



May 5, 2019
3rd Sunday of Easter



Saint Elizabeth Seton CATHOLIC CHURCH

Everyone is welcome... *where we're alive in the Spirit!* Todos son bienvenidos... *estamos vivos en el Espíritu!*



Crowning of Virgin Mary

In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary. The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honor our heavenly mother.



Crowning of Virgin Mary
This weekend we will be crowning Virgin Mary at the 10am Mass. Children are welcome to participate.



Offertory Holy Week
Offertory \$28,552
Holy Land \$4,632
School Support \$862
Attendance En: 4,249 | Sp: 650
Envelopes: 652

Mass Times HAVE CHANGED.

This weekend we are starting our Spring/Summer Mass Schedule. **We will return to have ONLY 2 Masses on Sunday morning - 8:00 & 10:00 am.**

Saturday Masses will remain the same. Daily Mass will still be held at 8:00 am, Monday through Saturday. Reconciliation will be held Saturdays after the 8:00 am Mass, 3:00 pm in English, and 5:45 pm in Spanish.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sun, May 5th	8 am	Fred F. Ruggiero (D)
	10 am	Kimberlee T. O'Neill (D)
Mon, May 6th	8 am	Barbara Ann Keith (D)
Tues, May 7th	8 am	For Souls in Purgatory
Wed, May 8th	8 am	Jonathan Ramirez (L)
Thur, May 9th	8 am	Domenick Colangelo (D)
Fri, May 10th	8 am	Rita Margoth Aquino (D)
Sat, May 11th	8 am	Patricia Ruggiero (D)
	4:30 pm	John & Mary Jane Holecko (D)
	6:30 pm	Jose Ramon Reyes (D)

Prayer Requests: We are here to pray for you 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Please call 239-455-3900 ext. 301.

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Liturgy (Mon-Sat) 8:00 am

May-November Season

Saturday Vigil 4:30 pm
Saturday Spanish Mass 6:30 pm
Sunday 8:00 & 10:00 am

Reconciliation Saturday

Saturdays after the 8:00 am Mass
and 3:00 pm in English
5:45 pm in Spanish

The Parish Office is accepting Mass intentions for 2019. We ask that all requests be made in person. Come by the Parish Office any time Mon-Fri, between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

Events are now listed on Page 9

All are welcome!

We're alive in the spirit!

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May 2019

The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity. That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



Knights of Columbus

Meet 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.
KOC Hall @ 6120 Golden Gate Pkwy.

Brad Donnelly, GK (239-784-1727)
Aaron Hopkins, DGK (440-488-9012)

Rev Casey Jones Administrator
E: fathercasey@stelizabethseton.org

Fr Luis H. Pacheco Parochial Vicar
E: frluis@stelizabethseton.org
(239) 455-3900 x207 | Spanish Ministry
Diacono Roberto Landron

Carl Granieri Music Ministry
E: musicminister@stelizabethseton.org

Operations Manager Jonathon Harhen x206
jharhen@stelizabethseton.org
Office Assistant Pamela Garcia x201
pgarcia@stelizabethseton.org
Finance Assistant Veronica Lewis x205
Communications Damian Hanley x204
info@stelizabethseton.org

Faith Formation
Dir. of Religious Ed x302
Héctor Salazar hsalazar@stelizabethseton.org
Myriam Briceño x208
Claudia Herrera x303

Church Location
5225 Golden Gate Pkwy, Naples, FL 34116

Mailing Address & Office Location
5260 28th Ave SW, Naples, FL 34116
Office Hours: Mon-Fri | 9 am - 4 pm
Website: www.stelizabethseton.org

Phone: (239) 455-3900
Fax: (239) 455-6895
Prayer Line: (239) 455-3900 x301

SES School Information
www.saintelizabethseton.com

“BY THE BOOK”

I was recently reminded of a story a seminary professor once shared. My professor, a priest, was in a grocery store when someone asked him if he was a Catholic priest, to which he replied “Yes!”. The woman responded, “I’m Catholic, but in my own way.” When she asked him his feelings about her expression, he told her he would explain, but asked her to first pass him the can of peas behind her. Looking behind her, she said: “Those aren’t peas, they are peaches!” To which Monsignor replied. “Oh, but they are peas, in my own way.”

