

# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH OFFICE: 1244 St. Francis Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca 95409

Phone (707) 539-4495, FAX 707.539.3343

office@holyspiritsr.org Website: www.holyspirit-sr.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,

## Pastor

Father Ron Serban

## Deacon

John Storm 707.479.5424

[jstorm@srdiocese.org](mailto:jstorm@srdiocese.org)

## Liturgical Music Director

Francis Oliveira, [francis@holyspiritsr.org](mailto:francis@holyspiritsr.org)

## Director of Religious Education

Matt Conley, [matt@holyspiritsr.org](mailto:matt@holyspiritsr.org)

707.539.4495 ext.108

## Office Administrator

Ruth Canniff, [office@holyspiritsr.org](mailto:office@holyspiritsr.org)

## St. Vincent De Paul Society

707.537.7835, call Mon. 2-3:30 pm

## Men's Club

Jack Tolin, 707.695.4744

## Women's Club

Lynne DeCota, 707.981.8619

## Holy Communion Visitation

Ruth Canniff, 707.539.4495

## Prayer Chain

Diane Bowman. Call the office.

## Parish Finance Council Chair

Brian Connolly,

[brian@brianconnolly.net](mailto:brian@brianconnolly.net)

## Parish Advisory Council Chair

Loyde Johnson, [loydej@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loydej@sbcglobal.net)

707.921.9292

**SUNDAY NOV. 16-17, 2024**

## MASS & SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Weekday Mass:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., at 9 am

**Communion Service :** Tuesday at 9 am.

**Saturday Mass of Anticipation:** 5 pm

**Sunday Masses:** 8 am, 10:30 am

**1st Saturday of the Month:** 9 am

**Video Mass:** A Saturday Mass is



recorded each week and uploaded  
to our Youtube channel,

***Holy Spirit—Santa Rosa.***

**SACRAMENTS:** Please call the office 707.539.4495

**Reconciliation:** Call the office for times.

**Marriage:** Call 6 months in advance.

**Baptism:** Call 3 months in advance.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** In person, online, or by email

**ONLINE DONATING** Go to [www.holyspirit-sr.org](http://www.holyspirit-sr.org)

**HOME COMMUNION** Please contact the office.

## **VOLUNTEERING FOR A MINISTRY**

(i.e, Flower arranging, Video Board, Eucharistic Ministers, Homebound, Maintenance, Helping Hands, etc.)

Please contact the office at 707.539.4495.

.....from the *Pastor's Desk*

## **WHY DOESN'T GOD MAKE THINGS EASIER?**

Perhaps the most vexing faith-question of all-time is the problem of God's silence and his seeming indifference: why does God allow evil? Why do bad things happen to good people?

If there is an all-powerful and all-loving God, how do you explain that millions of innocent people suffered and died under Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, in massacres in Rwanda, Algeria, and the recent terrorist killings in the USA? Where is God in all of this?

And the presence of evil in the world poses a deeper question: Why is God (seemingly) hidden? If God is so massively real, why do so many people not recognize, acknowledge, or care about his existence? Why do believers have to live, almost always it seems, on the edges of doubt? Why doesn't God make his (her) existence clear, a fact beyond doubt? Why doesn't God silence his critics?

There's no satisfying answer to that question, not theologically, and there never will be.

No definitive faith textbook can ever be written that will soothe every doubt and answer every critical objection. Why not? Because making peace with this mystery, the mystery of God's hiddenness, is a question of a relationship in love and trust and not simply a question of correct theory. Faith, like love, matures through relationship not just theory.

Understanding God's hiddenness, God's way, is like a child coming to understand his or her parents. You have to relate long enough, live in patience long enough, and develop enough maturity so that, at a point, understanding arises out of a certain co-empathy. Love is the eye, Hugh of St. Victor used to say. When we are loving enough we begin to understand.

However, theory is still important. An old philosophical axiom suggests that the heart follows the head, that love itself must be guided by intellectual vision. Thus some theological theory on the question of evil and God's hiddenness can be helpful. What has classical, Christian theology taught on this?

Essentially this: evil exists because God respects freedom, both in nature and in human beings. When we are confronted with the problem of evil in the world, the conclusion we might draw is in no way that God doesn't exist or doesn't care, but rather that God respects and values freedom in a way that we don't.

What does this mean?

God doesn't make things easier because God can't make things easier, at least not without making us and the world into something far less than we are. When God made us he gave us as much freedom, creativity, and spunk as was possible. He didn't play it safe, but gave us as much godliness as he could without making us into gods ourselves.

