

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 31, 2024

Mass intentions during April 1st - 7th		
Mon.	8:00	Adam and Jamie Rockey and Family (L) Cesar and Jenny Medina (L), Leslie Jimenez (L) Charles Sickles, Magdalena Garcia Gonzalez
Tues.	8:00	Cesar and Jenny Medina (L), Leslie Jimenez (L)
Wed.	8:00	Cesar and Jenny Medina (L), Leslie Jimenez (L) Ronald Ohlander, Wilfred and Helen Fatooh
Thur.	8:00	Cesar and Jenny Medina (L), Leslie Jimenez (L) Phyllis Robertson (L), Robert Camozzi, Jr.
Fri.	8:00	The Alcaraz Family (L) Leslie Jimenez (L) Cesar and Jenny Medina (L)
Sat.	8:00	Robert Steger, Sr. (L), Leslie Jimenez (L), Rose Collins
	5:00	Manuel and Franclina Lopes, Mark Kostielney Virginia Sled, Dan Longaker, Pat Carr
	7:00	Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L) Alejandro and Luis Sanchez Ruvalcaba (L) Cesar and Jenni Medina (L), Jose Luis Avalos
Sun.	7:30	Georgia Cort, Dora Sheerwood Norbert and Pauline Andres, Carolyn Maestri
	9:00	Pro Populo
	10:30	Alexa Ruiz (L) Keith Matthey, Pat Carr, Tom Gilardi, Jesus Carrillo
	12:00	Familia Jimenez Garcia (L), Cesar and Jenni Medina (L) Leslie Jimenez (L), Abraham Avalos, Jose Maria Lopez

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter - if we dare - those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

After forty days of Lent, and the three-day Triduum, we have arrived at the culmination of the Passion of Jesus Christ, which is his Resurrection.



There are two main names for the celebration of the Resurrection: "Easter" and "Pascha." "Easter" is derived from the Saxon feast of Eostre, whereas "Pascha" is linked to the Jewish Passover of the same name.

For historical and cultural reasons, "Easter" and its variants— e.g., English "Happy Easter", German "Frohe Ostern", Swedish "Glad påsk" – are preferred by countries that speak Germanic languages, while "Pascha" and its variants – Spanish "Felices Pascuas", Italian "Buona Pasqua", French "Felices Pascuas" – are preferred by countries that speak Romance languages, that is to say, languages descended from Latin.

St. Bede (672-735 AD) provides the only documented source of the origins of the name "Easter", which comes from the pre-Christian goddess "Oestre" and the springtime feasts in her honor. By Bede's time, celebrations of the goddess had long since died out, and but the name continued to denote that time of the year.

There are too many Easter association and traditions to mention here, but few deserve honorable mention. Just as Jesus resurrected in glorified form, Easter eggs represent not only new life but a whole new life form as a chick. The analogy is a highly allegorical, but in nature, one must find parallels where one can!

One of the very oldest Easter traditions is that of coloring eggs. Easter eggs were thought to symbolize the empty tomb from which the resurrected Jesus emerged. Others believed that the egg itself represented the Trinity: shell, yolk and white, which stretched the analogy to its breaking point. Originally, they were colored red to symbolize the blood of Christ, and then brought to the local priest for blessings. Later on, a variety of colors were used. Even the tradition of chocolate eggs is quite ancient, dating back at least to the court of Louis XVI of France. The British confectioner Cadbury's was making chocolate eggs as early as the 1820's, as soon as they developed a soft form of chocolate that could be poured and hardened, using real egg shells as molds.

This is all a bit fanciful, but I was interested to learn that even the figure of the Easter bunny is quite old, going back at least to the Middle Ages. All I know is that when I go to the market or pharmacy, I see huge Easter candy and egg-coloring displays, together with news articles about the current shortage of both chocolate and eggs. The other venerable Easter custom for many is the serving of lamb on Easter Sunday, for its direct and obvious connection to Passover.

Finally, I would like wish you and your loved ones a very Happy and Blessed Easter, with safe travels for those who are traveling, and joyful celebrations for those staying close to home. May the Risen and Glorified Lord bring peace and hope not only to us, but to our whole world.

**Easter Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1ST - 7TH



Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
 Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/ 1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
 Easter Monday, April 1st. Happy Easter!

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.



CRS RICE BOWLS ARE DUE. Please return them to the parish office, Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm (closed 12-1 pm). For more information, please call 707-762-4278.



OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of who Patrick Joseph Mulhall passed away on February 4th. May the soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



PLEASE PRAY FOR - Tom Reeder, Estela Anguiano, Elizabeth Rose Moore, Dominic Ortiz, Ev Woodruff, Toñita Ortiz, Jim Doolittle, Elo Carrillo, and Launa Grisom.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES: The Catholic Charities Immigration Department will be having an Immigration Fair at St. Vincent de Paul Church parish hall on Sunday, April 7 from 1:30 - 4 pm. They are providing free consultations and free legal services. Some of the services provided include Green Card Renewal, DACA, Family Petitions, U-Visa/VAWA, T-Visa, Naturalization and more. More information can be found on the church entrance boards.



WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD's next gathering is Thursday, April 18 at St. Vincent Parish Hall. Our theme will be "New Life." All women are invited to join in this evening of faith sharing, food and fellowship. Doors open at 6 pm and the program begins at 6:30 pm. For more information, please contact Nancy Brown at 707-799-5384 or Joanne Ferris at 707-481-6431.



ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION: The meeting times for the Italian Catholic Federation in Petaluma have changed. We now meet at 3 pm on the second Monday of the month at Saint James, room 9. Our quarterly communion will also be at St. James, 9 am mass on the last Monday of the month in June, September, and November. Please join us and please don't let the word Italian stop you. All are welcome!



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:	
Sunday Basket	\$9,961
On-Line Giving	<u>1,423</u>
Total	\$11,384

The second collection for the Maintenance Fund was \$ 5,343.

Thank you for your generosity.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - will have a second collection this weekend. This is to inform our longtime and new contributors to the St. Vincent de Paul Society Fund as to what we do with their generous contributions. The 5th Sunday collections, the Poor Box (in the back of the church), Christmas Giving Tree, Thanksgiving donations, plus individual gifts allow us to distribute gift cards. The gift cards allow Petalumans in need to purchase food and household items (excluding alcohol, tobacco and lottery). Thanks again for your continued support!

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

We have so many things to be thankful for on the SVES Campus. The 2024-2025 school year preparations are well under way. The faculty and staff have been working collaboratively to build on the success of the current school year with the goal of making next year even better. Our principal, Mr. Clapp, has been meeting with our new families welcoming them to our school. As we begin offering Transitional Kindergarten next year, our school community is growing and growing.

During this Lenten Season, we are reminded daily what a true blessing it is to provide a Catholic Education to the students at SVES. The success of our school is due to the partnership between the faculty and staff, the parents and our Pastor. We want our students to be Lifelong Learners, Critical Thinkers and Compassionate Christians who serve their community with pride and integrity. If you are interested or know a family interested in learning more about our school, please contact our Admissions Director Mrs. Rynning at (707) 762-6426 or rynning@svelem.org.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

YOUTH PRAYER REVIVAL at St. Vincent High School
April 16th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm featuring Catholic Hip-Hop Artist Joe Melendrez and Presidential Citizens award winner and philanthropist for the homeless, Betty Chinn. The ecumenical night of prayer will call down the Holy Spirit for and with youth. All ages are welcome! More information can be found on the church entrance boards.

