

**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.**

September 13, 2026

<u>Mass intentions during September 14th - 20th</u>			Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 18:21-35
Mon.	8:00	Holy Souls	In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, "You know, you don't have to say 'sorry' so often." She looked me right in the eyes and said, "Father, you're right. I'm sorry." Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it. The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter's question, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus responds, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." In other words, Peter, stop counting. Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another. How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score. Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it. — Father John Muir ©LPi
Tues.	8:00	-	
Wed.	8:00	Familia Alvarez (L) Familia Alvarez Puga (L)	
Thurs.	8:00	Ramiro Mora, David Ochoa Esteban Ochoa	
Fri.	8:00	-	
Sat.	8:00	-	
	5:00	Sharon Almeida	
	7:00	Isaías and Guadalupe Contreras Cesar Morales, Nicolas Gutierrez David and Esteban Ochoa	
Sun.	7:30	Norbert Galego	
	9:00	Gloria Rodriguez, Jose Cisneros Therese Mayes	
	10:30	Harold Mazza, Mary Gayle Starke Suart and Joanne Curtis	
	12:00	Jason Javier Cortez Sanchez Mario Herrera, Beatriz Alcaraz Francisco Ruiz Corona Benditas Almas del Purgatorio	

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Labor Day weekend has long been the informal end of summer. In the northern latitudes, there is distinct change at about August 15th, when the color and quality of light and air changes. Ages ago, I was passing through Minnesota toward the end of August, and it was still warm. But everything was bathed in the golden light of a sun now lower in the sky. This change in the quality of light comes to Sonoma County a little later in the season.

We should doubly count our blessings this year, since (so far) we've had a mild summer — even to the detriment of local tomato gardens. Huge swathes of the U.S. and Europe were battered by murderous heat waves which lasted days, and even weeks, on end. Ninety percent of U.S. households have some form of air conditioning. In Europe, the figure is 10%.

In pre-AC days, it was traditional in some parishes and dioceses to suspend preaching altogether for the summer, replaced by an article of spiritual interest in the bulletin. As a result, Sunday Masses could take as little as 35 minutes— or even less. For Catholics, the emphasis was on the sacramental dimension of the celebration. Some of us remember when what the priest did was not to preside over the Eucharist, but to "say Mass". Not long after I was ordained, I offered Mass in a suburban Boston parish. Afterwards, a very nice older lady said to me, "Fah-thah, you read such a nice Mee-ass. It was a slice of heaven!" "Reading Mass" is the even older term.

When I was growing up, I don't think there were any air conditioned schools, public or private, in Petaluma, despite the fact that you could count on one or two vicious heat waves after the new school year began. Our elementary school now has basic AC — not enough to refrigerate our students, but to take the edge off of the heat. You may notice that the elementary school is not perfectly centered on the property, but set at an angle, per Fr. Kiely's plans, to take full advantage of the sunlight and reduce utility bills. (Irish thrift.)

A final, unrelated point. For years, volunteers have been representing our parish with their work in the inter-faith Westside Food Pantry, operating out of Elim Lutheran Church up the street. It not only supplements the work of our own St. Vincent de Paul Society, but it creates an atmosphere of interfaith cooperation which I believe is an important part of our charitable and spiritual safety net here on the westside. There are already more than enough second collections, and we already have one every fifth Sunday for SvdP. You know how reluctant I have been to ask for money during Mass, so I will make an informal appeal here, and keep you informed. Our current arrearage is about \$450 that other churches (and one synagogue) are covering for us. If you would like to contribute along with me, please indicate on the "Note" line on your check your intention to share with the Westside Interfaith Pantry. You can drop it off at the office, or put it in the Sunday collection basket.

