

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 2, 2022

Mass intentions during January 3rd - January 9th

Mon.	8:00	Kathy Doolittle (L), Lilia Calvillo (L) Mike Doolittle
Tues.	8:00	Lily Calvillo (L), Jose Mata and Family (L) Terry Collins
Wed.	8:00	Rick Facendini (L), Jennifer Elliott (L)
Thurs.	8:00	Benito Tinajero Ruiz
Fri.	8:00	Alcaraz Family (L)
Sat.	8:00	Chris Tobin
	5:00	Evelyn Carnazola Morris, Joseph Carnazola Deacon Bob and Pon Seidler and Family (L)
	7:00	Eloisa Gutierrez, Francisco Javier Ruiz Espirion Solorio
Sun.	7:30	-
	9:00	Pro Populo
	10:30	-
	12:00	Martinez-Borrero (L & D) Franco-Martinez (L & D) Martinez-Uricoechea (L & D), Leopoldo Valle Noe Carreño

January 2, 2022 - The Epiphany of the Lord

JOURNEY TOWARD GOD

In our celebration of the Epiphany, two interwoven themes are present in the readings today. God is beginning something new, and God gathers all of humanity to participate. For Isaiah, God's bright light, manifested in the people of Israel, attracts and summons people from many nations to Jerusalem. In the letter to the Ephesians, God's grace makes the Gentiles co-heirs and co-partners in the gospel. Matthew tells the story of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel through the birth of Jesus, and simultaneously leading foreigners to share in these same promises. With the birth of Jesus, God chose a particular people, in a particular time and place, to enter most directly into the human story. Today's readings teach that God did this in order to gather all people, all cultures, into unity with God. Like the magi, we are drawn into a journey toward God, becoming co-partners in God's work.

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Dear Fellow Parishioners,



On Saturday, January 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is, to use the traditional term, a Holy Day of Obligation. This year, since it falls on Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass is set aside. For that reason, I will share a few thoughts on the feast, and then on New Year's Day.

The historical roots of this Marian feast go back at least to 431 A.D. to the First Council of Ephesus. In short, one of the thorny issues raised regarded the various statements in Scripture about the divinity of Christ, and the humanity of Christ – as well as the divinity of God and the humanity of God. Were they all interchangeable? For example, could one say that God suffered on the cross or that Jesus created the world? And can we say that Mary is the Mother of God – and not just the Mother of Jesus?

“Mother of God” – that is, “Theotokos” – literally “God-bearer,” thereafter became one of the main titles used to refer to Mary. The title “Theotokos” appears nowhere in the New Testament, but it is the product of what was then nearly four centuries of reflection on Mary's motherhood of Jesus who was also a co-equal member of the Holy Trinity.

Christmas is more a season than a single day. Within approximately two weeks, we celebrate four major and related feasts which, when taken together, provide a much fuller picture of the birth of Jesus: Christmas, Holy Family, Mary, Mother of God, and Epiphany. The Christmas season ends on the evening of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which fall on January 9 this coming year.

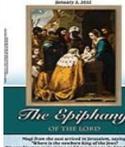
On January 1, we also celebrate New Year's Day. Because of COVID, many traditional celebrations have been restricted in one way or another, or canceled altogether. The magic moment is a bit of an anti-climax for those of us who see news coverage of the festivities in Sydney, Australia, broadcast 17 hours before the clock strikes midnight in Petaluma.

Many people observe New Year's Day by reflecting – however informally – on the year's ending and on hopes for a new beginning. A national newspaper occasionally solicits responses from readers on the question, “How has an act of kindness – either given or received – affected you?” As each of us takes stock in his or her own way, this might be a good point of reflection on our own experiences and standards of success. Whatever else we may hope for, a good year for a Christian is one in which both joys and sorrows have helped him or her love God and neighbor a little more.

Happy New Year 2022,

Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3RD – JANUARY 9TH



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 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

All Religious Education Classes are on Christmas vacation until January 2022. Classes will resume as follows:

- Tuesday, January 4th: Confirmation I Zoom Classes at 4:30 and 7:00 pm.
- Wednesday, January 5th: All 3:30 pm Classes plus Confirmation II Zoom Classes at 4:30 and 7:00 pm.
- Thursday, January 6th: 3:15 pm Sacrament Preparation Class.
- Sunday, January 9th: All Sunday Religious Education Classes.

