

St. Elizabeth Seton Church



4595 Snyder Lane
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 585-3708 (phone)
(707) 585-1201 (fax)

PARISH STAFF

Father John Griffin.....Pastor
Joe Olsen.....Deacon
Karen Panfiglio & Mary Thayer Parish Secretaries
Mary Grubb..... Bookkeeper
Father John Griffin..... RCIA Catechumenate
Char Mayclin Pastoral Ministry Leader
Tony Sacramento.....Diocesan Pastoral Council Rep.
Alicia Slaugh..... Religious Education
Robert Ito Senior Youth Director
Liz Ritchie.....Junior Youth Group Director
Char MayclinParish Council President
John & Diane Lisciandro..... Charismatic Prayer

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2011
and
CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2011
and
SOLEMNITY OF MARY
JANUARY 1, 2012

MASSES

Tuesday to Friday

8:30 a.m.

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday to Friday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Website: www.st-elizabeth-seton.com

Email: stelizseton@sbcglobal.net

Religious Education Offices

Call and leave message: 585-8821

Youth Group Office: 585-2905

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Second and Fourth Saturdays of the month
at 4:00 p.m. in the Church or by appointment.

BAPTISM & MARRIAGE

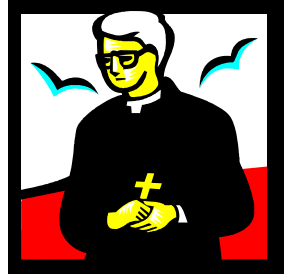
Parish policies for Baptism and Marriage
are available on the table in the Gathering
Area and at the parish office. Please
call the office for appointments.

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, as a community united in the spirit of Christ, are called to grow in our relationship with Him, to proclaim His Gospel and to serve others. We are striving to become a worshipping, loving, welcoming and serving faith community.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2011
and
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Pastor's Note: This issue of the parish bulletin is the **final** one for 2011. Our next publication will be for the weekend of January 7th and 8th, 2012. In the intervening weeks we celebrate a number of anniversaries. The **Dedication Mass** for our Multi-Purpose-Building (**present Parish Hall**) was on **December 18th, 1983**. Our **new Church** was dedicated on **December 21st, 2003**. The Feast Day of **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** will be celebrated on **Wednesday, January 4th, 2012**.



I give thanks to the Lord for guiding us safely through the challenges and opportunities of 2011. It was once again a year in which St. Elizabeth Seton Church lost parishioners whose high level of participation will not easily be replaced. Some of these have moved out of the area and others have been called home to the Lord. However, I am delighted that a few persons (relatively recently retired) have come forward to offer their assistance and we are blessed to have them.

A prayer is always appropriate for persons who feel alone or lonesome or who have experienced loss at this time of year. We prayerfully remember our soldiers (and their families) who are engaged in war. Over the past few years there are many households across the country who have lost a son or daughter in the field of battle. May the Holy Spirit visit them in ways which allow them to have a measure of peace.

St. Elizabeth Seton **Confirmation Program for 2012** commences on **Thursday evening, January 12th, 2012**. Parents are asked to attend the first meeting. Classes are limited to St. Elizabeth parishioners in Grades 10-12. You will find more information in the Gathering Area of the Church.

Please remember to pick up your **Parish Envelopes 2012** which are located on the table at the front of the church. I see that 2012 church **calendars** are pretty much all taken, but if you really need one, please contact our office and we may find one for you.

Our Parish Office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23rd, Monday, Dec. 26th, Friday, Dec. 30th, & Monday, Jan. 2nd, 2012. For your convenience the Christmas Schedule is reprinted within this issue.

Continued on next page. . . .

Continued from previous page. . .

I thank you for your untiring support and spirit of participation at St. Elizabeth Seton over the years. May you and your family and friends have a peaceful Christmas, and enjoy the Lord's Blessings in abundance during the new year 2012.

Fr. John

P.S. The Second Offering at the Christmas Masses will be for the DRF (Debt Reduction Fund).

