

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.

April 14, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during April 15th - 21st</u>			3rd Sunday of Easter
Mon.	8:00	Armando Porras (L), Mary Machado (L) Steve Kroeger (L), Joan Jimenez and Family (L) Frank Swan	<p>When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, "If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!" As a lifelong late-arriver, it's something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If the "it counts" is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.</p> <p>The famous "Road to Emmaus" story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: Word, followed by Eucharist. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus' presence in the "breaking of the bread."</p> <p>With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that's precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word so that we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too! — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	K.T. (L), Mary Machado (L), Yolanda Godinez	
Wed.	8:00	Gloria Donate (L), Mary Machado (L), Pat Carr	
Thur.	8:00	Mary Machado (L), Betty Kancler (L), Frank Swan	
Fri.	8:00	Mary Machado (L), Frank Swan	
Sat.	8:00	Molly Lynch	
	5:00	Pat Carr, Dan Longaker, Gail Dinelli Manuel and Franceline Lopes	
	7:00	Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L) Angel Manuel Matiaz (L)	
		Jose Luis Avalos, Julio Hernandez	
Sun.	7:30	Joe and Kathy Piasta and Family (L) Pat Carr, Caroline Maestri	
	9:00	Pat Carr, Eric Ryan, Gloria Bordi	
	10:30	-	
	12:00	Michelle Moreno (L), Alejandro Garcia (L) David Matiaz (L), Jose Cardenas Guadalupe and Isaias Contreras	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I would like to address a few matters regarding Catholic devotions in general, and the devotional life of our parish.

Over the past week, I was contacted by a very nice couple, new to the parish, who expressed an interest in establishing First Saturday devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. It would begin at 7:00 a.m., before the 8:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass, and then finish after Mass with some final prayers. I told this couple that I would think about it, and invite feedback from the wider community before I made a final decision. Please feel free to provide me with your feedback at my email address (wpdonah@gmail.com), by letter, or by phone message given to the office staff.

The history and architectural design of our beautiful church is intended to foster a rich, but orderly devotional life. The large statues at the front of the church, which you see behind the communion rail and by the confessionals, were carefully selected for the specific needs of our parish when our church was built: St. Joseph, St. Vincent de Paul (of course!), The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Lourdes/Immaculate Conception, St. Therese of Lisieux. The latter four of these saints commanded widespread popular devotion on the part of the faithful. Our church was designed and built hot on the heels of WWI, and there was a strong note of mercy in each of these devotions.

A basic principle of effective church design is that images and symbols should occur once and not be repeated in the main body of the church. One Cross, one image of Jesus, one Mary, one Joseph, etc. Repeating or overusing symbols and images is to dilute their effect. It is a wise guideline which, by and large, had been observed in the construction of our church. A major source of the beauty of our church is its perfect proportions and balance. Nothing important was left out, nothing is overdone.

Two statues in the back corners of the church (by the triple main doors) represent two of the main cultures represented in parish when the church was built: St. Isabella (Elizabeth) of Portugal, and St. Rita Cascia, who lived in the 1300s and was canonized in 1900, not all that long before our church was planned and built.

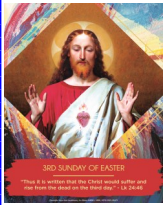
In my view, there are three apparitions, images and devotions to Our Blessed Mother that have achieved permanent international status: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Our Lady of Fatima. The only one of these three not permanently represented in our church is Our Lady of Fatima, for the simple reason that this apparition had not been authenticated at the time our church was built.

The primary image of the Blessed Mother in our church is that of Our Lady of Lourdes, on the left side of the sanctuary as you look forward to the main sanctuary. In recent years, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been added to that quadrant of the church, to accommodate and welcome an image uniquely powerful in Hispanic devotional life.

Finally, there is a basic and sensible guideline to any devotional preference or practice: "All may, none must." They may be help to some, but are not obligations for all. One can be a perfectly fine Catholic in good standing and never pray a Rosary, do a novena, or walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. When asked about his own spiritual practices, Pope Benedict XVI said that "every believer is free to choose for himself or herself from the infinite spiritual treasury of the Church". That's a wise guideline for today, as well.

Blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15TH - 21ST



Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69
 Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/ Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

ST. VINCENT'S PARISHIONERS: Do not park in the restricted city parking lot on Howard and Bassett Streets. We have received several calls from the City of Petaluma Fire Department that their employees cannot park in their parking spaces. It's reserved for city employees only, you will get a parking ticket. Please don't park in their parking lot Monday – Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Thank you for your cooperation.



SEÑOR SANTO CRISTO SOCIETY MASS will be celebrated next Sunday, April 21st at 10:30 am by Fr. Manuel Souza. He will be celebrating the mass in Portuguese.



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



OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Paul Peter Bianchi who passed away March 17th. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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.



VILLAGE NETWORK OF PETALUMA: BEYOND DRIVING - STAYING SAFE AT ANY AGE
 Thursday, April 18, 1:00 - 2:30 pm at the Petaluma Regional Library, 100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma CA 94952. Please register at info@VillageNetworkofPetaluma.org, or call the Village office at 707-776-6055.



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. Children are welcome at all events! RSVP at srdiocese.catholicmoms@gmail.com for more details.



—Wed, 4/24, 10 am-12 pm - Potluck brunch at Sierra's house in Santa Rosa (RSVP for address). Time for visiting and reflecting on Leah and Rachel's examples in "Becoming Women of the Word" by Sarah Christmyer. The book is not necessary to join.
 —Wed, 5/8, 12 pm - Picnic and playground, then walk at 1pm.
 —Wed, 5/29, 10 am-12 pm - Potluck brunch at Emmy's house in SW Santa Rosa (RSVP for address). Reflect on Miriam's example.
 —Sat, 6/8, 3 - 5 pm. Potluck picnic with our families at St. Joseph's in Cotati.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
 Sunday Basket \$9,657
 On-Line Giving 2,703
 Total \$12,360

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection this weekend for Catholic Home Missions.

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 we return from Easter Break, we are all feeling rested and ready for the remainder of the school year. There are 7 weeks remaining in the school year and there is a lot to accomplish during that time. Our Eighth-Grade students will be attending Outdoor Education next week. Our Second-Grade students will be preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. They will be celebrating this part of their journey on Mother's Day weekend. The new top of the line schoolwide security system has been installed. This is an addition measure to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Our library remodel is almost complete. Our librarian, Mrs. Rainey, deserves the newly remodeled accommodations made possible by a generous donation from Clover Sonoma and the Benedetti Family. Mrs. Rainey has dedicated 28 years to SVES and is a big reason why our students are such avid readers and score the highest in diocese in both Reading and Math. Our students learn to love books and are inspired to challenge themselves to become lifelong learners. Mrs. Rainey is truly a blessing to our school community. If you are interested in learning more about our TK-8th grade programs please call the office 707-762-6426 or visit our website at www.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.



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 April 15, 2024.

