

**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 10, 2021**

**Mass intentions during January 11th - January 17th**

Mon.	8:00	Leda Sturla (L), George Bordi (L) Matthew Grala (L)
Tues.	8:00	Martin Broullon
Wed.	8:00	Annie, Sam and Joe Carrao
Thurs.	8:00	Bernard Bahr
Fri.	8:00	-
Sat.	8:00	-
	5:00	-
	7:30	Martin Broullon, Bernard Bahr
Sun.	7:30	Patricia McShane Gladys Gramling
	9:00	Alberto Cubas (L) Heather and Ryan Fanning (L) Empress Nursing Home
	10:30	-
	12:00	Familia Enriquez-Gutierrez (L & D)

**January 10, 2021 - The Baptism of the Lord  
THE WATERS OF BAPTISM**

When new sod is put in, it needs constant saturation with water. Landscapers say that this “knits” the sod to the soil. The same when a branch is grafted onto a tree: the poultice that joins them at the splice must be kept wet at all times. Water is the stuff that binds the very cells of our bodies together. No wonder religions throughout all times and cultures have used it so prominently. When Jesus stepped into the Jordan for baptism, he “knit” himself to what had come before him. By going to the Jordan, he made himself one with the people of Israel who had crossed it into their Promised Land. With John the Baptist, Christ wove himself into the prophetic tradition that heralded the coming reign of God. He had become fully human in the waters of Mary’s womb, and by partaking in the rite of the baptism of repentance, Jesus identified himself with our sinful, frail humanity. It is through the waters of baptism that Christ continues to graft new members onto his Body, the Church; through these waters we are cleansed from sin and filled with the promise of grace, given our destiny for eternal life. For us, as for Jesus, it is also the waters of baptism that inaugurate our mission to proclaim the Good News.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**My Dear Fellow Parishioners,**

This is my first message “From the Pastor’s Desk” of the New Year.

While I imagine your Christmas celebrations were a bit different this year, I hope they were all good in their own way. It was tough knowing that some people were unable to see family and friends, and others who were alone. All four Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day happened amid threats of rain, as did all Sunday Masses on the feasts of the Holy Family and Epiphany. The biblical image of the Christian community as a “vineyard of the Lord” is more apt than ever. Like vineyards out in nature, our parish is for the time being dependent on the heavens for favorable weather – as vine-growers, farmers and ranchers have been for millennia.

Today I received an anonymous (but respectful) note which read: “Hi – Why aren’t you fighting or suing for our religious rights? Come on!!” Attached to the note was a news clipping of a local letter to the editor stating that churches are receiving unfair and discriminatory treatment compared to commercial establishments of all kinds which remain open to large numbers of people. I sympathize with the general point, and know that many of you do as well.

Nearly all of us have been to supermarkets or big-box stores (Costco, Target, Home Depot, etc.) and seen large crowds, and thought it terribly unfair that our church must remain closed while they are operating at full swing.

There are more subtle points to be made:

- 1) St. Vincent’s has a far greater moral duty of care for our parishioners than a corporation has for anonymous customers, much less the degree of responsibility a government entity will accept for its citizens. I take this duty of care for you personally and with utmost seriousness -- apart from whatever civil authorities may think is reasonable. The current resurgence, when coupled with understandable COVID-19 fatigue, plus the conspicuous lack of seriousness on the part of those who break the rules they make for the rest of us, make it all a harder lift.
- 2) COVID-19 is highly unpredictable: There are 100-year-olds who have recovered from it, but apparently healthy young people who succumb. In other words, the chances of getting COVID may be small, but the consequences for the person who does get it are potentially fatal. Admittedly, it’s a very small chance when protections are in place, but not one I am willing to encourage others to take. (Fr. Andrew and I continue to take sick calls, no questions asked.) Reasonable people may differ, but for the time being I think our parish has struck a reasonable balance between safety and religious practice.

A couple of final points:

Nobody wants to return to our church (and schools) more than I do. What we need perhaps even more right now are safety, order and predictability – in our parish, our schools, our families and our wider society. As I mentioned before, the California Conference of Catholic Bishops (and their lawyers and policy experts) are doing all they can behind the scenes to “move the needle.” It is unlikely that a wildcat action on the part of a pastor here or there would have much lasting positive effect; we must work together. Observing laws we find distasteful or wrong-headed, while we work to change them, is the price of living in a reasonably free and ordered society.