Joint Penance Service @ St. Joseph Monday, Dec. 19th @ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses are @ SES 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Please be aware that on Christmas Day Masses @ SES are 8:30 am and **11:00 am.**

Scriptural Reflection
December 18, 2011
Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel we celebrate the extravagant love of God who freely chose Mary to be the mother of his beloved Son. God's choice of Mary made her "full of grace." If grace is God's gift, Mary was full of God's gifts. There's no point in asking what Mary did to deserve that: she didn't do anything to deserve it, because it was a sheer gift. Nobody *deserves* gifts; nobody is *entitled to* favors. Gifts and favors reflect the generosity of the giver, not the worthiness of the receiver.

The Gospel does not begin with what Mary does; it begins with what God does through Mary. When Mary is chosen to be the mother of God's Son, God's choice of her is not a reward for dedicated work or an answer to Mary's prayer. Rather, God's choice of Mary is the result of God's freedom to choose Mary from among all women. When God chooses Mary, his choice makes her worthy, as his love has made her full of grace.

Some people suspect that because Mary was so talented by God, this makes her no longer really human. Certainly, Mary has a unique role to play in history: as the Church teaches, she: "occupies a place in the Church which is the highest after Christ and closest to us." (*Lumen Gentium*, 54) Being chosen by God for such a task does not exclude Mary from the human race; God's choice of her does not free her from making *her* choice for God. Mary was asked to put her freedom, her whole person at the service of God's plan.

The difference between us and Mary is not that Mary was chosen while we are not; rather, it is that she fully responded to be chosen for her role while we remain hesitant and half-hearted about responding to what God asks of us. God has chosen *all of us*. This great truth was expressed by St. Paul when he wrote: "God chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence." (Ephesians 1)

Like Mary, we face God's choice of us; like her, we are challenged to say yes. If we could see ourselves as the result of God's choice rather than a mobile mistake, we might be keener to say yes! God has chosen every single person here today; he has a role for each of us. He waits for our choice that puts our freedom at his service.

SCRIP



Remember SCRIP for all your Christmas giving.
 It makes great stocking stuffers, too!
 Don't leave it to the last minute, be sure to buy your
 SCRIP at least a week ahead!

Gift cards that we currently carry include:

APPLEBEE'S	\$25	FOOD MAXX / LUCKY	\$25,50, 100	SAFEWAY	\$25, 100
ARCO GAS CARD	\$50	HOME DEPOT	\$25	SEE'S CANDY	\$15 – 1 lb.
BASKIN ROB-BINS	\$2	KFC	\$5	SHELL GAS CARD	\$25, 100
BURGER KING	\$10	KOHL'S	\$25	STARBUCKS	\$10, 25
CHEVRON GAS	\$50	MACY'S	\$25, 100	TARGET	\$25
CHILI'S	\$25	OUTBACK	\$25	TIP TOP CLEANERS	\$10
COLD STONE	\$10	RED LOBSTER-OLIVE GARDEN	\$25	WAL-MART	\$25, 100
CVS	\$25	ROSS	\$25		



Pick up gift cards for your favorite restaurants: Applebee's, Chili's, Darden (Olive Garden & Red-Lobster), and Outback. Fast Food makes great stocking stuffers, Baskin Robbins, Burger King, Cold Stone, KFC, See's Candy, & Starbucks. Kohl's can be used to pay on your charge account. Thank you for your support of our scrip program which benefits our parish.

Needed for St. Vincent de Paul

If you are traveling this holiday season, please keep St. Vincent de Paul in mind. **We desperately need hotel-sized soaps, shampoos and lotions.** Please save your items and leave them in the SVDP basket in the Gathering Area.

Thank you,
St. Vincent de Paul Society

HELP SUPPORT THE DRF (DEBT REDUCTION FUND)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

NEXT PADRE WALK

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012

Miles walked Sept. 26-December 12, 2011: 180 miles

Feel the Christmas Spirit! If you have an hour or so on Thursday, December 22, the St. Vincent de Paul Society needs your help bringing food and presents to families in need. We only go out in teams of two, so bring a friend (or we can match you with someone). We will give you one or more addresses, with food and presents to be delivered.



