

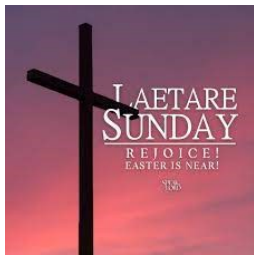
**WE ARE A EUCHARIST CENTERED PEOPLE WHO, AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, LIVE OUR FAITH IN WORD AND DEED BY
SHARING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND SERVE
THOSE IN NEED.**

March 10, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during March 11th - 17th</u>			4th Sunday of Lent
Mon.	8:00	Fidel and Antonio Cornejo, Mariano Munguia Ron Coleman	<p>Our national pastime isn't baseball. It's what the Bible calls "condemning the world." We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don't believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: "We all agree that if they are eradicated, things will be great." Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That's why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.</p> <p>What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but he will accomplish it without an act of condemnation. How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus' endless mercy and love, this is the least godlike thing we can do.</p> <p><i>Lenten challenge:</i> This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn.</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	David Tripaldi, Mariano Munguia	
Wed.	8:00	Leonardo Guzman (L), Christopher Anderson	
Thur.	8:00	Dominic Ortiz and Family (L), Leda Sturla (L) David Mifsud	
Fri.	8:00	Ana Guzman (L), Jodi Fitzgerald (L) Dorothy Marcucci	
Sat.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Ashley Nelson Levy (L)	
	5:00	Norbert and Pauline Andres Georgia Cort, Dora Sheerwood	
Sun.	7:00	The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Yolanda Godinez, Ramon Gutierrez	
		Eduardo Vargas, Clodomiro Sandoval	
	7:30	Pat Carr, Raffaelli Bros, Lee Trusty	
	9:00	Fr. Andrew Metcalf	
	10:30	Pro Populo	
	12:00	Deniz and Alejandrito Farias (L) Candido Jorge Quiroz, Moises Velasquez Cabrera Ester Figueroa Barcenas	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent, commonly known as "Laetare Sunday." It is a designation shared by Catholic and most Lutheran and Anglican parishes. To explain, I will begin nearer to the beginning.



The two penitential seasons of the Church year, Advent and Lent, prepare us for the two great Christian feasts, Christmas and Easter. We can infer by the relative length of those seasons the relative importance of those feasts. Christmas is the birth of the Lord and the hope of salvation, but Easter is the achievement of that hope. Gaudete Sunday comes just after the mid-point of Advent, while Laetare Sunday comes just after the mid-point of Lent. Both of these Sundays are also known as "Refreshment Sundays," because they are brief breaks from the penitential regime. These "Refreshment Sundays" had much greater impact in the old days, when Advent and Lent meant going on (in modern terms) a vegan diet, plus some fish (which was almost always dried or salted). Why else would there be Mardi Gras— "Fat Tuesday"— if Lent didn't mean serious penitential restrictions not only on meat, but on dairy and fats as well, such as cheese, butter and even olive oil?

Violet, the thematic color for vestments and altar furnishings, signifies mourning and repentance. (Many of us remember when the statues were shrouded by violet coverings during Lent, so as to focus our attention both inward and on the crucified Lord.) For the two "Refreshment Sundays," rose is the thematic color, as rose is violet in its lighter aspect. The rose theme is carried out in the one rose candle in the Advent wreath, and by rose-colored vestments worn only on those two days.

"Laetare" comes directly from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10 – "Rejoice, O Jerusalem," long the opening prayer ("introit") of the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The traditional psalm for the feast day is Psalm 122: "I rejoiced when I heard them say, "Let us go to God's house." From Laetare Sunday on, the prayers of the Mass are more focused on the the hope of Easter.

All of the foregoing is a reminder that when we take participate in and take to heart the readings and prayers of the Mass, we are receiving – even if without knowing it – the most concentrated "doses" of Sacred Scripture it is possible to pack into a Sunday or daily Mass. Even Catholics who are not students of Scripture will, if they are attentive to the prayers and readings, receive a powerful exposure to Sacred Scripture and basic Christian theology.

Finally, this weekend we have the Confirmation of well over 100 of our parish youth, after 2 years of preparation. They face tremendous challenges in their lives. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4TH - 10TH

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Confirmations will be **THIS Sunday, March 10, 2024.**



The English Confirmation Mass will be at 3 pm and the Spanish Confirmation Mass will be at 5 pm.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH is open from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Weekday Mass is at 8:00 am and Rosary from 8:30 to 9:00 am. All are welcome.

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

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 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 - Dominic Ortiz, Ev Woodruff, Toñita Ortiz, Gloria Marcucci, Elizabeth Rose Moore Jim Doolittle, Elo Carrillo, and Launa Grisom.

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the families of Phyllis Renee West-Gibbons who passed away February 8th, Martin Vasquez Rodriguez who passed away February 18th, and Dr. Henry Joseph Soldati who passed away February 19th. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

INVITATION TO MASS OF THE CHRISM

The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, along with the Diocesan and Religious priests of the Diocese invite you to participate in the Mass of the Chrism at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

The Mass of the Chrism is celebrated once a year. The Bishop blesses the oil of Catechumens, the oil of the Sick and the oil of Chrism. This Mass is one of the principal expressions of the fullness of the ministerial priesthood that the bishop has received. It also signifies the unity the priests have with the bishop who shares in the same ministerial priesthood. During this Mass, the Diocesan and Religious priests will renew their commitment to priestly service.

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.**

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$10,629
On-Line Giving	3,551
Total	\$14,180

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection this weekend for Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

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: 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). You can also donate by going to the Go Fund Me page at, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-st-vincent-de-paul-high-school>

CALLING ALL MOMS with children from the newborn stage to the teenage years! Join us for friendship, fellowship, and faith-sharing at our upcoming gatherings:

—**Wed, 3/13, 12 pm** - Picnic and playgroup then walk at 1pm. Walk, pray and talk about our Lenten journey. Meet at Howarth Park Playground.

—**Wed, 3/27, 10am - 12pm** - Potluck brunch at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Cotati. Time for visiting and reflecting on Sarah's example in "Becoming Women of the Word" by Sarah Christmyer. The book is not necessary to join. Children are welcome at all events! RSVP to, srdiocese.catholicmoms@gmail.com for more details.