



December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

UPCOMING DATES

Wed Dec 4, 1pm: St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting
 Sun Dec 15, Christmas dinner
 Wed Dec 18, 4pm: Finance Committee Meeting
 Tues Nov 26, 4pm: St. Colman Guild Meeting

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 4 pm: Lee Torr [*health*]
Sat 5 pm: book of remembrance,
 Bill Donnellan [*health*] req by Beverly Donnellan
Sun 9 am: Howard, Maureen & Chris+
Sun 11 am: for all parishioners

PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Who are ill or in pain: Bill Hatch, Cathy Olsen, Bart Strady, Kim Warburton, Bill Harmon, Mike Hogan, Hernan Enrique Caceres, Veronica Natalia Chavez, Maria Sol Montel, Veronica Rodriguez, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Carolina Silvia Brizuela Perez, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Dorothy Maceira, Jack Burger, Charlotte & Neil Berry, Jim Rossi, Raul & Iris Bisbal, Frank Falero, Guillermina Hernandez, Gabe & Renee Snodgrass, Thomas Gregory, Nini Johnston, Don Creech, Nilda Falero, Don Schaffert, Ed Copeland, Andrew Cebalo, Nina Cantacessi, Posie, William Donnellan, Ernest Souder, Robert Cebalo, Kathleen Sheridan, Sister Gabrielle, Virginia Loosli, David Cross, Helen Johnson, Billy Henthorn, Steve Arcia, Jim & Mary Crowther, Lorelie Fulwider, Fr. Andrew Metcalf, JoAnn Coules, Dinah Smith, Lorna Marie Hastings, Laverne Jones, Joanne & Bill Rodgers, John Breig, Linda Schmidt, Michell Jackson, Jim Ward, Nini Sanchez, Jacqueline Donovan, Art McNulty, Terry Devlin, Mary Hall Smith, Stan Moorman, Maggie Nelson, Stella Dunne, Nina Cantacessi, John Hoffman, Mary Tamargo, Don La Plante, Sarah & David, Ed Fulwider, Vicki Gonzalez, Jesus Chavez Torres

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Len Heinz, Emilio Porta, Allan Barich, Despo Pullaro, Claudette West, Susan Manick Dodge, Dana Couey-Harmon, Allo Castano, Cecilia Heinz, Lawrence Peterson, Evelyn Shuster, John Seymour, George Ayoob, Charlie Marbach, Joe Mercieca, Elaine Benson, Suzi Schaffert, Janet Guidotti, Doris Porras, Helen Leseberg, Bette Campbell, Margaret Maher, Carole Williams, Fr. Philip Ryan, Joseph Kobler, Janine Bekker Carrig, Matthew Gonzalez, Billy Ferree, Tom King, Tom Kelly, Axel Avera, Victor Theander, John Sanchez

Does your will include your gift to God?

To be placed on our Sunday Bulletin email list, send your request to: ChurchElizabeth@comcast.net

The deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday at 5pm. Submit them (proofread and spell-checked) via email or the following meetings at St. Hubert's Hall:

READINGS

Is 2: 1-5
 Ps 122: 1-2. 3-4. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9
 Rom 13: 11-14
 Mt 24: 37-44

PASTOR'S DESK

It has been said that "*Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon.*" Many of us can recognize the truth in that observation from our own personal experience. *Why is it that so many of us who want to live not only a long earthly life but also an eternal life, are often bored with life? The answer is that we are not living in harmony with our true purpose in life.* "Come to Me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you," Jesus bids us now. "Come to Me ... and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart":

Come to Me, and I will teach you; come to Me, and I will uplift you; come to Me, and I will enrich your life; come to Me, and I will relieve your boredom; come to Me, and your souls will find rest.

Could it be that you are so burdened with anxiety about the way things were, or so wedded to the future, dreaming about the way things are going to be, that now is the time you would least expect Him to come? But today is the day the Lord has made. Today is the day to be glad and rejoice in. Today is the day to shut down the burden of your anxious hearts, full of worry about the past and the future, and allow the blessed silence to awaken you to the Lord's presence in your life.

Scripture tells us that "God gave us eternal life, and that this life is in His Son. Whoever possesses the Son possesses life; whoever does not possess the Son does not possess life" (1 Jn. 5:11-12).

