

**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 21, 2025

Mass intentions during December 22nd - 28th

Mon.	8:00	Anthony "Tony" Cheever, Nicholas and Geraldine Borgia Holy Souls
Tues.	8:00	Ben Gonzalez and Family (L), Bonifacio Gonzalez
Wed.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), George Bordi (L)
Christmas Eve Masses:		
	4:00	The Alvarez Porras Family (L)
	6:00	-
	7:30	The Diaz Arango Family (L), Bonifacio Gonzalez
	10:00	-
Christmas Day:		
Thurs.	7:30	Caley J. Brown, The Arnold Family, Al Kardos The Lavio-Manni Family
	9:00	Felisbina and Antonio Pardal, Evelyn and John Pedroni Jerry Dixon, Frederic Holden
	10:30	The Ruiz Family (L), Erv Giacomini, Theresa and Henry Morth
	12:00	La Familia Puga Alvarez (L), Maria de Jesus Gonzalez Maria de Jesus Trujillo, Ignacio Romo Covarrubias
Fri.	8:00	Maria Cristina Ruiz (L), Pat Doherty, Jan Eshleman Chuck Sackett, Francelina and Manuel V. Lopes
Sat.	8:00	John and David Ramirez and Family (L), Jesus Carrillo
	5:00	Ron Herigan and Family (L), Richard Kingsbury, Virginia Sled
	7:00	Alejandro and Luis Martinez (L), Mauricio Velazquez (L) Cinorina Lopez, Esther Puentes, Miguel Herrera Chavez
Sun.	7:30	Edna and Gino Petroni
	9:00	Rosa Maria Martinez (L), Fr. Jose Gonzalez
	10:30	Judy Spencer, Inocencia Carrillo, Earl Dolcini Robert Michael Donahue
	12:00	Arelin and Leslie Jimenez (L), Catalina Ortiz Jimenez Daniel Perez Castellanos, Mario Herrera Valerio Cervantes Valencia

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18-24

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly 10 years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20). When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Prayer for Christmas



Dear Lord,
You came to us in humility and silence, setting aside your majesty
so that we might approach with wonder.
Allow us to grow ever closer to you this Christmas, and always.

Amen.

Christmas Gifts

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22ND - 28TH

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
 Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/
 Lk 1:67-79
 Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/
 Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$8,768
On-Line Giving	4,498
Total	\$13,266

The second collection last weekend for the Retirement Fund for the Religious was \$4,723.

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection next 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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, SVES would like to extend warm wishes to our school and parish community for a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

We sincerely thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. Your involvement helps strengthen our school community and our shared mission of faith, learning, and service.

As we look to the New Year, we invite families in the parish and wider community to learn more about Catholic education and consider the many opportunities a Catholic school offers for the growth of the whole child.

May this holy season bring peace, hope, and blessings to you and your loved ones throughout the coming year.

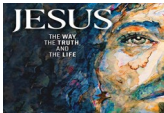
www.svelem.org



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 from Tuesdays 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, and 17. You are welcome to join at anytime! Please contact Joanne Ferris jferrispetaluma@gmail.com or call 707-481-6431.



WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD GOES TO THE MOVIES!



Wine, Women & Word
 Petaluma Catholic Community
 Gatherings
 We invite all women of faith for social rights of fun and fellowship!



Join us at the Boulevard Cinemas 200 C Street on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 12:00 noon. Screening of "Triumph of the Heart," released in September 2025, tells the story of the final days of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Auschwitz, focusing on his selfless act of taking another prisoner's place in a starvation bunker. The story highlights his heroic sacrifice and his role as a martyr, a topic that has inspired devotion and led to his canonization in 1982. No charge for admission. This screening is being underwritten through the generosity of an anonymous person. Seating is limited to 60. Please RSVP to Melissa Cabanas (312) 213-5156 mccabanas@hotmail.com



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Wednesday, Dec. 24th, Thursday, Dec. 25th, and Friday, Dec. 26th.

THE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE to honor our



loved ones who have passed will be tomorrow, 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.

CONFESSIONS are held in the church on Thursdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 3:30 pm; please enter through the confessional (left) side. Confessions are canceled Thursday, Dec. 25th.

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 - Msgr. Daniel Whelton, Elo Carrillo, Mary Barber, Irene Carnazola, Rudy Campos, Andy Azzaro, Colin Lagos, and Michelle Paskal.