Simply put, in making us, God went so far as to give us a freedom that even he won't tamper with. A risky business, but, it seems, as a parent, God would rather risk than control, allow creativity outside of his influence than limit ingenuity, and tolerate the misuse of freedom than relate to robots.

God is perceived as silent because he allows human freedom and ingenuity to be precisely what they are meant to be, non-coerced, even by God. God is not a frightened parent who needs to control, nor a threatened creator who kept what was best back for himself. God allows evil because God respects the freedom and ingenuity of creation and can ultimately, as we know from elsewhere in our faith, redeem whatever goes wrong.

This helps explain not only the question of evil, but also why life can be so distressingly complex and why we can sometimes boil over into a quasi-divine rage.

We have been made, as scripture assures us, "a little less than God." If God could have given us divinity, I believe, he would have. But the one thing God can't do is to create another God. So, in creating us, God took us as close to divinity as possible. Given the incredible array of qualities that God put in us, it shouldn't then be surprising that we are pathologically complex, that human grandiosity has a perpetual itch to set itself against God, and that, when frustrated, we are capable of becoming killers who can take life itself as if we were God.

We should never be surprised at how messy life can get or how deranged we can be. What is surprising rather is that sometimes—in the pre-sophistication of a child or the post-sophistication of a saint—we do find simple happiness, simple meaning, and simple faith.

Things could only be simpler if God had made us Swiss clocks—wonderfully tuned to pre-set rhythms, with no mess, no sin, no evil, and with the beauty of perfect crystal.

But then there wouldn't be any love, freedom, creativity, or meaning.

No.

God built us on a razor's edge, so full of godly fire that we are capable of both martyrdom and murder.

**Ron Rolheiser**

**WE WILL HAVE A THANKSGIVING DAY  
MASS AT 10:30 A.M.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Would you like to join our media team and learn how to run the video board during mass? Teenagers to seniors welcome. Call the office!

**MASS INTENTIONS: Nov. 16-Nov. 24**

11/16	Sat	5:00 PM	† Deceased Members of the Benedict Family
11/17	Sun	8:00 am	For the People
11/17	Sun	10:30am	† Jack & Friedel Ellis
11/18	Mon	9:00 am	† Eddie & Ruth Howard
11/19	Tue	9:00 am	Communion Service
11/20	Wed	9:00 am	† Rosalie Vidalin
11/21	Thur	9:00 am	Available
11/22	Fri	9:00 am	Chona Durham
11/23	Sat	5:00 PM	† Jim Byrne
11/24	Sun	8:00 am	For the People
11/24	Sun	10:30am	† Dennis DeCota

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Nov. 23-24**

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Min.
Sat. 5:00 pm	#1—Carole R. #2—Tina T.	Judith M. Shirley S. Tim S.
Sun. 8:00 am	#1—Brian C. #2—Michael W.	Bob A. Elizabeth M. Martie S.
Sun. 10:30a	#1—Jane G. #2—Mary L.	Diane H. Loyde J. Sherry J.

Last Week's General Collection \$ 8,120.—  
Online General Fund Offering \$ 1,531.13

This week's second collection is for Catholic University of America/  
Communications  
Please write separate checks. Thank you.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK  
& THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

John Scott, Char Lavelle, Jessica Berlo, Kathryn Chere, Mickey Smith, Sharon Larrance, Molly Touchette, Rose-Ann Saporita, Gail Flatt, Sachiko Gomez, Juan Scott, Dean Kennedy, Charlene Abayon, Gerri Peterson, Carlos Perez, Donna McMullen, Sharon Leiberman, Mike Murray, Greg Macy, Fr. John Boettcher, Gabriella Ibarra, Laura Zabatta, John McHugh, Laura Pontes, Nancy Carrey, Renee Ralls, Marion Fairbank, Tim Coyne, John Scrempo, Mike and Nancy Cusack, Cecelia Bautista, Bob Spalding, Donald Brent, Tristan Humble, Marlene Knivilla, Jenny Lemp, Doug Harman, Margaret Duffy, Maria Alvarez, Mary Davis, Arthur Tyler, Lisa Bennett, Ruth Ann Haisey, Lew & Margie Chase, the Pisenti family, and our Holy Spirit Prayer Phone Tree.

