



Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Ministering to the people in Rincon Valley and beyond

1244 St Francis Rd. Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Parish Office & Rectory: (707) 539-4495 FAX (707) 539-3343

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Pastoral Staff:

Fr Ron Serban, Pastor, Ext. 21

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Kathy Stoddard, Office Manager, Ext. 10

**Megan O' Neill, Director of Faith Formation (Grades 1-12),
Ext. 12, megan4soneill@yahoo.com**

Andrew Darrow, Liturgical Music, 539-4495

St Vincent de Paul Society, 537-7835

Joe Piasta, Men's Club, 576-7850 Ext. 102

Terri Forrest, Women's Club, 539-2881

Patty Edson, Holy Communion Visitation, 538-3208

Diane Bowman, Prayer Chain 539-9035

For other Ministerial Staff:

Please phone the office (707) 539-4495

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 5pm.

Sunday: 7:30 & 10:15 am.

Liturgy of the Word for Children: Sundays 10:15 am.

Weekdays: Mondays-Thursday & First Friday & First Saturdays 9am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

**Every Thursday and First Saturdays following 9 am Mass
or at the Rectory with an appointment**

For other Sacraments:

Please call the Parish Office

6 months in advance for Marriage

3 months in advance for Baptism

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 18 - 19, 2017

“What Ever Happened to Limbo?”

A few weeks ago I was preparing a married couple for the baptism of their child. In the course of the conversation, I mentioned 'Limbo' and that not only do we not teach its existence, but that it has never been a part of the 'official' teaching of the Church. It then further occurred to me that; 1. Perhaps many younger parishioners never heard of Limbo. And; 2. Perhaps some of the rest don't know the actual background or history of the concept. Which leads to the question.

“What Ever Happened To Limbo?”

Here's the short answer: while Purgatory (with a very different feel and a thoroughly revised understanding) remains very much a part of Catholic teaching and belief, Limbo does not. Just check out the official Catholic Catechism – it has 2,865 paragraphs. Purgatory gets three paragraphs; Limbo gets zero – not even a mention!

While the phrase to be “stuck in limbo” has become part of the English language, the theory of Limbo is linked in Church history with the question “What happens to un-baptized babies when they die”; given the teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation – what becomes of them and for that matter, what happens to good adults who led good lives but without faith or baptism?

The earliest church theologian to address that question had a brief and brutal answer. St. Augustine, who lived in the early 400's, taught that they are all in Hell, but in a corner of hell where the flames are not at their highest. (Geez -thanks a lot Augustine!)

Catholic theologians in the Middle Ages revised and softened that answer by developing a theory that there must be a place on the border or on the threshold between heaven and hell;
-the Latin word for border or threshold is Limbo!
These un-baptized infants and non-believing but very good grown-ups enjoy natural happiness but don't ever get home to be with God, some have likened it to

a celestial and eternal day care center (Still NOT Heaven, so, thanks a lot one more time!)

Five points can describe the Church's attitude today toward Limbo, when and if ever the subject comes up:

All this talk about Limbo was strictly a theory proposed and discussed by theologians in a day and age when people's reaction was “That sounds pretty reasonable to me.”

Today people's reaction, including theologians, is quite the opposite.

At no time was this theory proposed or defined as official church teaching or Christian belief (Although many of our grade school teachers from years ago would be very surprised to hear that and they certainly didn't tell me)

The theory of Limbo was based on a fundamentalist, literalist and mistaken interpretation of Christ's words on the necessity of baptism – this interpretation took “*Unless a man is born again of water and the spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God*” as restricting God and refusing God permission to be loving, saving and forgiving no matter what the circumstance.

It ignored a much more basic and central Catholic belief that God wills the salvation of every human being (Remember the Baltimore Catechism: *-God made us know him, love him and serve him in this world and to be happy with him in the next*).

The theory of Limbo missed the Bible's most direct answer to the fate of un-baptized infants who die young.

“Even if a mother forget her unborn child, I will not forget you,” says the Lord. [Ahh....Heaven At Last!] There's the best answer.

Limbo or what someone once called “*a workable solution to a sticky problem*” is not workable, nor is it a solution, nor is it credible. So...

“What Ever Happened To Limbo?”

Nothing – since it never really was....

Father Ron

MASS INTENTIONS — February 18 - 26:

Sat	18	5:00	Intentions of Katie Neal
Sun	19	7:30	+Cyril and Madeline Darling
		10:15	+Thomas Shanahan
Mon	20	9:00	Communion Service
Tue	21	9:00	Communion Service
Wed	22	9:00	Deceased of the Jacob Family
Thurs	23	9:00	+Francis Mori
Fri	24	9:00	+Margaret May and Loretta May
Sat	25	5:00	+Wil Davis
Sun	26	7:30	+Alexena and Adelard Lepire
		10:15	+Arlene Stevenson

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND THOSE WHO NEED

OUR PRAYERS: The intentions of the Holy Spirit Prayer Chain, Steve Straessler, Tristan Humble, Mauro DeTrizio, Kelly McGuire, Feliciano Llosa, Helen Hubbard, Joey Benjamin, Karen D'Ambrogi, Bonnie Clark, Adelina Hernandez, Clem Shanahan, Linda Escobar and Bruce Campbell.

