

**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.**

**December 14, 2025**

<b>Mass intentions during December 15th - 21st</b>			<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Matthew 11:2-11
Mon.	8:00	Cesar Puga (L), Thanksgiving for Health (L) Rosa Maria Martinez and Family (L), Fran Gentry	<p>When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking.</p> <p>All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?</p> <p>As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.</p> <p>What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?</p> <p>John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.</p> <p>This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir    ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Joey Pappas and Family (L), Mary Barber (L)	
Wed.	8:00	Carolina Magaña and Family (L) Evangelina de Vasquez, Constance and Roger Picchi	
Thurs.	8:00	Maximiliano and Lili Alcaraz and Family (L) Claire Gibson and Family (L), Fr. Jose Gonzalez	
Fri.	8:00	Kathy Halverson and Family (L) Filadelfo Zarate and Family (L), Imelda Cortes and Family (L)	
Sat.	8:00	Roger Erspan, Lorrie Proctor Fr. Jose Gonzalez	
	5:00	Pro Populo	
	7:00	Emma and Ignacio Gonzalez and Family (L) Jose Socorro Palacio, Maria de Jesus Carrion Animas Benditas del Purgatorio	
Sun.	7:30	Edith and Ambrose Gondola, Aladino Marcucci	
	9:00	Theresa and Henry Morth, Richard Kingsbury Stella and David Cosenza	
	10:30	Earl Dolcini, Richard Kingsbury	
	12:00	Arelin and Leslie Jimenez (L), Juan Sanchez Ortega Mario Herrera, Adolfo Martinez, Ana Carreño	

**Dear Fellow Parishioners,**

This Second Week of Advent, now coming to an end, includes the celebration the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As you can see from the inside of the church, the spirit of the feast is still with us, and never quite leaves us. In addition to the temporary shrine, I believe her permanent image at the front wall of our church is the only image added since the construction of the “new” St. Vincent de Paul Church in 1926.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe commemorates the appearances of the Blessed Virgin to a native Mexican man, Juan Diego, who had become a convert to the Catholic faith. On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan on Tepeyac Hill, which is now part of Mexico City. She appeared to him again on December 12 and urged Juan Diego to take her message to the local bishop. To offer proof that the visions were genuine, Mary told Juan Diego to gather the flowers he found blooming there in mid-December. When Juan Diego appeared before the Bishop, he opened his cloak and the gathered flowers came cascading down. On the emptied cloak was the famous image of the Blessed Mother, the very same cloth and image now on display in the Basilica of OLG.

In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV set today, December 12, as the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 2002, Pope John Paul II traveled to Mexico City to canonize Juan Diego near the site where the visions occurred centuries before, making him the earliest born saint of the Americas.

After a series of shrines was built on the site to display the miraculous image, the first basilica was completed in 1709. When the original basilica became unsafe because of sinking foundations, a new basilica was completed in 1976. Since the new basilica is circular in shape, the image is now visible from nearly any place inside. It normally seats 10,000 people, but can be configured to seat 40,000, not including 9 smaller chapels which seat 200 each. As many as 24 Masses are celebrated there daily. I once was honored to concelebrate Mass at the main altar in 1988. It is the second most heavily visited Catholic holy place in the world, right after St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

The historical, social and spiritual significance of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, the U.S. and much of Latin America cannot be overstated, uniting native mysticism with Catholic faith. In the image, she is supported by an angel whose wings are also symbolic of one of the major gods of the native religion. Until she appeared, theirs was a European church transplanted in Mexico – with European images, religious practices, and clergy – and colonial overlords. She came out of nowhere as a “mestiza” – a virgin of mixed European and indigenous race – and so freed a whole new people to see itself as beloved children of God, now under the protection of one like themselves.

Happy Gaudete Sunday!

**Blessings, Fr Bill Donahue**

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

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



**THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be this Monday, December 15th at 7 pm.

#### ST. VINCENT de PAUL PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21st  
Regular Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 24 -- Christmas Eve  
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm  
7:30 pm (Spanish)  
Christmas Carols 9:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25 -- Christmas Day  
7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am  
12:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
Regular Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025  
7:00pm Spanish

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
8:00 am, Eng. and 10:00am (Bilingual)  
A Holy Day of Obligation

#### THE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE to honor our



loved ones who have passed will be Monday, December 22nd. This event will begin at 7 pm with Christmas music followed by the service at 7:30 pm in the church. This is truly a very special evening. There will be angel ornaments before the service, at the entrance of the church, where you can write the names of your loved ones who have passed. You can hang them on the Christmas trees in the church or take them to decorate your Christmas tree at home.

**OUR SYMPATHIES** go out to the families of Juan Raynaldo Chavez who passed away November 13th, Richard Freeman Kingsbury who passed away November 16th, and Elma Yadi-ra Chavez Morales who passed away November 10th. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available at all the entrances of the church. Every year we rely on your flower donations to decorate our beautiful church. Remember your loved ones by writing their names on the envelope.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Our parish Bible study, Jesus: The Way, The Truth, and The Life meets Tuesdays 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm Dec. 16, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10 and 17. You are welcome to join at anytime! Please contact Joanne Ferris jfer-rispetaluma@gmail.com or call 707-481-6431.

#### PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$11,898
On-Line Giving	2,430
Total	\$14,328

The collection for the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception was \$1,261.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

There is a second collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

**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 at the entrance of the church. For more information, call the rectory at 707-762-4278.

**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 – 7 pm.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** - Elo Carrillo, Mary Barber, Irene Carnazola, Rudy Campos, Andy Azzaro, Colin Lagos, and Michelle Paskal.

**ST. VINCENT'S GIVING TREE FOR 2025:** The Giving Tree project will benefit the Angel Food Network, Birthright of Petaluma, and our own St. Vincent de Paul Society. These organizations provide outreach to our community. When you take a tag off the Giving Tree, please make sure you tape the tag onto the gift. Please do not take a tag unless you definitely plan to buy a gift. Do NOT wrap the gift. Return gifts to the church on Sunday and put them on the table next to the altar when you are called forward to bring up your gifts. During the week, you may bring gifts to the rectory from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. All gifts must be returned NO later than Friday, December 19th. For any questions, please call the office at 762-4278.

**THE CHANTICLEER CONCERT** - On Thursday, December 18th, Chanticleer returns to St. Vincent's Church. A Chanticleer Christmas is a treasured holiday tradition, bringing the beauty and wonder of the season to audiences near and far. By the glow of candlelight, voices soar in harmony, weaving together centuries of music that illuminate the joy, mystery, and spirit of Christmas. From moments of hushed reverence to rousing celebration, this beloved program offers a musical embrace of the season's most cherished sentiments. Join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year! Performances at 5 pm and 7:30 pm. For more information or to get tickets, go to [www.chanticleer.org](http://www.chanticleer.org).