

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

901 Clearmont St, Sebastian, Florida 32958
772-589-2770

To share Christ who transforms lives.



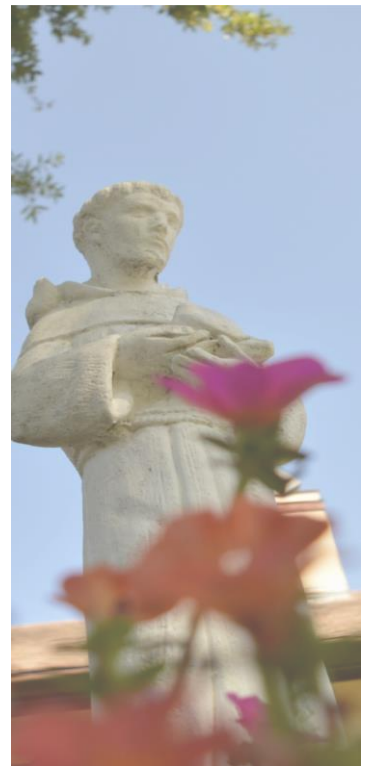
Parish Profile 2024

Welcome to St. Elizabeth's!

The Holy Spirit is alive and well at our neighborhood church. We currently have close to 30 ministries and groups — we are a busy place! Together, as a family, we celebrate the Eucharist, as well as have fun and fellowship at our many activities. From the young who attend our Sunday School to the elderly who can no longer attend worship in person, we celebrate the family of God through personal relationships and care. In addition, we reach out to those in need through regular involvement with The Source in Vero Beach, as well as a local community food distribution program and our own feeding neighbors initiative.

We feel the Lord is calling St. Elizabeth's to maintain and grow the gifts He has given us, while being open to new opportunities He presents. It is our duty and passion to witness to Christ beyond our walls.

We invite you to come, experience and be a part of the risen Christ with us.



"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another" 1 Peter 4:10



Our Mission and Vision

MISSION STATEMENT: Encourage the faithful to seek out the lost and hurt. Empower them through the teachings of Jesus Christ and fill them with the power of the Holy Spirit.

STRENGTHS:

- We are a welcoming and friendly parish
- Our goal is to share the love of Christ.
- Our parish is biblically grounded.
- We gather for worship at two services on Sunday mornings.
- Our parish has been serving the Sebastian community for forty years.
- We have active ministries that aid in many areas of need throughout the community.
- We share our facility with service groups from the community.
- We are spiritually fed by a weekly Bible study.

VISION STATEMENT:

To share Christ who transforms lives.



Brief History of St. Elizabeth's



In the spring of 1984, The Very Reverend David Lord, with the support of his congregation, Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach, FL, established St. Elizabeth's Mission. Father Morgan Gray was called to become the first Vicar.

Later that year, on October 21, the first service was held at the Masonic Lodge in Sebastian with 76 people in attendance. The number grew to 161 people attending the Christmas service. The establishment of the congregation had begun.

In the New Year, 1985, the Mission was officially established. Twelve faithful people were elected to the Vestry, and they chose the name of John the Baptist's mother, Elizabeth, as the name for the new Mission.

The Diocese of Central Florida purchased 3.25 acres on October 12, 1986. Bishop Herbert Edmundson broke ground and the new building was started. The construction was complete in less than six months.

The first service was held in the new building in March 1987. St. Elizabeth's was now a reality and continues to be welcomed by the community today.

As the New Year was rung in January 1991, a celebration was coming. St. Elizabeth's became an independent parish; the mortgage was burned much to the delight of the congregation.

April 1993 brought many changes. A major addition to the sanctuary and the Russell Education building, which includes the parish hall, was built. The addition enlarged the sanctuary, added a narthex, a small chapel, memorial garden, and a columbarium. This was much needed for the growing congregation.

In June 2009, it was time for a roof replacement. All buildings were able to be completed thanks to generous help from the congregation.



Parish Worship

Our combined average Sunday attendance for both services this year has been averaging 125. Like many Florida congregations our visitors from the North increase our numbers during the winter months.

- The Sunday 8:00 am service is Rite I with guitar music before and after the service as well as during the setting of the table and communion.
- There is coffee hour after each service.
- The Sunday 10:00 am service is Rite II with music and Sunday school.
- Every fourth Sunday is Youth Sunday, with our children having an active role in worship.
- Daughters of the King provide individual prayer during communion on a regular basis.
- The first Wednesday of each month we have a prayer and praise healing service led by two of our deacons.
- Sermons are posted on YouTube with a link from our web site.



Worship Service Support

Three Deacons

Music Leader

Organist

Choir

Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers,
Acolytes, Ushers, and Altar Guild

Prayer Team

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Audio/Visual Team



Who and What is St. Elizabeth's

Most of our parishioners have joined St. Elizabeth's within the last 10 years and fifteen percent within the last three years. Our recent survey, the number one reason people give for joining St Elizabeth's is "Our church has an open and welcoming spirit and I have a sense of belonging."