I was reminded by this story recently by someone who accused me of being a “By-The-Book-Catholic”. I am still not quite certain of the exact meaning of this term. If it means that I am informed by Sacred Scripture, and Sacred Tradition and follow the teachings of the magisterium, and if it means as our candidates stated at the Easter Vigil: “I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.”, then I suppose I am guilty as charged, even though daily I fall short of living what I profess. Perhaps there are those that do not know or care what the Church teaches, which can be disheartening. However, I take to heart the words St. Paul spoke to Timothy, a younger brother in the Ministry of the Word: “Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

The teachings of Jesus can be difficult. It’s hard to love our enemies. It’s hard to love the way the gospel calls us to love, which is often in contradiction to the secular dogmas of our age. It’s hard to speak truth amidst a dictatorship of relativism. Yet, stand we must, and at least we never do so alone.

Jesus confronts Peter with his own denial in the gospel proclaimed this week. Jesus asks Peter: “Do you love me more than these?”. He asks us the same. Do we love Jesus more than our own comfort? More than popularity? More than the easy road? None of us are perfect, perhaps we are struggling with embracing some of the more difficult teachings, and that is normal and okay, but what is important is that, at the foremost of our heart and mind, we hear the words of Christ. “Do you love me more than these?” Let us pray that the Lord will increase in us a love for him and allow us each to let go of whatever “these” may be for us.



THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Lectionary: 48

Reading ACTS 5:27-32, 40B-41

RSP PS 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Reading REV 5:11-14

Gospel JN 21:1-19



PRAY THE ROSARY

Monday through Saturday 7:25 am

Every Saturday 5:45 pm in Spanish

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena

Every Monday before the 8:00 am Mass

†Adoration†

Monday thru Friday 9:00 am 2:30 pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every Tuesday and Friday after the 8:00 am Mass

St. Jude Novena

Every Wednesday after the 8:00 am Mass

Litany of the Sacred Heart

Every Friday before the 8:00 am Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet w/Mysteries of the Rosary

Every Third Saturday after the 8:00 am Mass

DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?

Our Lady , Undoer of Knots group meets every Tuesday at 9:00am. **We have been making prayer shawls for anyone in need of prayers, warmth or love.** We would now like to add to our services by making white shawls to be given to mothers and babies at baptism. Needless to say, we need more hands to accomplish this. If you are unable to attend our meetings, but would like to help by working at home, please call the Parish Office or 455-1590. We can't do this without your help.



ENGAGE NOW.

The Little Flower Rosary Makers ministry is in honor of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. We would like to find and/or teach others to make rosaries, so that we may distribute them to the homebound, visitors, our children, and all those who need them. We meet Tuesdays at 10:30 am in the St. Juan Diego room.


Televised Mass for the Homebound - For those who are unable to attend Mass due to medical or physical limitations, the Diocese of Venice offers a televised Mass each Sunday. For viewers in the northern portions of the Diocese, the Mass airs at 9:30 a.m. on the CW Network; and for those in the southern portions of the Diocese, the Mass airs at 10:30 a.m., on WFTX-TV (FOX-4). Check your local listings for channel information. Leaflet missals are available by contacting Gail Ardy at 941-486-4714, or ardy@dioceseofvenice.org.

GIVE YOUR TIME & TALENT AT THE MASS

Attention all parishioners. Your talent and time is necessary for St Elizabeth Seton Community for our greatest prayer – The Mass. When we are baptized, we (or our parents and/or godparents) promise our commitment to share in Jesus’ ministry as Prophet (Witness); Priest (self-consecrated); and King (Servant). We are in need of Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and sacristans. Please seriously consider how God’s talent to you can serve our community.



Altar servers: Those who have received Baptism and Eucharist and presently in second grade and up. **Lectors:** Those who have received Baptism and Eucharist and presently in sixth grade and up. **Ushers:** Those who have received Baptism and from first grade and up. **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Sacristans:** Those who have received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and sixteen old and up.




