Third Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2020

GOD’S PLAN

Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second, part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God’s plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God.

Today’s Gospel tells the story of Jesus’ walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad, and confused, the two of them don’t recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: All this had to happen as part of God’s plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread.

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Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Your active response and very positive feedback regarding our Holy Week and Easter celebrations have been very gratifying. In addition to Easter gifts to the parish, many of you included a note thanking our parish staff for all their hard work in making our church and rectory—and especially the altar—both reverent and inviting.

There is a virtually unlimited number of Masses available on TV or online, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic so changed our lives. However, the large number of parishioners watching the Mass here at St. Vincent’s is a sign that you don’t simply want Mass, you prefer it in our familiar and beautiful church. As a priest, I feel the same way. I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

I am well aware that “going to Mass” via the internet is not an entirely satisfying experience, especially because for now you cannot receive Holy Communion.

The other side of that coin is that, as a priest, I also find something is missing when celebrating Mass in a completely empty church. No one is present, no one is responding. While I can speak only for myself, as long as this continues, there will be something important missing for the priest as well as the parishioners.

The coronavirus pandemic has reminded me how much energy I get from you on Sunday, and how much I miss seeing you. It’s easy to remember so many of you by where you sit, week after week, but it’s not the same as your being there.

Finally, the “shelter-in-place” directive gives us some sense of what it would be like to be completely homebound—not just for a few weeks, but indefinitely. It’s a good time to be grateful for our blessings, even the smaller ones, and to be mindful of those whose lives are far more difficult or isolated than our own. Above all, we would do well to hold fast to the last line of the Gospel of Matthew, when Jesus says: “And know that I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt 28:20)

In Christ, our Lord,

Fr. Bill Donahue

Confirmation for May 12, 2020 has been cancelled until further notice--Bishop Vasa
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27th-May 3rd**

**READINGS OF THE WEEK**
- **Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
- **Tuesday:** Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
- **Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
- **Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
- **Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59;
or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24;
-Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
- **Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
- **Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

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**Easter Flowers**

Thank you to all who donated in memory of their loved ones:

- Olympio and Dora Lanzis, Mary Nunes, Marlene Stewart, Henry and Theresa Morth, Mr. and Mrs. Aladino Marcucci, Mr. and Mrs. Egidio Mancini, Jerry Dixon, Frederic Holden, Antonio and Felisbina Pardal, Don Borg, Manny Vasquez, Pat Doherty, Ernest Corda, Esther Moreda, Dario Mazzetta, Michelle Williams, Jose Murgua Gutierrez, Arthur and Mary Barboni, Gene and Dorothy Williams, Jim Williams, and Sister Mary Louise Williams.

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**May is the month of Mary** - We will have new handouts on the Rectory Porch and New Magnificat books.

A huge thank you to Marcia Kostielney and Janet Clark for making masks for the office staff. Your quick response was impressive and the clergy loved them!

All Donations are appreciated. We are checking the mailbox frequently, Monday through Friday between 8 am to 4 pm. Or mail to: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 35 Liberty St., Petaluma, CA 94952

**Temporary Office Hours:** Cristina Ruiz and Kim Williams are answering phones in the office from 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday while the "shelter in place" is in effect. We are not answering the front door, but we are here to answer all calls.

**Mass Intentions** - the office is still scheduling mass intentions. Call St. Vincent’s, 707-762-4278 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm (closed for lunch noon to 1 pm)

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**PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday’s offering:
- **Sunday Basket:** $1970
- **On-Line Giving:** $2883
- **Total:** $4853

Special Donations: $3718

Updated Easter Collection: $22,697

To all who turned in their weekly donation envelopes we are incredibly grateful. Our community shows their love in many ways.

**ONLINE GIVING** - To access our online giving with a debit card, credit card, or a check, go to [http://www.svdpetaluma.org](http://www.svdpetaluma.org) and on the front page look for the red "Donate" button on the far upper right of the page. Once you get there, follow the prompts to create a new account.

**Charitable Giving Tax Incentive:**

Creates a new above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemizer deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions of up to $300. The incentive applies to cash contributions made in 2020 and can be claimed on tax forms next year. Section 2204. The law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporations, the law raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent. Food donations from corporations would be available to 25 percent, up from the current 15 percent cap. Section 2205.

**ST. VINCENT’S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Registration is underway at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School. We are currently accepting applications. We provide a K-8th grade faith-filled education in a safe and nurturing environment. If you are interested, please visit our website or call the office to schedule a tour. For more information, go to [www svelem.org](http://www.svelem.org) or call the office at 762-6426.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL**

St. Vincent de Paul High School offers a college preparatory curriculum that develops our student’s spiritual, academic, and social potential. As a Catholic school, we teach Gospel values and provide opportunities for our students to experience and grow in their faith. Our goal is for students to become compassionate, responsible and active members of their communities. For more information or to request a virtual tour, please email svhs Admissions at [cborkhuis@svhs-pet.org](mailto:cborkhuis@svhs-pet.org).

Mass Videos can be viewed on our website at [svdpetaluma.org](http://svdpetaluma.org) in Spanish and English.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Vouchers has yet to determine when they will resume handing out vouchers.