

**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 28, 2025**

**Mass intentions during December 29th - January 4th**

Mon.	8:00	Maria Barajas Gutierrez (L) David and Yvonne Vattuone
Tues.	8:00	Maria Barajas Gutierrez (L), Dolores Kelly Hons
Wed.	8:00	Maria Barajas Gutierrez (L)
Thurs.	8:00	Maria Barajas Gutierrez (L)
Fri.	8:00	Maria Lopez and Family (L), The Alcaraz Family (L)
Sat.	8:00	Lili Calvillo (L) In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Christina Goodman
	5:00	Cristina Ruiz and Family (L), Mark Kostielney
	7:00	Lily Alcaraz (L), Moises Velazquez, Mauricio Velazquez Rafael Martin, Teresita Aguado Sanchez
Sun.	7:30	Pro Populo
	9:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Robert and Ellen Holden Edward Anacleto, Antonio and Felisbina Pardal Frank Huddleston
	10:30	Chuck and Sue Hawkins
	12:00	Guadalupe Rojas (L) Antonio Martinez Sagrero, Teresita Aguado Sanchez Rosalina Solis Padilla, Eloisa Gutierrez

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy

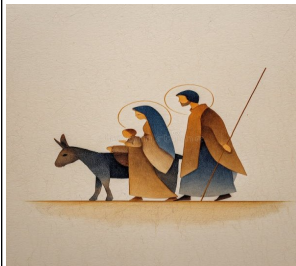
Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence. — Father John Muir ©LPi

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

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini-reflection:** If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this: God had other plans.



**Other Plans:**

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get really crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans. ©LPi

**WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD GOES TO THE MOVIES!** Join us at the Boulevard Cinemas 200 C Street



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

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 donor. Seating is limited to 60.

Please RSVP to Melissa Cabanas (312) 213-5156 [mccabanas@hotmail.com](mailto:mccabanas@hotmail.com).

# READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29TH - JANUARY 4TH



Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18  
 Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34  
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2025

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

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



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** on Thursday, January 1, 2026 and Friday, January 2, 2026.

**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, January 1st.**



**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. **Adoration is canceled Thursday, January 1st.**



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



**OUR SYMPATHIES** go out to the families of Frank Huddleston who passed away October 17th and Wilberth Gongora who passed away December 8th. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



**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 & the Rosary, then Holy Mass, followed by 15 min Scripture Meditation on Saturday, January 3, 2026. For any questions, please contact Lilian Dubow at (510) 205-3712 or at Lilian.Dubow@gmail.com or go to www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org.



**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.



## PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$9,925
On-Line Giving	1,710
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,635</b>

The collection for the Feast Day of our Lady of Guadalupe was \$2,756.

**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 at the entrance of the church. For more information, call the rectory 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 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](http://www.svelem.org)

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Diocesan Men's Conference "Pray Without Ceasing" will be March 20th - 21st at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. Registration opens December 1st. For more information or to register, go to [www.srcatholicmen.org](http://www.srcatholicmen.org) or email Stephen Morris at [dsryouth@srdiocese.org](mailto:dsryouth@srdiocese.org)



**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.



**BIRTHRIGHT OF PETALUMA** - Do you need free diapers, bottles, baby clothes, maternity clothes, children's toys and more? Visit BIRTHRIGHT center in Petaluma, 370 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy. Open Monday - 1:30 - 3:30 pm, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am - 12 pm. For more information, please call 707-763-9888.

