

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 21, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during April 22nd - 28th</u>			4th Sunday of Easter
Mon.	8:00	Flor M. Naal (L), Alfred and Carole Johnson	<p>Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.</p> <p>When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby. How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, "I know my own and my own know me," and "I lay down my life for the sheep." Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Marian and The Papas Family (L) Monica Mendoza (L), Angel Garcia	
Wed.	8:00	Maire Kelly, Rona Taylor	
Thur.	8:00	Dennis Crandell and Family (L) The Lavio-Manni Family	
Fri.	8:00	Jose Luis Del Toro, Jr., Norm Lubeck (L) Jeanne Lubeck	
Sat.	8:00	Alfred and Carole Johnson	
	5:00	Manuel and Franceline Lopes, Helen Wester	
	7:00	The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L) Eduardo Vargas, Clodomiro Sandoval Jose Luis Avalos	
Sun.	7:30	Pro Populo	
	9:00	Diane Caro (L), Frederic Holden, Jerry Dixon Robert and Ellen Holden, Helenita Therese Brilliant	
	10:30	Michael and Grace Blume (L)	
	12:00	Arelyn Jimenez (L), Noah Marquez (L) Jose Cardenas	

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 our 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.

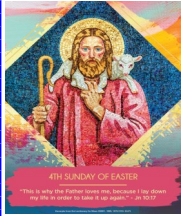
In my view, there are three apparitions, images and devotions to Our Blessed Mother that have achieved permanent international status: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Our Lady of Fatima. The only one of these three not permanently represented in our church is Our Lady of Fatima, for the 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 a 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 22ND - 28TH



Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
 Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14
 Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/
 1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

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.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Mila Drazina, Liliana Aria Inferrera, and Vincent Michell Inferrera who received the Sacrament of Baptism.



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

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Frank Joseph Dettling who passed away March 31st. May the soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

MINISTRY OF BETHLEHEM HANDCRAFT



ASSOCIATION will be selling their olive wood religious art Saturday, May 4th and Sunday, May 5th after all the masses. This sale helps support the Christian families in Jerusalem who are now only 2% of the population in the Holy Land.

IL POVERELLO FATERNITY: Our fraternity's annual Spring DAY OF REFLECTION will show the movie, Paul the Apostle of Christ. We will be meet on Sunday, May 19th at 12:00 in the St. James Parish Multi-Use Room, 125 Sonoma Mt. Parkway, Petaluma. All are welcome to participate. For more information, please see the posted flier. There is no charge, however, a good will offering will be gratefully appreciated. Contact for further information: Edd Ringlein, OFS (707)246-5311 text message or email: ejringlein.ofs@gmail.com



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	\$11,273
On-Line Giving	<u>2,528</u>
Total	\$13,801

The second collection last weekend for Catholic Home Missions was \$3,745.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

It has been a very busy week at SVES! With only 6 weeks of school remaining, we are all enjoying every second left in this school year. Ms. Tarrant's third grade class visited Shollenberger Park to learn about the wetlands and animals that live in these habitats.

Fourth grade had a few in-school field trips; they welcomed a visitor from Ancient Artifacts; the presenter shared actual artifacts from the Gold Rush era and gave the students great background on the topic. Also, an artist from the Charles M. Schulz Museum came to campus to teach our students about the creative process including drawing Snoopy, writing comic strips, and creating stop motion videos. It was amazing and so much fun! Also happening this week: our eighth grade (SVES Class of 2024) headed off to Outdoor Ed. They will spend 4 days and 3 nights in nature hiking, exploring and enjoying each other's company before their next big adventure begins!

If you are interested in our TK-8th grade programs please contact Mrs. Rynning at rynning@svelem.org or call the office at 707-762-6426. Visit our website www.svelem.org



INTERFAITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD COLLABORATIVE:

Join secular and faith-based leaders advancing food security, community resiliency, and sustainable agriculture for the 10th Annual Faith, Food, and Farms Conference on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 from 11:30 am - 7:30 pm at the Petaluma Community Center. For more information or to register, please call 707-634-4672, or go to info@interfaithfood.org.

MARIN CATHOLIC ADULT SINGLES ASSOCIATION OF MARIN AND SONOMA COUNTY is a group of 55+ single or single again Catholics who are interested in making new friends, taking part in social activities, sharing opportunities for spiritual growth and becoming involved in volunteer projects that will benefit our parishes, our community, and one another. We welcome those who are interested. For membership and event information, please call Bob at 415 897-0639.