

**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 25, 2024

Mass intentions during February 26th - March 3rd			2nd Sunday of Lent
Mon.	8:00	Mary Ann Gustafson (L), Julia Quiroz Saul Morales Ramirez, Fidoro Carreño Sumano	<p>As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.</p> <p>God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "<i>Abraham!</i>" "<i>Here I am,</i>" he replied. Then God said, "<i>Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.</i>" Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chaffs us that God sets the terms of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?</p> <p><i>Lenten challenge:</i> This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Juan de Dios Tinoco, Pat Carr, David Tripaldi Fidoro Carreño Sumano	
Wed.	8:00	Pat Carr, Alexei Navalny, Fidoro Carreño Sumano	
Thur.	8:00	Kathleen Marie Halverson, Tim O'Connell Fidoro Carreño Sumano	
Fri.	8:00	The Alcaraz Family (L) Thanksgiving to St. Anthony Fidoro Carreño Sumano, Ignacio Munguia	
Sat.	8:00	Rose Collins, Fidoro Carreño Sumano	
	5:00	Mark Kostielney	
	7:00	The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L) Jose Luis Avalos, Eduardo Vargas Clodomiro Sandoval	
Sun.	7:30	Pat Carr, Casey Bledsoe	
	9:00	Jim Carr and Family (L), Edward Anacleto Pat Carr	
	10:30	Pro Populo	
	12:00	The Jimenez Garcia Family (L) Daniel Ochoa, Moises Velasquez Cabrera Ester Figueroa Barcenas, Ramon Ochoa Diaz	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Whenever we have a national 3-day weekend holiday, it leaves me a bit confused, because after a three-day weekend, the remaining 4-day work week is out of proportion. Tuesday feels like Monday, Wednesday feels like Tuesday, etc. Friday comes and – shebang! – the work week is over.

Presidents' Day is a bit too generic for me. Washington and Lincoln had their own unique strengths and virtues which any free people would do well to celebrate. Some states celebrate Presidents Day as a combined observance for all presidents. That also makes sense, since the president is not only the head of government (aka, a prime minister, a political figure) but also a head of state who, ideally, represents the nation and people at a level above politics.

The Church, in its civil aspect, is a non-inherited monarchy with the Pope as sovereign. (In the old structures of nobility, cardinals were the equivalent of princes, and bishops the equivalent of lords. That's why cardinals are referred to as "princes of the Church" and bishops are still addressed in some countries as "Your Lordship".) Historically, the great threat to monarchies has been succession crises, especially the death of a childless monarch. That's not a problem for the Church, since the papal successor is elected by a select group of electors, the College of Cardinals. It is an historically unique hybrid arrangement which has preserved the papacy for two millennia.

In addition to Presidents' Day, the U.S. also honors great state and regional leaders in the National Statuary Hall. Each state is allowed to place two statues of state significance. There are 103 statues in all, including two for the District of Columbia, and one (Rosa Parks) as a figure of national significance.

National Statuary Hall includes the statues of 4 priests and a nun: Fr. Serra (California), Fr. Eusebio Kino, S.J. (Arizona), St. Damian of Molokai (Hawaii), Fr. Jacques Marquette, S.J. (Wisconsin) and Mother Joseph Pariseau (Washington). Two of the priests were Jesuits, the order which, along with the Franciscans, is perhaps most associated with the evangelization and Europeanization of the North American continent, going back to the Jesuit Martyrs of North America.

All those represented in Statuary Hall did their major life's work either along, or far west, of the Mississippi, at a time when all these vast areas were wilderness. Other Catholic saints, like Mother Cabrini (patroness of immigrants), Elizabeth Ann Seton (patroness of Catholic education and converts), and Rose Philippine Duchesne (ministered to Native Americans, patroness of perseverance amid diversity) are not represented there.

California's two statues are Ronald Reagan and Fr. Junipero Serra. Due to controversies related to indigenous people, there was an effort in 2015 to remove Serra. The effort was delayed out of respect for Pope Francis, who was about to canonize Serra. Gov. Jerry Brown said that Serra's statue would remain in place "until the end of time." The issue hasn't re-arisen.

