

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 29, 2024

<u>Mass intentions during December 30th - January 5th</u>		
Mon.	8:00	Fr. Andrew Pacheco (L), Gordon Bartley Scott (L) Susan McClay Beene (L), Kenneth J. Gnoss (L)
Tues.	8:00	Fr. Andrew Pacheco (L), Brandon Castinado Patricia Healy, Jose Lozano, Carmela Smith de Lozano
Wed.	8:00	Legion of Mary and Auxiliares (L), Vicki Aguilar (L) Fr. Andrew Pacheco (L), Francis Catherine Moore Rosa Celia Lozano de Calderon
Thur.	8:00	Jordan Muñoz (L), Fr. Andrew Pacheco (L) Linden Crossman, Frances Catherine Moore, Olia Reza
Fri.	8:00	Lili Alcaraz and Family (L), Jodi Fitzgerald (L) Joe Fitzgerald, Francis Catherine Moore, Holy Souls
Sat.	8:00	In Reparation for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Francis Catherine Moore, Christina Goodman
	5:00	Pro Populo
	7:00	Teresita Aguado Sanchez, Rafael Martin Sinorina Lopez, Erica Barrillas
Sun.	7:30	Raymond Skipp, Charles Jimenez Mother
	9:00	Debbie Dixon, Mary Catherine Moore, Don Borg Frederic Holden, Jerry Dixon
	10:30	Sandra Shannon
	12:00	Maria Cristina Gabriel Gonzalez (L), Ana Maria Rubio Maria Sahagun Tejada (L), Maria Concepcion Mendez

The Holy Family

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, “Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us.” I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God’s grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary “after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers...” (Luke 2:46). We don’t know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: “Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.” The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God’s presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before. — Father John Muir ©LPi

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

One of the English Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins’s best known poems is, “May Magnificat.” It begins, “May is Mary’s month and I/ Muse at that and wonder why...” Hopkins was one of the greatest nature poets of the 19th century, and continues in this poem to liken the springing forth of nature in May with the fecundity of Mary as Mother of God.

While acknowledging Hopkins’ right to poetic license, the real Mary month could well be December 8th to January 6th, during which there are no fewer than five feasts in which Mary plays an important, if not central, role: Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Holy Family, Mary, Mother of God, and Epiphany. (Make that six feasts if you include Our Lady of Guadalupe who, though important, is not associated with salvation history in the same way.)

With those five feasts, we cover the time between Mary’s conception through the Birth of the Savior, to the creation of the Holy Family, to the revelation of Jesus as light to the nations. These feasts, plus the Advent Sunday scripture readings, provide both back-story and sequel to Christmas itself. No wonder the secular celebration of Christmas is so flat and one-dimensional – so much of the greater story is never told.

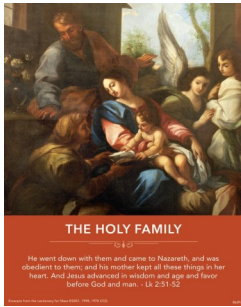
This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast and devotion is unusual in that the subject of the Holy Family became popular only from about 1490 on, and then only through artistic representations. Veneration of the Holy Family did not formally begin until the mid-1600s, at the direction of St. Francois de Laval, the founding bishop of New France, later Quebec. (That diocese included all of Canada from Lake Michigan to the Atlantic coast, a fair chunk of real estate. No pastor needed to worry about the bishop just dropping by.) Surprisingly, St. Francois de Laval was not beatified until 1980 by Pope John Paul II, and canonized in 2014 by Pope Francis.

Very little is known about the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph beyond Jesus’ early infancy. What we believe is the result of inference from other known or presumed facts. They were observant Jews who lived humble but productive lives, and attended religious festivals in Jerusalem. If they followed the customs of the times, Jesus remained in the house with Mary until he was deemed old enough to join his father in the workshop. While Joseph is usually referred to as a carpenter, he was probably much more than that, as “carpenters” felled and dragged trees from outside of town to their workshop (which may have adjoined their house). It was a strenuous and necessary profession which taught the dignity and necessity of work.

What we can infer about the early days of Jesus and the Holy Family, as noted by Pope Paul VI, was the quiet of Bethlehem, a quiet which made it nearly impossible not to think and pray with an expansive interior life. The quiet, and the starry nights. That is the quiet in which Mary “stored all these things in her heart.” That was also the quiet in which Jesus worked while planning, for our sake, to run away from home, start a revolution, and break his mother’s heart.

**Continued Christmas Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 30TH - JANUARY 5TH



Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/
Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28
Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
(see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Religious Education Announcements:



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From your catechists - Carmen Aanenson, Andrea Aguilar, Heather Almond, Ofelia Oviedo and Lily Penate.

A reminder - English Religious Education classes are on Christmas break. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 7th and Wednesday January 8th, 2025.

St. Vincent de Paul Church Christmas Schedule 2024

*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2024*

*8:00 am, Eng. and 10:00 am (Bilingual)
A Holy Day of Obligation*

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Happy New Year 2025!



CONGRATULATIONS - to Benjamin Andrew Espos Taeuffer who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

PLEASE PRAY FOR — Bob Souza, Thomas Masticola, Michelle Paskal, Douglas Smith, Salvador Zandejas, Bonifacio Gonzalez, William Bullard, Dani Sarigu-sa, Estela Anguiano, Salvador Ochoa, Quintin Ponce Jr., Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.

SAVE THE DATE: You are invited to join us in celebrating Deacon Jim Carr's retirement on **Sunday, January 12th**. The reception will be held at St. Vincent's Parish Hall. More details will be available next week.



WINE, WOMEN AND WORD: A night of fellowship and faith sharing will be Thursday, January 16, 2025 at St. James Parish Center. Our theme will be "Bringing the Gospel to Life." Doors open at 6 pm. The program begins at 6:30 pm. For information, please contact Dorothy Suarez: phone 408-828-9204 or E-mail: binkster52@gmail.com.



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 January will be on Saturday, Jan. 4th. For more information, please call Lilian Dubow at 510-205-3712 or Lilian.Dubow@gmail.com or go to www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org.



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket \$7,941
On-Line Giving 1,939
Total \$9,880

The second collection last weekend for the Maintenance Fund was \$8,014.

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection this weekend for St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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 <https://www.svdppetaluma.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

As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, we want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a blessed and joyful Christmas. This season is a time to reflect on the incredible gift of Christ's love and to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, especially the gift of faith. In our school community, we are blessed to provide an education rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Each day, we come together not only to learn but to grow in our faith, strengthen our relationships with God, and live out His message of love, compassion, and service. This is what makes our school truly special—a place where education and faith go hand in hand, shaping the hearts and minds of our students.

The faculty and staff at SVES pray that each of you experiences the joy of Christ's love this Christmas, and that the new year brings continued growth, peace, and grace to our entire St. Vincent's community. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and grace!

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



CATHOLIC MOMS: Do you long for fellowship with other moms who want to create a life of purpose centered on Jesus Christ? Join our moms' group for an 8 week Bible Study from "Walking With Purpose." Ordering Your Priorities: Building a Life Well Lived is an immensely practical Bible study that will help you put the most important things first. The group will meet virtually Thursday nights at 7:45-8:45 pm starting January 16. Contact Emmy and Susanne at srdiocese.catholicmoms@gmail.com to sign up and order your book at www.walkingwithpurpose.com.

