

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 15, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during December 16th - 22nd</u>			3rd Sunday of Advent
Mon.	8:00	Dennis Crandall and Family (L), Lori Nelson (L) Jerry Pitti	<p>On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, "What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?" The Saint responded, "I'd keep hoeing this row of beans." Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus' glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.</p> <p>This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus' coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It's so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don't know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That's what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.</p> <p>Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: "Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming." Then make the appropriate changes. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	K.T. (L) Constance and Roger Picchi, Evangelina de Vasquez	
Wed.	8:00	Rosemarie Rudometkin, Pat Carr, Thomas Masticola	
Thur.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Joe Fitzgerald, Jerry Pitti	
Fri.	8:00	The Maximiliano Alcaraz Family (L), Felix Carrillo	
Sat.	8:00	Aladino Marcucci	
	5:00	Mark Kostielney	
	7:00	Odalis Pacheco Garcia (L) The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L) Teresa Robles de Caro, Tonita Ortiz, Jose Luis Marquez	
Sun.	7:30	Charlotte Dion (L), Doreen McDonald, Raymond Skipp	
	9:00	Pro Populo	
	10:30	Marie Barboni	
	12:00	Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L) Elia Porras, Mary Cruz, Jose Luis Avalos, Mario Herrera	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

From its beginning at the first Pentecost, the Church has relied on its members for material support. While coins and precious metals pre-exist even the Church – we know that at least from the Parable of the Talents, the Parable of the Lost Coin and the Coin of Caesar – the manner and form of material support has varied greatly over the centuries. Agricultural barter – donations of farm animals, harvested crops, and farm-made goods, all of which can be used or sold – still exist today in agricultural areas of the U.S. Even now, I'm surprised by the coins and currency that appear from time to time in our collection plate, from foreign currency to old American coins.

Over 30 years ago, on my first visit to Assisi, a young-ish friar told our group about an ancient friar in his community who arrived as a 7-year-old child, a gift to the monastery from his parents. He was mounted on a small donkey with two large vessels of olive oil as a "dowry" – i.e., a gift for receiving him into the monastery, where he would spend his life. (And thus a vocation was born...)

Fortunately, we don't do such things today. However, we are in the midst of a financial revolution on a scale not seen since the conversion to trade and mercantile economies in the Renaissance. I've become aware that increasingly few people under age 50 have any cash transactions anymore, and that the writing of personal checks is even more rare. When I'm at the grocery store check out, I see more and more people either touching their credit cards to a little screen, or by scanning a QR (Quick Response) code through their smart phones. (QR codes are those weird little variegated squares stamped on everything these days.) No cash or checks change hands. Many men's wallets advertised this year as practical Christmas gifts no longer have any place for paper folding money – just cards and ID cards. More and more businesses now refuse, or charge extra, to receive cash. More and more banks refuse to accept deposits of coins, even when we count and roll them. They're just too awkward and expensive to process.

During the recent pandemic, our parish survived better than any other regional parish I'm aware of simply because we were already well established for receiving on-line contributions. Other parishes came to us then to find out how to "catch up" to this new technology.

Now, SV is taking its latest technological leap by making it possible for our parishioners to make donations, whether one-time or recurring, by using their smart phones to scan our parish QR code and contributing the amount you choose through your existing PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, Google Pay or credit card account. The insert in today's bulletin explains this expansion of parish service in more detail for those who are interested.

In the days of Advent that remain to us, we all still have time to "prepare for the birth of the Lord with good works at his coming," as the liturgy tells us. This may take the form of the Advent Giving Trees in church, to our own private good works in the humble spirit of the first Advent, to reaching out to someone who may have no one to pray or care for them. With the Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday – we are now focused on the joy of anticipation of the coming of the Lord. May he hurry, and not delay.

Blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16TH - 22ND



Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
 Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
 Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
 Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

St. Vincent de Paul Church Christmas Schedule 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 22nd
 Regular Schedule

Christmas Eve — Tuesday, Dec. 24
 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm
 7:30 pm (Spanish)
 Christmas Carols 9:30 pm

Christmas Day — Wednesday, Dec. 25
 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am
 12:00 pm (Spanish)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024
 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am
 12:00 pm (Spanish)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2024
 8:00 am, Eng. and 10:00 am (Bilingual)
 A Holy Day of Obligation

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: There will also be a reconciliation service in the morning of Wednesday, December 18th at 9 am.

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



CONGRATULATIONS - to Martin Garcia Rojas Jr. who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

PLEASE PRAY FOR—Thomas Mastricola, Michelle Paskal, Douglas Smith, Salvador Zandejas, Bonifacio Gonzalez, William Bullard, Dani Sarigusa, 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 707-762-4278.



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
 Sunday Basket \$9,435
 On-Line Giving 2,416
 Total \$11,851

The second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious was \$5,410.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

ONLINE GIVING AT ST.VINCENT- We are happy to announce that PayPal, GPay, Venmo and Apple Pay are now available as payment options on Online Giving. These additions are part of our ongoing commitment to providing you with best-in-class giving solutions. To sign up for online giving, go to <http://www.svdppetalum.org> and look for the red "Donate" button on the upper right of the front page. Once there, follow the prompts to create a new account or to make any changes to your account.

You can also use this QR code to take you directly to the website:



For more information, please contact Noelia or Sally in the rectory at 707-762-4278.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY NEWS

Our virtue of the second trimester is FIDELITY! Fidelity is a virtue that reflects deep commitment, loyalty, and trust. It is the cornerstone of lasting relationships, whether in marriage, friendships, or our relationship with God. Fidelity is about being steadfast, honoring promises, and standing by others through thick and thin. It is a choice to remain true to one's word, to uphold integrity even when faced with challenges, and to offer unwavering support. The fidelity of our teachers is truly remarkable. They dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the growth and development of their students, often going above and beyond their responsibilities. With patience, passion, and care, teachers create environments where learning can flourish, shaping young minds and hearts. Their impact is profound, and their faithfulness leaves a lasting impression on all who are fortunate to learn from them.

If you are interested in a tour of our campus, please call the office at 707-762-6426.

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.



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.