Lee Civic Center
11831 Bayshore Rd,
North Fort Myers, FL
33917

**2do CONGRESO EMAUS
DIOCESIS DE VENICE**

*La Eucaristia:
Camino de Misericordia*


19 Mayo | 8am-6pm

P. Emilio Acevedo




La Eucaristia y La Misericordia

P. José Asunción
Briones Barrientos




La Eucaristia: Alimento para el Camino




*"Y esto sucedió. Mientras estaba en la mesa con ellos, tomó el pan, pronunció la bendición, lo partió y se lo dio, y en ese momento se les abrieron los ojos y lo reconocieron. Pero ya había desaparecido."
San Lucas 24:31-32*

Hna. Maria Mercedes
Rodriguez M.H.M.L.




La Eucaristia, Raices en el Antiguo Testamento


Jon Carlo
Cantautor Catolico



Ministerio de Musica: Custodia de Cristo



Son del Señor de Miami, Florida



Donación de entrada:
\$20.00 por persona pre-venta y \$30.00 en la puerta
Incluye desayuno y el almuerzo.

Las puertas se abren a partir de las 7:00am.
Solo para quienes han hecho el retiro de Emaus.
Usar playera de Gala. No Niños.

Para los tickets de la entrada por favor contactar a:
Francisco Medina 239 200 9728 | Alonso Romero 239 384 0043



READY TO BECOME CATHOLIC

Maybe you are getting married, your spouse is Catholic, other members of the family are Catholic, you want to receive Holy Communion, or you want to find out about the Catholic faith. Regardless of the reason, St. Elizabeth Seton parish offers the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program to help you explore your faith, learn about Catholicism, and inquire whether it may be right for you.

You will join others who are sharing the same experience. During this program, you will be baptized (if necessary), receive confirmation into the Church, and receive Holy Communion. The program is beginning at this time. For further information or to register, call St. Elizabeth's Faith Formation department at 239-455-3900.

BISHOP DEWANE ON THE RADIO

"Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" - Join Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, for his monthly radio program on Relevant Radio.



"Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" can be heard at 8:30 a.m., Friday, April 26 on 1660 AM in Naples as well as 1410 AM and 106.7 FM in Fort Myers. Listen anywhere online at RelevantRadio.com. The program airs on the last Friday of each month.



SACRAMENTS

Marriages

Arrangements must be made six months in advance by calling the Parish Office.

Baptisms

Please call the Parish Office for further information.

Prayer Requests

We are here to pray for you 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Please call 239-455-3900 ext. 301.



THE CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Goal	\$204,000	<i>With joy and gratitude, we</i>
Pledged	\$204,788	<i>thank everyone who has</i>
Collected	\$173,981	<i>committed to our CFA!</i>

VISIT THE FRIARY GIFT STORE

For your religious needs and special occasions, come shop at The Friary gift store. The Friary is located next to the vestibule and is open before and after all weekend Masses. The items are fine quality and the prices are extremely reasonable. For any occasion, for any reason, and for anyone, the Friary gift store will satisfy all your religious and spiritual needs. Come, See, and Shop!



EASTER AND THE VICTORY OF LIFE

Easter celebrates the victory of LIFE. Christians do not come to Church on Easter simply to congratulate Jesus for rising from the dead. They come in order to touch their own victory over death.

In rising, Christ destroyed not only His own death, but ours! He overturned the entire kingdom of death. Death has no more power over Him; nor does it have ultimate power over those who live in Him. The influence of the Church on the world, therefore, is the influence of a community which already participates in victory over death. That influence moves the choices of society away from death and destruction, and toward the affirmation, in word and deed, of the precious gift of LIFE.

The victory of LIFE has already been won, but has not yet fully unfolded. We therefore rejoice and struggle at the same time. We have unshakeable confidence that the power of LIFE is greater than the forces of death. Yet we must not relax our efforts to protect God's gift of LIFE from the culture of death which surrounds us.

Easter Pro-life Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise your Resurrection!

We celebrate your triumph over the Kingdom of death! May we, your Church, proclaim, celebrate, and serve the victory of LIFE in our world. May we respond to the needs of those who are tempted to destroy the LIFE within them by abortion, and may we help to build a world which rejects every form of violence and in particular, the violence of abortion. You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



ESTA SEMANA EN LA IGLESIA

Lunes, 6 de Mayo
7pm hombres de Emaús (PC)

Martes 7 de Mayo
7 pm Clase de Guitarra

Miércoles, 8 de Mayo
7 pm Clase de Biblia

Sábado, 11 de Mayo
5:30 pm Confesiones (C)
6:30 pm Misa (C)

No habrá clases de Formación de Fe el domingo 12 de Mayo por el Día de las Madres.

