

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.

September 15, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during September 16th - 22nd</u>		24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon.	8:00 Gabriel and Vicki Naal and Family (L) Imelda Cortes and Family (L), Filadelfo Zarate and Family (L) Jacob Smith	<p>This morning I received a text message that a member of my extended family will likely die of cancer within the next few hours. His name is Luke. He is a 45-year-old husband and father of six. Though I am not as close to him as my sister (she is his sister-in-law and knows him well), I wonder: how can we, including Luke himself, manage such a terribly awful and unfair situation?</p> <p>The words of this Sunday's Gospel offer a powerful and challenging path. Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). Today I see with new freshness the starkness and strangeness of the words take up. The cross stands for suffering which is unjust, absurd, seemingly hopeless, and humiliating. Jesus doesn't say "accept" or "endure" or "tolerate," but "take up." Embrace it, actively. Choose it and lift it up for others to see what terrifies and sickens us. But somehow, for Jesus, this is the path to "saving one's life." A new world is breaking in, one in which love is everything, when no relationship can be wounded or die. I trust that in the embraced suffering of Luke and his loved ones, Jesus is taking up his cross and saving us all.</p> <p>By the time you read this, barring a miracle, Luke will have died. He will be carrying his cross no longer. But we all still face suffering. This week let's not just endure, but take up our crosses, big and small. That's our only hope for saving our lives.</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00 Dennis Crandall and Family (L), Donna Piezza (L) Vicente Rodriguez	
Wed.	8:00 Iliana Hooper (L), Mark Windish (L), The Steger Family (L) Pat Carr	
Thur.	8:00 The Steger Family (L), Claire Gibson and Family (L) Rev. Fr. William P. Donahue (L), Andrena Gianini	
Fri.	8:00 Blake Hooper (L), Melisa and Yareli Lopez and Family (L) Holy Souls in Purgatory	
Sat.	8:00 Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Evelyn Pedroni, Joe Fitzgerald	
	5:00 Georgia Cort, Dora Sheerwood, Harry Vogl Norbert and Pauline Andres	
	7:00 Rene Contreras (L) Cesar Morales, Mario Gongora, Isaias Contreras	
Sun.	7:30 Pro Populo	
	9:00 Linden Crossman	
	10:30 Harold Mazza, Donald Forsyth, Manuel and Francelina Lopes	
	12:00 Martha Cuellar (L) Ramon Ochoa Diaz, Daniel Ochoa Ochoa, Ramon Romo	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Beginning this school year, St. Vincent Elementary School changed its First Friday and Holy Day Mass schedules to accommodate an extra two hours of classroom time on those days. In the past, the First Friday Mass began around 10:40 am, ended before 12 noon, and students were free for the day. From now on, our Mass begins at 12:30 pm with dismissal after Mass, i.e., 1:15 pm, I mention this for those of you who attend those Masses.

Happily, this year Friday, October 4 is both First Friday and the Feast of St. Francis, which is the traditional day for the Blessing of Animals, whether religious or secular.

There were even pre-Christian blessings of animals, notably in the blessing of bees. Bees are referenced 66 times in the Bible, not to mention the references in non-Biblical liturgical texts, such as the "Exultet" chanted or spoken every Easter Vigil.

The most recent revolution in appreciation of animals has happened over the past 100 years or so; the transition from animals used as impersonal instruments of human labor to animals as human companions, pets and friends. The genius of St. Francis of Assisi was that, in seeing all animals as sentient beings, he experienced all of creation (on this as well as other planets) as brimming with divine life. In doing so, he can rightly be regarded as the Patron Saint of Ecology.

One of the best parts of the Blessing of the Animals is the effect it has on the children.

While Friday, October 4 at 12:30 pm is a school Mass, I would like to invite the wider parish community to this Mass, and/or the Blessing of the Animals (with your favorite non-human) in the Church Plaza and Triangle Park at 1:15 pm immediately after the Mass. Adults and children are encouraged to bring domesticated animals, fully controlled (plus a plastic bag for clean-up, if needed) to the park after Mass (not to Mass!). I also encourage those with toy and stuffed animals to bring them as well, along with photos of beloved pets of past or present.

I'm giving advance notice on this feast day as it is truly a grace note, sounded during the harvest season, of the beauties of Fall now upon us, and of the faith that brings them alive to us.

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16TH - 22ND



Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/
Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12
and 22/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/
Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18,
19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/
Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2024-2025

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Confirmation Program! First Year Confirmation class will begin on Tuesday, September 24th, and second year Confirmation class will begin on Wednesday, September 25th. Both classes will be held in the parish hall from 7 - 8:30 pm. Please call the parish office at 707-762-4278 for more information.

ST. VINCENT'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2024 - 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need more dedicated people willing to spend approximately 2 hours a week to help in our religious education programs. There are openings in our Sunday preschool program, Children's Liturgy at 9:00 am Mass, after-school religious education program, and the OCIA program in the evenings. Other openings are at our seasonal events. You can make a difference by bringing your gifts and talents. Let's meet! Carmen Aanenson at dreaanenson@gmail.com

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 see what's next. Please contact Carmen Aanenson at dreaanenson@gmail.com to meet and register.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Aidan Hani Abadi and Charles William Christman V who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

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 - John Davis, Tom Reeder, Jim Doolittle, Salvador Ochoa, Quintin Ponce Jr., 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 held 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 \$9,151
On-Line Giving 2,348
Total \$11,499

The second collection last weekend for St. Vincent's Church Religious Education Programs was \$3,116 .

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection next 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.

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 NEWS

Catholic school students learn that God is present and active in their lives and in the world. They learn to recognize the "footprints of God" in their daily experiences, especially in the midst of life's challenges. They develop a sense of "Sacramental Awareness." They see the signs of God's love around them and become instruments of God's grace in their own neighborhoods, communities and the world.

At SVES we have Schoolwide Learning Expectations clearly defined for all of our students. For example, one of our four SLE'S (Schoolwide Learning Expectations) is to help guide our students to be Lifelong Learners who utilize their solid foundation of skills in a continued pursuit of knowledge; to demonstrate a focused work ethic in all that they do.

If you are interested in learning more about St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, please contact our office at 707-762-6426 or email Mrs. Rynning, Admissions Coordinator, at rynning@svelem.org.

THE SOLDIERS OF CHRIST: Calling men ages 18 - 38 in and around Cotati to join us for St. Michael's Lent, beginning September 11th through October 30th, Wednesdays from 7:30 - 8:30 pm at St. Joseph's Church, Cotati. We are a men's fraternity that meets weekly to pray, discuss upcoming Mass readings, and follow a spiritual game plan. Email to join: stephen-michaelsmorris@gmail.com, For more information: www.soldiersofchrist.info.

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.srdioocese.org or contact Carmen Perez Aanenson at 707-566-3366 or dre@srdioocese.org.