, forty days after You rose from the dead You ascended to the right hand of the Father in Heaven, taking up Your throne from which You pour forth both judgment and mercy. As we honor this great mystery of Your divine and human life, I beg for mercy upon me and upon the whole world. Free us from all sin, and open the floodgates of Your mercy so that all people will share one day, body and soul, in the glory of Your Beatific Vision. Jesus, I trust in You.

Discussion Question: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (v. 20). How is Jesus' present today? Do you ever feel alone without God?

Sunday Connection: Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of

discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should lead people to discipleship by the example of one for another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond reaching out to others and to the world.



Together with your family, identify one or more ways in which your family lives the life of Christian discipleship. Thank God for the blessing of the opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer

Please pray for the health intentions of: Bi Bi Ballesteros, Giovanna Desimone, Marcella Dorado, Maryann Eger, Jim Estrella, Rosita Faltado, Kathy Fontana, Cedric Fontana, Greyson Goff, Nancy Keegan, Fatima Manhoso, Mary Piccioni, Vivian Pruet, Emi Jade Przyborowski, Cecilia Tarrant, Diane Thrailkill, Jim Turegano. Jackson Vallee. If you want a name on the list, please call the office

Pray for the souls of Claire Ribiero and Carlos Ruiz. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Quote of the Week

"A soul who walks in love neither rests nor grows tired."

***St. John of the Cross
Sunday, May 17th***

*10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word/Hall
5 pm Class Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
L3/Atrium*

***5 pm Youth Group
Tuesday, May 19th***

*3:30 pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
L1/Atrium*

Wednesday, May 20th

*3 pm 1st Year First Communion
3 pm 2nd Year First Communion*

*3 pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd L3/Atrium
Sunday, May 17th*

*10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word/Hall
5 pm Class Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
L3/Atrium*

*6 pm Youth Group meet-up at In & Out Burger
7 pm Youth Group meet-up at Scandia*



Do you have a child ready for First Communion or Confirmation?

*Early bird registration ends in **TWO WEEKS** on 5/31/2026. Regular prices will be \$125.00 per student starting June 1st.*

Email: sesreled@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our ministry to our youth

Graduating from high school is a pivotal moment, and prayer can provide comfort, clarity, and encouragement. Here is a prayer that encompasses guidance, strength, and hope for the future of our graduates here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Prayer for Wisdom and Guidance

Dear Lord, as these graduates stand at the threshold of new beginnings, grant them wisdom to make sound decisions, discernment to follow the right path, and courage to face challenges with confidence. Illuminate their minds with knowledge, fill their hearts with understanding, and let Your light guide their steps. May they trust in Your plan and seek Your direction in all they do, knowing that You are always with them.

Ministerio Hispano Muchas gracias por su apoyo tanto al grupo de esta iglesia. El Werle. El total de \$1.51 Lo usaremos para embre. Muchas



Thank you very much for your support on our Mother's Day Raffle. Thank you for our fellowships and our members of the hispanic group. The

winner was Mr. Steve Werle! Our profit was **\$931.51** and it will be used for the Mananitas on December 12. Thank you very much!

Pastor's Corner

I want to thank all those who remembered me on my birthday by: prayers, cards, spending money and gift cards. I would have sent out individual "Thank You's" but some people never put their names on the cards.

I am troubled that only three Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have volunteered to bring Holy Communion to the shut-ins. If you would like to bring Holy Communion to the sick, shut-ins, etc., please call Fr. Tom this week so a session on what to do can take place.

Janitorial info and more: Some people are putting plastic bags that are not recyclable in the recycle bin, also if you have green composted material please use the bin in front of the garage and not the cans.

Next Sunday is Pentecost. Please wear your Sunday best and have some red in it for the Holy Spirit. As we celebrate the Birthday of the Church.

I would ask that people not walk around in the vestibule during Mass as I see shadow movements and it can be distracting. Just come on in.

Volunteers are needed to cut the lawn on the side of the hall. The person who has been doing it is away for a few months. It is usually cut every two weeks and the church has a Good lawnmower.

Collections are down a bit this month, under \$5,000. I realize that inflation has taken hold but please pray before you give.

Remember the Men's Club Breakfast from 8:30-12:30.

Please use the water dispenser in the vestibule rather than bringing bottled water into the church.

