

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.

March 8, 2026

<u>Mass intentions during March 9th - 15th</u>			3rd Sunday of Lent John 4:5-42
Mon.	8:00	Lili Alcaraz and Family (L) Mario Gongora, Louise Macdonald Rita Freir	<p>Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, “Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way.” That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work.</p> <p>Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.</p> <p>In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: “One sows and another reaps” (John 4:37). He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.</p> <p>This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.</p> <p>Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Marcia Ryan, John Macdonald David Macdonald	
Wed.	8:00	Kathy Hooper and Family (L) David Andrade, Ron Coleman	
Thurs.	8:00	John H. Adams, Jr.	
Fri.	8:00	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
Sat.	8:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Leda Sturla (L) Babe Sturla	
	5:00	Pro Populo	
	7:00	Noemi Velazquez (L) Osbelia Velazquez (L) Mauricio Velazquez (L), Moises Velazquez	
Sun.	7:30	Norbert Galego, Dorothy Marcucci May Lew	
	9:00	Jodi Fitzgerald (L), Leda Sturla (L) Gloria Pizzinelli	
	10:30	Nina Respini, Clara Terzi	
	12:00	Mabelle Angel (L) Mario Herrera, Ramon Ochoa Diaz	

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: Before the Incarnation, God looked down from Heaven and said, “You are thirsty. Here is something to drink.” After the Incarnation, God sits down beside us and says, “I’m thirsty. Give me something to drink.”



When God asks for Water

One of my earliest memories is of my mother weeping.

The last few months of her pregnancy with my little brother were tremendously painful for her, and more than once the pain brought her to tears. I have a hazy image of her in my mind, belly swollen with a 12-pound baby lying transverse in the womb, sitting on the edge of her bed, dabbing at her face with toilet paper.

I had brought her the toilet paper. I would do that when I saw her crying, to wipe away her tears. I have a hazy memory of that, too — of the way my heart was wrenched by the sight of her suffering, of my desperation to do something to help, and of my immense satisfaction when she would take the toilet paper, smile and say, “Oh, thank you, sweetheart!” as if I had just airlifted her out of a war zone.

What a powerful gift to give to a child still learning the meaning of compassion and selflessness — the gift of being able to feel that she has, even in some small way, “rescued” a person she worships. Her smile of gratitude lives, immortal, in my mind, along with the swell of satisfaction it produced in the deepest corner of my heart. This was when I learned that it feels good to help people, and this memory is a perpetually replenished well of living water for me. I draw from it daily, three decades later.

This is a gift that Christ gives, over and over again, in the Gospels. He allows us to encounter him tired, afraid, sad and hungry. Omnipotent power subjected to the utter vulnerability of human form.

Before the Incarnation, God looked down from Heaven and said, “You are thirsty. Here is something to drink.”

After the Incarnation, God sits down beside us and says, “I’m thirsty. Give me something to drink.”

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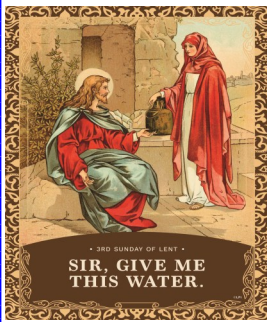
PILGRAMIGE TO FRANCE: Fr. Raul Lemus, the pastor of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Cotati, invites you on a pilgrimage through some of the holy sites of France October 19 - 29, 2026. The pilgrimage sites will



be two nights in Lourdes (where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858), one night in Avignon (where the popes lived from 1309-1377), one night in Paray Le Monial (where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received the promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus), one night in Nevers (the resting place of St. Bernadette Soubirous), four nights in Paris (our Mass in Paris will be at the

