

**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.**

August 16, 2026

Mass intentions during August 17th - 23rd

Mon.	8:00	Rose Ann Greeott (L), Tony Fanara, Holy Souls
Tues.	8:00	Elizabeth Garcia and Family (L) Kiki Baumgarten (L)
Wed.	8:00	Jose Cornejo (L), Claire Gibson and Family (L)
Thurs.	8:00	Kiki Baumgarten (L) Evelyn and John Pedroni Manuel V. and Francelina Lopes
Fri.	8:00	Orfelinda Diaz de Zamora Federico Zamora Davalos
Sat.	8:00	-
	5:00	Norbert and Pauline Andres, Sharon Almeida Dora Sherwood, Georgia Cort
	7:00	The Arango Perez Family (L) Jovanny Cisneros (L)
		Roberto Roa, Raquel Valencia, Pedro Alvarez
Sun.	7:30	Douglas and Michael Dolcini Jim Ceresa, Jane Marovich
	9:00	Gabriel and Vicki Naal and Family (L) Agrinoalda Maria Costa, Philis Ann Keener
	10:30	Gloria Rodriguez, Jose Cisneros
	12:00	Ignacio and Emma Gonzalez and Family (L) Jose Maria Lopez, Olivia Lopez

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 15:21-28

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David." At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. "Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Jesus' silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, "O woman, great is your faith," it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?

— Father John Muir ©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.



It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

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WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD:

Our 10th Anniversary gathering will be on Sunday, September 27, from 1 - 3 pm, at St. James Parish Center.



**Wine, Women
& Word**

Petaluma Catholic Community
Gatherings

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



Our anniversary party theme honors the Blessed Mother: "She said Yes!" Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" Luke 1:38. All women of faith from St. Vincent's and St. James' parishes are invited. In lieu of an "anniversary gift" we invite you to bring household items for Welcome Home Baskets for clients of COTS moving into permanent housing. If you have questions, or for more information, please contact Melissa Cabanas at 312-213-5156 or email at mccabanas@hotmail.com.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH - 23RD



Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22
 Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd - 28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30
 Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1- 3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16
 Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14
 Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
 Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12
 Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/ Mt 16:13-20

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:
 Sunday Basket \$10,559
 On-Line Giving 2,238
 Total 12,797

The second collection last weekend for the Diocesan Seminarians was \$4,542.

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'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2026-2027

Registrations for the English Religious Education Program have begun. You can pick up a registration form in the bell room at the church entrance or on the Rectory's front porch. Kindly return the completed form and fee in a sealed envelope to the rectory office, attention Carmen Aanenson, Director of Religious Education. PLEASE NOTE: Carmen Aanenson is at the parish rectory Tuesday and Wednesday ONLY.

ALL in-person registrations for the Adult Confirmation, OCIA, and English First Communion preparation have begun. They will continue on Saturday, August 22, and 29 in the parish hall from 9 - 11:30 am.

English First Communion Preparation classes begin Tuesday, September 8th and Wednesday, September 9th.

The PreK and K Program begins Sunday, September 27th.

The class for Adult Confirmation and OCIA begins Wednesday, September 23rd from 6 - 7 pm.

For more information, please call Carmen Aanenson, 707-762-4278 x114, dreaanenson@gmail.com or meet her at the in-person registration.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2026-2027

Registrations for the English and Spanish Confirmation program have begun. In-person registrations will be the following Saturdays in the parish hall from 9 - 11:50 am: August 22nd, 29th and Sept. 5th. If you're registering your child for 2nd Year Confirmation, **YOU MUST BRING A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE**, even if they were baptized at St. Vincent's Church. For more information, please call the parish office at 707-762-4278.



OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the families of Ana Maura Solar who passed away July 22, and Ramon Lopez Rodriguez who passed away June 22. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Henry Mills, Kiki Baumgarten, Rose Wooley, Lori Madrid, Colin Lagos, and Michelle Paskal.



CONFESSIONS are held in the church on Thursdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 3:30 pm; please enter through the confessional (left) side.

ST. VINCENT'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Back!

As we begin the 2026 - 2027 school year, we joyfully welcome our students, families, faculty, and staff back to our Catholic school community!

May this new year be filled with God's abundant blessings as we grow together in faith, academics, and service to others. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our classrooms, inspire our hearts, and strengthen our commitment to living the Gospel each day.

A Blessing for Our Faculty and Staff:

Heavenly Father, bless our dedicated faculty and staff with wisdom, patience, joy, and strength. May they be instruments of Your love, leading with compassion, teaching with excellence, and inspiring every student to discover the gifts You have placed within them. Fill our school with peace, hope, and the light of Christ throughout this new year. Amen.

Here's to a year of learning, growing, serving, and becoming all God has called us to be.

Welcome back—and may God bless our entire school family!



CONGRATULATIONS - to Mason William Rieger who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Thursday mornings after the weekday mass for one hour, and the first Thursday evening of the month, from 6 - 7 pm.

WINE WOMEN AND WORD BOOK CLUB: The Selection: Death Comes for the Archbishop, by Willa Cather, a 1927 novel based on two historical figures of the late 19th century, Jean-Baptiste Lamy and Joseph Projectus Machebeuf, and their attempt to establish a diocese in the New Mexico territory. Discussion will be on October 8, at 6 pm at Amanda's home, 900 Gossage Avenue, Petaluma.



WEEKLY INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY: Free bags of groceries are provided to low-income families and individuals in Petaluma through the Petaluma Interfaith Pantry every Thursday evening at 5 pm at the Elim Lutheran Church Hall, 504 Baker Street. No paperwork needed; we serve all in need. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please call 762-4081.