

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.

Pastor's Desk

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As you may have noticed, during my vacation Fr Andrew and a couple of others have sat at The Pastor's Desk to provide their own thoughts and reflections. During my vacation, I told Fr. Andrew that he would be in charge of everything, and I see that he took those instructions quite literally! Seriously, though, I can't tell you how happy I am with Fr. Andrew and Msgr. Whelton, and for all they bring to our parish. I pray it will not be too long before you can see them in church, and meet them in person.

I would like to share with you some information regarding the celebration of the sacraments here at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Sunday Mass: I am happy to be able to announce that we will begin offering Sunday Masses at St. Vincent de Paul High School. We will begin with a Mass at 9:00 a.m. in English, and 10:30 in Spanish.

First Communion: When the pandemic closed our beautiful church, several people asked me what we were going to do about the First Communion and Confirmation Masses that are traditionally celebrated in spring. At that time, I said that it was most likely that we would be able to re-schedule them for some time in September or early fall. I had hoped that by the beginning of school, we would be able to hold these sacramental celebrations in the church. No one knew that we would be locked out of our church for so long. We are making plans to celebrate several First Communion Masses which were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Details to follow.

Confirmation had been scheduled for May 12, but was also postponed because of COVID-19. Bishop Vasa has given priests the faculty to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are also planning, as circumstances permit, to celebrate as many Masses as may be needed to confer this sacrament on those already prepared to receive it.

Video Masses: After working out some technological glitches, our video Masses in English and Spanish are again being offered and posted on this website. Even after we are able to return to our church, these video Masses will continue until further notice.

Confessions are now heard Saturday afternoons from 3:30- 4:30 p.m., on the bench in the Veterans Memorial next to the church on Howard St. The slight change in the confession time has been made to accommodate the time needed for recording the weekend Masses.

Anointing of the Sick: One of the most difficult aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic is the closure of hospitals and health care facilities to visitors. I regret that it is not yet possible for us to visit your loved ones if they are in the hospital. However, under most circumstances, it is possible for priests to make a brief visit to homes to administer the Anointing of the Sick and other prayers for the sick and dying. While each situation must be considered individually, please do not hesitate to call the rectory office if you are in need of these sacraments of healing and forgiveness.

Baptisms: In addition to being the sacrament of salvation, Baptism is also a joyous family celebration. Due to the strict limits on gathering, we have postponed baptisms until the restrictions could be lifted. In the meantime, we are scheduling a limited number of baptisms for families who are willing to limit them to parents, godparents and a couple of close relatives.

Funerals: One of the greatest consolations to grieving families is the support and presence of extended family and friends at the funeral Mass or memorial liturgy. Sadly, we are not yet able to celebrate funeral Masses in the church except for a gathering of 10 or fewer people. Due to an inconsistency in the state regulations, much larger groups can gather at a mortuary or funeral chapel for the same purpose. I have officiated at several memorial liturgies and graveside services during the shutdown while observing all the necessary guidelines. The clergy and staff of St. Vincent's will do all we can to accommodate your needs.

I apologize for the informational nature of this message From the Pastor's Desk, but I hope this is useful. I want to express my gratitude to the many who continue to support our parish during these challenging times, and assure you of our continued support and prayers in the days to come.

With blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue

Mass intentions during September 7th-September 13th		
Mon.	8:00	Michael Barry Ryan
Tues.	8:00	Marie Wayne (L)
Wed.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Joe Fitzgerald Paula Louise Moore
Thurs.	8:00	-
Fri.	8:00	Wilfred and Helen Fatooh, Emma Moss Harry Moss (L)
Sat.	8:00	-
	5:00	Francelina and Manuel Lopes
	7:30	Eloisa Gutierrez, Eulalio Salinas Torres
Sun.	7:30	-
	9:00	Jennie Rossotti
	10:30	-
	12:00	-

ST. VINCENT'S OUTDOOR MASS
will be held at St. Vincent's High School at 849 Keokuk St. at 9 am in English and 10:30 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.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7TH – SEPTEMBER 13TH

