

**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.**

August 17, 2025

<u>Mass intentions during August 18th – 24th</u>		20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 12:49-53
Mon.	8:00 Anthony “Tony” Cheever, Guadalupe Garcia Eduardo Vargas, All Souls	<p>During my baseball career, my best coach often said, “You shouldn’t be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don’t. If I stop pushing you, it means I don’t think you have any more potential.” He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.</p> <p>Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. “Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?” he asks, “No, tell you, but rather division” (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That’s why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.</p> <p>How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents’ wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let’s thank him for it.</p> <p align="right">He sees how glorious we can become.</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00 Ashley Nelson Levy (L) Guadalupe Garcia, Eduardo Vargas	
Wed.	8:00 Evelyn and John Pedroni, Guadalupe Garcia Eduardo Vargas	
Thur.	8:00 Guadalupe Garcia, Eduardo Vargas, Antonio Altamira	
Fri.	8:00 Sylvia Samija and Family (L), Msgr. Daniel Whelton (L) Domenic Gizzi, Guadalupe Garcia, Eduardo Vargas	
Sat.	8:00 Gabriel and Vicki Naal and Family (L) Mass of Thanksgiving	
	5:00 Mike Marovich (L), Donald Forsyth	
	7:00 The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L), Juanita Alvarez (L) Emma and Ignacio Gonzalez and Family (L) Juan Sanchez Ortega, Guadalupe Garcia	
Sun.	7:30 Norbert and Pauline Andres, Dora Sherwood Georgia Cort	
	9:00 Guadalupe Garcia, Eduardo Vargas, Guillermina Solano Moises Vaca	
	10:30 Pro Populo	
	12:00 Arelin and Leslie Jimenez (L), Mario Herrera, Frank Solar Aida, Miriam, and Oscar Mejia, Ramon Ochoa Diaz	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Though we are only at the mid-point of August, our new academic and religious education school years are beginning. On Tuesday the 12th, we had our Back-to-School Mass with our elementary school students, plus many of their parents and grandparents. Every year, I am amazed at how young the youngest of them are, but even more so this year. We have added a Transitional Kindergarten for the year before Kindergarten. So the youngest at Mass today were four years old! The most distinguishing feature of these youngest students’ behavior is their shyness. When they came up at Communion time, with their parents, many of them had older siblings who presented themselves confidently to receive Communion. Many of the TKers turned away from me or hid behind their mothers or fathers when I attempted to impart a blessing. Some children – especially babes in arms - love the blessing and are transfixed when I try to make eye contact with even the youngest of them. Their trusting eyes follow my hand as impart the blessing with the sacramental gesture. As they get a bit older, they become more self-conscious and therefore shy, and in time they grow out of that as well. Welcoming them and their families is one of my greatest joys as pastor. On Friday, August 15th, we will have celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the parish and the school.

As for our older students, it’s amazing what a difference even a short summer can make. Many of them have visibly grown, and some have visibly matured. In the past, the common practice at home was to mark off their heights on a door jamb or wall. In those cases, many of our students have notched up over the past year or even few months.

Our incoming TK students are on track to be the high school graduating class of 2039, and (if they choose to go) the college graduating class of 2043 or 2044. They are on track to live past year 2100. (And who knows? My 93-year-old father’s life expectancy when he was born in 1932, was 62.) The children of our youngest students may well live past 2135 or well beyond. It’s the longest of long-term projects, which I think is very difficult to sustain without a strong and practical faith in the goodness and providence of God. I have enormous regard for their parents – not just those of our elementary school but of any school – who do all in their power to provide their children’s future.

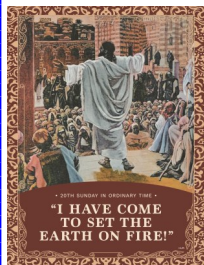
Our Religious Education programs, whether based in the school or in the parish, are intended to provide parents with support in laying a strong spiritual foundation which will guide them through the course of their lives.

This brings me to a different, but related, topic. Early in September, our parish will be holding a Ministry Fair – i.e., an opportunity for all parishioners to familiarize themselves with the range of parish ministries, with the hope of encouraging us to apply to serve in one or more of them. This includes Eucharistic Ministers (whether at Mass or in care facilities), Readers, Ushers, Altar Servers, adult Acolytes, Sacristans, Religious Education volunteers, and others as well. The clearest indicator of the health and strength of any parish is its ability to generate vocations – ordained or lay – to serve the People of God. We have been hit with a double-whammy: COVID and the retirement of Deacon Jim, who did so much for our parish over many years. A new generation of ministers needs to be recruited and placed in a ministry of their choosing. Our present and future as a vibrant parish depends on the vitality of new volunteers, and your willingness to make an investment in the present and future of our parish.