**FOR THE SOULS**

Barbara Spaulding, Joseph Panara, Larry Darling, Bill Vinson, Ario Bigattini, Joe Piasta, Patricia Breuer, Patrick Rodriguez, Lynda Adams, Gail Azevedo, Gloria McKay, Miriam Castillo, Jeanne Anderson, Mary Jo Toth, Kathy Hauck, Chris Christianson, Jim Weese, Scot Gordon, Arlene Pearson, Karin Lee, Peggy Levy, Regina Dieter, James Barton, Jr., Nancy Bufano, Julia Gromo, Bruce Marts Sr., Terry McNally, Derek Dunn, Bill Pinella, George Macaulay, Barbara Nowacki, Phyllis Smith, Ed McCarthy, Laura Dole, Arlene Figueroa.

*Please call the office if you wish to add or keep someone on the prayer list. Each name will remain for 3 months from the time we receive a request unless we hear otherwise.*

**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

**No classes on Wednesday, 11/27**

**K-5 Whole Family** Wednesdays 4:30-6pm

**Year 2 Communion** Wed. 4:30-6pm

**Year 1 & 2 Confirmation** Wed. 6:15-7:30 pm

For more information contact Matt Conley,



**Holy Spirit Men's Club**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas**  
**Dinner Dance**

*Take those old records off the shelf!*  
*Get those dancin' shoes on... it is a Dinner Dance!*

**December 6th, 2024**

**Cocktails 6:00, Dinner 7:00 PM**

A catered affair—by **Charlie's Catering**

Hors d'oeuvres from 6:00-7:00 pm

Buffet: Tri Tip, Chicken, Salad, Penne Pesto,  
 Rolls and Butter, Dessert Table

**Complimentary Wine on Table. No Host Full Bar**

**Live DJ Music. \$65.00 per person**

**Singles Welcomed! Adults only.**

Call Loyde Johnson for reservations

4936 Everglade Dr, SR 95409

(707) - 921-9292

**RSVP by Dec. 2nd at 1 pm**

***Seating Limited to 100 Guests***

***Reserve early! No sales at door!***

***Let us come together to celebrate this joyous season***



**Bible Reflections: *The Good News Journey!***

*An opportunity to learn and share*

**NOVEMBER 20th—NEW LOCATION**

First and Third Wednesdays of the Month

7-8 pm at Holy Spirit Cornerstone Room in

Parish House with Kenn Vondrak.

Scriptures and calendar can be found online

or at the back of church.

**OCIA Order of Christian Initiation for Adults**

**November 27th from 7-8pm**

**Taught by Fr. Ron. We meet the 2nd and 4th**

**Wednesdays of the month in church.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **FANS OF THE CHOSEN**—Last one 11/19th at 2pm
- **BIBLE REFLECTIONS**—Nov. 20th 7-8 pm
- **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:**  
 "SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" —Nov. 23 at 1 pm
- **OCIA 11/27**—7-8 pm
- **THANKSGIVING MASS** 11/28
- **LUNCH WITH SANTA**—12/07 from 12-2pm

***Grief Support Group***

**SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**



The holidays can be daunting when you are in the midst of grief. Thanks to Fr. Ron's support, we are blessed to be able to present Surviving the Holidays at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where we hope and pray you find comfort, understanding, prayer and support around how you would like your upcoming holidays to look in light of your loss. The afternoon, consisting of an informative video, faith sharing and fellowship, promises to offer tips and support and a sense of community with parishioners who are also grieving. Yummy holiday refreshments will be provided, along with an informative booklet. Join us on **Saturday, Nov. 23, from 1-3 p.m.** at Holy Spirit Church. Facilitators: Deanna Bowers & Mary Lathrop

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. You may have read in the paper how the Sonoma County District of St Vincent de Paul Society owns and operates the SVdP Commons located at 2400 Mendocino Ave. This is a permanent shelter for 50 previously unhoused neighbors in need.

**We will be collecting canned goods to donate to the Commons residents at all weekend Masses preceding Thanksgiving and on Thanksgiving Day.**

**We need a few volunteers to move the cans to the SVDP storage room for distribution.**

**Alternatively, we would appreciate any crockpot / instant pot in good working order, or your financial donation to help purchase a new instant pot that will be used in each resident's room** (checks can be made out to St. Vincent De Paul).

In short, you are helping transition the Commons transition from being just a shelter into a welcoming home for our neighbors in need. We at SVdP are most grateful for your support. If any questions, contact Mike Cusack at 707.537-0655 or **MichaelCusack@aol.com** or SVdP volunteer coordinator **AlanKarbousky@yahoo.com**.