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Mt 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Sir 27:30 — 28:7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Registration for all classes will run until September 30th. Everyone who was registered in the education classes during the 2019-2020 year will receive a registration form in the mail.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ELEMENTARY CLASSES - classes will be in person, if permitted, or the children will be placed on home study. For years, we have been reminding you that you are the first educators of your children in everything including faith formation, and that each family is the Domestic Church. Your attendance and participation at the monthly family classes tell that you are more than prepared for home schooling. You will not be alone in this task. All the catechists will be available to assist you and answer any questions by email or phone. After much preparation, we feel that we are prepared for almost any situation.

CONFIRMATION - Most classes will begin during the first week in October. Last school year's Confirmation, class of 2020 and the second year class of 2021 will begin the first week of October. The incoming first year class for the year 2022 will begin classes during the second half of October via Zoom. Please visit our website (svdppetaluma.org) often, since everything seems to change day by day. We continue to pray each day for all our church families, may you be healthy and safe from all the effects of Covid-19. Pray each day as a family growing in love for our Lord and each other. If you have any questions about the above programs, please call Rosamarie at 707-762-4278 ext. 14. God Bless!



PLEASE PRAY for Sebastian Reno, Alena Kosewic, Marie Fletcher, Sandra Vonder Kuhlen, Concepcion Campos, and Tania Sambudio. Also, pray for all of the teachers who are doing long distance teaching and trying to keep our children engaged. Please pray for the children who are struggling to learn in this new educational climate.



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.



COPING WITH COVID 19



It was a common practice for us in the past to pray for people who lived in remote or inaccessible villages, who didn't have regular access to the sacraments. They had no regular priest. Perhaps a priest could visit occasionally on his wide circuit at long intervals. Baptisms, weddings and other celebrations had to be put off indefinitely. People had to fend for themselves, holding on to their faith for long, uncertain periods of time. We prayed, because we could not even imagine such privation.

Over the centuries and in our recent past and to the present, we have prayed for people whose government prohibits worshipping freely. We learn of those faithful who go underground or meet in secret for generations, passing on the basics of our religion to their children or to brave converts. In the midst of war, with no priests available, people somehow managed to foster their beliefs. With no Bible, no Scripture readings, no liturgy or sacraments, faith struggles to survive, but it does survive. In spite of overwhelming obstacles, Catholicism has survived for over 2000 years.

This faith history serves us today as encouragement in a time of difficulty. Those privations which we couldn't imagine before have become reality for us. With no gatherings, no access to sacraments and priests who are hindered in their usual pastoral duties, we must cope. Our situation is not dire, of course. We can easily hold on to our faith through this temporary inconvenience. We always have hope for those in desperately perilous situations and remote villages, that they can remain steadfast in their faith and in hope for the future.

-St. Vincent's Parishioner

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket: \$2,811
On-Line Giving: 1,483
Total \$4,294

Special Donations: \$5,185.

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Diocesan Seminarians

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



The faculty and staff at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School are keeping those affected by the wildfires in our daily prayers. We are thankful to all the front-line workers and appreciate all their efforts to put out the fires. Our students at SVES are keeping busy with a robust distance learning schedule. Our teachers are doing an amazing job as they have transitioned to this new learning environment with live instruction from their classrooms. We appreciate the efforts of parents in our school community working together with our faculty and staff to ensure our students thrive and grow within their faith during this difficult time. Stay safe! For more information go to www.svelem.org or call the office at (707) 762-6426.



THE RECTORY OFFICE will be closed on Monday, September 7th for Labor Day.

WE ARE ACCEPTING PRAYER REQUESTS to post in the bulletin. Submit your prayer request by Wednesday morning to be included in the Friday bulletin. This is a time of uncertainty and unrest; we continue to be a community that prays together.

TO OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CLIENTS: To receive help, go to the church garage located on 6th Street. Please wear a mask. We will not be in the Parish Hall, but at the garage.

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.