

**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, November 22, 2020**

**Mass intentions during November 23rd - November 29th**

Mon.	8:00	Marie Fletcher (L)
Tues.	8:00	Harvey Balestrini and Living Family Judith Williams (L), Michael Rilko Frances and Fitzhugh Moore
Wed.	8:00	-
Thurs.	8:00	John Khatsho Orfali Wilfred and Helen Fatooh Carnazola Family (L & D)
Fri.	8:00	Mairin Clare O'Grady (L)
Sat.	8:00	-
	5:00	-
	7:30	Eloisa Gutierrez
Sun.	7:30	-
	9:00	Randall C. Fowler, Jomar K. Lococo
	10:30	Holly Windsor Departed Souls Empress Nursing Home
	12:00	Vicki Aguilar y Familia (L) Sara Solorio, Lorenzo Alvarez

**THANKSGIVING DAY IS MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY....**

Baking a turkey for 10-15 people or more, the grandchildren, a gathering of family, watching football together, playing board games and sharing a special meal. I have been so busy with other things that when I started to plan my menu for Thanksgiving I realized that there will only be my husband and myself. The impact of this pandemic hit me hard at that point. I have been wearing a mask, dealing with the stress of 2020, but never felt lonely, knowing we are all in this together. I know this is temporary, and that next year will be different, but for today I mourn the empty seats around the table, the quiet backyard void of grandkids playing and giggling and will honor my grief and celebrate how thankful I am that I have a family and such a beautiful community that I love.



—Author Anonymous

**Dear Fellow Parishioners,**

Once again, I thank those who responded generously to my appeal letter at the end of last month. Donations and very nice notes continue to come in, and our parish staff and I are most grateful.

1) There will be two Thanksgiving Day Masses – one in English, one in Spanish, both posted as videos on our parish website. Traditionally, this has been our parish's one bilingual celebration of the year. Since we are not yet able to gather in our church as one parish community, it makes more sense to have a Mass in each language. We plan to return to our bilingual format next Thanksgiving.

2) The Sunday after Thanksgiving is the First Sunday of Advent. We will unveil our plans for Advent soon. Using an expression familiar to organists, we plan to “pull out all the stops” for a warm and inspiring Advent and Christmas season, whether we celebrate in person or remotely.

3) We learned on November 17 that we will not be able to return to our church for some time to come. Some of you continue to express your frustration about this, which I happen to share. Not long ago, I went to Target on a Saturday, and the store and parking lot were swarming with people, with no apparent limitation on the number of people who could be in the store at one time. Practically everyone can provide their own example of the perceived unfairness of this. On the other hand, one could argue that a church has a higher ethical duty for the safety of its parishioners than a corporation has for customers.

As I mentioned before, the California Bishops' Conference and our diocesan officials in Santa Rosa are doing all they can behind the scenes to provide needed information and to lobby for the interests of our parishes, schools and people, which cannot be separated from the common good of all. At present, the bishop is working with Sonoma County to identify parish facilities that could be used for pop-up COVID testing centers. We have already had two testing days here at SV, and we will probably have more, weather permitting.

Some people have told me they feel the church has been too compliant and ought to be more forceful in pressing its interests. A few have even suggested that we disregard the restrictions and resume Masses in the church.

It is in nobody's interest that the waters be even more troubled than they already are. We will work within current limits, and make the most of the things we can do. I urge all to pray for the wide and rapid distribution of an effective vaccine.

4) This week is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower after a grueling 10-week journey. They dropped anchor at Provincetown (the tip of Cape Cod) on November 21, 1620, two days after sighting land. Only half of them survived to celebrate the first Thanksgiving in 1621. In addition to their physical courage in the face of extreme hardship, we should be mindful of the spiritual and Christian nature of their quest which played a crucial role in the founding of our country.

5) Many people are staying closer to home this year, and are adapting family traditions to our current situation. I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving, full of blessings for which to be thankful.

**Fr. Bill Donahue, Pastor**

Mass intentions during November 23rd – November 29th



Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4  
Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11  
Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19  
Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28  
Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11 — 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33  
Saturday: Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36  
Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37



**THE RECTORY OFFICE** will be closed on Thursday, November 26th, and Friday November, 27th for Thanksgiving.

**ADVENT WREATHS AND BOXED SET OF CANDLES FOR SALE.** We are selling the brass advent wreaths and boxed candle sets for \$10 each on the front porch ministry table.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 6TH**  
According to the tradition of the first people to decorate a tree in celebration of the Lord's birth the tree is set up and decorated gradually during Advent, but it's lighted, blessed and enjoyed fully for the first time on Christmas Eve. That way, we make a great burst of light to welcome Christ into the home!

A generation ago, liturgical pioneer Therese Mueller spoke eloquently about the power of this ritual: "It is poor psychology to anticipate Christmas, to break on the great climax into all kinds of little kinds of climaxes, until on the feast itself we are bored and tired of it all, even of the tree, if lighted prematurely to celebrate small occasions instead of being a sudden symbolic revelation of the fullness of light on the Holy Night."

The tree can be the centerpiece of our prayer at home: We bless it using the text on this page. We can make a big fuss of lighting it every night of the Christmas season — until January 9th this year. We can dance and sing carols around it and tell once again the family tales.

Before searching for a tree for your home, search for trees in the Bible: Read Genesis 2:9, Isaiah 11:1, Psalm 96:11 – 13, Acts 10:39 and Revelation 22: 2. Jesus Christ is the shining tree of life born from Jesse's root. When our waiting is over, Christ will lead us home to paradise.



**FAMILY BLESSING OF THE TREE**

God of Adam and Eve,  
God of all our ancestors,  
we praise you for this Christmas tree.  
It stirs in us a memory of paradise,  
and it opens a window into heaven.

Send your Son, Jesus,  
the shoot sprung from the root of Jesse,  
to restored the earth to the goodness of Eden.

On the day of his coming,  
every tree of the forest  
will clap its hands in joy,  
and all creation will sing to you perched on these shining  
branches:  
Glory in heaven and peace on earth,  
Now and for ever. Amen

**PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday's offering:  
Sunday Basket: \$6,629  
On-Line Giving: 2,621  
Total \$9,250

**Total from the Appeal Letter: \$85,407**

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

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**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'S OUTDOOR MASS** – Sunday, weather permitting, no rain, will be held at St. Vincent's High School at 849 Keokuk St. at 9 am in English and 10:30 in Spanish. This will be held at the high school side parking lot. There will be ushers to help out. 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. Ushers will be there to direct you. There will be music, no singing and please do not gather after receiving communion. We will continue to pre-record mass and post on the website, [svdppetaluma.org](http://svdppetaluma.org).

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE:** Please pick up a porcelain angel ornament from the basket on the Rectory Ministry table to bring home to decorate. Even though the church is not open, we are going to record the program and post it on our website, [svdppetaluma.org](http://svdppetaluma.org), for parishioners to follow along at their leisure.



**ALL SOULS DAY REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES** are available at the Rectory Porch Ministry Table. You may write the names of your loved ones on the remembrance envelope and we will write them in the book. You can drop off the envelope in our mail box or mail it. During the month of November, the Remembrance Book will be in the Church. We remember our loved ones and honor their memory with great respect as we pray for them.



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is canceled for Thursday, November 26th.**

**CONFESSIONS** - through the rest of the year 2020 are held in the Reconciliation Room at 3:30 pm on Saturdays or you can call 762-4278 to schedule an appointment for confession during the week.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** - Sebastian Reno, Matthew Woodruff, Marie Fletcher and Sandra Vonder Kuhlen.