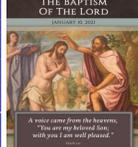
In other matters, I want to reiterate my thanks for those who have supported our parish so generously, especially over the past two months – not to mention the personal Christmas cards and gifts I received. I am still working on my thank-you notes, not only because I am truly grateful, but also because eternity is long and my mother, whom I plan to see in the hereafter, will not give me a minute’s peace until I do.

Most of us are familiar with the British World War II slogan, “Keep Calm and Carry On.” More recently, it has been retooled for countless other messages. The version I like best is, “Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor.” We don’t need to be preached at. At most, we need gentle reminders. The New Year is ours to make better through the cheerful practice of our faith, not just in great moments, but in our daily lives.

**With blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11TH – JANUARY 17TH**

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20  
 Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28  
 Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39  
 Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45  
 Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12  
 Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17  
 Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
 (January 6, 2021)

A voice came from the heavens: "The one and only Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** - The Confirmation



classes resumed this past week with excellent attendance. Great job!

All elementary students, as stated in the last announcement, will remain on home schooling until we are able to safely reopen. Parents and children will continue to work in their religion books. Books will be collected at re-registration in August for the 2021-2022 year. Remember that we are a phone call, text, or email away to assist you.

**Important – Current Second Year First Communion Families** are to pick-up their books at the front door of the Parish Hall, Howard and Western Ave. from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday – Thursday on January 12, 13 or 14<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Please remember to participate at the weekly Sunday outdoor Mass at St. Vincent's High School, 849 Keokuk Street, weather permitting at 9:00 am. in English and 10:30 am. in Spanish. Sunday and weekday Masses are also on St. Vincent's website (svdppetaluma.org). Mass is the source and summit of our belief.

Keep us in your prayers, as we keep you in our prayers. God Bless!



**New Year's Blessings and He ho'omaka hou'ana** - no lengthy email here...no donation requests, no political updates, no act-fast sales deals. Prayers for all Exodus90 Brothers. By Stephen Morris

**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/ooyam](http://www.renodiocese.org/ooyam) or [www.onfirenorcal.com](http://www.onfirenorcal.com)

**Special for Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Petaluma**

Catholic Cemeteries is happy to announce the new columbarium at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Petaluma, called Divine Mercy. During the months of January through March 2021, we are having a special of 3% off of the Divine Mercy niches for pre-planning arrangements. Please contact the main office in Santa Rosa at (707) 546-6290 to schedule an appointment. Office hours in Santa Rosa are Monday through Friday 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Our Family Service Advisors will be happy to assist you and provide more information.

**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.

**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.

**PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday's offering:  
 Sunday Basket: \$5,385  
 On-Line Giving: 3,732  
 Total \$9,117

Special donations for this week: **\$6,515**

**Christmas to date: \$48,828 (budgeted amount \$46,200)**

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Church in Latin America

**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 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS**

Happy New Year! May we all be blessed with health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year!

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is underway! Our applications are available on our website ([www.svelem.org](http://www.svelem.org)). Priority registration will be given to families who apply prior to January 31, 2021. If you are interested in learning more about our school community, please call our office at 762-6426. At St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, we focus on educating the whole child in a top-level academic program integrated with Catholic values.

**OUR SYMPATHIES** go out to the family of Francisco "Frank" Tomaz Silveira who passed away on January 2, 2021. May his soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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



**THE SAN FRANCISCO BOYS CHORUS AUDITIONS** -

**ABOUT US:** The GRAMMY Award-winning San Francisco Boys Chorus offers a unique choral experience for boys ages 5 to 17 across the Bay Area with Eric Choate, Artistic Director and Ian Robertson, Artistic Director Emeritus. Our current online training not only continues to develop their musical talents but also builds community, enhances focus, and provides an outlet for artistic expression. For more information, email [sfbcprogram@sfb.org](mailto:sfbcprogram@sfb.org) or call (415) 861-7464. We look forward to meeting you.

**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.