FOR THE SOULS OF: Bernie Pola, Ysidor Sanchez, Hugh Dengler, Jeanne Huffman and Mary Kyncy.

COLLECTION THIS WEEK: \$6,506.00

SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEK:
Church in Central and Eastern Europe \$1,395.00

CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENTS for 2016 can be requested by calling or emailing the office.



MARCH 1ST

MASS WITH DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES
9 AM AND 6:30 PM

*All Ministries of Holy Spirit
are invited to join together for
Dinner and Festivities*

Friday, February 24th 6 pm

This is the last weekend to sign up on the clip board in the back of the church.

YOUTH MINISTRIES INFORMATION

Faith Formation Grades 1-6

Jesus asks us to go beyond treating others in the same way we want to be treated ourselves. He asks us to care for each other as God does—to love other people without expecting love in return and to even love to our enemies. This is an invitation that takes a lifetime to grow into and fulfill. It is a challenge for the family to keep this message alive in a world that puts a premium on competition and on being “better.” Check out pflaumweeklies.com to find your free resources designed for families in the continuing the Good News at home.

NO classes this Sunday due to the President's Day holiday.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

NO classes this Monday due to the President's Day holiday

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2ND YEAR

NO Confirmation class this Monday due to the President's Day holiday.

Tuesday night class (Feb.21st) will gather from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Holy Family Room. We will continue our preparation for Confirmation with “Why Do I Have to Go to Mass?”

High School Youth Ministry

All high school teens are invited to join us this Wednesday evening (Feb.22nd) from 7-8:30pm in the Holy Family Room. This week our Circle of Grace curriculum will be presented. Parents are welcome to attend or review the literature before the meeting.

**PLEASE JOIN THE
ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

**on Monday, February
27th at 11 am in the
Church. The Church will
be decorated for Lent.**



UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. **NO Jr. High Youth**, Mon., Feb. 20
2. **NO Confirmation 2nd Year Youth**, Mon., Feb. 20, 6:30-8:30pm in the Holy Family Room
3. **Confirmation 2nd Year Youth**, Tues., Feb. 21, 6:30-8:30pm, in the Holy Family Room
4. **Grades 1 and 2 Wednesday Class**, Wed., Feb. 22, 3:30-4:30 pm, in the Parish House
5. **6. High School Youth**, Wed., Feb. 22, 7-8:30pm, in the Holy Family Room
6. **Bible Study**, Thurs., Feb. 23, 7-8:30 pm, in the Parish House
7. **Men's Club "Father-Daughter Dinner"**, Tues., Feb. 21, 6 pm, in the Hall
8. **Ministries Appreciation Dinner**, Fri., Feb. 24, 6 pm, in the Hall (Last weekend to signup)
9. **Sacred Memories Meeting**, Sat., Mar. 4, 10 am, in the Parish House
10. **St Patrick's Day Dinner, HSMC & HSWC**, Fri., Mar. 17, 6 pm, in the Hall (Tickets on sale following mass)



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Server
Sat, Feb. 25 5 pm	K. Schmoll, J. Albers	K. Thompson, S. Simpson, P. O'Brien, D. Mollahan, E. Manfredi	M. DeMeo	A. Thompson I. Thompson
Sun., Feb. 26 7:30 am	S. Pola, L. Kubo	C. D-Hordyk, P. Edson, B. Connolly	K. Castro	
Sun., Feb. 26 10:15 am	S. Simpson, S. Duffy	D. Hobaugh, C. Griffin, M. Hoefl, P. Zack, B. Vidalin, K. Stevens, T. Pimentel	C. DePond G. Asti	J. Salvador B. Salvador
Children's Liturgy of the Word – Babette O'Shell				
Homebound Week of February 22: P. Edson, S. Ayres, T. Pimentel Friends House: Arlene Storm				

Holy Spirit Men's Club Father Daughter Dinner

*All Men of the Parish are invited!
Daughters young and old*

Tuesday--- February 21th 2016

Doors open at 6PM

Dinner at 6:30 pm (Early Start)

*Fun Food: Chicken, Hot Dogs W/
Mac and Cheese Ice Cream Sundaes*

☺Professional Clown Entertainment ☺

Professional photo booth for fun

Build Memories -- Share the love

Daughters and first time attendees eat free!

