

**WE ARE A EUCHARIST CENTERED PEOPLE WHO, AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, LIVE OUR FAITH IN WORD AND DEED BY SHARING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND SERVE THOSE IN NEED.**

**May 7, 2017**

**Pastor's Desk**

This Tuesday night we begin our next Bible study series, "A Biblical Walk With the Blessed Mother," in the parish hall from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. It is an eight-week program and will conclude on June 27<sup>th</sup>. As I've mentioned before, Mary has traditionally held a very high place in our Catholic faith and spirituality, and many devotions have sprung up around her, some of which rely on a less than doctrinal foundation. This program will help to ground us in a biblical understanding of Mary and her role in the story of Salvation. You can register on our parish website or just show up on Tuesday night. These Bible study series have been very well received. They provide good learning as well as an opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners in the small group sharing that is part of each session.

As many of you know I've been talking for quite awhile about entering the world of retirement. After 48 years of pastoral ministry and almost 23 years as pastor here, I wish to be free of the burden and responsibility of the ministry of parish administration and especially of our two schools. As is required by canon law when a priest reaches the age of 75, which will be the case for me this September, I submitted a letter to Bishop Vasa and met with him last week to discuss my desire to retire as pastor. I suggested August 1<sup>st</sup> as the date because it seems to me that a new pastor should be in place before the beginning of school and also because the home I've purchased here in Petaluma will be ready by that date. Bishop Vasa told me to think of retirement somewhere in late summer or early fall. When I receive the exact date from him, I will certainly let you know.

People have asked me who would come here as pastor. I have made my suggestions to the bishop but realize that it will take some time before a new pastor is appointed. A change in a pastorate in one parish generally involves a number of changes in others, and this year there are three of us who will be retiring. Beside myself Fr. John Griffin will retire as pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park and Fr. Loren Allen as pastor of St. Philip's in Occidental. The bishop will need to deal with a number of changes all this entails. When I know who will be coming here, I will certainly let you know.

I will have much more to say as the time draws closer, but my retiring is made much easier for me because I will continue to live here in town and will be living in the parish in the Westridge area. Retirement as pastor is not retirement from the priesthood or from ministry. I will be freer to travel and to live according to my own schedule, but will continue to be available for priestly ministry as needs arise.

Now that this next chapter is more official, I just want to let you all know. As I said, I'll keep you informed when things become more specific. In the meantime, I will continue to minister here as I have been doing for the last twenty-two years.

**God Bless, Fr. Gary**

<u>Mass intentions during May 8th – May 14th</u>			<u>Liturgical Ministers on the weekend of May 13th – May 14th</u>	
Mon.	8:00	Fr. Alex McCallister, Jorge Elkin España Luz Helena Borrero, Florentino Martinez	Sat. 5:00 pm - Lector	James Cameron
Tues.	8:00	Doris Vota (L)	Eucharistic	Pat Donegan, Darlene DeBernardi, Raeanne Facendini
Wed.	8:00	Paula Pacheco, Celerina Garcia	(Cup)	Jill and Jeff Tuttle, Katie Facendini
Thurs.	8:00	Freddy Poras (L)	Altar Minister	(CB)Joseph Skubic(1)Amanda Almond(2)
Fri.	8:00	Fr Don Burnett	Sun. 7:30 am – Lector	Kathie Sullivan
Sat.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Joe Fitzgerald	Eucharistic	Marie Fletcher, Carolyn Scherini, Don Patterson
		Gloria Bordi	(Cup)	Sharon Dado, Carolyn Maloney, Mary McCaffrey
	5:00	Mark Kostielney, Frank Catania	Altar Minister	(CB)Emily Baumsteiger(1)Matthew Baumsteiger(2)
		Shirley Collins	Sun. 9:00 am - Lector	Russ Ferreira
	7:30	Socorro Palacio, Maria G. Soto Cuevaz	Eucharistic	Ross Hicks, Russ Ferreira, Richard Bessmer
		Arlet G. and Marie Contreras (L)	(Cup)	Martin Van Tassell, Dan Berry, Edd Ringlein
Sun.	7:30	John Galego, Theresa Morth	Altar Minister	(CB)Meg Rawson(1)Dominic Alonzo(2)Alex Alonzo
	9:00	Knights of Columbus (L& D) #11431	Sun. 10:30am-Lector	Alice Forsyth
		Felisbina and Antonio Pardal, Jerry Dixon	Eucharistic	Denise Lempriere, Evelyn Adams, Kathy Atkinson
		Frederic Holden	(Cup)	Kathleen Mankowski, Deacon
	10:30	Catherine and Everett DeGraffenreid	Altar Minister	(CB)Jenna Mankoswki(1)Madison Grady(2)
	12:00	Hernestina Saucedo and Maria Ponce		
		Isidro and Marina Garcia, Empera Gutierrez		
		Luz Helena Borrero		

**ST. JAMES COMMUNITY GARDEN** - We are very excited to be participating in this year's 2017 Eco Friendly Garden Tour. On Saturday, May 13th, from 10 am to 4 pm. A special thanks to John Shribbs for entering us into this event and for all his hard work and dedication on this project this past year. Here are some facts about our garden:



Our Garden Ministry converted the vacant lot into a food, prayer and flower garden. We started with sheet mulch and wood chips and built many large raised beds made of wood, cement blocks and metal tubs. We scavenged and re-purposed a variety of materials for the infrastructure. Food has been delivered to our local COTS (Committee on the Shelterless) kitchen almost every Wednesday for the past 8 years. The food production is free of all pesticides. Flowers are used in church decorations. The garden also has a restful quality and shrine for meditation and prayer.