AC - Capilla de Adoracion CC - Capilla de Niños
C - Iglesia JD- Juan Diego Room
FF - Formación de Fe PC - Centro Parroquial
SG - Gimnasio SJ - San Jose
SC - Salón Parroquial



CLASE DE BIBLIA PARA ADULTOS

Los Miercoles de 7:00 - 9:00 pm (JD)

Profesor: Padre Luis H. Pacheco

HORARIO DE MISAS

Misa diaria 8 am (Ing)
Lunes a Sábado

Sabado 4:30pm (Ing)
 6:30pm (Esp)

Domingo 7, 9, 11am (Ing)

VEN A SENTIR LA DIFERENCIA EN SETON!

- CLASES PEQUEÑAS
- IPAD PERSONALIZADO 5 - 8 GRADO
- TECNOLOGIA AVANZADA
- PERSONAL Y MAESTROS DEDICADOS

Ven a conocer a nuestra asistente, la Sra. Katy Rendon, la cual le ayudara a los nuevos alumnos con el proceso de inscripcion y completacion de las aplicaciones para obtener asistencia financiera. Si desea visitar las instalaciones de la escuela o necesita una cita con la Sra. Rendon por favor llamar al número 239-455-2262



BIENVENIDOS, NUEVOS FELIGRESES!

Pueden inscribirse en la parroquia todos los Sábados después de la Misa en Español en el salón de entrada de la Iglesia. Gracias por hacerse miembros de nuestra familia. Dios lo bendiga!
-Padre Luis H. Pacheco

Bautizos Para poder bautizar en nuestra comunidad, la familia tiene que estar registrada en la parroquia un mínimo de tres meses antes del Bautismo con asistencia regular a la Santa Misa. Por favor, al registrarse en la parroquia, utilizar los sobres con el número de su familia en la colecta como prueba de participación y de asistencia a la Santa Misa.

Matrimonios Se debe hacer una cita con el Padre Luis para abrir el expediente matrimonial por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha de Boda. Hay que estar registrados en la parroquia un mínimo de seis meses antes de abrir el expediente matrimonial con asistencia regular a la Santa Misa. Se necesitan las partidas de bautismo ACTUALIZADAS no más de seis meses y han de ser originales, no copias.

Quinceañeras Las quinceañeras tienen que haber hecho la Primera Comunión y necesitan comprobante de haberlo hecho. La familia tiene que estar inscrita en la parroquia un mínimo de seis meses antes de reservar la Iglesia para la quinceañera con asistencia regular a la Santa Misa y ha de estar activa o en la doctrina o en el grupo juvenil o en un grupo parroquial con asistencia regular comprobada.

Confesiones El Padre Luis confiesa por 1 hora todos los Sábados antes de la Santa Misa. Aquellos que deseen confesarse, por favor, llegar a la Iglesia por lo menos media hora antes de la Santa Misa.

“POR EL LIBRO”

Hace poco me acordé de una historia que una vez compartió el profesor en el seminario. Mi profesor, un sacerdote, estaba en un mercado cuando alguien le preguntó si era un Sacerdote Católico, a lo que respondió “Sí”. La mujer respondió: “Soy católica, pero a mi manera”. Cuando le preguntó qué sentía por su expresión, él le dijo que se lo explicaría, pero le pidió que le pasara primero la lata de guisantes detrás de ella. Mirando detrás de ella, dijo: “¡No son guisantes, son duraznos!”, a lo que respondió Monseñor: “Oh, pero son guisantes, a mi manera”.

