

**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.**

October 26, 2025

<u>Mass intentions during October 27th - November 2nd</u>			Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 18:9-14
Mon.	8:00	Thanksgiving to St. Joseph Earl Dolcini, Robert Donahue	Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: "I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God's sons and daughters." His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God? In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride's sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable's penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might "go home justified." There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, "Have mercy on us," during Mass or when we repeat the "Jesus Prayer" in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ's example — finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty.
Tues.	8:00	Joey Pappas and Family (L), Robert Michael Donahue	
Wed.	8:00	Thanksgiving to St. Michael, Nora Mary O'Sullivan	
Thur.	8:00	John Scharer, Geraldine Ann Chatfield	
Fri.	8:00	Jose Dolores Hernandez, Jorge Duran	
Sat.	8:00	Francelina and Manuel V. Lopes	
		In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary	
		Milicent Saludek	
	5:00	Mark Kostielney, Gypsy Grauert, Sarah Edwards	
	7:00	Barbara Novotny	
Sun.	7:30	The Enriquez Gutierrez Family (L), Martha A. Martinez	
		Rafael Martin, Juan Sanchez Ortega, Silvestre Martin	
		Evangelina de Vasquez, Ricardo A. Vasquez	
		Federico Valencia	
		Maria de Valencia, Jose Dolores Hernandez	
	9:00	Estela de Suriano, Robert Michael Donahue	— Father John Muir ©LPi
		Ramon Ochoa Diaz	
		Pro Populo	
		The Jimenez Garcia Family (L)	
		Adolfo Mendoza Valencia, Mario Herrera	
	10:30	Legionarios de Maria, Almas en el Purgatorio	
	12:00		

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Within the next few days, we will celebrate what is really a triduum – i.e., a “three-dayer” – of Hallowe’en, the Solemnity of All Saints, and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Traditionally, this three-day observance was known as “Allhallowtide.” Unfortunately, the connection between these three days is getting lost. “Hallow” is the archaic word for “saint” or “holy,” yet still familiar to anyone who prays the “Our Father”.

“Hallowe’en” is a contraction of “Hallows’ Eve,” the evening before the celebration of the saints. Even the apostrophe denoting the contraction of “Hallows’ Eve” is disappearing, but the history and custom remain. As with a number of cultural Christian celebrations, Hallowe’en is a mixture of Christian and pagan elements, which are even further rooted in human nature and development.

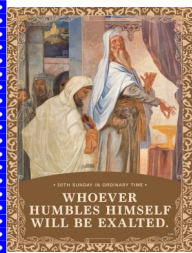
Even babies can play “peek-a-boo.” Often their first experience of humor is playing peek-a-boo with a parent, knowing the difference between “fake-scary” (which is fun) and “real-scary” (which isn’t). This is continued by older children who want to dress up as witches, monsters, ghouls, ghosts, whatever. Then there are sub-categories of super-heroes and princesses which are other kinds of archetypes. Taken together, they evince a subtle but powerful awareness of the forces of good and evil already forming their young consciences even before the age of reason. Like nearly all good fairy tales, they are children’s stories relaying adult themes.

All Souls’ Day has now largely been coopted by “Day of the Dead” which has taken on a distinctly more pagan character – so much so that it is celebrated in public schools and by civic groups as a month-long Hallowe’en carnival. It’s like popular myths about heaven – God is nowhere to be found. It is my intention moving forward to regain a Christian and Christ-centered focus on these feasts which go back to the early Church.

Two final points about All Souls’ Day: praying for the dead is a practice which goes back to the catacombs of the early Church, and even pre-dates them, (2 Maccabees 12:14-16.). All Souls is also one of the most ecumenical observances of the year, as so many Christian faith communities – from the Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans and Lutherans, to the Methodists and Baptists and other Protestant communities – all celebrate it in one way or another. The sadness of death, the resurrection of the body, and the promise of immortality are the great challenges and hopes we share.

**Blessings,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

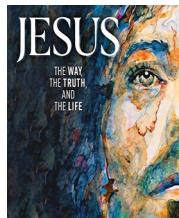
READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 27TH - NOVEMBER 2ND



Monday: Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/
Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16
Wednesday: Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6/Lk 13:22-30
Thursday: Rom 8:31b-39/Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31/
Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a
Sunday: Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11 or
Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

ST. VINCENT'S USHERS: The official mass attendance for the Diocese of Santa Rosa will be taken at ALL masses during the month of October 2025.

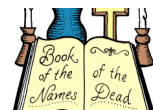
BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study is back! We welcome you to join "Jesus: The Way The Truth and The Life" a 10 week study in the Parish Hall every Tuesday from 6:45 - 8:30 pm beginning December 2, and continuing Dec. 9, 16, January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 3, 10, 17. More details coming soon. Contact Joanne Ferris at jferrispetaluma@gmail.com or call 707-481-6431.



ST. VINCENT'S 2026 LECTOR AND VISITING OF THE SICK BOOKS are available at the rectory office. If you haven't picked up your book, please do so. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, closed for lunch from 12 to 1 pm. If you have any questions, please call the office at 707-762-4278.



ALL SOULS DAY REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES will be available at all entrances of the church this weekend. You may write the names of your loved ones on them. During the month of November, the Remembrance Book will also be available. We remember our loved ones and honor their memory with great respect as we pray for them.



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 Thursday mornings after the weekday mass for one hour, and the first Thursday evening of the month, from 6 to 7 pm.



PLEASE PRAY FOR - Richard Kingsbury, Jose Rodriguez, Carolyn Maloney, Melvin B. LaFranchi, Keith Heck, Colin Lagos, Quintin Ponce Jr., and Michelle Paskal.



THE COMMUNAL FIRST SATURDAYS: A devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is held every first Saturday of the month. We begin at 7:15 am, with prayers and the rosary, then Holy Mass, followed by 15 min scripture meditation on Saturday, November 1st. For any questions, please contact Lilian Dubow at (510) 205-3712, email her at Lilian.Dubow@gmail.com or go to www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org.



PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket \$10,096
On-Line Giving 1,642
Total \$11,738

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection this weekend 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 church entrance. Please call the parish office for more information: 707-762-4278.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, our mission is to educate and nurture the whole child-mind, body, and spirit. Rooted in the Catholic faith, we provide a loving and supportive environment where students in TK through 8th grade grow not only in knowledge, but also in faith, character, and service to others.

Our dedicated teachers guide students to discover their God-given gifts, encouraging curiosity, compassion, and a lifelong love of learning. We integrate faith into every part of the day through prayer, service, and a strong sense of community. We are helping children build a foundation that will guide them throughout their lives.

We invite all parish families to prayerfully consider joining our school community. Applications for the upcoming school year will be available on December 1st! Come and see how a Catholic education can make a lasting difference for your child and family.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please visit www.svelem.org or contact our school office at 707-762-6426.



EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS PETALUMA 2025



POCESSION will be on Saturday, November 1st at the Petaluma Historical Museum, 20 4th Street, Petaluma, from 4 to 10 pm. The candlelight procession and closing event will have food, art vendors, entertainment with Ballet Folklorico Paquiyollotzin, Danza de Diablos, Mateo Guzman, a Catrina Contest and more.

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 to 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.