

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.

December 1, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during December 2nd - 8th</u>		1st Sunday of Advent
Mon.	8:00 Steve Kroeger (L) Joe Piasta, Julia Howard, Linden Crossman	<p>When I was a young priest, about one year after ordination, I was called to the hospital to anoint a dying mother of three young children. She had a painful, terminal cancer. After celebrating Last Rites with her, I said, "Don't be afraid." She looked me square in the eye from her hospital bed and said, "Oh Father, I am in a lot of pain, but I am not afraid. Something wonderful is about to happen." A few days later she died.</p> <p>Christians face the ending of our personal various "worlds" in a totally unique way. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves "fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:26). In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities. But Jesus commands us to "look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He then compares what's coming to a lovely summer in full bloom. That's what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.</p> <p>Advent challenge: What world in your life is collapsing? A relationship, a dream, a work opportunity? Maybe you're troubled by a crumbling world in the political or economic sphere. Or maybe someone you love is seriously ill or dying. Name that world or worlds. Then pray: "Lord, help me to not faint with fear. Help me to raise my head and see your redemption coming."</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00 The Alvarez Porras Family (L), Alfonso Mendez Maximiliana Valencia, George and Silvia Bordi	
Wed.	8:00 Matthew Grala (L)	
Thur.	8:00 Mary Margaret Moore, Michael Paul Rilko The Puga Alvarez Family (L) Claire Gibson and Family (L)	
Fri.	8:00 The Alcaraz Family (L), Jodi Fitzgerald (L) Maria and Marciel Tinoco and Family (L) Joe Fitzgerald, Holy Souls	
Sat.	8:00 The Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rose Collins	
	5:00 Julio Bianchi, Mark Kostielney	
	7:00 The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L), Leslie Randolph Patricia Macias Reynoso, Gerardo Enriquez	
Sun.	7:30 Kathy Piasta and Family (L), Jeannette Couch, Joe Piasta	
	9:00 Pro Populo	
	10:30 Ted and Marie Eshelman (L) Lucero Alvarez, Wilfred and Helen Fatooh Barbara Thompson, Marie Barboni	
	12:00 Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L), Guadalupe Rojas (L) Steven Pacheco Garcia (L) Mario Herrera, Jose Luis Avalos	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

It's common knowledge that "Advent" means "coming arrival." The fact that we celebrate Advent hot on the heels of the Solemnity of Christ the King underscores that there are at least two Advents being observed: the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. The readings at this time of the year refer to both. (There is also a third "coming of Christ" into the heart of each believer.)

I'd like to do a brief introduction to the Advent season leading to Christmas 2024.

The four Sundays of Advent will be December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. Each of them, plus the Advent weekdays, have set readings which spell out the prophecies and revelations which lead us to the manger in Bethlehem.

This first Sunday of Advent features the appearance of our Advent wreath. The genius of the Advent wreath is that it adapts to numerous Christian and even Orthodox communities, though its origin is German Lutheran, from the 16th century. Originally, it was a household devotion, though its popularity caused its eventual adaptation to public worship as well.

While we think of the Advent wreath as an ancient custom, it was not adopted by Catholics in Germany until the 1920's, and spread to the United States in earnest only in the 1930's – no doubt hastened by waves of German immigration going back to the late 19th century. The symbolism of the wreath is strong and universal. The circular nature of the wreath symbolizes God's love, without beginning or end. The evergreen fronds represent the hope of resurrection and new life even if in bleak and frozen winter. Traditionally (and correctly) three candles on the wreath are violet, to represent a limited but distinct season of penance. (Blue is not a liturgical color in the Catholic tradition.) The fourth candle is rose-colored, to represent the Third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday." "Gaudete Sunday" is a mid-season break from the "minor Lent" of Advent, with "Gaudete" as the first word of the Introit of the old Latin Mass for that Sunday.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th) falls on Sunday, and is therefore moved to December 9th, and is not observed as a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

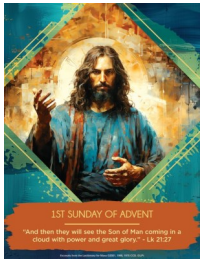
Our Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Monday, December 9th at 7 p.m. We will also have a daytime Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, December 18th at 9 a.m.