Many people come by to walk, sit and contemplate. Besides the 15 large raised beds, there are over 30 fruit trees and vines, two field plots, a children's garden, and herb perimeters. We have a 3 bin system for mulching crop waste and use the finished product in our gardens. We invite students and scouts to do projects in the garden. This past year we installed a 14 valve, battery operated irrigation system to conserve both labor and water. Father Michael recently installed a large array of solar panels in the adjoining vacant lot and we are in the process of landscaping this quarter acre area into a community use facility. Please stop by for a visit on the 13<sup>th</sup> and enjoy its beauty. Bring a friend, stroll around, take some time for meditation or have a picnic. We're also gearing up for summer and our Farmers Market. We are looking for more help to keep it running through the fall. If you can spare an hour or two on a Sunday morning, please contact me at 477-9411 or [lpearson056@gmail.com](mailto:lpearson056@gmail.com) to volunteer. If Sundays don't work for you, we also harvest every Wednesday morning at 8:30.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8TH – MAY 14TH**

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14  
 Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASSES** - It is time to register or re-register!  
**We offer an intergenerational process for the entire parish from 3 to 103 years old.** This is a continuous lifelong approach where the various generations learn from one another, with catechesis, the Catholic faith and tradition through meals, community building, prayer, home activity kits (with the weekly Sunday scripture readings), and celebration of the mass, the heart of our faith. In other words, together the parish community hands down the faith, beliefs, traditions and practices from generation to generation. We welcome and invite you to join us as we begin our eleventh year of our study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For the school year of 2016 – 2017, we will focus on Part Three: Life in Christ; Section Two: The Ten Commandments.

**ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY** is an opportunity for all students beginning with current third graders through high schoolers to join and participate in this important Liturgical ministry. If you have been Baptized, have received your First Communion and attend Mass on a regular basis, you can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Training will be held the afternoon of May 17th, 2017 from 3:45 pm to 5:00 pm in the Church. One parent must be present to fill out forms and be aware of the Student's commitment to this Ministry. To register for training, call the Parish Office at 762-4278 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Leave your name, phone number, e-mail, child's name and their current grade. For more information, contact RoseMarie Woodruff at 762-4278 ext. 14, Monday through Thursday.

**CONFIRMATION:** Please look at the wonderful camps and mission trip for the summer. Really great stuff! Talk to Louise or email her: LouiseMartin2@yahoo.com. I am praying you have a blessed summer. Don't forget about God and the Mass, because He did not forget to wake you up this morning! Come back to re-register for next year in July. High school leadership preparation will begin in August for our fall retreat. Turn in your Youth Leader application form asap.

**EUREKA MISSION TRIP:** Three week-long trips offered on June 25th-30th and July 9th-14th and July 16th-21st. For high school/college students. Work with the inspirational Betty Chinn and the Eureka homeless. For more information or to register go to youth@srdioocese.org or call at (707) 566-3343.

**YOUTH ON A MISSION:** Norcal Catholic discipleship and evangelization training for high schoolers from all over California from July 20th - 23rd at Cal Maritime Academy, Vallejo. "YOAM" brings together youth from eight different dioceses for a challenging journey of discipleship and evangelization, outfitting them with the skills necessary to minister in their parish, communities, and most importantly their next steps after graduation. Cost is \$295. For more information, call at (707) 566-3371.

**BIRTHRIGHT OF PETALUMA** will be selling ROSES on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th after the 9:00 am and 10:30 am masses at St. Vincent's Church.



**PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday's offering:  
 Sunday Basket: \$8,328  
 On-Line Giving: 1,995  
 Total: \$10,323

The second collection for the Maintenance fund was \$4,200. Thank you for your generous donations.

**This weekend there will be a second collection for the Catholic Home Missions**

**PARISH SCHOOL NEWS**

Dear members of the St. Vincent de Paul Church community, **THANK YOU** for supporting *St. Vincent de Paul Elementary and High School* in their annual RUMMAGE SALE last weekend. We are so grateful to you for your donations and hope you were able to stop by and take home a new treasure at a bargain price! Our school's PFO (Parent and Friends Organization) was able to raise over \$2,800 to benefit our two schools. You are very much appreciated and truly help make a difference to us. From your friends at St Vincent de Paul Elementary and High School.

**St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School News**

Last week, SVES celebrated "Grand-Friends Day." Students hosted their grandparent/special friend all morning long at school where they participated together in morning prayer, classroom activities and games and ended the morning with First Friday Mass, put on by the second graders. This special day at our school makes memories that last a lifetime for our families.



**CONGRATULATIONS** - to Deborah Ann Johnson Robison and Rocco Luciano Lisandrelli who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

**PARISH SYMPATHY** - We extend our sympathy to the family of John D. Rick Burmester and John Curiel.

**GET ON THE BUS** is a program sponsored by the Restorative Justice department of dioceses throughout California. This program takes children to visit their parents who are inmates in California prisons on Mother's Day and Father's Day. This visit is a contact visit which allows the parent to hold their children, share a meal with them and play with them. It is a special time for parents and children. To help support this program there will be a RAFFLE for quilts. Raffle tickets will be sold at St. Vincent's on Sunday, May 7th at all the masses. Your support is appreciated.



**HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! BRING THE WORLD HOME** Our host families represent the diversity of American culture, but they all share one thing in common: their lives have been changed by welcoming an international exchange student into their home. Being a host family is as rewarding for you as it is for the student. You learn about another culture, provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a young person from across the globe, and form a relationship that will stay with you and your family forever. Earn money by making referrals! Let us know about a caring family and we will pay you \$200 when they host with us. Refer as many families you like and earn more! For more information, call Mary Haller at (707) 696-8410 or mary.haller@efexchangeyear.org