The Catechists of St. Vincent de Paul Parish wish our families a safe and Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you in January 2022.

ANGEL FOOD NETWORK: Dear Parishioners, thank you for the generous donations from the giving tree at Christmas to our Angel Food Network. Over \$2000 was collected in store cards and cash. We are a group of volunteers who help with funeral receptions, and are thankful for the support.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY MEMBERS - would like to thank all those Giving Tree supporters who contributed to those in need in our parish. God bless you all and have a Happy New Year!

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the families of Angela F. Bellante who passed away on December 23, Margi E. Sturm who passed away on December 24th and Christopher W. "Chris" Tobin who passed away on December 26, 2021. May Their souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Quintin Ponce Jr., Bonifacio Gonzalez, Rick Facendini, Clemencia Barreto, Doris Vota, Sylvia Samija, Pon Seidler, Lynne Thompson, and Lucille Batemon.

THE CRAB FEED IS BACK! Save the date: Saturday, January 29th at the St. Vincent High School Tillman Hall. Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner at 7:15 pm. Tickets to be sold after Sunday masses in January. No ticket sales at the door, and please purchase early, as availability is limited.

The Knights will have raffle tickets, a silent auction, a full no-host bar, and bottles of fine wine for purchase! This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and supports the Educational Aid Fund. Please note, we will be following Sonoma County Covid restaurant guidelines, so masks are required for entry, until you are seated. We kindly ask that attendees be fully vaccinated!

BLANKET DONATIONS - Thank you for the blankets donated; we're still in need of more blankets. Our friends in need truly appreciate them. The rectory staff leave blankets out on the rectory porch and they are gone the same day. Please don't drop off clothes; you can take them to the Alphabet Soup Thrift Store at 203 Western Ave., Petaluma.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket:	\$5,800	
On-Line Giving	<u>1,498</u>	
Total		\$7,298

Christmas Collection

Basket:	\$33,303	
EFT:	<u>3,890</u>	
Total:		\$37,193

Budget is \$53,000

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

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.

ST. VINCENT'S SCHOOL NEWS

We wish all our parish and school families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May we all be blessed with fortitude and patience as we begin this winter season. With gratitude, we want to thank Fr. Donahue and all the parish staff for their support throughout the year. Thank you to our principal Ms. Jordan for your guidance and leadership. And to the faculty and staff at SVES, thank you for your dedication in educating our students in a safe and engaging environment. As we close the 2021 year, it is our wish that next year will be filled with health, happiness and prosperity. Thank you



ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN!

We strive to develop the whole student through the formation of Faith, Intellect, Service, and Community by providing 21st Century Skills, Character Development, and Personalized Learning. Our small student body affords numerous opportunities for leadership development and exploration of the academic, artistic, athletic and extracurricular offerings of our 100 year old institution. And, no matter which areas they choose, our teachers, counselors, coaches and staff work together to ensure all students are seen and supported. Don't wait to find out what St. Vincent de Paul can provide for your high school student. Visit our website (svhs-pet.org) to learn more and find out how to apply. Call 707-763-1032 x113 or email kpedersen@svhs-pet.org to schedule a tour. Applications for Fall 2022 are due 1/30/22 and Tuition Assistance Applications are due 1/14/2022.



HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Not only does our student body come to us from over 20 local feeder schools, our international students enhance our learning environment daily as we welcome them from Europe and Asia. Beginning January 3, we are in need of host families in the area for Andrea (trimester) from Paraguay and Sacha (semester) from France who will attend St. Vincent de Paul High School this spring. Host families must provide a bed/bedroom, 3 meals per day, and assist with transportation. The student is responsible for spending money, insurance and is responsible for any school, sport, entertainment, toiletry expenses, etc. The host family will receive a \$700 - 1,000 monthly stipend. Please contact Jessica at JSchuman@edutrav.org to find out more.

In February, 12 visiting students from our sister schools in France will also need to be housed for 3 weeks in our area. If your family is interested in exploring this opportunity please reach out to Kerry Pedersen at kpedersen@svhs-pet.org.

Save the Date for our Mustangs. On Saturday, February 26, 2022, our athletic boosters will once again host our annual Crab Feed fundraiser. Don't miss out! Email MAC@svhs-pet.org for ticket details.