If you would like to sign up to help or want more information, call Laure at 585-9660.

ROME & WASHINGTON CHRISTMAS TV

EWTN will air Christmas liturgies from Rome & Washington as follows:

Pope Benedict offers Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24 at 1 p.m.; Christmas Eve Mass from the National Shrine in Washington, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Mass for Christmas Day at the National Shrine, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.; Papal Message to Rome & the World, Dec. 25 at 7 p.m.; At year's end, the Pope leads a Vespers of Thanksgiving, Dec. 31 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.; All times are Pacific. EWTN is carried 24/7 on Comcast 229, AT&T 562 and throughout California on DISH Satellite 261 & Direct TV 370. EWTN is carried on Comcast 57 in Ukiah, Willits & Fort Bragg. EWTN is aired on Sudden Link 230 in the Eureka area & on Charter 90 in the Crescent City area

OPEN REHEARSAL

Come enjoy the beautiful music preview of the Choir's Midnight Mass Program!!

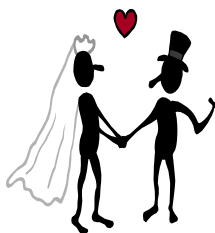
This year the choir that sings at the Midnight Mass has worked very hard and has some great music to share. But not everyone can attend Midnight Mass to hear it in person. Well, now you can attend the final rehearsal which will feature all the choir members, all the soloists and all the musicians (including brass and strings). On Thursday, December 22 there will be a rehearsal open to the public. Come see what it is like to have all the pieces that have been rehearsing for months come together to produce that glorious sound that we all will hear on Christmas eve. This is a great opportunity to really see what goes in to a musical undertaking like this and at the same time you can help defray the costs of presenting this music to the parish with a free-will donation. Rehearsal begins at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come share the joy of preparing to welcome the birth of our Lord. For any questions, please call Dave John (707) 584-1944.



Anniversaries

This month the Anniversary Mass is December 18 at 10:30 am

Al and Catherine Andreucci
69 years
Deacon Joe and Nora Olsen
42 years
Larry and Linda Long
Luis and Emma Torres
Richard and Amanda Bohan



40 years
39 years
39 years

"Life in the Spirit" Seminar

Our prayer meeting plans to sponsor an eight-week Life in the Spirit Seminar again, beginning Friday, February 3. God-willing, it will run eight consecutive Friday evenings. As you know, Christ the King, People of Praise Prayer Group meets on Friday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m., in the large meeting room.
Diane Lisciandro



From the Office of Vocations and Seminarians of the Diocese of Santa Rosa

St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park is sponsoring its annual Discernment Retreat Weekend on January 13-15th. This weekend is to help men discern one's vocation to priesthood. Come and listen to seminarians describe their calling and share their stories. All meals and lodging are provided. To register, you must be single and college age. **If you are interested, please call Fr. Thomas Diaz, the Vocation Director at (707) 538-2387 by Dec. 27th. 2011.**

Christmas Schedule 2011



Our celebration of the birth of Christ this Christmas is surrounded once more by a world still in the darkness of war and terrorism. The Christian ideals of peace and justice seem at times like a dim light in a valley of shadows. However, this season renews our faith that the light of Christ still shines, despite efforts down through the millennia to put it out.

As Christians, we are challenged to keep the birth of Christ as our focus. We are enticed by secular promotions for shallow and indulgent celebrations and extravagant gift-giving. We struggle to put things in perspective for our young people to teach them the true joy of giving, and to help them accept the most generous and beautiful gift God has given us in His Son.

I have been blessed at St. Elizabeth Seton to find that gift giving and sharing of ourselves with our community of faith is very much a part of our Christmas spirit. It is my prayer that you and your family continue to keep the same light alive in your hearts and in your homes.

May Christmas peace and blessings be upon you!

Your Brothers in Christ,

Father John Griffin and Deacon Joe Olsen, Jr.