Me recordé de esta historia recientemente por alguien que me acusó de ser un “By-The-Book-Catholic” (Católico por el libro) – perfeccionista y exacto). Todavía no estoy seguro del significado exacto de este término. Si significa que estoy informado por la Sagrada Escritura y la Sagrada Tradición y sigo las enseñanzas del Magisterio, y si esto significa lo que nuestros candidatos declararon en la Vigilia Pascual: “Creo y profeso todo lo que la Santa Iglesia Católica cree, enseña, y proclama ser revelado por Dios”, entonces supongo que soy culpable de la acusación, aunque a diario no llego a vivir lo que profeso. Quizás hay quienes no saben o no les importa lo que enseña la Iglesia, lo que puede ser desalentador. Sin embargo, tomo muy en serio las palabras que San Pablo le dijo a Timoteo, un hermano menor en el Ministerio de la Palabra: “Predica la Palabra, como urgente en la temporada y fuera de ella, convence, reprende y exhorta, sé infalible en la paciencia y en la enseñanza. Ya llegará el momento en que las personas no soportarán una buena enseñanza, pero al tener picazón en los oídos, acumularán para sí mismos maestros que se ajusten a sus gustos y dejarán de escuchar la verdad y divagar en los mitos. En cuanto a ti, siempre sé firme, soporta el sufrimiento, haz el trabajo de un Evangelista, cumple tu ministerio” (2 Timoteo 4: 2-5)

Las enseñanzas de Jesús pueden ser difíciles. Es difícil amar a nuestros enemigos. Es difícil amar en la manera en que el Evangelio nos llama a amar, lo que a menudo está en contradicción con los dogmas seculares de nuestra era. Es difícil decir la verdad en medio de una dictadura del relativismo. Sin embargo, debemos aguantar, y al menos nunca lo hacemos solos.

Jesús confronta a Pedro con su propia negación en el Evangelio proclamado esta semana. Jesús le pregunta a Pedro: “¿Me amas más que estos?”. Él nos pregunta lo mismo. ¿Amamos a Jesús más que nuestro propio consuelo? ¿Más que la popularidad? ¿Más que el camino fácil? Ninguno de nosotros es perfecto, tal vez estamos luchando por aceptar algunas de las enseñanzas más difíciles, y eso es normal y está bien, pero lo importante es que en lo más profundo de nuestro corazón y mente escuchamos las palabras de Cristo: “¿Me amas más que esto?” Oremos para que el Señor aumente en nosotros el amor por El.



LLAMADOS A SERVIR

Donde puedas invertir tus dones, hazlo y ganarás un tesoro en el Cielo. Si quieres estar más cerca de Dios, aquí tienes los diferentes ministerios donde puedes invertir tus talentos, tus dones y tu tiempo.

Coordinador General de la Comunidad Hispana **Padre Luis H. Pacheco**
239-455-3900 ext. 207

Ministros Extraordinarios de la Eucaristía
Trinidad Loyola 239-961-6574
Eba Loyola 239-961-6573

Ministerio de Música de Emaús
Francisco Castillo 239-601-6358

Ministerio de Ujieres
Miguel Martínez 239-821-5891

Ministerio del Rosario
Vicente Saavedra
Norma Flores 239-784-3081

Ministerio del Grupo de Oración
Jesus Delgado 239-784-5503

Ministerio de Emaús Hombres
Alonso Romero 239-384-0043
Alejandro Santiago 239-307-9261

Ministerio de Emaús Mujeres
Silvia Ortiz 239-777-1889
Rosalba DeLeon 239-384-1996

LOS ACCIDENTES DE LA VIDA

Los accidentes de la vida nos separan de nuestros amigos más queridos, pero no nos desesperemos. Dios es como un espejo en el que las almas se ven unas a otras. Cuanto más nos unamos a Él por amor, más cerca estamos de aquellos que le pertenecen.



EL FONDO DE MIGRANTES & LA FUNDACIÓN PARA EL CUIDADO DE LOS INMIGRANTES

¿Sabía usted que Migrant Endowment & Foundation for the Care of the Migrant Poor es una fuente de fondos proporcionados por la Diócesis de Venice para proporcionar asistencia y aclimatación a las comunidades de migrantes en nuestra Diócesis?





MIGRANT CHILDREN INTERCESSIONS

For the unaccompanied children detained at the border, may the Lord Jesus, who welcomes little children, hold them close until they are reunited with their families, we pray to the Lord.

For refugee children, often alone and afraid, may our Heavenly Father protect them from all harm and hold them close, we pray to the Lord.

