

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.



February 26, 2023

<u>Mass intentions during February 27th — March 5th</u>			1st Sunday of Lent
Mon.	8:00	Rosa Maria Hernandez and Family (L) Mercedes Vargas, Emma Carnazola Moss Joyce and Andrew Carnazola	<p>The Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and we hear this: “He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.” Seems like a questionable battle preparation plan. When I fast, I usually feel grouchy at best, and at worst, like I might pass out from longing for a hamburger. Isn’t it better to be well-fed and fully hydrated, especially to face spiritual struggles? Why fast?</p> <p>This might help. The origin of the word “fast” means to “hold firmly.” We still use it that way when we say, “I held fast to my original decision.” We human beings are a bundle of desires which vie for our attention: food, drink, comfort, safety, sex, laughter, beauty, and so on. If we can’t manage to have a firm grip on them, in short order they’ll have a firm grip on us. By fasting from our lower desires, we learn to firmly grip on to what is greater. Fasting leads to us to a firmer hold on our body and mind.</p> <p>Jesus fasts for us. He’s showing us that his grace can help us regain this firm hold of our lives, which makes it more difficult for the devil to tempt us. But take it one more step. Fasting also teaches us to finally hold fast to Jesus, the Word of God in flesh. “Man does not live by bread alone,” he says, “But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” Jesus’ fasting reveals his fast hold to the Father in everything. May our fasting help us to grasp ourselves more firmly, and then to hold fast to Jesus alone.</p> <p>— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Paddy Walsh, Eliza Whitty, Mercedes Vargas	
Wed.	8:00	Emmanuel Cabergas, Mercedes Vargas, Joy Smith Mary McDonagh, Apolinario Cabergas	
Thurs.	8:00	Ann Brennan (L) Norma Fogarty, Mercedes Vargas	
Fri.	8:00	The Alcaraz Family (L), Jodi Fitzgerald (L) Joe Fitzgerald, Mercedes Vargas, Holy Souls	
Sat.	8:00	Mercedes Vargas	
	5:00	Pro Populo	
	7:00	The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Luis J. and Francisco Tapia (L) Obdulia Gutierrez, Angel Avelar	
Sun.	7:30	Thanksgiving to St. Jude, Gladly Beauregard (L) Patti Marino, John and Rosa Ameral	
	9:00	Maria Farinha	
	10:30	-	
	12:00	Mercedes Vargas, Dylan Jewel	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

What is the attraction of Ash Wednesday for so many, even those who attend church only a few times a year? Part of the appeal is its universality, as any living person from the Pope on down can receive ashes. I’m almost certain that our attendance at SV was noticeably larger this year than it has been in recent years.

Unlike Confession, which requires an Act of Contrition, penitence on Ash Wednesday is presumed in the very act of receiving the public sign of ashes. It is the one time in which all people stand simultaneously as equals before God on this earth. Part of the appeal is also deeply personal. Except in rare cases, everyone has a deep but diffuse intuition regarding the spiritual and moral character of their own lives. It’s diffuse, and the distractions of this world do everything possible to silence it, but it’s clear to those who take the time, effort, and prayer to discover and understand it. That is one of the main purposes of Ash Wednesday and Lenten observance.

The 40 days of Lent mirror the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert tempted by the Evil One. The desert, far from being empty, is full of stars and shadows that come to life. Jesus, the Son of God, returns to the desert where monotheism was revealed.

The forms of private penance prescribed by Jesus in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday – almsgiving, prayer and fasting – are a specific spiritual remedy, targeting the nexus of body, mind and spirit which to this day no one fully understands. But Jesus is not asking our understanding of penance, only our obedience, evidenced by the repetitive use of “when,” rather than “if,” e.g., “When you pray...” and not “If you pray...” We may not know how it works, just that it works.

Lenten fasting and abstinence, historically, were undertaken in much harsher circumstances. In agricultural societies, and before refrigeration, Lent coincided with the “hungry gap,” the time in spring when little to no fresh produce was available. This was especially the case for those who lived in colder climates. People had to rely on dwindling and aging stocks of stored food, beans and wheat. Salted meat was either used up or gone rancid. Salted fish was available for some, but was more difficult to find away from the ocean. For many, Lent meant truly subsistence living.

