

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 17, 2021

<u>Mass intentions during January 18th - January 24th</u>			January 17, 2021 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon.	8:00	Mary K. Barboni, Fr. David Shaw	<p align="center">SPEAK, LORD, WE ARE LISTENING</p> <p>In today's first reading God keeps calling out in the night to a sleeping boy. Neither the boy, Samuel, nor his teacher, Eli, understands who is calling. But God's persistence convinces them. Samuel is then ready - not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).</p> <p>In the Gospel Jesus is out teaching. Various people notice him and begin to gather around. They soon become disciples and, like the young Samuel, are ready - not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak," they say, "we are listening." God's voice is always with us, awake or asleep. It swirls around us like fog on a waterfront, enveloping us, gently urging us to wake up, to listen. Awareness of the voice comes first; then willingness to listen; then, in time, the decision to act, to live according to God's word. Let's ask today for the ability to keep our ears open so we don't miss God's voice.</p> <p align="right">Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.</p>
Tues.	8:00	Mario Naal (L), A. J. Hromek Vivian Sharpe Benito and Eulalia Aguilar	
Wed.	8:00	-	
Thurs.	8:00	-	
Fri.	8:00	-	
Sat.	8:00	-	
	5:00	-	
	7:30	-	
Sun.	7:30	-	
	9:00	Gary Deutz, Mary Barboni Gladys Gramling, Patrick Doherty	
	10:30	-	
	12:00	Familia Enriquez-Gutierrez (L & D)	

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 18TH – JANUARY 24TH



Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket: \$4,837
On-Line Giving: 2,550
Total \$7,387

Christmas to date: \$49,925 (budgeted amount \$46,200)

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

ONLINE GIVING - To sign up for 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



Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is underway! Applications are available on our website (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.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Axel Jason Deming and Lillian Rose Mirsberger who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Pat Carr, Marie Fletcher and Sandra Vonder Kuhlen.



OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Loretta Giacomini who passed away on December 11, 2020 and Jeffrey Eugene Souza who passed away on January 5, 2021. May their souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES - The Confirmation classes have resumed.



All elementary students 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 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!

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.

THANKS to all the St. Vincent de Paul Parishioners who gave their hard earned money (\$935) to the Giving Tree this past Christmas. Your donation will be a blessing to many people. The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society thank you for your continued support.



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.

GET TO KNOW THE VILLAGE INFORMATION MEETING



- Thursday, January 21, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon. Have you been thinking about joining the Village or volunteering? Join us on Zoom at a Get to

Know the Village meeting and learn what is available, how to join, and how to get engaged with others. This is an online or phone meeting for potential members (ages 50+), their adult children, and those interested in volunteering. Those with no computer can participate in the meeting by phone at 776-6055 or by emailing us at info@VillageNetworkofPetaluma.org.