For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be reunited with their families and loved ones, we pray to the Lord.

For the migrant children, who have lost parents, family, friends, homes and all they cherish due to war and persecution, that the God of compassion comfort them in their sorrow, we pray to the Lord.

A REFLECTION ON A MARIAN CELEBRATION

by Elizabeth M. Kelly

It is my first “Catholic” memory and my first memory as a Catholic: May Crowning. The songs are still—and always—in my head.

Hail, holy Queen enthroned above, oh Maria.

Hail, mother of mercy and of love, oh Maria.

Triumph all ye cherubim, Sing with us ye seraphim.

Heaven and earth resound the hymn.

Salve, Salve, Salve Regina.

I wish that all children were welcomed into the fold of Catholic faith with the innocence and tenderness of singing seraphim, with a mother of mercy and love.

One of the defining aspects of being Catholic is devotion to Mary. I favor no Marian celebration more highly than May Crowning, the feast that recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title, but to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown? Thus, preparing for the May Crowning procession each spring at St. Raphael’s, the church of my childhood, was a monumental and joyful task. My imagination may be filling in some of the details, but this is what I remember most. We practiced “Immaculate Mary” and “Hail, Holy Queen” until we knew the lyrics by heart. We girls put on our spring dresses and white tights, the boys their scratchy Sunday shirts and ties. We practiced “processing” with dignity and grace and with as few wiggles and squirms as our young bodies could manage. Some lucky second-grade girl would be chosen to crown Mary, not based on merit, but rather based entirely on whether she fit into the dress one of the local women had made for the ceremony many years earlier.

The rest of the children at St. Raphael’s were assigned a very simple but very important role in the procession: we were each charged with bringing one flower to place at Mary’s feet. We would literally cover the area around her in flowers, pretty much the most charming and romantic expression my young heart could imagine. I took on the selection of my flower with zeal: it was serious business, not to be dashed off quickly.



NOVENA OF MASSES FOR LIFE

Join us on the 25th of each month through Christmas in praying for a greater respect for all human life. See the scheduled Masses throughout the Diocese at www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/respect-life/novena-of-masses-for-life.



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

You are invited to register to spiritually adopt an unborn child in danger of abortion. Prayer cards are available at the church entrances. To register, visit the DOV website and receive monthly updates on the development of the child in the womb.



PROJECT RACHEL

Don’t suffer in silence. There is healing after abortion through Project Rachel. Contact Sylvia Jimenez at 941-412-5860 or project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org

For Respect Life questions or prayer cards, contact Jeanne Berdeaux at 941-441-1101 or berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org

MARIAN REFLECTION CONTINUED

The consideration required time and precision; like young parents trying to name their firstborn child, I thought about the future of the flower. How would it look lying prostrate as it was bunched with all the other local flora of the season? Would it hold its shape, its scent, its crowning beauty? Would it be worthy?

Spring came late to rural Minnesota. In the month of May, tulips were the first flowers to spring from the patch of garden in front of our garage. My mother (her name also Mary) planted them. As a five-year-old, I hovered over that patch of flora, examining each early bud while my large and loud family waited impatiently in the car. Finally, my mother, who often bore the brunt of my family's size and volume and impatient energy, said, "Just hurry up and pick one."

It was a strain to make a choice under such duress, but I finally settled on one pink and one yellow tulip—one flower for the Virgin Mary, and one flower for my mother, Mary. Scrubbed and dressed, with tights pulled up, and armed with my two prized tulips, I joined my brother and sisters in the backseat of our brown-paneled station wagon, and Dad drove us off to St. Raphael's.

Once there, and with as much pageantry and pomp as a farming community church could muster, we processed away, singing our "Ave Maria" and crowning our Mary while the angels kept us company. I imagined angels turned out in especially big numbers for Marian events, those "singing seraphim" that seemed often to appear in Mary's songs. I still think of that church as filled with angels, country angels, angels meant to protect country people, whose days were spent in labor over soil and crops and barnyard animals. Simple angels for simple people, scrubbed squeaky-clean for Mary and the Mass. I still remember the aroma of flowers, the coolness of the spring air, the lightness of spirit that lingered. The promise of everything made new.