On a much lighter note, Catholic abstinence from meat on Fridays was partly responsible for one of the most popular fast-food items ever. In 1962, Lou Groen, a McDonald’s franchise owner in a heavily Catholic area of Cincinnati, noticed that burger sales were always way down on Fridays. So he invented the Filet-O-Fish sandwich for 25 cents. Now, 60 years later, 200 million are sold annually, and 25% of those are sold during Lent.

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27TH — MARCH 5TH



Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
 Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22)/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

THE EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES are available at the



entrance of the church. It's a great opportunity to have your loved ones remembered by making a donation to help decorate our beautiful church for the Easter season.

ST. VINCENT'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS -

will be held on Fridays at 7:30 pm in church during Lent, February 24th through March 31st. Fr. Stuart or Deacon Jim will lead the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.



CRS RICE BOWLS - are available at the entrance of the

church. Please return your rice bowls on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. PRAY Lord Jesus, you call us to a conversion of heart during Lent, and you give us the tools to do this through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. When we pray, help us remember the needs of our sisters and brothers. When we fast, help us offer our sacrifice in union with you. When we give, help us recognize our gifts are from you so that we are generous with others. Amen For more information, go to crsricebowl.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH is open from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Weekday Mass is at 8:00 am and Rosary from 8:30 to 9:00 am. All are welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Bonifacio Gonzalez, Quintin Ponce, Jr., Dominic Ortiz, Frank Solar Jr., Leslie Angela Gomez, Pete Fauser, Irene Carnazola, Lucelia Fish and Addy Flanagan.



CONFESSIONS are held in the church on Saturdays at 3:30 pm. Please wear a mask. You can also call the rectory office at 707-762-4278 and ask for a priest to schedule an appointment during the week.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - is held after weekday mass on Thursdays at 8:45 am, ending at 9:45 am.



PRO-LIFE PRAYER GROUP is meeting again on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 pm at St. Vincent's church. If you have any questions, please contact Irene Carnazola at (707) 762-6115.



The Italian Catholic Federation is offering scholarships to high school graduates who will be attending college. If you are Catholic, of Italian ancestry and have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher, you are eligible to apply. For an application, see your high school counselor, or check out this web site, <http://www.icf.org/scholarships/> or call Reno Iezza at 708-364-1155. **All applications must be received on or before April 1, 2023.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Scholarship Applications are available now at the parish office. Three \$500 scholarships are awarded yearly. **The final date for filing is April 20, 2023.**



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
 Sunday Basket \$7,341
 On-Line Giving 1,473
 Total \$8,814

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection this weekend 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.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE COMMUNITY? Do you live in Petaluma and want to register and receive Sunday offering envelopes or sign-up online for electronic giving? Please call the parish office, at 707-762-4278, to get more information.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY NEWS

We are currently accepting application for the 2023-2024 school year. SVES is dedicated to providing a challenging academic environment for students from Kindergarten – Eighth Grade. At SVES we provide a safe and nurturing place for our students to really focus on faith, service and academics. If you are interested in learning more about our school, contact our Admissions Director, Mrs. Rynning at rynnings@svelem.org or call the office @ 762-6426.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

ST. VINCENT'S HIGH SCHOOL is in need of two host families. Raisa and Blanche, two French students, need a host family from Petaluma or Novato. They will be in the 10th grade at SVHS and are looking for a host family from 3/11/23 - 6/11/23 (approx.) Stipend of \$700/month per family. Please DM Marni at marni@marnicunha.com or call 707-338-2085.



EUREKA HOMELESS MISSION: Teens this summer are once again coming from all across Northern California to our Eureka Homeless Mission Outreach July 16 - 21st and our Leadership Training July 6th - 8th. More info and register via email Stephen Morris at StephenMorrisdysouth@srdiocese.org.



Seeking Catholic Young Adult fellowship and ways to enrich your prayer life? Join Santa Rosa's "Carlo and Chiara Catholic Young Adults" who meet for prayer, community, faith formation, food, hikes, and more! Email castfireontheearth@gmail.com and join their email newsletter. Also follow them on GroupMe/Facebook/Instagram @ CarloandChiaraYA. For a complete list of all SF Bay Area Catholic Young Adult activities, email — thegrapevinesf@gmail.com and join their email newsletter.

Are you looking for a few extra hours of work? The Diocese is looking for part-time bookkeepers. Please contact Lori Norcia lnorcia@srdiocese.org or call 707-566-3322 for more information. Thank you.

