

**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 23, 2025**

<u>Mass intentions during March 24th - 30th</u>		<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> John 4:5-42
Mon.	8:00 Irineo and Jesus Perez, Anthony "Tony" Cheever Charlie Cuoto Lima	<p>My childhood best friend was Xander Price. He was the fastest runner in school, an excellent baseball player and Jewish. Though his family wasn't intensely religious, I felt totally at home with them despite our religious differences. Everything about their Judaism seemed to undergird and strengthen my own experience of being a Catholic. I knew they didn't believe in Jesus like my family did, but I intuited somehow that Jesus was "hiding" in their religion. Like a cat moving under a blanket, ready to emerge at any moment, the Lord was hidden there in a special way.</p> <p>In the Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent, Jesus says, "For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, for he wrote of me" (John 5:46). Stunning words, those. Moses wrote about Jesus. The way therefore that we come to know and believe in Jesus is to discover him lurking in Moses' writings. The Hebrew Scripture is the wonderful womb in which Jesus gestates within a host of images: Adam, Isaac, David, Melchizedek, the Temple, sacrificed lambs, prophets and so on. Right now, in your parish's OCIA program, soon-to-be baptized people are carefully studying where Jesus is in the writings of Moses, so that they may believe in him. This works for all of us, too, who wish to deepen our knowledge and love of Jesus. Lenten challenge: Take some time to prayerfully study one of the images of Jesus listed above in the Old Testament. Identify which one you find compelling and consider why this is so. If you don't know where to start, begin with the prophet Jeremiah as an image of Jesus. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00 Naureen Nelson and Family (L), Rosa Ayala (L) Dennis Crandall and Family (L)	
Wed.	8:00 The Lavio-Manni Family, Irineo and Jesus Perez Irineo and Jesus Perez, Frank Adiego, John Gleason Bette Jo Reich	
Thur.	8:00 Irineo and Jesus Perez, Carmela Rodriguez Medrano Holy Souls in Purgatory	
Fri.	8:00 Irineo and Jesus Perez	
Sat.	8:00 -	
	5:00 Frank and Mary Paula (L)	
	7:00 Familia Enriquez-Gutierrez (L), Gerardo Enriquez Irineo and Jesus Perez, Salvador Chavez Moises Figueroa	
Sun.	7:30 Georgia Cort, Dora Sheerwood, Alice Fahey Norbert and Pauline Andres	
	9:00 Robert Steger Sr. (L), Romualdo and Mary Carnazola Conchita Valle, Bruce Chester Irineo and Jesus Perez	
	10:30	
	12:00 Pro Populo	

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 24TH - 30TH**



Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/  
Lk 4:24-30  
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/  
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/  
Mt 5:17-19  
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:  
14-23  
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab,  
14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34  
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/  
Lk 18:9-14  
Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/  
2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Scrutiny:  
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-  
4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1,  
6-9, 3-17, 34-38

Scrutinies for the Elect and Candidates are scheduled at the 9 am Mass on Sunday, March 23rd, 30th, and April 6th. We ask the assembly of the faithful to pray in silence, asking that the "Elect and Candidates will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the Children of God".



**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** - 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](http://crs-ricebowl.org)



**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED:** Are you called? We welcome new and returning Eucharistic Ministers to serve once a month at 5:00 pm, 7:30 am, 9 am and 10:30 am Masses. There will be trainings for everyone. To learn more, please contact Joanne Ferris at: [jferrispetaluma@gmail.com](mailto:jferrispetaluma@gmail.com) or call 707-481-6431.

**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.

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

**PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday's offering:  
Sunday Basket \$9,569  
On-Line Giving 2,182  
Total \$11,751

**Thank you for your generosity.**

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

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**-will have a second collection next weekend. This is to inform our longtime and new contributors to the St. Vincent de Paul Society as to what we do with their generous contributions. The 5th Sunday collections, the Poor Box (in the back of the church), Christmas Giving Tree, Thanksgiving donations, plus individual gifts allow us to distribute gift cards. The gift cards allow Petalumans in need to purchase food and household items (excluding alcohol, tobacco and lottery). Thanks again for your continued support!

**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](http://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>.

