

**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 24, 2025

<u>Mass intentions during August 25th—31st</u>		21st Sunday in Ordinary Time : Luke 13:22-30
Mon.	8:00 Martha Overton, The Lavio-Manni Family Guadalupe Garcia, Eduardo Vargas	<p>I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.</p> <p>When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!" Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00 George Sylvester Girolo, Eduardo Vargas Guadalupe Garcia	
Wed.	8:00 Msgr. Daniel Whelton (L), Elodia Munguia (L) Lucy Fatema-Raposa, Marthe Murray, Twinkle Marksbury	
Thur.	8:00 St. Joseph of Cupertino, Inocencia Carrillo Gerald Jerry McNaughton	
Fri.	8:00 Rev. Fr. Andrew Pacheco and Family (L), Elsa Paredes Victor Rosado, Francelina and Manuel V. Lopes Maria Guadalupe Velez de Alba	
Sat.	8:00 Dave and Jennifer Ramirez (L)	
	5:00 Pro Populo	
	7:00 The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L), David Covarrubias (L) Cesarea Antonia Vasquez Hernandez, Telesforo Torres Leobardo Marquez	
Sun.	7:30 Albert Sr. and Catherine Cerrone, Cecile Ostro Appel Guadalupe Cruz	
	9:00 -	
	10:30 Monte McKillop, Maria Luisa Macias	
	12:00 Pamela, Jacob, and Yarezi Jaramillo (L), Mario Herrera Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L), Jose Luis Avalos	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

If you have been part of our parish community for any length of time at all, you know that I am very reluctant to ask for financial support. Sometimes, more than a year can go by without my making a single request for funds other than the weekly collection, and the national second collections which you can support or not. Regretfully, I'm about to break my record.

The Annual Ministries Appeal (AMA) supports ministries which serve all parishes collectively, and are coordinated at the diocesan level, for reasons of economy and efficiency. While most parishioners are not directly aware of these ministries and services, I am grateful for nearly all of them. They are provided overwhelmingly by, and for, lay employees and volunteers. They include 1) managing health and employment benefits for our lay employees and retirees, 2) Human Resources, 3) Safe Environment Coordinator and assistant, 4) Director of Religious Education to support parish programs and assist in the training of CCD teachers for our children, 5) Director of Communications to maintain websites and channels of communication within the diocese, 6) Risk management, to make our parishes as safe and well-maintained as possible. I'm sure there are more that I have not mentioned.

I will be direct: California is one of the most heavily regulated states in the U.S., non-profits are rarely exempt from these regulations, and the penalties for non-compliance can be onerous. It is very rule-driven, and we need specialists at the diocesan level to guide and protect us which, by and large, they do. In my earlier life, I worked for two stints in the Bishop's Office. I can say with some confidence that the diocesan staff has never been leaner or more competent than it is today.

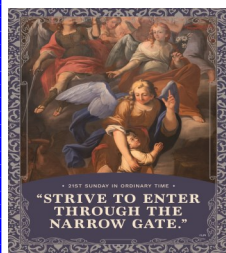
For 2025, we are still over \$18,000 short of our goal for the AMA (which is reduced from last year). If we do not reach this goal, we will need to take the difference from our regular parish income, which we cannot afford to do without, especially this year.

To those who have already responded to the AMA mailing from the Diocese of Santa Rosa, I am most grateful. To those who have not yet responded, I encourage you to join me in doing so now. Envelopes will be available in the church for you to take home and determine what level of support is right for you and your family. These are restricted funds, legally protected from the current diocesan bankruptcy proceedings (more about that later). It will all go to the designated lay ministries.

The special AMA envelopes are in the vestibule and on the table behind the last pew. They will be in the pews next week. For those who wish to give electronically, the diocesan website offers that opportunity as well, at <https://www.osvhub.com/dioceseofsantarosa/giving/funds>.

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25TH—31ST



Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30
 Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

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.

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!

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): 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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION: Are you an adult and missed confirmation? Classes begin in September. For a registration form please contact Carmen Aanenson.

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.

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 about any of the above programs, or for a registration form, please contact Carmen Aanenson, 707-762-4278 x114 or email 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 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 Gold Colored PASS to sign up for the 2nd year. For more information, please call the parish office at 707-762-4278.

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the families of Jesus Gonzalez who passed away August 2nd, and Donald Louis Ricco who passed away August 12th. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$8,635.50
On-Line Giving	<u>2,082.00</u>
Total	\$10,717.50

The collection for the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary was \$1,787.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

THE 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 - 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.



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 PRAY FOR - Anthony Flores, Quintin Ponce Jr., Alexine Silveira, Michelle Paskal, Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.



WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD will be gathering Thursday, September 18 at St. James Parish. This will be an evening of faith and fellowship for women from the Petaluma area. Doors open at 6 pm, program begins at 6:30 pm. We ask everyone to bring a box of facial tissues (will be delivered to local schools) in place of a raffle item. Questions? Please call or text Joanne Ferris 707-481-6431

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 and event information, please call Bob at 415 897-0639.