

# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

The office faces Raters Drive. Look for the fountain.

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

## Deacons

John Storm 707.479.5424

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

Bob Holgren

[DcnBob@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:DcnBob@holyspiritSR.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

## 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@sbcgloba.net](mailto:loydej@sbcgloba.net)

707.921.9292

## Fourth Sunday of Lent March 29-30, 2025

### MASS & SERVICE LENT SCHEDULE

**Weekday Mass:** Monday-Fridays 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:** The Saturday Mass is recorded each week and uploaded to our Youtube channel, **Holy Spirit—Santa Rosa.**

**Penance Service with 4 priests:** April 3 at 6:30 pm



## Fridays During Lent (except Good Friday)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** 2-3 pm

**Reconciliation** available in Sacristy after  
Exposition begins to 2:50 pm.

**Stations of the Cross** at 3 pm

**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.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Thursdays at 7 pm in the church.

**VOLUNTEERING** Please contact the office.

....from the Pastor's Desk

## WOOF!

Have you noticed the way dogs hang their heads and grovel when they are scolded, wheeling their way back into good graces?

To us humans it looks as if they are saying “I’m really, really sorry for what I did, and please, please, please forgive me. To make up for it, I will do any base thing you want.”



Poor dog.

And poor prodigal son in this week’s Gospel. Like a dog at Easter table, this son ate up his father’s money on riotous living in a faraway country. Obviously, he would run out of funds, but was having too much fun to notice.

Then there came the terrible famine. This once pampered youth now had to feed somebody’s herd of pigs just to live. He would have been happy to gobble their husks.

It took a while for the truth to hit him, what he had done to himself and to his family. He first noticed indeed that he was starving. He made a forced but perhaps humble decision to go back to his father and ask for mercy, hanging his head just like dogs do. “Please, please, please, please forgive me.”

He dragged down the dusty road to his father’s estate, practicing his speech over and over.

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers. (Gospel)

In other words, he would “grovel and do any base thing needed.” He would even admit the sins he was so embarrassed about.

You and I might have such an occasion too.

Often we are terrified that anyone even would know our faults. And we think God will

respond with rage against us if he finds out. So we make Lenten “firm purposes of amendment,” and urge our New Year’s promises (or whatever else). We want to be “worthy” before God, with our sins hidden from sight.

But in the parable does this father fold his arms and put on a “parental” angry face? No. He spots far down the road his prodigal son (who is still memorizing his lines) and sets out running to the lost one. See them meet, enveloped in thirsty road-dust. Father embraces his son and kisses him. The boy tries to blunder his lines.

Father, I have sinned terribly! I am no longer worthy of ...

But his dad drowns him out, calling for the finest robe in the house, a ring for the boy’s finger, sandals for his feet, and a huge banquet of celebration. This father shows that he does indeed understand. And he is ecstatic that his son came home.

Apply that now to you and me. We assume that God is angry. Our shame says, “Father, I am no good. I am totally unworthy.”

But God is saying, “I know what you have done, child. You needn’t cower. You are precious to me, not because you never sin. I know that it can happen, and I am all forgiveness! Come, come, have back your brothers, sisters, neighbors and, most of all, your Father.

“Let me hug you.”

Because he invites us so close to his heart, God is most willing to absorb the losses we inflict. Even if we were to join forces with evil in the world, God would wait and pray, welcome us back, sins and all, with open arms. And help us overcome the evil that plagues the world.

By the way, notice that Jesus’ arms are wide open on the cross.

*John Foley, SJ*



**OUR LENTEN ALMSGIVING PARTNER IS YWCA SONOMA COUNTY!**  
**YWCA Sonoma County is our community's answer to the call from local families suffering from the impacts of domestic violence.**

Their domestic violence services include the area's only 24/7 domestic violence crisis hotline, confidential Safe House shelter as well as counseling and childcare services. **You may donate at [www.ywcasc.org](http://www.ywcasc.org) or on our website, [www.holyspirit-sr.org](http://www.holyspirit-sr.org) or write a check out to YWCA and mail to YWCA or bring to church.**

**MASS INTENTIONS: Mar. 29—Apr. 6, 2025**

|              |            |                |                       |
|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 03/29        | Sat        | 5:00 pm        | † Marylou Gadbois     |
| 03/30        | Sun        | 8:00 am        | <i>For the People</i> |
| 03/30        | Sun        | 10:30 am       | † Leocadia Serban     |
| 03/31        | Mon        | 9:00 am        | † Barbara Birdsall    |
| 04/01        | Tues       | 9:00 am        | † James Weese         |
| 04/02        | Wed        | 9:00 am        | <i>Available</i>      |
| 04/03        | Thur       | 9:00 am        | <i>Available</i>      |
| 04/04        | Fri        | 9:00 am        | † Kyle Cameron Young  |
| <b>04/05</b> | <b>Sat</b> | <b>9:00 am</b> | <i>For the People</i> |
| 04/05        | Sat        | 5:00 pm        | † David Drew          |
| 04/06        | Sun        | 8:00 am        | <i>For the People</i> |
| 04/06        | Sun        | 10:30 am       | † Ronnie Harriott     |

