

**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.**

August 25, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during August 26th - September 1st</u>		
Mon.	8:00	Mary Moore Grala, Frank Solar, Sr. Carmen Arias, Ronald Anthony Ruffo
Tues.	8:00	Mary Moore Grala, Carmen Arias, Cheri McCarthy
Wed.	8:00	Mary Moore Grala, Louise Kempinski, Marguerite Weis
Thur.	8:00	Fr. Andrew Pacheco and Family (L), Mary Moore Grala Kathleen Marie Halverson, Manuel Alexander Valdez
Fri.	8:00	Dave and Jennifer Ramirez and Family (L) David Covarrubias (L), Familia Cobian (L) Mary Moore Grala
	8:00	Mary Moore Grala
	5:00	-
	7:00	The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Raul Ramos Aparicio, Maria Luisa Macias Hurtado Ramon Gutierrez, Frank Solar, Sr.
Sun.	7:30	Albert Sr., and Catherine Cerrone, Lucille Dolcini
	9:00	Irene Carnazola (L), Marguerite Weis
	10:30	Pro Populo
	12:00	The Jimenez Garcia Family (L) Mercedes Vargas Herrera, Jose Maria Lopez Mario Herrera, Abraham Avalos

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing." In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus' teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). We shouldn't imagine we'd do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, "Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him" (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus' disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God's love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**To Whom Shall We Go?**

A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She's looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn't want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. "I would never call this life easy," she said. "If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn't choose Catholicism."

What was unspoken was why she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you. What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills?

I'll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It's a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you're afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it's the only voice there is and not because it's the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it's the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can't quite resist.

When Christ asks, "Do you also want to leave?" he is not gaslighting us. It's a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners.

But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." — Joshua 24:15 ©LPi

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 26TH - SEPTEMBER 1ST**

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22  
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26  
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32  
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29  
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13  
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30  
Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**ST. VINCENT'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
2024 - 2025**



**Classes begin Wednesday, September 4th**

Registration for the English PreK- 6th grade Religious Programs will be held from Aug. 1 - 31st. Pick up the registration forms in the Bell room to the right of the church entrance, at the front porch of the Rectory, and in the plaza before and after masses on Saturday, August 24th, and Sunday, August 25th. Kindly return the completed form and fee in a sealed envelope to the rectory office, attention Carmen Aanenson, 707-762-4278 x14.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We need more dedicated people willing to spend 2 - 3 hours a week to help in our religious education programs. There are openings in our Sunday preschool program and Children's Liturgy at 9:00 am Mass, Tues. and Wed. for the Children's after-school religious education program and the OCIA (RCIA) program in the evenings. Other openings are at our seasonal events: registrations, Advent, children's retreats and special masses, Children's Christmas Liturgy, Lent, and Easter. We need teachers, readers, aides, and guides. Help our children grow in their faith, and welcome and support our new members. You can make a difference by bringing your gifts and talents. Let's meet! Carmen Aanenson 707-762-4278 x14.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A CATHOLIC?** Have you ever thought about it? Are you being called further into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church? Now is the time to come and see what's next. Please call Carmen Aanenson at 707-762-4278 x14 to meet and register.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2024-2025**

Registration for the English and Spanish Confirmation programs will be held on the following Saturdays in the parish hall from 9 - 11:50 am: August 24, 31 and Sept. 7. If you're registering your child for 2nd Year Confirmation, YOU MUST BRING A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE, even if they were baptized at St. Vincent's Church. For more information, please call the parish office at 707-762-4278.

**CONFESSIONS** are held in the church on Thursdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 3:30 pm, please enter through the confessional side. You can also call the rectory office at 707-762-4278 and ask for a priest to schedule an appointment during the week.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** - Tom Reeder, Martha Overton, Jim Doolittle, Salvador Ochoa, Lin Crossman, Martha Sumano Ramos, Maria Amador, Quintin Ponce Jr. and Sr., Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.

**WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD:** Fellowship and Faith sharing for Women from St. James and St. Vincent Parishes (and beyond) will be Thursday, Sept. 19 at St. Vincent Parish Hall, corner of Western and Howard. Doors will open at 6 pm for social time and the program runs from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Our theme for the evening will be "Doers of the Word." For more information, please call Joanne Ferris at 707-481-6431.



**PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday's offering:  
Sunday Basket \$10,719  
On-Line Giving 1,683  
Total \$12,402

The Collection for Our Lady of the Assumption was \$653.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Maintenance Fund.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Diocesan Seminarians.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY NEWS**

At SVES, our mission is to educate and form the whole child, made in the image of God, within a faith-filled community in which all students develop skills as caring and compassionate Christians, critical and creative thinkers, responsible citizens, and life long learners.

Our virtue of the first trimester is STEWARDSHIP. As part of our mission, we teach and help create a desire in each of our students to realize their own talents or gifts. We then encourage our students to put those talents and/or gifts to good use while helping others and making a difference in their community.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" 1 Peter 4:10

For information about our school, please contact the office at 707-762-6426 or email Mrs. Rynning, Admission Director at rynning@svelem.org

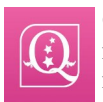


**THE COMMUNAL FIRST SATURDAYS:** A devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is held every first Saturday of the month before the daily mass, at 7:15 am, followed by the mass at 8 am, and concludes with scripture meditation shortly after the mass. The devotion for September will be on Saturday, Sept. 7th. For more information, please call Lilian Dubow at 510-205-3712 or Lilian.Dubow@gmail.com or go to www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org.



**DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA LEADERSHIP AND**

**CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP:** Enhance your ministry skills by participating in the Leadership Formation and Certification Workshop with Catholic-QuincePrep and contribute to the spiritual growth and formation of teenagers girls in our community on Fri., Sept. 13, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Sat., Sept., 14, 2024 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm (meals included) at St. Joseph's Church, 150 St. Joseph's Way, Cotati, CA. More information can be found in our parish boards at the entrance of the church or contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 707-566-3305 or email: familylife@srdiocese.org.



**THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA - DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** warmly invites you to attend the 2024 Santa Rosa Congress and experience all that the event has to offer on Sat., September 21, 2024 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at Cardinal Newman

High School, 4320 Old Redwood Hwy., Santa Rosa. This year's theme will be "Prayer, Our Relationship with God." To register, visit www.srdiocese.org or contact Carmen Perez Aanenson at 707-566-3366 or dre@srdiocese.org.

