

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.

February 2, 2025

| <u>Mass intentions during February 3rd - 9th</u> | | |
|--|-------|---|
| Mon. | 8:00 | Steve Kroeger (L), Joe Piasta, Marolyn Ibarra, Shirley Twohig Fitzhugh William Moore |
| Tues. | 8:00 | Maria Martinez Mendoza (L), Wilfred and Helen Fatooh Fitzhugh William Moore, Gloria Bordi |
| Wed. | 8:00 | Kathy Hooper (L), Vicki Farr, Guillermina Ramos Perez Fitzhugh William Moore, Jim and Carolyn Maestri |
| Thur. | 8:00 | George Bordi (L), The Rosary Group (L), Vicki Farr Fitzhugh William Moore, Gloria Bordi |
| Fri. | 8:00 | Fr. Constantine Epstathiu (L), The Alcaraz Family (L) Marcial Tinoco and Family (L) Kay Epstathui, Fitzhugh William Moore |
| Sat. | 8:00 | Fitzhugh William Moore |
| | 5:00 | Chuck Thompson (L), Ralph Hooper (L), Anastasia Lester (L) Joseph and Virginia Sled |
| Sun. | 7:00 | La Familia Enriquez-Gutierrez (L), Antonio Salvador Esquivel (L) Jonathan Antonio Ortiz (L), Rafael Martin, Mario Garcia Mendoza |
| | 7:30 | Lina Mancini |
| | 9:00 | All Souls, Lindy Borges, Fitzgerald William Moore Mike Doolittle, Claudio Micheo |
| | 10:30 | Amy Kidd (L), Kenneth Kidd, Guillermina Ramos Perez |
| | 12:00 | Pro Populo |

Presentation of the Lord
Luke 2:22-40

What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophecies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd). It is one of the very few feasts during Ordinary time important enough to take the place of a Sunday Mass.

This feast is known alternately as the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, because both traditional rites took place on the fortieth day after the birth of a male child. (It was eighty days for a female child.)

This was the time when they, Joseph and Mary, brought the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to complete Mary's ritual purification and to provide the sacrifice specified in the Law of Moses, in which she took the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford a lamb) in Leviticus 12:8, sacrificing "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Then, they presented Jesus to God through the priest, his representative. Here Mary appeared with her firstborn son, the true Messiah, marking the first time of Jesus' coming into his temple, as was foretold (Malachi 3:1).

The presentation of Jesus in the Temple officially inducts him into Judaism and concludes the infancy narrative in the Gospel of Luke. Within the account, Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn (Luke 2:23-24).

The presentation of a male child in the Temple fulfilled not only the obligation to offer thanks to the Lord and to dedicate the child to God, but also was a means of publicly ascertaining paternity. In the case of Jesus, it was a form of dual paternity, since he had both his Heavenly Father and Joseph, his earthly father. Joseph's presence implicitly vouched for both.

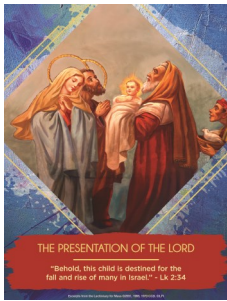
The ancient rite for the purification of women after childbirth survived in the Catholic Church well into the 20th century, with a blessing known as the "churching of women" at the first return of the mother to the church community. In the days when children were baptized within a very few days of their birth, the mother typically did not attend – she was still recovering from childbirth. When at last the mother returned, she received this purification blessing whose roots go back to Leviticus and, arguably, further. Its origins relate back to primitive times when, because childbirth was not quite understood, it was regarded as somehow "unclean."

Even today, the remnants of that purification rite are retained in modified form in the blessing of mothers during the Rite of Baptism which we celebrate here nearly every weekend.

Finally, the Feast of the Presentation is often referred to as Candlemas, which is also the traditional day for bringing candles to church to be blessed for use in the coming year. The connection is logical: as Christ is the Light of the World, the candles blessed in His name extend His light into homes, workplaces and everywhere His name is honored.

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3RD - 9TH



Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/
Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/
Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14,
17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9,
10-11/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/
Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mk 6:30-34
Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
(1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket \$7,718
On-Line Giving 1,632
Total \$9,350

The second collection last weekend for the Maintenance Fund was \$4,831.

Thank you for your generosity.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Religious Education Fund.

ONLINE GIVING AT ST. VINCENT - We are happy to announce that PayPal, GPay, Venmo and Apple Pay are now available as payment options for 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.



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? We have registration forms in the bell room to the right at the entrance of the church. Please call the parish office for more information: 707-762-4278.

AGING GRACEFULLY: The third annual four-week lecture series with practical guidance on Death and Dying will be held at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 N McDowell Blvd. The series will run on Wednesdays in February from 1-2 pm: Feb. 5 - End of Life Doulas: Holistic Support for Life's Final Act; Feb. 12 - Home Funerals, Natural Death Care, and Green Burials; Feb. 19 - Medical Aid in Dying; Feb. 26 - Hospice and Natural Home Death. To register by phone: 707-241-4110.

VILLAGE NETWORK OF PETALUMA - PROGRAMS
Online calendar at <https://petaluma.helpfulvillage.com/events>

Most of our programs and interest groups are designed for members and active volunteers. Social events and some interest groups welcome guests for one session to learn more about becoming a member and/or volunteer in the Village community. If you are interested in learning more about membership or volunteering, come to a "Get to Know the Village" monthly info meeting or contact us at info@VillageNetworkofPetaluma.org or 707-776-6055.



THE CATHOLIC ADULT SINGLES ASSOCIATION OF MARIN AND SONOMA COUNTY: The Catholic Adult Singles Association of Marin and Sonoma is a group of 55+ single or single again Catholics who are interested in making new friends, taking part in social activities, sharing opportunities for spiritual growth and becoming involved in volunteer projects that will benefit our parishes, our community, and one another. We welcome those who are interested. For Membership & Event information, please call Bob at 415 897-0639.

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 is from 8:30 to 9:00 am. All are welcome.



CONFESSIONS are held in the church on Thursdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 3:30 pm; please enter through the confessional (left) 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 — Charlie Kato, Frank Paula Sr., Anastasia Lester, Bonifacio Gonzalez, Lucelia Fish, Chris Gonella, Bob Souza, Thomas Masticola, Michelle Paskal, William Bullard, Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Archibald Khatri Supernant who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS would like to thank all who attended last Saturday's crab feed for your generosity, it was a great night! Proceeds will directly benefit our scholarship fund, church focused activities, and Petaluma organizations helping People with Intellectual Disabilities.



THANK YOU TO MRS. ELISE TELUCCI AND ST. VINCENT'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 4TH GRADE CLASS for the beautiful thank you cards and chocolates!



PRO-LIFE PRAYER GROUP invites you to come pray the rosary on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 pm at St. Vincent's church. If you have any questions, please contact Irene Carnazola at (707) 762-6115.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS: Both of the Petaluma KOC Councils (#1586 St James and #11431 St Vincent) will be awarding multiple \$1000 scholarships to seniors who plan to continue education after high school. Scholarship applications can be picked up at the parish office Monday through Friday during normal business hours. The deadline is 4/10/2025.

DIOCESAN SURVEY: Help Us Improve Communication

Across the Diocese! We invite you to complete a brief survey. Your feedback will guide us in enhancing our communication strategies to better serve everyone. Simply scan the QR code or visit www.srdiocese.org to complete the brief survey. Thank you for your input!