Jesus said that He came that we might have life and have it to the full. What does it look like in Holy Scripture, this life God gives us in Jesus Christ? It looks like acceptance, as experienced by a despised tax collector. It looks like forgiveness, as experienced by a woman who was about to be stoned by those who didn't understand such forgiveness. It looks like new meaning, as when a person who is estranged

from her community comes to the well at mid-day to find a mysterious young Jew who tells her about the refreshing waters of eternal life. It looks like comfort and hope as experienced by two women who are crying because their beloved brother is in the tomb. It looks like hungry people sharing some loaves and fishes on a hillside; it looks like the human need of all kinds being met: the lame leaping for joy, the blind receiving sight, the deaf hearing, the captives released, the dead brought to life again. It looks like a man going all out for another, holding nothing back for Himself, sacrificing Himself in affirmation of all men, and then appearing on the third day as a stranger who is recognized in the simple act of breaking bread together.

In 1666, a French soldier named Nicholas Herman joined a Carmelite monastery, became known as *Brother Lawrence*, and wrote a book called "Practice the Presence of God." He was assigned to the monastery kitchen, which became his Cathedral. In his book he explained:

The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the altar.

Our lives can be burdened by anxiety and boredom, or they can be rich and alive with good works. We can live as though we are unaware of the nearness of God or, like Brother Lawrence, we can be alert to His coming to us, again and again, in every situation. And as we are reminded in today's Lesson, Jesus commands us to stay awake to this profound reality!

PEACE AND BLESSINGS

Fr. Luis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enjoy growing your faith with fellow travelers on your faith journey! Pivotal Players: Bishop Barron's production, Vol. 1 of the most influential figures in church history. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Henry Newman, G.K. Chesterton and Michelangelo. Each segment is approximately 1 hour. Wednesday afternoon viewings at 5:00 pm at the home of Mary Ann.

RSVP is necessary please call Mary Ann at (707) 869-0323.

Advent Concert 7:30 pm Friday December 13th at Resurrection Parish 303 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa. In memory of Dana Couey-Harman. Featuring Doug Harman, 4th Day Gospel Choir and members of the Lighthouse Gospel Choir of Marin. Rev. Ulis Redic, JR., directing from the piano. Free-will love offerings gratefully accepted. CDs will be available for sale.

Sunday December 15th is the church Christmas dinner. More information to follow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

1. In all the places you live and work is there some dimness that you can brighten with your Christ light?
2. Advent means that we look forward once more to Christ's coming at Christmas and anticipate his next coming. Does Christ come also everyday? How? When?

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

1. "For him all the fullness was pleased to dwell." What does *fullness* mean to you in this context? Do you see part of such a fullness in this or that neighbor? What part do you want to dwell in you? Think of all the places you find goodness. Are they sacred? What is the goodness and beauty in your life saying to you about God?
2. "He is the image of the invisible God. All things in heaven and earth were created in him, through him and for him." How can we heal, in him, the wounds of the environment?

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

1. Advent is about God coming to us. How can you become more aware of the ways Christ comes to you? Did you find Christ today? Do you ask this of yourself every night?
2. Facing the fight against poverty is a way of "staying awake" and "being prepared," according to Pope Francis, and as Jesus suggests in the Gospel? How ready are we for this fight?

We cannot live without facing challenges, without responding to challenges. Whoever does not face challenges, whoever does not take up challenges, is not living. Your willingness and your abilities, combined with the power of the Holy Spirit who abides in each of us from the day of Baptism, allow you to be more than mere spectators, they allow you to be protagonists in contemporary events.

Please do not watch life go by from the balcony! Mingle where the challenges are calling you to help carry life and development forward, in the struggle over human dignity, in the fight against poverty, in the battle for values and in the many battles we encounter each day.

*Vespers with Atheneum Students
 Saturday, 30 November 2013*

PARISH DONATIONS

Nov 23 - Nov 24	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$1,780.00	\$619.00
St. Catherine	\$712.00	\$282.00
St. Colman	\$110.00	\$161.23
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$3,664.23

*1st Collection: general expenses, maintenance & diocese.
 2nd Collection: parish restoration & repair. Approximately once a month, this is a special diocese collection. On 5th Sunday, the 2nd collection benefits the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your estate planning, consider participating in our [Paypal Giving Fund](#), [Go Fund Me](#), and [our eBay for Charity](#).*