May Crowning marked a new spiritual season. Our Mary, queen of heaven and earth, lifted us right out of the last long, cold days of winter and firmly planted our hearts in the warm and promising soil of spring.

I will be forever grateful to the church for bringing me Mary, and grateful to Mary for bringing me her Son. For that was my route. I might not have discovered the gaze of Jesus if I had not first felt the maternal, nurturing, and safe embrace of my mother in heaven. That's why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother's Day. That's why I hovered over the tulips in front of the garage looking for just the right one. Through Mary, I became enamored of the holy family. Through Mary, I was invited into the Catholic fold. It was her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood that helped me grow. My child's heart was so full of love for my mother in heaven and understood already what my head could not yet know: Mary would bring me to Jesus. The growing would be toward Jesus, for Jesus, with Jesus. Through Mary, Jesus was brought to you and to me. She was delivered up like an innocent, perfect spring flower to lighten our spirits, complete our senses, bring the very aroma of heaven to our world in need of warming, and welcome our hearts into the eternal mystery of spring and growing things.



EVENTS

Mon, May 6

7 pm Eng Prayer Group (AC)
7 pm Spanish Emmaus Men (PC)

Tues, May 7

7 pm Emmaus Coordinators (SR Chapel)
7-9 pm Sp. Prayer Coordinators meet (CC)

Wed, May 8

5:45pm BINGO (PC)
6:30 pm Spanish Choir Practice (C)
7pm English Bible Class
7 pm Sp. Bible Class (JD)
7pm Emmaus Women (SC)
7 pm High School Faith Formation (PC)

Thurs, May 9

7 pm English Children's Choir (C)
7 pm English Adult Choir (C)

Monday May 12th

There will be no Faith Formation Class on May 12th for Mother's Day.

Building Codes

AC - Adoration Chapel
C - Church
CC - Children's Chapel
FF - Faith Formation
JD - Juan Diego Rm
O - Office
PC - Parish Center
SC - School Cafeteria
S - School
SG - School Gymnasium
SJ - St. Joseph's Room



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Would you like to advertise in our bulletin?
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- ✓ SMALL CLASSES
- ✓ 1 TO 1 IPAD GRADES 5-8
- ✓ 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY
- ✓ DEDICATED FACULTY AND STAFF

Come meet Mrs. Katy Rendon, our new Family Enrollment Specialist. From application to acceptance, Mrs. Rendon will help applicants navigate the process including completion of all paperwork, including financial assistance. To schedule an appointment with Mrs. Rendon, please call 239-455-2262.



Mrs. Katy Rendon
Family Enrollment Specialist

239-455-2262
www.saintelizabethseton.com



St. Elizabeth Seton
Catholic School

Enriching minds and empowering souls for over 30 years.

HELP ENSURE LONG-TERM SUPPORT OF ST. ELIZABETH SETON PARISH AND SCHOOL



Through the generosity and Catholic Legacy of parish and school families, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School presently has two endowment funds with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida. Endowment funds are designed to assist in providing long-term stability and sustainability beyond a donor's lifetime.

By creating or participating in endowment funds, donors both confirm and extend beyond their lifetime a commitment and conviction to Christ Jesus' mission and ministry of the Gospel proclamation of God's Kingdom among us. Additionally, endowment funds secure St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church and the School's future to form disciples and apostles of Christ Jesus for our community and the community-at-large. If we as a faith community and school seek to discern and respond to the future, we must plan for it as well.

Once an endowment is established, it is open to anyone wanting to contribute, in any amount desired. The endowment funds are structured so that the original gift amount (or principal) remains intact, while the investment earnings are used to support our parish and/or school. This creates a reliable and consistent revenue stream to help supplement funding for programs, ministries, future construction, and the needs for St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church and the School's future.

Many endowment funds are created through gifts from wills or trusts, however, several donors choose to fund endowments while they are still living, so that they can see the fruit and impact of their commitment and support. There are numerous ways to fund an endowment including gifts of cash, securities, property, and more.

We encourage and invite each of us to pray and consider supporting this program. Creating or contributing to an endowment fund to support a favorite program and/or ministry will permit a legacy to future generations seeking to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Thank you from all the students and staff of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

