

**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.**

September 14, 2025

<u>Mass intentions during September 15th - 21st</u>			<u>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> John 3:13-17
Mon.	8:00	Thanksgiving for Health (L) Bonifacio Gonzalez, Earl Dolcini	<p>One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy What About Bob? Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.</p> <p>Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.</p> <p>This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Sylvia Samija and Family (L) Gabriel and Vicki Naal and Family (L) Imelda Cortes and Filadelfo Zarate and Family (L)	
Wed.	8:00	Kay Patterson and Family (L), Suzie Cummins (L) Lisa Galindo (L), Vince Patterson	
Thur.	8:00	Veda Cortes (L), Josefa Gonzalez (L) David Cobian (L), Maria Isabel Fletes	
Fri.	8:00	Andrea Gianini, Charlie Kirk	
Sat.	8:00	Martha Medrano-Deasy	
	5:00	Pro Populo	
	7:00	Maria Contreras and Family (L) The Enriquez-Gutierrez Family (L), Isaías Contreras	
		Guadalupe Garcia, Victor Manuel Peru Cordero	
Sun.	7:30	Iryna Zarutska, Charlie Kirk	
	9:00	Evelyn and John Pedroni	
	10:30	-	
	12:00	Juan Andres Avalos and Family (L) Leslie Malgarejo (L), Maria Sila Vivas	
		Ramon Ochoa Diaz Jose Luis Avalos, Mario Herrera	

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini reflection:** When the unfaithful of the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. To heal us, God invites us to look upon the cross.



**The Cross is Not Negotiable**

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is tough, and to do it you have to make a decision to be tough, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness is for wimps, because the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

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**WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD** will be gathering Thursday, September 18 at St. James Parish Center. Doors



Wine, Women  
& Word  
Petaluma Catholic Community  
Gatherings

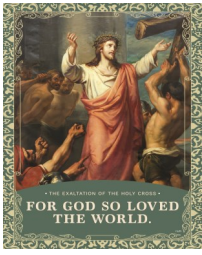


We invite all women of faith for social nights of fun and fellowship!

open at 6:00 pm; program starts at 6:30 pm. All women of faith from St. James and St. Vincent's are invited to this evening of fellowship and faith-sharing. Our focus this evening will be two of the Sacraments of Initiation - Eucharist and Confirmation. Please bring a box of facial tissue that we will deliver to local schools. Questions? Joanne Ferris 707-481-

6431 or email at [jferrispetaluma@gmail.com](mailto:jferrispetaluma@gmail.com).

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH - 21ST



Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35  
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17  
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35  
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50  
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3  
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15  
Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

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

**ENGLISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** have started. For more information, please contact Carmen Aanenson at 707-762-4278 ext. 114 or email her at [dreaanenson@gmail.com](mailto:dreaanenson@gmail.com).

**PRE-K and K CLASSES** begin on Sunday, Sept. 28th at 9 am in the Parish Hall.

**THE OCIA and ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM** begins on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6 pm.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** begins on Sunday, October 5th.

#### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2025-2026:**

Saturday morning registrations in the parish hall have concluded. If you have not had a chance to register your child, you have until Thursday, September 18th to stop by the parish office to register them. If you have any questions or need more information please call 707-762-4278.

**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 from 8:30 to 9:00 am.



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



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** is held after weekday mass on Thursdays for one hour.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR** - Martha Flores, Robert Donahue, Lorraine Dominguez, Frank and Marleen Hench, Charlie Kato, Martin Carreño, Joaquin Wilfredo Valle, Anthony Flores, Quintin Ponce Jr., Michelle Paskal, Consuelo Alvarez, and Ev Woodruff.



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



**JOB OPENING:** Like working outside? Interested in another Catholic ministry? Join our Catholic Cemeteries team! Catholic Cemeteries is looking for a full-time Groundskeeper. For more information or to apply, please email [angela@dsrcem.org](mailto:angela@dsrcem.org).

#### **PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$9,928
On-Line Giving	2,457
Total	\$12,385

The second collection last weekend for the Diocesan Seminarians was \$5,218.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

There will be a second collection this weekend for our Religious Education Program.

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Archdiocese for Military Services.

**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 DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School (TK–8th Grade) is dedicated to the spiritual and academic formation of our students. Rooted in Catholic values and morals, our mission is to educate the child.



We are committed to:

- Deepening faith through daily prayer, Mass, religious instruction, and service.
- Promoting academic excellence through a rigorous, well-rounded curriculum.
- Instilling values and moral integrity that guide students to live as compassionate Christians.
- Encouraging a spirit of service through outreach and community involvement.

At St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, students grow in a Christ centered environment where faith is lived, knowledge is pursued, and character is built.

To learn more or schedule a tour, please call 707-762-6426 or visit us at [www.svelem.org](http://www.svelem.org).

Come see how we are building faith-filled leaders prepared to serve, lead, and make a difference in the world.

#### **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.

#### **WEEKLY INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY**

All are welcome! Free bags of groceries are provided to low-income families and individuals in Petaluma, through Petaluma Interfaith Pantry, which operates every Thursday evening. No paperwork needed; we serve all in need. Thursday Evening Interfaith Pantry opens at 5:00 pm at the Elim Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at 504 Baker Street. For more information, please call 762-4081.