I hope and pray that our Lenten liturgies and devotions have been a support to your own observance of this season of rediscovery of the sources of our hope.

Blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26TH- MARCH 3RD

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38
 Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12
 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28
 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31
 Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/
 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
 Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
 Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/
 1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be two Lenten Reconciliation Services. The first will be on **Wednesday, February 28th at 10 am**, and the second will be on **Monday, March 4th at 7 pm**. You are invited to come to either of these services to prepare for the season of Easter.

CONFIRMATIONS will be on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE, there is a time change for the English and Spanish Confirmation Masses: the English Confirmation Mass will be at 3 pm and the Spanish Confirmation Mass will be at 5 pm.

CRS RICE BOWLS: Please return your rice bowls on

Palm Sunday, March 24th. 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'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS - will be held on Fridays at 7:30 pm in the church during Lent from February 16th through March 22nd. Fr. Stuart or Deacon Jim will lead the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Inocencia Carrillo, Gloria Marcucci, Lorraine Dominguez, Susan Kennedy, Elizabeth Rose Moore, Jim Doolittle, Everett Woodruff, Lin Crossman, Jilberto Porras, Pete Fauser, Carolyn Maestri, Estela Anguiano, Lucelia Fish, Frank Solar, Jr., and Dominic Ortiz.

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the families of William Thomas Mullins and Jolene Marie Borders who passed away on January 26, Carlo Arnold Patocchi who passed away February 8, and Patt Car who passed away on February 14. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS: Both of the Petaluma KoC Councils (#1586 St James and #11431 St Vincent) will be awarding multiple \$1000 scholarships to seniors who plan to continue education after high school. Scholarship applications can be picked up at the parish office Monday through Friday during normal business hours. **The deadline is 4/15/2024.**

"DO HARD THINGS" - Join pilgrims across Sonoma on the www.caminodesonoma.com. A Catholic pilgrimage group will traverse Trione-Annadel on Holy Thursday and prayerfully journey to St. Eugene's Cathedral, starting at 8:30 am (9.5 miles, eta 3:00pm). More information and to register: Stephen Morris - dsryouth@srdiocese.org.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$9,147
On-Line Giving	<u>1,853</u>
Total	\$11,000

The Collection on Ash Wednesday for the Church of Central & Eastern Europe was \$3,153.

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 for more information at, 707-762-4278.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As the second trimester of the school year is coming to a close, the faculty and staff would like to acknowledge our students and their commitment to doing their best work. We are very proud of all the students at SVES. Our virtue of the third trimester is Responsibility. We encourage our students to think about how they can demonstrate this virtue when making decisions at home, at school and while they are growing and learning. We will continue to pray for our community as we enter into the sacred Lenten Season.

For more information about our school community and TK-8th grade, please visit our website www.svelem.org, or call our office at 762-6426. We are currently enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

St. Vincent high school is open and plans on being open for another 100+ years under a new Independent School Board. Contact the admissions office and join the rush of public school transfers. (Kerry Pedersen - kpetersen@svhs-pet.org). For more information on the importance of a Catholic School education visit www.srdiocese.org/catholic-schools. Please support St. Vincent high by contacting their development office (Gina Jacquez - gjacquez@svhs-pet.org).

CALLING ALL MOMS with children from the newborn stage to the teenage years! Join us for friendship, fellowship, and faith-sharing at our upcoming gathering: **Wed, 2/28, 10 am - 12 pm** - Potluck brunch at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Cotati. Time for visiting and reflecting on Eve's example in "Becoming Women of the Word" by Sarah Christmyer. The book is not necessary to join. Children are welcome. For more details or to RSVP please go to srdiocese.catholicmoms@gmail.com.

THE PETALUMA SENIOR CENTER PRESENTS:

AGING GRACEFULLY, a Wednesday lecture series at 1 pm at the Petaluma Senior Center, 211 Novak Drive, Petaluma. There is no charge. Please RSVP to 707-778-4399 or at the PSC Front Desk. Last Lecture is on Feb. 28 - Strategies for Living in Place