

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.

March 16, 2025

<u>Mass intentions during March 17th—23rd</u>			2nd Sunday of Lent Luke 9:28b-36
Mon.	8:00	Brad and Carol Virgin (L), Bonfacio Gonzalez (L) Valeria Davala Avalos (L) Lee Trusty, Gloria Pizzinelli	<p>St. Thomas Aquinas said that friends share three things: time, possessions and secrets. For example, how do I know if you're my friend? Well, let's say we've been to Mexico together, you've tried my shaky attempts at pasta carbonara, and you know what ridiculous costume I wore in a music video I filmed in my early twenties. We, dear reader, are definitely friends. We've shared time, possessions and secrets. How does friendship with Jesus develop? The same way. Jesus lives and eats with his disciples. Then he takes Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor and there reveals to them his deepest secret: his glorious, divine Sonship. The majesty of God shines from within his humanity in a way that goes beyond description. God the Father confirms this "secret," saying, "This is my chosen Son, listen to him" (Luke 9:35). It's all so precious that "they fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone." Do we take time to be alone with Christ, to allow him to mystically share this "secret" with us as his dear friends?</p> <p>Lenten challenge: This week, identify one time when you experienced an awareness of some specific aspect of Jesus — perhaps on a retreat, at Mass, in prayer or in an act of service. Spend ten minutes consciously re-living that experience in your heart. If you can't recall one, set aside at least two hours this Lent as a mini retreat, either alone in nature or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Focus on him and ask him to share the secrets of his heart with you. He will. Then, as his friend, share the secrets in your heart. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Jan Eshleman, Chuck Sackett, Darlene Adiego	
Wed.	8:00	Alex Ruiz (L), George Bordi (L) Legion of Mary and Auxiliaries (L) Jacob Smith, Jose Dolores Hernandez	
Thur.	8:00	Claire Gibson and Family (L), Leda Sturla (L) Ana Rosa Calderon (L)	
Fri.	8:00	The Guzman Flores Family (L) Maximiliana Valencia, Alfonso Mendez	
Sat.	8:00	Jose Luis Flores Anaya (L)	
	5:00	Bette Jo Garzelli Reich, Jerry Gause	
	7:00	Pro Populo	
Sun.	7:30	Raffaelli Bros., Mary Ellen Higgins	
	9:00	Marian and Pappas Family (L) Marion Wells, Carolyn and Jim Maestri	
	10:30	Nina Respini	
	12:00	Mario Herrera, Bernardo Negra Cruz, Abraham Avalos, Jose Maria Lopez Patricio and Guillermina Lino Puentes	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

After a couple of weeks without a new "Pastor's Desk," I've been especially anxious to reach out to you near the beginning of this Lenten season which is, in its own way, the most participatory of all the liturgical seasons. While Christmas and Easter are about what God has done, and is doing, for us and all humanity, Lent is about our willingness, in the traditional terminology "to supply what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ."

First, I would like to thank the many of you who expressed concern for me during my recent illness and hospital stay, with meals (offered or spontaneously delivered), cards and calls to the office. While I was celebrating the Saturday evening Mass on March 1st, my speech became indistinct, and I was having difficulty pronouncing words in my homily. (Not difficult biblical names, which we all have trouble with, but common words.)

After Mass, a couple of working paramedics who happened to be in attendance came to the sacristy to express their concern about what they had witnessed and to offer their help. I was admitted to Petaluma Valley Hospital, then was transferred to Santa Rosa Memorial, and was discharged (appropriately) on Ash Wednesday. I received ashes in the hospital, as did a surprising number of hospital staff. (On the other hand, I was amused that I didn't see any Lent-observant meal choices on the hospital menu.)

Like most people, I hesitate to speak about personal medical issues. The bulletin would shrink to the size of a holy card if it contained only that which I would willingly discuss. The distinction here is that happened while I was celebrating a public Mass in community. It appears that I had a "TIA" – a transient ischemic attack. Simply stated, it is a temporary interruption of blood flow to the central nervous system which resolves itself with 24 hours and leaves no permanent after effects. If it hadn't happened during Mass, you probably wouldn't know about it. The major risk factor is a second, more serious event, within 48 hours of the original episode. That window has long since passed under medical supervision and, God willing, this will be the end of it. There are hereditary factors and, without going into detail, relatives of mine have had similar episodes, recovered completely, and lived very long lives.