**Blessings for a restful Labor Day weekend,
Fr. Bill Donahue**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14TH - 20TH

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 19:25-27
or Lk 2:33-35
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15
Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

ST. VINCENT'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2026-2027:



All Catechists are invited to attend the Mass for Catechetical Sunday, September 20th at 9 am

The Junior High and High School classes begin Tuesday, September 15; Junior High at 3:45 pm and High School at 4 pm in the parish hall.

English First Communion Preparation Classes (1st - 6th grades) begin Wed., September 16 at 3:30 pm in the parish hall.

The PreK and K Programs begin Sunday, September 27th. **Registrations close September 28th.**

The Adult Confirmation and OCIA begins Wednesday, September 23rd from 6 - 7 pm. **Registrations close September 28th.**

For more information, please call Carmen Aanenson, 707-762-4278 x114, dreaanenson@gmail.com. **Please Note:** Carmen is available Tuesdays and Wednesdays only.

ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2026-2027:

All in-person registrations have been concluded. The last day to register your child for the Confirmation program is Wednesday September 16th. Stop by the parish office to pick up a registration. 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 and speak to Abraham Solar.

ST. VINCENT'S USHERS: The official mass attendance for the Diocese of Santa Rosa will be taken at ALL masses during the month of October 2026.

WINE, WOMEN, AND WORD: Our 10th Anniversary gathering will be on Sunday, September 27, from 1 - 3 pm, at St. James Parish Center. Our anniversary party theme honors the Blessed Mother, Mary. 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. For more information, please contact Melissa Cabanas at 312-213-5156. or email at mccabanas@hotmail.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE:



Looking to be equipped as a disciple and inspired for mission? Join catechists, ministers, and faith leaders for a day of renewal and formation at the Religious Education Congress, hosted by the Office of Faith Formation at Cardinal Newman High School. The day includes Mass followed by sessions with guest speakers Fr. Thomas Aquinas Pickett, O.P., Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig, Paul Senz, Fr. Robert McTeigue, S.J., and more. Register at srdiocese.org/recongress.

PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Last Sunday's offering:

Sunday Basket
On-Line Giving
Total

The second collection last weekend for the 2026 Missions Appeal or the Diocese of Guntar was

Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a second collection this weekend the St. Vincent's Church Religious Education Program.

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

Discover Our Catholic School

We are blessed to offer a vibrant TK through eighth grade Catholic school where faith, academic excellence, and service come together to form the whole child.

As we begin another school year, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for all that God has in store for our students, families, and teachers. We look forward to another wonderful year of learning, growing, and building a strong Catholic community together.

Our students are nurtured in a loving Catholic community where they grow in their relationship with Jesus, develop strong academic foundations, and learn the joy of serving others. Through daily prayer, faith formation, rigorous academics, and opportunities to live out the Gospel through service, our students are prepared to become compassionate, confident, and faith-filled young people.

We invite families in our parish and surrounding community to discover all that our school has to offer. From Transitional Kindergarten through eighth grade, we partner with parents to help each child grow in faith, knowledge, character, and a heart for service.



PLEASE PRAY FOR - Jason Flores, Frank and Marlene Hench, Richard Rains, Phyllis Johnson, Colin Lagos, and Michelle Paskal.

ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH HISPANIC COMMUNITY

invites you on Sunday, September 20th to come celebrate 45 years since the first Mass was celebrated in Spanish here. What started in 1981 from just a few Spanish speaking families, has grown to more than 1200 families. It will begin with Mass at 12 pm. After Mass there will be a gathering in the parish hall. If you would like to donate food or drinks for this event, please call Lorena at 707-338-3529 or Antonio at 707-241-6078.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION: Join us on Tuesday, September 22 from 9:30 am to 12 pm at the Hanna Center Auditorium, 1700 Arnold Drive, Sonoma CA 95476, for an informative and supportive caregiver forum featuring three engaging sessions designed to help navigate the dementia caregiving journey with greater confidence. More information and a QR code can be found in the bulletin boards at the entrance of the church. To register go to, tinyurl.com/caringwithconfidence.