

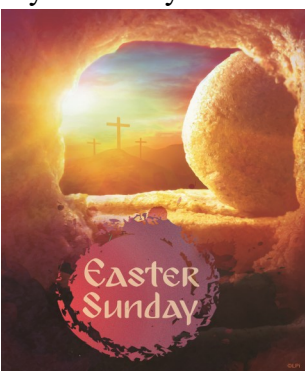
WE ARE A EUCHARIST CENTERED PEOPLE WHO, AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, LIVE OUR FAITH IN WORD AND DEED BY SHARING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND SERVE THOSE IN NEED.

April 5, 2026

<u>Mass intentions during April 6th - 12th</u>			<u>Easter Sunday (John 20:1-9)</u>
Mon.	8:00	-	<p>Zander Price was the fastest kid at my grade school. He won every race on Field Day. To me, his swiftness meant he was the greatest. Zander was the best. It's the same with the speediest Apostle on Easter morning. John tells us he "ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first." (John 20:4) But only after Peter entered did John go in, see the burial cloths, and believe. Here is a symbol of two dimensions of the Church. John, the beloved disciple, represents the contemplative, mystical life: affection, prayer, intimacy. Peter, the rock, represents the Church's institutional life: steady, authoritative, structured...but slower. Of course, John runs faster! Love is the heartbeat of Christian faith, so love will always arrive first. Peter's role is, in a sense, secondary. He arrives later, but is still very much needed. John waits for him. The Church must be built, balanced, protected, and led. Love without structure can vanish; structure without love becomes lifeless.</p> <p>This dynamic is not just historical — it is personal. In you, there is a John who longs to run to the tomb in love. Let him run! Pray, sing, love Jesus. There is also a Peter, who eventually gets to the tomb and takes charge. The Risen Christ wants both. Remember: if you want to get to the mystery of Jesus' resurrection fast...love him, for love is best. — Father John Muir ©LPi</p>
Tues.	8:00	Alexa Marie Ruiz (L), The Manni Family	
Wed.	8:00	Emma Van Bramer (L)	
Thurs.	8:00	Noelia Gonzalez (L), Bonifacio Gonzalez	
Fri.	8:00	Maria Lopez and Family (L)	
Sat.	8:00	The Alcaraz Family (L), Wilfred and Helen Fatooh	
	5:00	Guadalupe Ortega (L)	
Sun.	7:00	Agrinoalda Maria Costa, Charlie and Terry Petersen	
	7:30	Mark Kostielney, Tim Petersen, Richard Kingsbury	
	9:00	Altigracia Zavala, Rosalina Solis Padilla	
	10:30	Pro Populo	
	12:00	Edward Anacleto, John H. Adams, Jr. Mary Amerata Salvador Zendejas, Trig Lind, Phoebe Isaac Mario Herrera, Ramon Ochoa Diaz Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

By the time you read this, we will all have passed with our Lord through his passion and death, to his resurrection. It is the most spiritually intense three days of the entire year – not only because of the events themselves, but also because the pattern of the death and resurrection of Jesus is experienced many times over throughout the course of our own lives.



During these days, there is a tendency to focus on Jesus' physical pain manifested in the brutality with which he died. That is an important aspect of the Passion, but we must also make a distinction between physical pain and spiritual suffering. For example, Mary did not carry a cross or suffer condemnation, but her suffering was great.

Modern medicine can do a lot to reduce physical pain. As modern people, we practically demand that medical treatment, to the extent possible, be pain-free and even done under anesthesia. Not so in Jesus's time. In those days, people accepted levels of physical pain that we would find unthinkable. Surgery and childbirth took place without modern pain relief and was to do so for many more centuries to come. I suspect that the aspect of the Passion that spoke most strongly to people in those days was spiritual suffering – the scandal of being betrayed, abandoned, humiliated. The pain of loss. There can be no greater spiritual desolation than to feel abandoned by God. That is spiritual death, worse than any other kind of death. The Gospels and the Holy Week liturgies look at those realities directly in the face without flinching. The Triduum is the shortest season by design, as we cannot look at the Passion events any longer than we can stare at a solar eclipse.

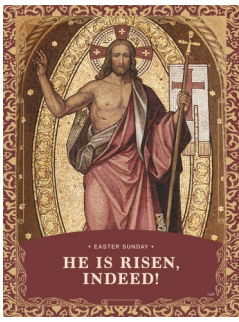
That is a big part of the strange attractiveness of the Catholic faith. Unlike modern self-help or the "prosperity gospel." It doesn't promise freedom from pain or suffering, but gives them a context and meaning – which cannot be found elsewhere.