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: April 5-6, 2025**

| Mass            | Lectors                      | Eucharistic Min.                   |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sat.<br>5:00 pm | #1—Henri K.<br>#2—Carroll C. | Judith M.<br>Ann R.<br>Steve R.    |
| Sun.<br>8:00 am | #1—Lydia D.<br>#2—Mary L.    | Bob A.<br>Cindy D.<br>Kurt K.      |
| Sun.<br>10:30am | #1—Don F.<br>#2—Deanna B.    | Michelle D.<br>Jolon W.<br>Mike W. |

Last Week's General Collection \$ 7,012.00  
 Online General Fund Offering \$ 948.13

This week's second collection is for Saint Vincent de Paul.

Please write separate checks. **Thank you!**

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

Judy Pinella, Richard Vitali, Patty Ouimette, Russ Dieter, Ralph Sobieski, Brenda L. Winters, Francis Dolan, Scott Humble, MaryEllen Friesen, John O'Connell, Diane Drew, John Scott, Char Lavelle, Jessica Berlo, Renee Ralls, Mickey Smith, Sharon Larrance, Rose-Ann Saporita, Gail Flatt, Sachiko Gomez, Juan Scott, Charlene Abayon, Gerri Peterson, Carlos Perez, Donna McMullen, Sharon Leiberman, Mike Murray, Greg Macy, Gabriella Ibarra, John McHugh, Laura Pontes, Nancy Carrey, Marion Fairbank, Tim Coyne, John Scrempo, Mike and Nancy Cusack, Cecelia Bautista, Bob Spalding, Donald Brent, Tristan Humble, Marlene Knivila, Jenny Lemp, Doug Harman, Margaret Duffy, Maria Alvarez, Arthur Tyler, Lisa Bennett, Ruth Ann Haisey, Lew & Margie Chase, the Pisenti family, and the Holy Spirit Phone Tree.

**FOR THE SOULS**

Andrew Gonzalez, Robert O'Donnell, William Westendorf, Ken Campbell, John Kerrige, Laura Zabatta, Sharon Vaughn, Barbara Spaulding, Joseph Panara, Larry Darling, Bill Vinson, Karin Lee, Ario Bigattini, Joe Piasta, Patricia Breuer, Imogen Swaney, 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, Peggy Levy, Regina Dieter.

*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.*

## “Bless me Father for I have sinned”

When was the last time you said those words? This week you will have an excellent opportunity to do just that. **This Thursday evening, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 6:30 pm we will have our 'Lenten Confessions'**. Three priests will be available. Each confession 'station' will have the option of kneeling behind a screen for privacy or sitting face to face with the confessor. We will also have hand-outs available with the procedure and prayers for those who might need a 'refresher'. As you decide to avail yourself of this opportunity for Reconciliation - please read on.

Celebrating and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation can be among the most blessed of human experiences. Yet, there are a number of reasons why we don't take advantage of the Sacrament or do not celebrate it well. Fear, shame, that experiences of the past with a difficult priest, a long time since the last reception of the Sacrament or bad habits in celebrating it now are all possible reasons for struggles with the Sacrament. The solution is so simple. A simple understanding of the Sacrament and a small encouragement to give it another try, with a new expectation, can literally change our lives and will certainly renew our faith.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is God's gift to us. In the story of the Prodigal Son, which we hear today, Jesus tells us that God is simply waiting for us to 'come home'. In the story, the father is not only waiting, he is out by the road longing for the wayward son to return. And when the son begins to give his practiced speech of repentance, the father stops him and orders that a celebration begin.

Jesus is telling us that this is how God feels about our reconciliation. It is not about our having to shame ourselves or face being scolded. It is all about letting ourselves receive the merciful and healing love and peace that only God's love can give us.

Often asked questions: "What does serious sin look like? Do we still have mortal and venial sins? How do I examine my conscience?" First of all, let's consider what serious sin is. According to the teaching that many of us learned in our catechism or religious education, there are serious and less serious sins. A serious sin is called a 'mortal' sin because it mortally wounds our relationship with God. To say it another way, when we see what a mortal sin is, it will become clear to us that it is a choice which involves turning my back on my relationship with God, freely and deliberately. Less serious sins, called 'venial' sins, involve weakness and patterns of sin in our lives. They are sins, for sure, and involve missing the mark of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, but, as we will see clearly, they do not involve a free and

deliberate choice to turn our backs completely on our relationship with God.

For something to be a mortal sin, three things are required. All three of them are necessary.

- 1) It must be something quite seriously wrong.
- 2) It must be something I do, knowing that it is serious and knowing that it is wrong. And,
- 3) It must be something I do deliberately, that is freely.

