

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, January 3, 2021

Mass intentions during January 4th- January 10th

Mon.	8:00	Shirley Silva, Leo Ghirardelli Gladys Gramling
Tues.	8:00	Tony and Mary Mazzoleni
Wed.	8:00	-
Thurs.	8:00	-
Fri.	8:00	-
Sat.	8:00	-
	5:00	-
	7:30	-
Sun.	7:30	-
	9:00	Fr. Michele Raimondi, Jerry Dixon Antonio and Felisbina Pardal Debbie Rivera, Don Borg Frederic Holden Evelyn Carnazola Morris
	10:30	-
	12:00	Familia Enriquez-Gutierrez (L & D) Lily Calvillo (L)

January 3, 2021 The Epiphany of the Lord

PROMISE FULFILLED

Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

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My Dear Parishioners,



On Friday, January 1st, we celebrate two notable events: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and New Year's Day.

It is fitting that the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, falls in the middle of the Christmas season, which celebrates Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, makes a key distinction, as it celebrates Mary's motherhood not only of Jesus, but of God. The ancient title "Theotokos," i.e. "God-bearer" refers to this distinction.

The Gospels we hear during the Christmas season repeatedly attest to Mary's motherhood of Jesus. Our own internal imagery of Christmas invariably includes the presence of Mary (and Joseph) at the side of Jesus in the manger.

What was not as immediately obvious was the fact that Mary was also the Mother of God. In the first centuries of the Church, this question became a matter of significant controversy. It was settled at the Third Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D., with the definition of Mary as Mother of God, not merely the Mother of Jesus. This was the first specifically Marian dogma defined by the Church.

For extra credit, there are four main Marian defined dogmas: Mary as Mother of God, Mary's Immaculate Conception, Mary's Assumption into Heaven, and Mary's Perpetual Virginity.

The other event we celebrate this week is New Year's Day. Much has been made of the unprecedented difficulties of 2020, and rightly so. However, we should be careful not to let the events of this past year limit our sense of the possible for the New Year 2021. One of the features of being a priest is that we are witnesses to many happy life events. During this past year, many marriages were witnessed, many families were blessed with new children (and grandchildren), many personal successes were celebrated, and many others were givers or receivers of kindness and generosity which in more normal times might never have arisen. Just as many people have re-discovered their inner strength in tough times, the great residual strength of this parish and its families has shone bright – despite the fact that we have not been able to gather in our church for months.

We do not know when the COVID-19 pandemic will be largely behind us, or when we will be able to return to our church and receive the Eucharist on a regular basis. This has been a heavy burden for so many to bear, just as it is hard for a priest to celebrate the Eucharist in an empty church. The positive side of the coin is that many people have recovered a sense of self-reliance in their spiritual lives – through participation in video Masses and personal reading and reflection. The resources available at the entrance to the rectory have been flying off of the table – a good sign that people are adapting to changed circumstances while pressing on with their spiritual lives.

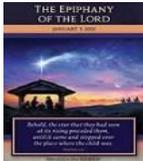
I would like to close with the following encouragement for the New Year:

“In the best of times, our days are numbered anyway. So it would be a crime against nature for any generation to take the world crisis so solemnly that it put off enjoying those things for which we were designed in the first place: the opportunity to do good work, to enjoy friends, to fall in love, to hit a ball, and to bounce a baby.” – Alistair Cooke

With blessings for a blessed and healthy 2021,

Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4TH – JANUARY 10TH



Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE: The classes for 2021 will resume on Zoom on Tuesday, January 5th and Wednesday, January 6th at the regular times and with the same catechists. The classes are filled and closed.

The elementary school children are, at this time, being homeschooled by their parents and grandparents. I will be contacting all elementary families during the first two weeks of January. The second year First Sacrament families will be receiving a second book to be completed during the spring. The children will continue to be homeschooled in the new year until we can safely have them return in person. We will continue to take registrations for all elementary grade students except for the Second Year Sacrament children.

We miss seeing everyone but you are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. We wish each family a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year. **God Bless.**



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket: \$3,898
On-Line Giving: 3,249
Total \$7,147

The second collection for the Maintenance Fund was \$2,295

Christmas to date: \$40,163. (budgeted amount \$46k)

Total from the Appeal Letter: \$108,150

Happy New Year to all of you and may the Niner's survive the Seahawks this weekend

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.

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Joao "John" Nunes who passed away on December 22, and Mary K. Barboni who passed away on December 18, 2020. May all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Juliet Ann Stegall-Adelmeyer and Jackson James Ryan who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FLOWER DONATIONS

in memory of family members and friends who have died.



*Theresa and Henry (Kank) Morth,
Philip and Nina Respini, Michelle*

Williams, Jim Shea, Arthur and Marie Barboni, Eugene and Dorothy Williams, Jim Williams, Sister Mary Louise Williams, Ray Ronsheimer, Nicholas Nunes, Alice and Clarence Loderoni, Ray and Edna Ronsheimer, Irene, Bill and Michael DeMartin, Max Cerini, Ann Cerini Campbell, Manuel and Eleanore Morgado, Aldo and Irene Corda, Dave and Ida Loderoni, Dave and Julia Loderoni, Henry, Assunta, Sylvia Corda and Chris Allen.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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, followed by the Rosary. We will close with the Benediction. Fr. Andrew will be leading this service.



PLEASE PRAY FOR - Heather Fanning, Mary Hinojosa, Susan Nickel, Marie Fletcher and Sandra Vonder Kuhlen.

CONFESSIONS - 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.



ONFIRE NORCAL JAM - Keep the Light Bright. You're invited on January 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm. "Rise up young Church" with special guest, Mark Hart. A graduate of the university of Notre Dame and a twenty-year veteran of youth ministry, Mark is an award-winning author and one of the most sought-after speakers serving in the Catholic Church today. For more information, go to www.renodiocese.org/oyyam or www.onfirenorcal.com



GIVING TREE--Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree. Birthright was surprised that we made an attempt to even have a giving tree and they were incredibly grateful. Angel Food Network received over \$300 in gift cards and cash, and St. Vincent de Paul Society is thankful for so many who contributed to their cause. Many lives will have been touched by your generous donations.

2021 CALENDARS - are available on the Rectory Porch. We only have a limited amount of calendars this year. One calendar per household, please.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES – serving with love for all..... Apply now for CalFresh and Medi-Cal with help from an enrollment professional at Catholic Charities. To make an appointment, call 707-867-7469 or go to srcharities.org