Joint Penance Service

December 19

7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, Cotati

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

4:00 pm – Mass & Liturgy for Children

9:30 pm – Caroling

10:00 pm – “Midnight Mass”

Christmas Day; Sunday, December 25th

8:30 am & **11:00 am** - Masses

New Year's Masses

New Year's Eve; Saturday, December 31

5:00 pm – Mass

New Year's Day; Sunday, January 1, 2012

Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am & 10:30 am - Masses

Mass Intentions

December 20, 2011 – January 8, 2012

Tuesday	December 20, 2011	8:30 am	Sally Bean-Vanebo, int.
Wednesday	December 21, 2011	8:30am	Efran Rico, int.
Thursday	December 22, 2011	8:30am	Bobby Cordero, dec.
Friday	December 23, 2011	8:30am	Jonathan Nichols, dec.
Tuesday	December 27, 2011	8:30 am	Paul Halfpenny, dec.
Wednesday,	December 28, 2011	8:30 am	In Thanksgiving
Thursday	December 29, 2011	8:30 am	Ken Gardner & Alice Adrangna, dec.
Friday	December 30, 2011	8:30 am	Sally Bean-Vanebo, int.
Saturday	December 31, 2011	5:00 pm	Maria Asuncion Cortez, dec.
Sunday	January 1, 2012	8:30 am	Deacon Paul Bromham, dec.
Sunday	January 1, 2012	10:30 am	Michael Payer, dec.
Tuesday	January 3, 2012	8:30 am	Louis Guillory, dec.
Wednesday	January 4, 2012	8:30 am	Glen, Elsie & Barbara Hansen, dec.
Thursday	January 5, 2012	8:30 am	Helene Calhoun, dec.
Friday	January 6, 2012	8:30 am	Lee Nelder, dec.
Saturday	January 7, 2012	5:00 pm	For a Special Intention
Sunday	January 8, 2012	8:30 am	John Richardson, dec.
Sunday	January 8, 2012	10:30 am	Mike & Kitty Kerrigan, dec.

2012 Parish Offertory Envelopes

The 2012 parish offertory envelopes are now available on a table in the Gathering Area. If you want an envelope and there is not one for you, please call the church office Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 12:00pm.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENT:

The Debt Reduction Fundraising Committee is sponsoring an event for the whole family.

This event is for all ages. Come and play **Junk Food Bingo**, **Friday, Feb. 17, 2012**. Starting at 5:30 pm food will be available for purchase. Bingo will start at 6:00pm and continue until 8:00pm. **All proceeds will go to the church DRF (debt reduction fund).** Come and support our church and have fun doing it.



**CALLED TO BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS
OF THE LORD'S BLESSINGS**

Plate Offerings:

December 10 & 11 \$ 3,635.00

Immaculate Conception \$ 520.00

Retirement Fund for the Religious \$ 1,840.00

Thank You!

**Please Remember St. Elizabeth Seton in Your
Will and Living Trust**

Dates Office Closes

December 23, 2011 December 26, 2011

December 30, 2011 and

January 2, 2012

**The Rose Garden of Santa Rosa RCFE
Residential Care Facility for
Elderly**

Maria Glenna Enorme-Schutz
Licensee/Administrator
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Rosa, CA 95405
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(707) 367-0926
therosegarden@comcast.net
License #496803338



CHRISTMAS DAY

ISAIAH 52:7-10

HEBREW 1:1-6

JOHN 1:1-18

&

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

NUMBERS 6:22-27

GALATIANS 4:4-7

LUKE 2:16-21

REMEMBER

Second Offering

There will be a second offering for the
Debt Reduction Fund (DRF) on
Saturday, Christmas Eve at all Masses
and Christmas Day at all Masses.

2012 Parish Calendars

**The 2012 Parish Calendars (put out by the
Catholic Extension Society) are now
available in the Gathering Area of the
church.**

Tutoring

Reading - Language Arts - Basic Math

Is your child having a difficult time in any
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Linda Mish
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Tu-Thur-8:30-12:30am
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Rohnert Park "D" Section #70676

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