If you have flowers from your garden and would like to donate them for the sanctuary please let the office know.



Starts at 5:30 pm Mass at St. Rose

- Walk up Sonoma Ave. pausing for prayer and reflection
- End at the Cathedral for final Benediction and
- Contact Steven Morris dsryouth@srdiocese.org for more info

Ministry Schedule

May 23rd & 24th

4:00pm Mass

Readers: Tony Madia, Tony Sacramento

EMS: Joanne Bishop, Jovita Bishop, Victoria Gregorio

Ushers: Mark & Selina Johnson

Greeters: Luisa Bustillos, Debra Ciarasso



8:30am Mass

Readers: Phillip Alvarado, Evelyn Estrella

EMS: Remie Alinas, John Buhagiar, Diane Cook

Ushers: Barry Goff, Mary Thayer

Greeters: Alan & Caroline Kalaw

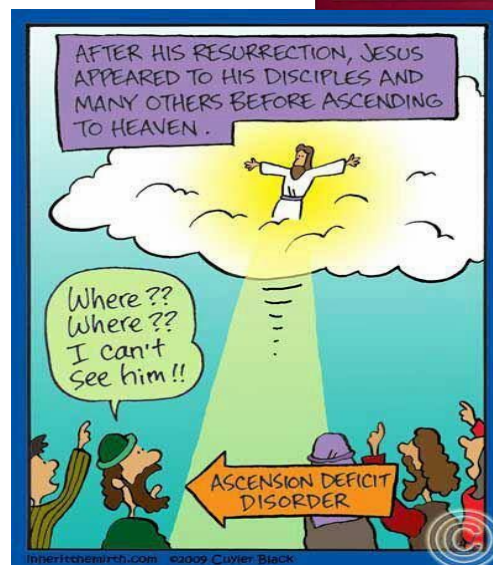
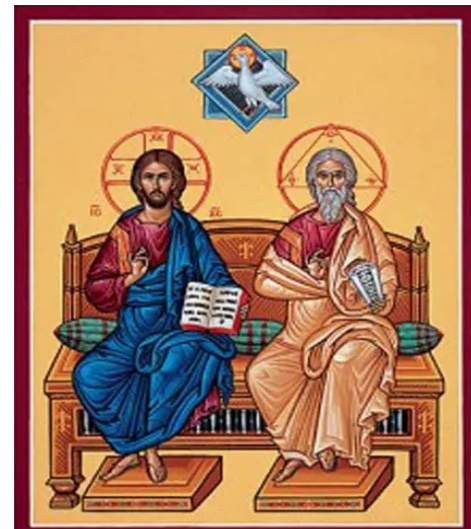
10:30am Mass

Readers: Scott Crossen, Milagros Morrical

EMS: Giovanna Desimone, Nativity Mata, Milagros Morrical

Ushers: Lorraine Datu, Milagros Morrical

Greeters: Augustine Gonzalez, Sally Shami



Summer Camps: Academics, Arts & Athletics (Grades 3–9)

Our engaging summer camp programs offer students the opportunity to explore new interests, build skills, and have fun in a supportive environment. For more information, contact Tony Greco at tgreco@svhs-pet.org or scan the QR code to learn more. **Now Enrolling: Grades 9–12**
To schedule a family tour, contact Kerry Pedersen at kpetersen@svhs-pet.org or call **707-763-1032 ext. 113**.



Jesus and Going Home-The Ascension

The concept of Jesus and going home is deeply rooted in the Christian faith, symbolizing the journey back to God and the promise of eternal life. Jesus' promise of returning to prepare a place for believers is a central theme in the New Testament, as seen in John 14:2-3. This promise reassures believers that they are never truly alone, as God is always with them, nurturing their journeys until they reach their eternal home. The Bible also emphasizes the importance of returning to God, as seen in Acts 3:19, where repentance and turning back to Him are highlighted as essential steps in the journey of faith. The phrase "Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father" signifies His supreme honor, authority, and favor in heaven. It indicates that Jesus has completed His work of redemption and is now ruling with divine authority.

This position symbolizes His exalted status and ultimate authority over all creation, reflecting His equality within the Godhead

Literally, Jesus does not sit at God's right hand.

Let us Pray

**Jesus, as you returned to your home in heaven
may we try to make our homes like heaven with
love, patience, and forgiveness so are homes
may be places without fear. Amen**