Miraculous Medal Shrine of St. Catherine Laboure), and Lisieux (a day trip in our tour bus while in Paris to visit the resting place of St. Therese of Lisieux). The trip concludes with a free day in Paris to shop and enjoy sites on your own. The cost is \$5,499, which includes airfare, hotel accommodation, tour bus, tour guides, breakfast and all dinners, except for one dinner in Paris. This will be a bilingual pilgrimage in English and in Spanish. For more information, please visit www.sjccotati.org and scroll down to the pilgrimage information link. You can also call Fr. Raul Lemus at 707-795-4807 ext. 113 or email atapastor@sjccotati.org. You can also visit www.unitours.com/showtrip.aspx?tripid=2774.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9TH—15TH



Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/
Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,
8-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 1
9-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/
Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9,
10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/
Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a,
3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1,
6-9, 13-17, 34-38

St. Vincent's Church Confirmation Masses 2026

On **Saturday March 21st** the Most Reverend Bishop Robert Vasa will celebrate the Confirmation Masses at St. Vincent's Church. **The English Confirmation Mass will be at 10 am** and the **Spanish Confirmation Mass will be at 1 pm.** Confirmation rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, March 18th: 5:30 pm** for the English Mass and **7 pm** for the Spanish Mass.



The Lenten Penance Service this year will be on Monday, March 16th at 7 pm. You are invited to come to this service to prepare for the season of Easter.

EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES are available at the entrance of the church. It's a great opportunity to have your loved ones remembered by making a donation to help decorate our beautiful church for the Easter season.



CRS RICE BOWLS—Please return your rice bowls on Palm Sunday, March 29th. For more information, go to crsrice-bowl.org.

ST. VINCENT'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS - are held on Fridays at 7:30 pm in the church from February 20th through March 27th. Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3rd, will be at 3:30 pm. Deacon Jim Carr will lead the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.

ST. VINCENT'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS has purchased two AED, Automated External Defibrillator, devices. One located in the church, and the other in the hall. Our council is offering training for its members, Rectory staff, and interested parishioners. Training will be offered by a member of our council (Tony Bendik) who is also a San Francisco Firefighter. Training is scheduled for March 12th at 7:30 pm in the parish hall, first floor meeting area. Please notify David Lee, at sp8cfan@gmail.com, if you plan to attend.



PLEASE PRAY FOR - Harry Mills, Mabelle Angel, Melvin LaFranchi, Karen Gronberg, Rosie Greeott, Alexine Silveira, Mary Barber, Irene Carnazola, Colin Lagos, and Michelle Paskal.



OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Norberto Galego who passed away February 6th. May the soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
Sunday Basket \$12,113
On-Line Giving 2,890
Total \$15,003

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

At our Catholic school, rooted in the teachings of the Church and united with our parish community, we see Lent as a sacred opportunity to help our students grow into the people God created them to be.

Each day, our students encounter Christ not only in religion class, but through prayer, the Sacraments, and the loving witness of teachers who model the Gospel. What makes a Catholic education beautiful and unique is that faith is woven into every subject, every relationship, and every moment forming hearts as well as minds.

In partnership with our families and guided by the mission of the Catholic Church, we nurture academic excellence grounded in virtue, service, and compassion. Nowhere else will children be so intentionally formed to seek truth, grow in holiness, and use their God-given gifts to serve others with courage and joy.

If you are interested in exploring our Faith Based Education for TK-8th grade students please visit our website at www.svelem.org or call the office at 707-762-6426.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL: On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, Catholics from across California will gather in Sacramento for a sacred day of prayer, unity, and public witness with our California bishops. This gathering is meant for everyone - families, young adults, school communities, ministry leaders, and parish groups. It is an opportunity to make Lent visible and to stand together in hope at the center of our state's civic life. For more information about the event go to: <https://cacatholic.org/capitol/> or scan the QR code.



INVITATION TO MASS of the CHRISM: The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, along with the Diocesan and Religious priests of the Diocese, invite you to participate in the Mass of the Chrism at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS: The KOC Council #1586 St. James, will be awarding multiple \$1000 scholarships to seniors who plan to continue education after high school. Scholarship applications can be picked up at the parish office Monday through Friday during normal business hours. The deadline is April 20, 2025. There are no exceptions.