From a more spiritual standpoint, being reminded of the weakness of the flesh and universal mortality, is not the worst place to begin Lent. The season of Lent is deliberately limited, if only because one cannot focus on such matters as serious sin and lack of self-sufficiency all the time. The suddenness of Ash Wednesday, appearing as if out of nowhere and on a different date every year, further highlights the transitory and sudden nature of life events. Even more challenging than dealing with one's own illness is dealing with the illness of a loved one, whose suffering we'd willingly share or completely take on in their place.

Serious and chronic illnesses, for which there is no easy or quick cure, are more and more a feature of life in this age of managed illnesses and extended lifespans. The beauty of Lent is that it gives us strength and, if you will, permission, to face our own suffering and insufficiency with some measure of the courage and strength with which Jesus crossed the empty desert to be tested.

Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY MARCH 17TH - 23RD

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/
Lk 13:1-9. Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/
Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The Lenten Services this year are scheduled as follows:
Monday, March 31st at 7 pm and Thursday, April 17th at 12 pm (Confessions at 6 pm this Thursday is canceled).
You are invited to come to either of these services to prepare for the season of Easter.

CHRISM MASS: The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, along with the priests serving in the diocese, invites you to attend the Mass of the Chrism at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 5:30 pm



EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES are available at the entrance of the church. It's a great opportunity to have your loved ones remembered by making a donation to help decorate our beautiful church for the Easter season.

CRS RICE BOWLS - are available at the entrance of the church, while supplies last. Please return your rice bowls on Palm Sunday, April 13th. **PRAY** "Jesus, Bread of Life, As we encounter you in the Eucharist this Lent, nourish us with your love, unite us in communion with our sisters and brothers, showing us how we are connected. Transform our hearts, that we may be moved to share bread for life with our global family and work for a world where we can thrive. Amen." For more information, go to crs-ricebowl.org



ST. VINCENT'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS - are held on Fridays at 7 pm in the church, March 7th to April 11th. Deacon Jim Carr will lead the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Archibald Brian Cullen who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

PLEASE PRAY FOR — Anita Solar, Marilyn Lee, Jilberto Porras, Mary Barber, Rosaura Gopar, Mercedes Nolasco, Douglas Smith, Brad Virgin, Charlie Kato, Bonifacio Gonzalez, Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the families of Liam Mateo Reyes Sumano who passed away February 23rd, Marilyn J. Gervasoni who passed away February 17th, and Joseph Batneau Llorence Jr. who passed away March 6th. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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 their education after high school. Scholarship applications can be picked up at the parish office Monday through Friday during normal business hours. The deadline is April 10, 2025.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket \$9,022
On-Line Giving 2,010
Total \$11,032

The second collection last weekend for Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Campaign for Human Development was \$3,671.

The collection on Ash Wednesday for Central and Eastern Europe was \$4,725.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

ONLINE GIVING AT ST. VINCENT'S - 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 the parish office at 707-762-4278.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, we believe that diligence is key to the growth and development of our students. We encourage all students to approach their studies with a strong work ethic, discipline, and dedication. This aligns with our Catholic values, which emphasize the importance of personal responsibility, perseverance, and striving for excellence in all aspects of life. Our faculty and staff are committed to nurturing students, not only academically, but also spiritually, helping them to develop a deep sense of purpose and integrity. We understand that diligence is not just about achieving good grades, but about forming habits of consistency, responsibility, and respect for oneself and others. If you are interested in a Catholic Education, please call our office at 707-762-6426 to schedule a tour or visit our website at www.svelem.org



Please join us for the St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School Spring Gala Velvet and Vinyl: An Amplified Affair.

The gala will be held on **Saturday, April 12th** from 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM at St. Vincent de Paul College Prep. The event will include dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions, and a live performance by Wonder Bread 5. Guests are encouraged to dress up their favorite rock band t-shirt with leather, sequins, or a blazer. All money raised will go directly to support the enrichment programs at SVES. Tickets start at \$150. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. More information at: <https://auctria.events/svesauction>.