Our Parish Remembrance Service will take place on Monday, December 23rd at 7 p.m. This service, in which we hang angels on our sanctuary's Christmas trees, creates a special place in memory of our departed loved ones whose absence we feel perhaps most keenly during the holidays.

I wish you all a blessed and fruitful Advent season of preparation.

Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2ND - 8TH



Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be on Monday, December 9th at 7 pm. There will also be another reconciliation service on Wednesday, December 18th at 9 am.



ST. VINCENT'S SPANISH COMMUNITY invites you to celebrate La VIRGEN De GUADALUPE on Wednesday, December 11th, starting at 9 pm with music, prayers, the rosary, and poems followed by Mass at 11:30 pm. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 12th at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.



ADVENT CANDLES AND WREATHS are available at the rectory for \$20.00 a set or sold separately at \$10.00 each. Office hours: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. We close for lunch from 12 to 1 pm. For more information, please call 707-762-4278.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Marci Jo Hershey who received the Sacrament of Baptism.



PLEASE PRAY FOR - Tom Reeder, Salvador Zandejas, Bonifacio Gonzalez, William Bullard, Dani Sarigu-sa, Estela Anguiano, Salvador Ochoa, Quintin Ponce Jr., Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.



ST. VINCENT'S GIVING TREE FOR 2024 - The Giving Tree project will benefit the Angel Food Network, Birthright of Petaluma, and our own St. Vincent de Paul Society. These organizations provide outreach to our community. When you take a tag off the Giving Tree, please make sure you tape the tag onto the gift. Please do not take a tag unless you definitely plan to buy a gift. Do NOT wrap the gift. Return gifts to the church on Sunday and put them on the table next to the altar when you are called forward to bring up your gifts. During the week, you may bring gifts to the rectory from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. All gifts must be returned NO later than Friday, December 20th. For any questions, please call the office at 762-4278.



THE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE to honor our loved ones who have passed will be Monday, December 23rd. This event will begin at 7 pm with Christmas music followed by the service at 7:30 pm in the church. This is truly a very special evening. There will be angel ornaments you can decorate, before the service, at the entrance of the church. For those who have not picked up your angels from prior years, they will be on the tables at the entrance. You can hang them on the Christmas trees in the church or take them to decorate your Christmas tree at home.



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$8,423
On-Line Giving	1,353
Total	\$9,776

The second collection last weekend for the Maintenance Fund was \$3,550.

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

ONLINE GIVING - 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'S 2025 LECTOR AND VISITING OF THE SICK BOOKS - are available at the rectory office. If you haven't yet picked up your book, please do so. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed for lunch hour: 12 to 1 pm. If you have any questions, please call the office at 707-762-4278.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at all the entrances of the church. Every year we rely on your flower donations to decorate our beautiful church. Remember your loved ones by putting their names on the envelope.



THE COMMUNAL FIRST SATURDAYS: A devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is held every first Saturday of the month before the daily mass. The devotion for December will be on Saturday, Dec. 7th. For more information, please call Lilian Dubow at 510-205-3712 or Lilian.Dubow@gmail.com or go to www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org.



ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CRAB FEED: **SAVE THE DATE!!** St. Vincents Parish Crab Feed will be on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at St. Vincent's College Prep in Tillman Hall. Buy Tickets NOW Online! tinyurl.com/STVCrabFeedJan252025



THE CHANTICLEER CONCERT - On Friday, December 13th, Chanticleer returns to St. Vincent's Church. From the candlelit chant procession to the triumphant gospel conclusion, A Chanticleer Christmas cleaves to our founder Louis Botto's original vision of joy and transcendence through beautifully sung music of all centuries, from classical to carols. Join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year! Performances at 5 pm and 7:30 pm. For more information or to get tickets go to www.chanticleer.org.