The parish demographics reflect the Sebastian community with a mix of working families with children but mostly retirees. Much of our recent growth comes from retirees who have migrated to this area. Because of our lovely weather and small town feel we also have northern visitors who describe St. Elizabeth's as their "church home away from home." Our parishioners agree our primary challenges for St Elizabeth's are a clear path forward that includes growth in numbers and in finances and connecting with younger families.

Currently our part-time paid staff consists of Fr. Norman Desrosiers, Interim Rector, an Administrative Assistant, a Bookkeeper and an Organist. We have dedicated Lay people who donate their time and skills and more than 30 of our parishioners serve in various Eucharistic duties. We have three Deacons and dedicated Lay members.



Vestry

The Vestry has nine members that serve for three years and are elected on a rotating basis. The Vestry is fully involved in the workings of the Parish in support of our Rector. Our current Vestry members consist of:

Fr. Norman Desrosiers, **Interim Rector**

Ken Dean, **Sr. Warden**

Guy McKenzie, **Jr. Warden**

Michael Colangeli, **Sound Booth**

Alice Stone, **Choir**

Pat Cleary, **ECW President**

Janet Mandeville, **ECW Vice President**

Denise Bersos – **ECW Secretary**

Ash Badger

Dawn Curtis

Denise Roberts, **Clerk of the Vestry**



*"For You are my
rock and my
fortress;
Therefore, for
Your name's
sake, lead me
and guide me.
Psalm 31:3*

Our Ministries

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:" 1 Peter 4:10

8:00am Rite I - Music
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Audio Video
Bible Study
Building and Grounds
Choir
Coffee Hour/Fellowship
Counters
Crafts
Cursillo
Daughters of the King (DOK)
Endowment Committee
Episcopal Church Women (ECW)
Feeding Neighbors (Neighborhood Food Program)

Finance Committee
Flowers
Friendship Committee
Greeters
Helping Hands
Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Lay Eucharistic Visitors
Library
Monthly Healing Service
Newsletter
Office Angels
Ecumenical Food Pantry - Roseland
Sunday School
The Source
Vacation Bible School
Vestry

Choir



A few of our ministries and fellowship groups in action:



DOK/Daughters of the King



Cursillo



Office Angels



The SOURCE

ECW/Episcopal Church Women





Crafts & Treasure Sale
always having fun at St. Elizabeth's!



Treasure Sale



Friendship Committee



*We eat well, thanks to the
Friendship Committee!*



Building & Grounds and Helping Hands



Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Looking forward to another fun year!



THIS IS US...



Sebastian, Florida

A Part of the “Treasure Coast” of Florida

Discover the natural splendor and rich history of Sebastian along the Florida central Atlantic coast. The city of Sebastian is in Indian River County between Melbourne and Vero Beach. The area is known as the “Treasure Coast”. A shipwreck from the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet left many treasures along the coast that treasure hunters continue to search the shoreline for today.

Sebastian is home to Pelican Island, America’s 1st National Wildlife Refuge, known for its unspoiled beauty with over 130 species of birds. The St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park, part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, is considered one of the top birding locations in the United States. Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, a 248-acre refuge was designated to protect habitat for what is a significant area for loggerhead and green sea turtle nesting.

With Sebastian Inlet State Park, as well as numerous beaches nearby, individuals and families can try their skills at surfing or simply soak up the sun along our beautiful shores. In the Indian River Lagoon and on the St. Sebastian River you will find waterways perfect for fishing, boating, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

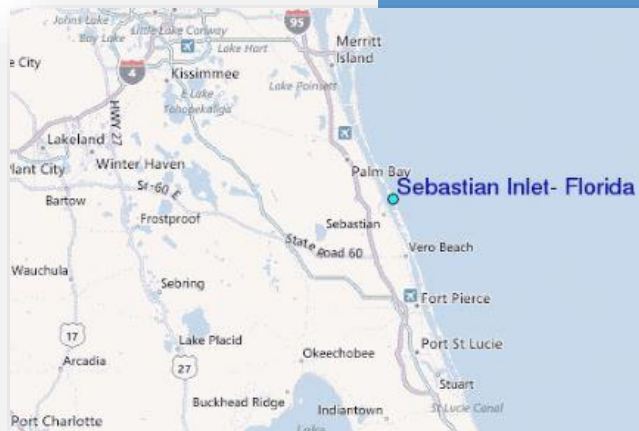
Enjoy the view of the Intracoastal Waterway while dining at one of several waterfront restaurants. Attend concerts, festivals, craft shows and the now famous Sebastian Clambake at the city’s Riverview Park.