I mention this now because the Church in many areas of the U.S., is experiencing a significant increase in numbers of people who want to look into, and to convert to, the Catholic faith. This past week, the New York Times featured an article, "Roman Catholic Churches See A Surge Of New Converts." Parishes and dioceses across the country are seeing this, most notably among those 18-35 years old. (This phenomenon seems to be happening mainly in the Catholic and Orthodox churches.) The reasons given vary and seem to be highly personal – including the sense of isolation and internal void that cannot be filled, to wanting to have faith to pass down to their children, to needing basic guidance on how to live. There are currently two highly influential factors that didn't exist when I was ordained: Catholic media and podcasts, and the Catholic Catechism.

I wanted to end this Pastor's Desk on a very positive note – after all, it's Easter!

Blessings, Fr. Bill Donahue

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 6TH - 12TH



Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

ST. VINCENT'S ENGLISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Student Programs are taking an Easter Holiday break.

- April 5th: No Children's Liturgy.
- April 5th: No PreK & K classes.
- After School programs on Tuesday and Wednesday are still on break the week April 5th, student classes resume Tuesday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 15.

We are asking for students and their families to attend Easter Sunday Holy Mass.

As they seek new life in the Catholic faith, we pray they will continue growing in their faith and share it with those who need it most. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God" Matthew 5:8.

Have a Blessed Easter, Carmen Aanenson
707-762-4278 ext 114; email dreaanenson@gmail.com

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, April 6th (Easter Monday). Happy 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Roman Nolasco, Grace Smith, Benito Lopez, Harry Mills, Rosie Greeott, Alexine Silveira, Mary Barber, Irene Carnazola, Colin Lagos, and Michelle Paskal.



WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD will be gathering on Thursday, April 23 at St. Vincent Parish Hall. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the program runs 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. All women of faith are welcome. Our theme will be: "Where is Your Pilgrimage?" How do you walk with Jesus the other six days.



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

WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD BOOKCLUB: Our next selection to read is Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. Discussion will be May 14 at 6 pm. Location TBA.

PART-TIME SPANISH TEACHER for Grades (5-8): St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School is seeking a part-time Spanish teacher for grades 5-8 who will support students' academic growth and Christian formation by modeling Catholic values in and out of the classroom. Candidates should be organized, professional, and committed to the mission and policies of the Diocese of Santa Rosa and the school community. Please contact the principal, Mr. Joseph Clapp, if interested in applying (707) 762-6426.

ST. ROSE CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL is looking for new team members. If you have ECE credits and are interested learning more, please contact the Preschool Director at: srpredirector@sonic.net

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket	\$10,489
On-Line Giving	1,803
Total	\$12,292

The second collection last weekend for the St. Vincent de Paul Society was \$6,546.

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Catholic Home Missions.

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'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



As we enter into the sacred days of Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter, all of us at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School would like to extend our heartfelt prayers and gratitude to our parish community.

This season reminds us of the deep love and sacrifice at the heart of our faith, and it is a special time for our students to reflect, grow, and draw closer to Christ. Throughout the year, our school is blessed to form young hearts and minds not only in academic excellence, but in the values of compassion, service, and faith that define our Catholic identity.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support, prayers, and involvement of our parish. Your presence strengthens our mission and helps us nurture a vibrant, faith-filled learning environment where students are encouraged to live the Gospel each day.

As we pause for Easter break, we pray that this Holy Week brings peace to your hearts and renewal to your spirits. May the joy of the Resurrection fill your homes with hope and blessings.

If you or someone you know is seeking a faith-centered education rooted in strong values and community, we warmly invite you to learn more about St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School. We would be honored to welcome new families into our school community.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS: Both of the Petaluma KoC Councils (#1586 St James and #11431 St Vincent), 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 M - F. The deadline for this scholarship is April 20th. There are no exceptions.

FREE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

FOR SENIORS: Join a free 2-part emergency preparedness workshop plus free go-bag with emergency supplies. The two-part workshop (which will be translated in Spanish for Spanish speakers) will be offered: Th., April 9, 11 am - 1 pm and Th., April 23, 1 - 3 pm at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma. Register online at emergencyprephelp.org/events. More information and a QR code can be found on the parish bulletin boards.

