

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.

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Now that we have celebrated our first two outdoor weekend Masses, our staff and schools have been working hard to adapt several other sacramental celebrations to the current COVID-related guidelines. This is great news for our parish and our families.

1. Several First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies originally planned for Spring 2020 have now been re-scheduled to take place at St. Vincent de Paul High School. The first of these re-scheduled celebrations will take place on Saturday, September 26, and the others will follow until they have all been completed. If your child prepared to receive these sacraments, you will be hearing from your teacher or catechist regarding the particulars of your child's First Communion or Confirmation.

2. Baptisms are now again being scheduled in English, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 2:00 p.m., as is the parish custom. Baptisms in English will normally take place in the church building, in groups no larger than permitted by current COVID-19 guidelines.

3. Baptisms are once again being scheduled in Spanish, for the first and third Saturdays of each month at 10:00 a.m., as is the parish custom.

4. Weddings are once again taking place in the Church, adapted to COVID-19 guidelines. Wedding preparation will be adapted to current circumstances. Please call the rectory office at (707) 762-4278 for details.

Many people have asked me why we do not have Mass in the church plaza by the fountain. It is a very good question, especially since the days are becoming more temperate. In addition to the traffic noise, it could be difficult to accommodate all those who might wish to attend. The biggest reason, in my experience, is the potential danger posed by a random bicyclist or skateboarder flying around the corners without regard to the safety of others.

Speaking of the fountain, you may have noticed that our beautiful plaza fountain has been deactivated and drained. Over the past several weeks, there has been a sharp increase of incidents of people pouring detergent into the fountain. (It's probably a sign that COVID-19 has left some people with far too little to do...) While it may seem otherwise, this is not a harmless or inexpensive prank. The soap is a contaminant that must be cleaned up without allowing it to enter the storm drains. It also causes expensive repairs of the pumping equipment. In the meantime, I will be consulting with

our maintenance team for a more pleasing, and permanent, solution. Fountain maintenance was not something taught in the seminary!

While official fire season will continue for many more weeks, the air is beginning to clear in Petaluma— at least for the time being. Great challenges remain, but bluer skies and milder temperatures are most welcome signs after so many hot and smoky days. The first day of fall is less than a week away, and fall is perhaps the most beautiful season of the year. While we continue to pray for our families, our parish and those in any need, let us also appreciate the beauty around us, and within each of us.

Blessings,

Fr. Bill Donahue

Mass intentions during September 21st-September 27th

Mon.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Joe Fitzgerald Departed Souls Empress Nursing Home Andrena Gianini and Family (L)
Tues.	8:00	Kanye and Kim West (L)
Wed.	8:00	Leda Sturla (L), Vicki Aguilar (L) Maureen Nelson (L)
Thurs.	8:00	Cheryl Sturla Strubeck
Fri.	8:00	-
Sat.	8:00	Kiera Doherty and Family (L)
	5:00	-
	7:30	Eloisa Gutierrez Ernesto y Flor Aguilar y Familia
Sun.	7:30	-
	9:00	Mary Seratt, Jim Rivara, Cynthia Gorton
	10:30	-
	12:00	-

September 20, 2020 - Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

DIRECTION

Isaiah tells us something that we already know, and yet seem to forget every now and then. He tells us, essentially, that God is God and we are not. When we're confused and troubled and can't figure everything out, it might be wise to recall Isaiah speaking on the Lord's behalf and explaining that God—who is on a much more, well, Godly wavelength than we are—moves in ways we can't even imagine.

Saint Paul, by comparison, has everything figured out. Kind of. At least he understands his calling in life—to magnify Christ in everything he does. That should give all of us the direction we need. Jesus gives us direction, too, explaining to us once again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that the last will be first, and the first, last.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21ST – SEPTEMBER 27TH



Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

ST. VINCENT’S OUTDOOR MASS

Will be held at St. Vincent’s High School, 849 Keokuk Street at the side parking lot at 9:00 am in English and 10:30 am in Spanish. Bring your own folding chair, and please stay 6’ apart and wear a mask. Park in the front parking lot or on the street and walk.

