

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 8, 2024

Mass intentions during December 9th—15th

Mon.	8:00	Vicki Aguilar (L), Kathy Halverson (L) Legion of Mary and Auxiliaries (L), Jacob Smith
Tues.	8:00	Bonifacio Gonzalez (L), David Tripaldi, Noreen Nixon
Wed.	8:00	Fidel and Antonio Cornejo, Ignacio Munguia, Barbara Harden
Thur.	8:00	George Bordi (L), Imelda Cortes and Family (L) Elodia Munguia (L), Filadelfo Zarate and Family (L) Ted and Marie Eshleman (L)
Fri.	8:00	Sylvia Samija and Family (L), Jose Ignacio Hernandez (L) Joan Jiminez, Darleen Adiego
Sat.	8:00	The Tinoco Family (L), Cesar Puga (L) North Bay Post Acute, Petaluma Post Acute
	5:00	Manuel and Franceline Lopes
	7:00	Antonio Salvador Esquivel (L), Jonathan Antonio Ortiz (L) Cesar Puga (L), The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L), Ross Dugan
Sun.	7:30	Norbert and Pauline Andres, Georgia Cort, Dora Sheerwood
	9:00	The Jimenez Family (L), Thanksgiving for Health Joan Jimenez, Fran Gentry
	10:30	Pro Populo
	12:00	Maria Cristina Gabriel Gonzalez (L) The Gonzalez Alvarez Family (L) Mario Herrera, Abraham Avalos, Jose Maria Lopez

2nd Sunday of Advent

In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations. Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come."

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

On April 15, 2019, a fire broke out in the attic space of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-Paris. Within fifteen hours, catastrophic damage had been done to the best-known historical monument in France, and a nearly millennium-old glory of Christian Europe. The hearts of Catholics (and many others) sank the world over as we watched substantial parts of the cathedral collapse into a fiery pit. My first thought was arson or terrorism, but it seems to have been a worker's carelessly discarded cigarette, or an electrical short. Nothing is known for sure.

Christmas Mass was not celebrated there in 2019 for the first time since 1803. The grace note of Advent 2024 is that on December 7, the repaired and restored cathedral will be open once again to the world. (Originally, experts thought the work would take 10-40 years.) Though the cathedrals of France are the property of the State, over \$1.4 billion from over 320,000 private donors has been collected. One of the biggest donations (\$220m) came from L'Oreal, the world's largest cosmetics firm, now donating to beautify France herself.

Outside of France, it was not widely known that even before the fire, the cathedral was undergoing major renovations. The famous spire, replaced most recently in the mid-1800s, had been full of dry rot due to leaks in the lead cladding. The roof timbers, which held up a roof made of 400 metric tons of lead, were dry and powdery. In 2016, the French Ministry of Culture estimated that repairs even before the fire would cost upward of \$200 million. For years, conditions were so hazardous that the cathedral was under near-continuous fire watch. The Paris Fire Brigade performed regular fire drills. A firefighter was on premises daily to watch for fire, and fire wardens inspected the attic three times every day to check for fire hazards. There was no modern fire detection system to alert the fire brigades directly.

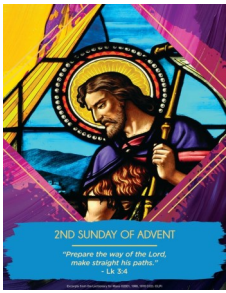
When the fateful moment came, they were as ready as it was humanly possible to be. Over 400 firefighters engaged the blaze, but did so largely from the inside the cathedral, so as to minimize damage to the edifice, but at much greater risk to their own lives. Smaller groups of heroes entered the flaming towers, not knowing if they would return. Traditional methods like water cannons and helicopters were not to be used for fear of up-drafts and causing the weakened stone walls to collapse. Stone, when doused with water at high temperatures, can crack or explode. Firefighters were also in danger of being showered with molten lead from the roof.

No less miraculous were the human chains of people who carried away precious items and works of art for preservation, including a relic of the True Cross and of the Crown of Thorns. The eight cathedral bells, in imminent danger of collapse, stayed in place and were saved. The main altar and three organs remained relatively undamaged. Many artifacts had already been removed as part of the previously planned renovations; they are priceless and thus uninsurable. Sixteen statues of the Apostles and others, were removed from the roof only four days before the fire.

In a world too often darkened by sadness, and where beauty seems to survive only where its enemies fail to notice and stamp it out, it is worthwhile to reflect for an Advent moment on enduring things capable of elevating the human spirit.

Advent blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 9TH - 15TH



Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12,13/
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
dt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

**FIRST RECONCILIATION
SECOND YEAR - FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS**



A reminder to the families whose children will be receiving their first reconciliation: it will be on Saturday, December 14th, at 9:00 am. We ask for your prayers. Any inquiries, please contact Carmen Aanenson, Tues. or Weds. at 707-762-4278 x14. Thank you.

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

**HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS ARE CANCELED
THIS COMING THURSDAY, DEC. 12TH.**

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - 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.

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	\$11,377
On-Line Giving	3,144
Total	\$14,521

The Thanksgiving Day Collection was \$2,325.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

All parishes are holding the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend, December 7-8, 2024. Many elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years for little pay. Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Donations offer financial assistance and resources that help eligible communities care for their elders.

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.

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.

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.

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 writing their names on the envelope.



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.