

**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 3, 2024**

| <b>Mass intentions during March 4th - 10th</b> |       |  | <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>   |
|--|-------|--|---|
| Mon.   | 8:00  | Adam and Jamie Rockey and Family (L)<br>Jim McCaffrey, Mariano Munguia                                   | <p>I am the Lord your God ... You shall not have other gods beside me. —Ex 20:2-3</p> <p>One of the greatest golfers of all time — if not the greatest — was Jack Nicklaus. Which is why it is baffling that at the beginning of each season he would return to his childhood coach and re-learn how to grip the golf club. It's like Shakespeare re-learning the alphabet and grammar. Why would he do that? Because Jack knew that the fundamentals are always relevant. Perfecting and obsessing over his grip allowed him to do everything else in the game well. In sports and life, the best ones love the basics.</p> <p>Similarly, as we begin Lent, we re-learn the spiritual basics in the Ten Commandments. Consider the first, to "have no other gods besides me." This is our "grip." Is our connection to God one of absolute fidelity and exclusive worship? Am I willing to let go of my precious idols, the things I cling to instead of God? Once we say "yes" to this fundamental question of our spiritual "grip," then we are ready to properly engage with everything else in life. Watch how beautifully the game of life unfolds in the next nine commandments (numbered in parentheses): how we speak to God and others (2 and 8), how we organize our week (3), how we relate to our family (4) and the wider community (5 and 7), how we live our sexuality (6), and how we order all the other desires of the human heart (9 and 10). But don't rush to these later Commandments too soon! Everything in life is built on the first Commandment. The more we focus on worshipping God alone, the better we navigate the complexity of life with panache, effectiveness, and love.</p> <p><i>Lenten challenge:</i> This week, identify what you can do to better worship God alone. If you're not sure, scan the last nine commandments to identify what you are most likely to worship instead of God. Power, pleasure, control of your time, possessions, family, health, reputation, money? Commit to concrete action to help you let go of this "idol" to better hold on to God alone in faithful worship. Remember: the best love the basics.</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir    ©LPi</p> |
| Tues.  | 8:00  | Phyllis Robertson (L),<br>Patricia Marino, Mariano Munguia   |   |
| Wed.   | 8:00  | Maria Torres, Pat Carr, Mariano Munguia  |   |
| Thur.  | 8:00  | SVDP Rosary Group (L)<br>Pat Carr, Mariano Munguia   |   |
| Fri.   | 8:00  | Teresa Pablo (L), Evangelina de Vasquez<br>Mariano Munguia, Pat Doherty                                  |   |
| Sat.   | 8:00  | Robert Camozzi III, (L), Elsie Stuehmeyer (L)<br>Callem Brown (L)<br>Conchita Valle, Mariano Munguia     |   |
|  | 5:00  | Pro Populo   |   |
|  | 7:00  | The Enrique-Gutierrez Family (L)<br>Ramon Gutierrez, Clodomiro Sandoval<br>Eduardo Vargas, Mario Gongora |   |
| Sun.   | 7:30  | Mariano Munguia  |   |
|  | 9:00  | Wilfred and Helen Fatooh, Pat Carr, Ruben Sala   |   |
|  | 10:30 | Jim Carr (L), Phyllis Robertson (L)<br>Pat Carr  |   |
|  | 12:00 | The Ocegüera Sandoval Family (L)<br>Candido Jorge Quiroz, Abraham Avalos<br>Jose Maria Lopez             |   |

**Dear Fellow Parishioners,**

After 106 years, St. Vincent de Paul High School will close at the end of this academic year. An Independent Group of parents, benefactors and supporters has been working to take over and operate SVHS as an Independent Catholic School. They have my blessing and support, and that of Bishop Vasa. We are now in negotiations over a lease to the new administration.

There are legal requirements for giving notice to employees, the City of Petaluma and the State of California. Out of an abundance of caution, the Diocesan Department of Catholic Schools and I are making this announcement a month (or two) before it is absolutely required. Even if SVHS passes to new leadership, it must first be completely closed by the parish, and only then re-opened as a new entity.

When Sr. Maureen Sheehan, BVM, the last sister-principal left in the mid-1980's, she predicted that SVHS would close within two years, a reasonable prediction as nearly all their parish high schools had already done so. Due to the respect enjoyed by her successor-principal, Mr. Edward Kavanaugh, and his ability to carry forth the charism of the BVM Sisters, our school survived, and even prospered, well beyond Sr. Maureen's prediction forty years ago. I came to this parish seven years ago with the desire to insure the future of my alma mater, but without illusions as to the difficulty of the task. That SVHS has survived even this long as a parish high school is in itself a miracle, a testament to the efforts of dedicated faculty, staff, and loyal supporters.

SVHS is now a parish school in name only. Our students, all of whom are welcome, now come from three dioceses, three counties, and twenty feeder schools. We need a new administrative model to support such a school independent of our parish, and it is now up to the Independent School Group and their benefactors to make it happen.

As attested to by our top accreditation scores, our closure has nothing to do with the quality of our faculty, school or students, which is as fine as ever. It is due, in my view, to the skyrocketing cost of college education which, if not reined in, will drain every last nickel out of this country's educational system. Fewer families can afford both Catholic high school and college. Even public high schools in all but the wealthiest districts are strapped for funds. This is truly unfortunate, considering that so many of our nation's youth would benefit most from a strong high school education, followed by technical or trade school.

I will keep you informed of major developments. If you are interested, please view the Save St. Vincent de Paul High School GoFundMe page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-st-vincent-de-paul-high-school>

**Blessings,  
Fr. Bill Donahue**

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4TH - 10TH

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30  
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35  
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19  
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23  
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/  
Mk 12:28-34  
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14  
Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/  
Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21  
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/  
Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

#### LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The Lenten Reconciliation Service will be **Monday, March 4th** at 7 pm. You are invited to come to this service to prepare for the season of Easter.

#### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2024 CONFIRMANDI MARCH

- 4th** MONDAY, 7 pm in the church  
Penance Service for Parents and Sponsors.
- 5th** TUESDAY, 5:30 pm ENGLISH  
Confirmation Mass Rehearsal  
TUESDAY, 7:00 pm SPANISH  
Confirmation Mass Rehearsal
- 6th** Penance Service for Confirmandi. Confessions on  
WEDNESDAY, 5:00 pm SVES and Wed.'s Class  
WEDNESDAY, 5:45 pm Spanish Friday's Class
- 10th** SUNDAY - Confirmation Mass  
ENGLISH at 3:00 pm  
SPANISH at 5:00 pm



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** this Monday, March 4th from 10:30 am - 2pm.

**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** - Toñita Ortiz, 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 Guadalupe 'Lupe' Malnati who passed away January 26th, Ruben Louis Sala who passed away February 18th, and Candido Jorge Quiroz who passed away on February 14th. 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.**



#### PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:  
Sunday Basket \$7,896  
On-Line Giving 1,423  
Total \$9,319

The second collection last weekend for the Maintenance Fund was \$3,570.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

There will be a second collection next 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 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](http://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](mailto:kpetersen@svhs-pet.org)). For more information on the importance of a Catholic School education visit [www.srdiocese.org/catholic-schools](http://www.srdiocese.org/catholic-schools). Please support St. Vincent high by contacting their development office (Gina Jacques - [gjacquez@svhs-pet.org](mailto:gjacquez@svhs-pet.org)).



#### 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 share in the same ministerial priesthood. During this Mass, the Diocesan and Religious priests will renew their commitment to priestly service.