Medical services in the Sebastian area include two primary medical facilities, Sebastian River Medical Center and the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. The school system has some quality institutions with charter, private and public primary, and secondary schools.

Residents of the City of Sebastian prefer sunrises to high-rises with an approximate population of 26,000. It is predominantly a family community with a mix of young and not so young families. Sebastian prides itself on maintaining the old fishing village feel with a thriving business community that attracts visitors from far and wide.

Community Events

Our friendly church has hosted many different events throughout the years, some of them include: IRCSO deputy presentation on identity theft, health screenings for blood pressure, memory care screening, a 12-week Healthy Living Seminar and hosting Boy/Girl Scouts troops as well as Al-Anon and BNI.

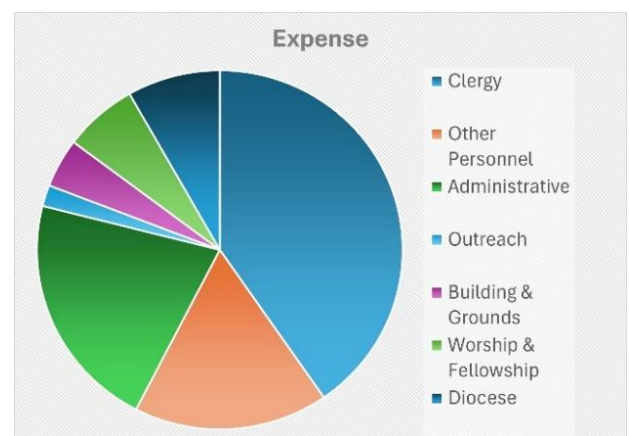
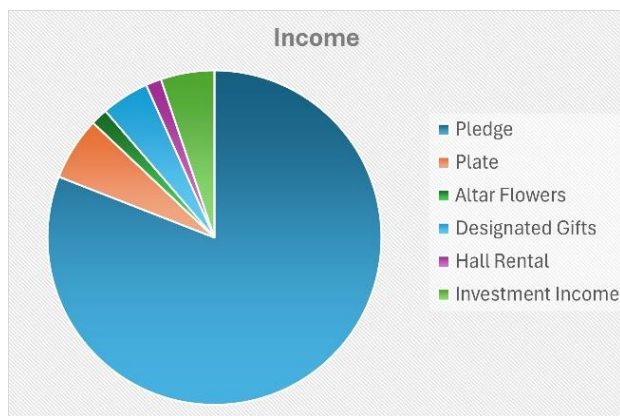


Financial Health

St. Elizabeth's is blessed with a family that continues to strive to be good stewards of all resources entrusted to us. Whenever there is a need, the parishioners invariably step up to fill it. As our Sunday attendance has risen, tithing and income have grown in the last two years by an average of 7%. Last year's pledge campaign resulted in a 50% increase in the number of pledging units and a 50% increase in the amount of pledges! Our budgets have remained in the black and we have a growing and healthy reserve. St. Elizabeth's has no mortgage and carries no other debt. We are in good standing with the Diocese of Central Florida.

St. Elizabeth's recently established a general Endowment Fund whose purpose is to fund outreach, ministries and special projects. Donations have grown the fund to over \$135,000 in the past 2 years. We continue to promote growth in this fund to enable funding of projects beyond what is possible through our annual budgeted operating funds.

Financial Summary



*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"*

Corinthians 9:7

Our Facilities

Our Church, St. Elizabeth's, sits in a park like setting within a residential neighborhood of Sebastian. Surrounded by three acres of lawn and trees, the buildings and grounds are welcoming to all, and we have room to grow.

Attending worship in the Sanctuary at St. Elizabeth's, people often comment how they feel welcomed and a lively sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit can be felt during service. We have pew seating for over 200 people. An audio-visual booth allows us to project most services on a screen and sermons are posted online. The choir and organist are behind the altar.

The attached administrative wing includes a sacristy, the rector's office, the finance office and two additional offices. The conference room/library is comfortable for small meetings. Our kitchen was remodeled in 2017 with new countertops, fixtures, and commercial grade refrigerators.

An adjacent building houses the parish hall, four classrooms as well as a youth room. Here we hold parish meetings and host many events including dinners, memorial receptions, coffee hours and other social events. Our youth meet here for Sunday school, youth gatherings and vacation Bible school. Our chartered scout groups and other outside organizations also use this facility.

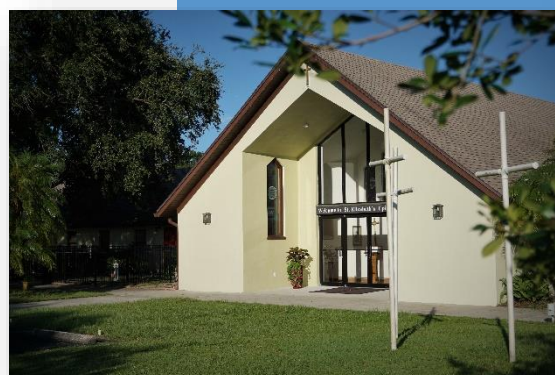
Upkeep and renovations over the years are generously provided through the time and treasures of our parish family.

