

**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.**

January 4, 2026

<u>Mass intentions during January 5th - 11th</u>			The Epiphany of the Lord Matthew 2:1-12
Mon.	8:00	Marcia Ryan, Wilberth Gongora, Erhard Muench	<p>When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.</p> <p>When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.</p> <p>That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.</p> <p>The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.</p> <p align="right">— Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Wilberth Gongora, Maureen Taverna	
Wed.	8:00	Emma Van Bramer (L) Wilberth Gongora	
Thurs.	8:00	Noelia Gonzalez (L)	
Fri.	8:00	Betty Bishop, OFS	
Sat.	8:00	-	
	5:00	Jim Doolittle, Jerry Ryan, Richard Kingsbury	
	7:00	Jose Antonio Arteaga (L), Veronica Martin (L) Catalina Briseño Gomez (L) Miguel Herrera Chavez	
Sun.	7:30	Norbert Galego (L)	
	9:00	Pro Populo	
	10:30	Maureen Taverna	
	12:00	Arelin and Leslie Jimenez (L) The Jimenez Garcia Family (L) Enriqueta F. Chumpitaz, Florencia Martinez	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

By the time you read this, we will have concluded the majority of our Christmas celebrations, though some families go on to celebrate in some way the “Twelve Days of Christmas” – that interlude between Christmas and Epiphany. And to the relief of many of our youngest parishioners, the “Elf on the Shelf” returns to the North Pole to stay, to prepare for next Christmas.

The “Elf on the Shelf” is, as they say today, “a thing.” It arose from a 2005 book by that name. A little imagination, plus an aggressive sales campaign, can go a long way. I asked the children at the Christmas Eve Mass for a show of hands of those whose homes had an “Elf on the Shelf.” Nearly all hands went up!

Once the family gives its elf a name, he receives Christmas magic and is ready to begin his surveillance activity. In the time leading up to Christmas, it is the elf’s mission to watch the little kids during the day, and then fly to the North Pole at night to report to Santa whether they have been naughty or nice. The elf changes his location in the house every day. Children may address their wishes to the elf, but must not touch him, lest he lose his magical powers to deliver those wishes to Santa.

Needless to say, there are now “experts” claiming that it’s harmful for children, that it adds to their holiday stress, and conditions them to accept the notion of a surveillance state full of cameras and snitches. Good grief!

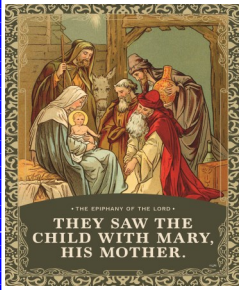
On a more serious note, as 2025 comes to a close, many news networks are featuring “In Memoriam” segments, listing people who have died over the past year, including Pope Francis. At a much more personal level, many parish families celebrated Christmas for the first time after the passing of a loved one. On the much brighter side, other families celebrated Christmas for the first time after the arrival of a child or grandchild.

Finally, January 1st is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Pope Leo XIV’s message was issued on December 8, 2025, the 60th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II. On the subject of peace, he wrote, “Goodness is disarming. Perhaps this is why God became a child.” Elsewhere he wrote, “An essential service that religions must render to a suffering humanity is to guard against the growing temptation to weaponize even thoughts and words...Today, we see that this cannot be taken for granted. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly common to drag the language of faith into political battles, to bless nationalism, and to justify violence and armed struggle in the name of religion.” The full text of this message is on the Vatican website in multiple languages.

I wish you all a blessed final week of this Christmas season, and a blessed and healthy 2026.

Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5TH - 11TH



Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/
Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a
and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket \$7,223
On-Line Giving 5,532
Total \$12,755

The second collection last weekend for the Maintenance Fund was \$5,761.

The collection for Christmas was \$31,112.

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Church in Latin America.

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 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



WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD GOES TO THE MOV-



IES! 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 donor. Seating is limited to 60. Please RSVP to Melissa Cabanas (312) 213-5156 mccabanas@hotmail.com.

ST. VINCENT'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CRAB



FEED: Sponsored by your St. Vincent's Knights of Columbus Council #11431, will be Saturday, January 31, 2026. Tickets will be available for purchase after all weekend masses-look for your friendly Knights of Columbus at the water fountain. Dinner includes salad, pasta, bread, dessert and fresh Dungeness Crab, Crab, Crab! The Crab feed will be at St. Vincent de Paul College Prep, 849 Keokuk St, Petaluma. Doors open for no-host cocktails at 6:00 pm and feeding frenzy starts at 7:15 pm. Tickets are STILL \$75!! Cash, Check or Credit cards accepted. Questions? Need Tickets - Call Kevin Johnson 619-993-3687 or Ron Beltramo 510-725-2706

CONFESSIONS are held in the church on Thursdays at 6 pm and on 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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Josephine Marie Bottini, David Antonio Mattos, Jr., and Adelene Cuevas-Suarez who received the Sacrament of Baptism.



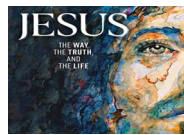
PLEASE PRAY FOR - Norbert Galego, Msgr. Daniel



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

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Juan Carlos De Leon Mazariegos who passed away December 18th. May the soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

BIBLE STUDY: Our parish Bible study, Jesus: The Way, The Truth, and The Life, meets on Tuesdays from 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.



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



BIRTHRIGHT OF PETALUMA - Do you or someone you know 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. The office is located around the back in the Church of Christ building (no affiliation to the church).