There will be ushers to direct you. There will be music, no singing and please do not gather after receiving communion. We will continue to record mass and post on the website.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE: It is time to register

or re-register for classes Kindergarten through Confirmation. The registration forms are outside at the rectory porch ministry table, on Western and Liberty Street. You may also call the Rectory to request that a form be mailed to you.

A reminder: the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation is a two-year process. If families want their children to receive these Sacraments in Spring of 2022, they need to register to begin the classes starting this October, 2020.

Plan A was that the children would come to the Parish Hall once a week for instruction.

Plan B was that the elementary children would be home-schooled and assigned a Catechist who would be available to assist the parents. The Confirmation students would be taught via zoom.

We have decided to go with **Plan B** through December 2020 at which time we will reevaluate and decide how we will proceed for the second semester.

Classes for the elementary grades and Second Year Confirmation are scheduled to begin the first week of October.

First Year Confirmation

Students will start on Tuesday, October 13th, via zoom

Second Year Confirmation

Students will start on Wednesday, October 7th, via zoom.

We need a copy of the Baptismal Certificate if not baptized at St. Vincent’s. We will distribute the book and schedules for the elementary students the week of September 28th at assigned times. **REGISTER TODAY!** If you have any questions, please call Rosamarie at 707-762-4278 ext. 14. God Bless!

PLEASE PRAY FOR



Vincent Favor, Sebastian Reno, Matthew Woodruff, Sandra Vonder Kuhlen and Concepcion Campos.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

is on Thursdays from 10 - 11 am in front of the church, with the front doors open to the blessed sacrament. There will be a holy hour of exposition, the Rosary and will close with the Benediction. Fr. Andrew will be leading this service.

NEW MAILBOX - The new locking mailbox at the front door of the rectory will provide a more secure way of receiving donations. Many of our parishioners also slip their donations under the front door.



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday’s offering:

Sunday Basket:	\$4,887
On-Line Giving:	<u>1,698</u>
Total	\$6,585

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Maintenance Fund.

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



ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED.

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are so proud of our students at SVES! They are really engaged and adjusting well to our Distance Learning Program. While our teachers are instructing from inside their classrooms, our students are showing FORTITUDE during this transitional period while learning from home. Our students are demonstrating their skills of being good listeners, responsible citizens and critical thinkers. They are navigating their google classrooms, participating in zoom meetings and enjoying their enrichment projects. The faculty and staff are amazed and so thankful for our parents’ participation in making our Distance Learning Program so successful. For more information on the K-8th grade programs we offer at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School please visit our website at (www.svelem.org) or call the office at (707) 762-6426.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

St. Vincent de Paul High School offers a college preparatory curriculum that develops our students spiritual, academic, and social potential. To experience SVHS, schedule a personalized private tour. During your visit, you will tour our campus grounds and have all your questions answered. Our goal is to equip you with the knowledge you will need to make an informed decision for your child’s education. For questions and to schedule, please contact Carrie Borkhuis, Director of Admissions, at (707) 763-1032, ext. 113 or cborkhuis@svhs-pet.org

FALL DÉCOR --When cleaning out your closets, please remember St. Vincent's for sunflowers, pumpkins, scare



crows, flower arrangements (fresh or phony baloney) or fall wreaths. I am using these items for the front porch and our ministry table. If you have questions, call me at 707-762-4278. Thank you.—Kim Williams

JOIN A SANTA ROSA DIOCESAN PRIEST VIA ZOOM -



Young adults, join us Wednesday night, starting September 23rd from 8:00 to 9:00 pm thru Thanksgiving. We'll listen to a diocesan priest teach on the weekly scriptures and answer your questions. Young adults (18 - 25ish) are recent grads, college students,

those starting careers or been laboring for years, newlyweds, starting a family, navigating crazy life changes. To join us go to Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94130530603>