I wish you all a fruitful end of this summer season.

Blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue


READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18TH - 24TH



Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22
 Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30
 Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
 Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
 Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
 Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/ Mt 23:1-12
 Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

ST. VINCENT'S ENGLISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2025 – 2026

CLASSES BEGIN Tues. Sept. 9th & Wed. Sept. 10th. Registrations for the English PreK- 6th grades have begun.

 Pick up the registration form from the Bell room at the church entrance or the parish office's front porch. Kindly return the completed form and fee in a sealed envelope to the rectory office attention Carmen Aanenson. For more info., call 707-762-4278 x114 or email at dreaanenson@gmail.com.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: We need more dedicated people willing to spend 1 - 2 hours a week to help with our religious education programs. Let's meet! Carmen Aanenson, 707-762-4278 x114 or email at dreaanenson@gmail.com


OCIA: Are you interested in being a Catholic? Have you ever thought about it? Are you being called further into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church? Come and see what's next. For a registration form please contact Carmen Aanenson, 707-762-4278 x114 or email dreaanenson@gmail.com.

ADULT CONFIRMATION: Are you an adult and missed confirmation? Classes begin in September. For a registration form please contact Carmen Aanenson at, 707-762-4278 x114 or email me at dreaanenson@gmail.com.

ALL PRE-K AND K children are invited to join our Sunday Program. It presents faith in a language that the child can understand and have fun, through prayer, stories, and activities. The classes are on Sunday, 9 - 10 am, in the parish hall. Please pick up a registration form from the bell room at the entrance of the church or from the parish office's front porch. For more information contact Carmen Aanenson at 707-762-4278 x114 or email at dreaanenson@gmail.com.

FIRST COMMUNION FOR PRE-TEEN AND TEEN: We offer classes on Tuesday for grades 7th – 12th, and Wednesday for grades 4th – 6th., from 3:30 – 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Please pick up a registration form from the bell room at the entrance of the church or parish office's front porch. For more information contact Carmen Aanenson at 707-762-4278 x114 or email at dreaanenson@gmail.com.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2025-2026:

 Registration for the English and Spanish Confirmation programs have begun, and will continue the following Saturdays, in the parish hall from 9 - 11:50 am, August 23rd, 30th and Sept. 6th. If you're registering your child for 2nd Year Confirmation, **YOU MUST BRING A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE**, even if they were baptized at St. Vincent's Church, and the PASS. For more information, please call the parish office at 707-762-4278.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
 Sunday Basket \$9,769
 On-Line Giving 1,788
 Total \$11, 557

Thank you for your generosity.

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

ONLINE GIVING AT ST. VINCENT'S - 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. 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.



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 of the entrance of the church. Please call the parish office for more information: 707-762-4278.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Welcome Back to School!

As summer draws to a close, we joyfully welcome back all of our Catholic school families for a new academic year! We are excited to reunite with our returning students and warmly greet those who are joining our school community for the first time.

At the heart of our mission is the commitment to faith, excellence, and service. As we begin this new school year, we entrust our students, families, teachers, and staff to the care of our loving God. May our classrooms be places of joyful learning, growth in virtue, and deepening faith.

Let us continue to support one another in prayer as we journey through the year together. We are grateful for the blessing of Catholic education and the opportunity to nurture the hearts and minds of our children.

Wishing you a grace-filled and successful school year!



CONFESSIONS are held in the church on Thursdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 3:30 pm; please enter through the confessional (left) side.

ST. VINCENT CHURCH MINISTRY FAIR ON THE



PLAZA: Discover Your Place to Serve! Saturday September 13 and Sunday, September 14 immediately following 5:00 PM, 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Mass. Find Your Ministry Match! Join us to explore the many opportunities available for using your gifts and talents! Questions? Contact Joanne Ferris at jferrispetaluma@gmail.com, or call 707-481-6431

PLEASE NOTE: The Ministry Fair in August has been canceled.



CONGRATULATIONS - to Antone Jerry Schmidt who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Anthony Flores, Quintin Ponce Jr., Alexine Silveira, Mark Flynn Padilla, Morgan Grabau, Melvin B. LaFranchi, Michelle Paskal, Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.

