

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 28, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during April 29th - 5th</u>		
Mon.	8:00	Charley and Janet Bowker (L) George Bassman (L), Vicki Aguilar and Family (L) Kathleen Marie Halverson
Tues.	8:00	K.T. (L), Richard Ballerini
Wed.	8:00	Kathleen Woods (L), Carmel Donohue
Thur.	8:00	Don Conroy
Fri.	8:00	The Alcaraz Family (L), Wilfred and Helen Fatooh
Sat.	8:00	Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rose Collins Hilda Sickles
	5:00	Mark Kostielney, Patricia Carr, Joe Callaghan
	7:00	The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Salvador, Jesus and Moises Barajas, Cesar Morales Jose Guadalupe and Estela Contreras
Sun.	7:30	Joe and Kathy Piasta and Family (L) Luis A. Gonzalez
	9:00	Phyllis West Gibbons, Pat Carr
	10:30	Pro Populo
	12:00	The Jimenez Garcia Family (L), Simon Tolentino (L) Jose Cardenas, Abraham Avalos, Jose Maria Lopez

5th Sunday of Easter

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth. — Father John Muir ©LPi

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Last week I shared a few thoughts about devotions in general, and more specifically about the devotional life and design of our church. The response was surprisingly positive, and I've decided to go a week or two further on this subject.



The statues and devotional images behind the communion rail and facing the congregation are, in roughly chronological order, products of the French church: the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Therese of Lisieux. The most visible statues in the church all give witness, in one way or another, to the humanity and mercy of God in Jesus.

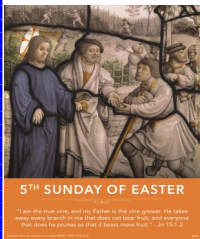
Devotion to the Sacred Heart is associated most closely with three saints: St. John Eudes (preacher, reformer, educator of seminarians), St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (visionary), and St. Claude de la Colombiere (preacher and confessor); all from 17th century France. At its height, devotion to the Sacred Heart amounted to a spontaneous Jesus movement in the Church continuing to the present, reflecting specifically on His humanity. This devotion was still going strong at the time our church was built.

St. Vincent de Paul was known for his dedication to the poor, especially poor urban youth. He was appointed to minister to the galley slaves who powered ships, and was abducted for a time to join their ranks. But in his earlier years, he sought little other than an opportunity to secure a comfortable life for himself. What changed it all for him was hearing the humble confession of a poor peasant.

Many saints had companions who shared their vision and charism. St. Francis of Assisi had St. Clare, St. Benedict had his sister St. Scholastica, St. Vincent de Paul had St. Louise de Marillac and the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Later, the Vincentian mission to the poor was promoted by Blessed Frederic Ozanam, who was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1997. Thanks to the pastoral zeal of St. Vincent, and Blessed Frederic Ozanam, a layman, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is now in over 153 countries, with over 800,000 active members. Closer to home, De Paul University in Chicago is, by enrolment, the largest Catholic university in North America. There are many churches dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul, including our own. At about the same time as our church was built, another larger (but never more beautiful) St. Vincent Church was built in Los Angeles, paid for by Edward L. Doheny, oil mogul with holdings in California, Mexico and Venezuela. The church was nicknamed "The Church of the Holy Oils." At the consecration of the new church, Bishop Cantwell anointed the altar and interior walls of the church with the Sacred Chrism, according to ancient rite. He paced the entire perimeter of the church, in all his regalia, sprinkling holy water on the exterior walls. Whereupon his secretary whispered discreetly, "Bishop, Mrs. Doheny donated the landscaping." Cantwell grabbed the aspergillum from the holy water bucket, gave three more shots in the general direction of the church, and added, "And the bushes are nice!"

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22ND - 28TH



Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/
Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/
Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/
Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
(see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.



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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - is on Thursdays for one hour after the daily mass. All are welcome!

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

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 FRATERNITY: Our fraternity's annual Spring DAY OF REFLECTION will show the movie, Paul the Apostle of Christ. We will 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 srdioese.catholicmoms@gmail.com for more details.

—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 \$7,723.
On-Line Giving 1,673
Total \$9,396

Thank you for your generosity.

There is a second collection this weekend for the Maintenance Fund.

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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAITH. ACADEMICS. SERVICE

As we close out the school year, it is a good time for reflection. A time to think about all the blessings bestowed upon us as a school community. At SVES, we are blessed with dedicated teachers who are committed to our mission to educate the whole child. We have the privilege of watching our students grow from toddler to teenagers. Throughout their time at SVES we strive to instill good values and a strong moral compass. We want our students to be confident in making right decisions as they become more independent and prepare for their next chapter. We are also blessed with our amazing parent community. The parents at SVES entrust us to educate their child(ren) in a faith-based environment and that is a blessing as well. The Faculty and Staff develop a true partnership with the parents in our community. We share a common interest in seeing all of our students reach their full potential. SVES is a true community with a feeling of fellowship resulting in common values and morals. It is a blessing to be part of a community as special as St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School. If you are interested in learning more about our school community, please visit our website www.svelem.org or call the office to schedule a tour 707-762-6426.



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.

SAVE THE DATE: MEN'S RETREAT - "BECOMING A MAN OF PEACE" will be October 18 - 20, at the Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds. For more information, visit allianceredwoods.com or call 800-576-2509.