*"For no other foundation can
anyone lay than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ."*

1 Cor. 3:11

Fellowship with an Impact

Other groups and outreach events: Craft Group – Mats for the Homeless, Lap Robes for the Vets, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, St. Patrick Day dinner, Pet Blessings, Treasure Sale, breakfast with the Rector, Bible Study, Fellowship, Quarterly Quarters fundraiser.



What our parishioners are saying:

"A faithful leader"

"A priest filled with the spirit, strong enduring faith, bible knowledge."

"The children are important for the future of the church, the seniors are important to guide and teach, the rector should be able to help the church grow and be someone that is good with youth and with the elders."

The welcoming and kindness of St. Elizabeth's should not change."



What we seek in a Rector

We are looking for...

- An experienced Leader and faithful Bible teacher

"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,"

Titus 2:7

- Inspiring sermons that apply to everyday life
- A Priest who believes the Bible is God's inspired Word
- A Shepherd who is supportive and compassionate and who can provide competent pastoral care
- A clergyperson with a lively personal spirituality and devotional life.

"Heaven measures success by what a man does for others, not by what they do for him."

Matthew 20:26

A Rector who has demonstrated competence in ministry growth and youth development programs.

St Elizabeth's is our home.

- A place where the Holy Spirit touches lives
- A warm welcoming church with a strong sense of community
- A church of active seniors and some families

Challenges at St. Elizabeth's are not small - where we are challenged:

- For parish growth and renewal that will support current programs and provide financial stability
- Support of ministries and development of programs that will attract young families and youth

What our Parishioners are saying:

"More members"

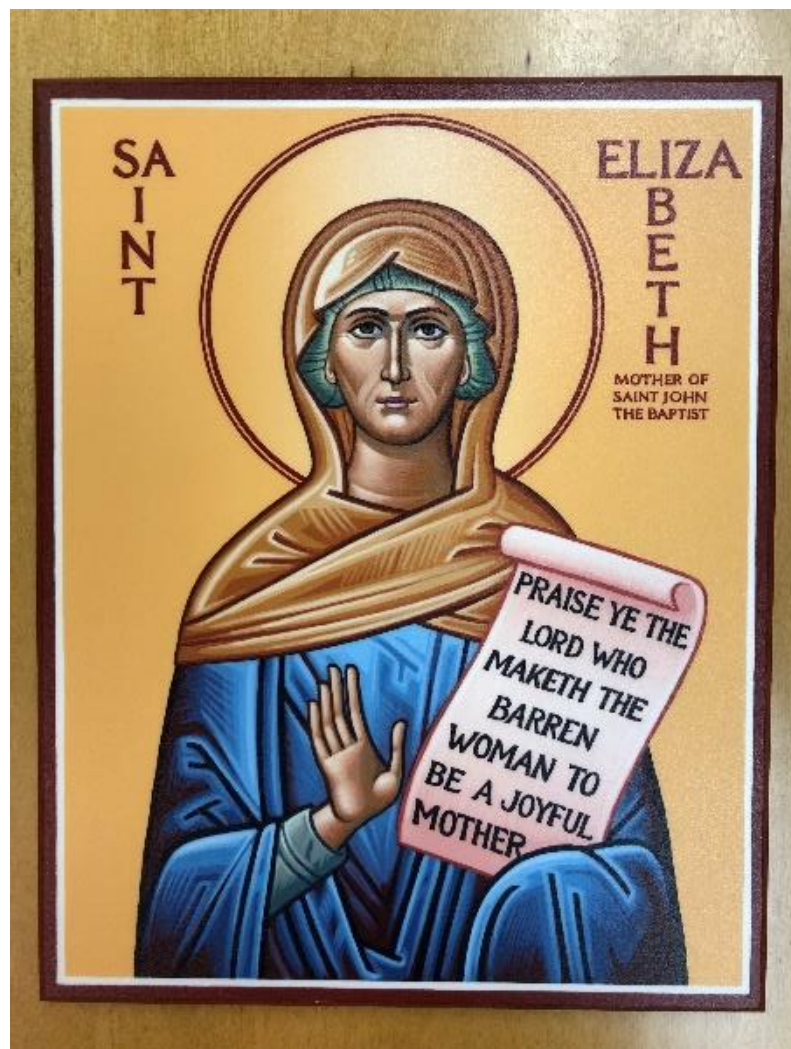
"More growth"

"Young families to grow our parish."

"Continuing Bible studies"

Our youth responding to their survey were almost unanimous in requesting a youth message on Youth Sunday each month.





Faith...Family...Friends