So, for something to be a mortal sin, I have to understand that something is serious enough to ruin my relationship with God and freely choose to do it anyway.

When we examine our consciences, we are looking primarily for things like that. And we're looking for them in two areas: *in what I have done and in what I have failed to do*. For example, I might never have mistreated my children, verbally or physically, but I might examine my conscience and recognize that I failed in my responsibility to raise them in the faith – the commitment I made at the time of my marriage and at their baptisms. However, I might judge that, though it is a serious matter, I did not do it deliberately and intentionally. In that case, I might examine this situation in terms of my overall selfishness or failure to live my commitments – perhaps venial sins in the area of what I failed to do, but for which I can ask forgiveness and receive healing so I can do this better in the future, and receive our Lord's peace, even if I can't fix the past.

*Our Sins Are Forgiven.* We must never forget what happens in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our sins are forgiven! They're taken away! The slate is wiped clean. We have a new beginning – a fresh start. We receive God's mercy and are filled with God's peace. And once this total and complete forgiveness happens, deep and lasting healing can happen as well.

So, it is a great idea to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive a fresh start and to let the grace of healing begin. Most of us are ready to do that because we really miss communion with our God. We really don't like division, conflict, selfishness, negativity, disorder, injustice or dishonesty. We long for integrity and a love which nothing but this Sacrament can offer us.

Now, with all that being said, if you haven't been for a while don't worry about the format –we will walk you through it. All you need is a humble, contrite heart and willingness to do better afterwards. God takes great delight in your returning to Him. You've carried your burden alone – for far too long. Remember; there is no sin that cannot be forgiven – but we must ask. *He waits...*

*Father Ron*



# HOLY WEEK 2025

## **PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND**

Saturday: April 12th, Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday: April 13th, Mass at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

## **DAILY MASSES**

Monday: April 14th, Mass at 9 a.m.

Tuesday: April 15th, Mass at 9 a.m.

Wednesday: April 16th, Mass at 9 a.m.

## **HOLY THURSDAY MASS**

April 17th at 6:30 pm (No Morning Mass)

## **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

April 18th at 3 pm

(No Morning Mass)

## **HOLY SATURDAY, EASTER VIGIL MASS**

April 19th at 5 pm

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

April 20th

Mass at 8 am, 10:30 am, and 1 pm

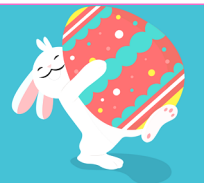
EASTER EGG HUNT AND ACTIVITIES—April 12th

Egg Hunt begins at 10 am. Breakfast begins at 8:30 am. Activities go until noon.

Bunny, Facepainting, Games!

## **FOLIAGE REQUEST**

If you have six King Palm Fronds that you can spare, we would love to have them by Friday, April 11th for Palm Sunday Weekend.



## SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**Breakfast starts 8:30 am**

**EASTER EGG HUNT 10 am**

**ACTIVITIES UNTIL 12 pm**

***Jumpy houses, Bunny, Egg Hunt & Games!***

### 'Practical' Work of Mercy

Another way of 'Almsgiving' is to volunteer to do 'hands-on' ministry.

For instance - The St Vincent de Paul Society District operates the SVdP "Commons" at 2400 Mendocino Ave.

It serves 51 previously homeless residents.

A few local SVdP conferences routinely volunteer to prepare and serve a simple dinner for these appreciative residents; this act is helping turn a "house into a Home." Might you - or any group at Holy Spirit parish - be interested in preparing and/or serving a simple meal (e.g., casserole, salad) during

Lent? Consider contacting volunteer coordinator [AlanKarbousky@yahoo.com](mailto:AlanKarbousky@yahoo.com) for more details.

### ***Lent in the Footsteps of Christ***

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Parish House

*Enter through the office facing Raters Dr.*

**These classes stand alone so you are welcome to join us anytime!**

We will dive passionately into the historical context, author and language used in the writings to come to the celebration of the Eucharist with a new perspective on some of the stories we have heard many times. The class will be led by Matt Conley, DRE.

## *Grief Support Group*

**Wednesday, April 2 from 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**at Holy Spirit Parish in the Church Hall,**

Whether your loss was recent or more distant, the feelings and challenges are the same. Feel free to drop by and check us out. We are a friendly, compassionate, down to earth group of people who use Scripture as an anchor to make sense and find comfort in our grief. For further information, call Deanna at 909.532.0102 or Mary at 707-495-3095.



## PENANCE SERVICE

**Several Priests**

**(Spanish, & English speaking)**

**THURSDAY**

**APRIL 3rd at 6:30 pm**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

LENT SCRIPTURE STUDY\_4/1 at 1pm

•BIBLE STUDY\_4/2 at 7pm in Parish House

•PENANCE SERVICE\_4/3 at 6:30pm

•CONFESSIONS & HOLY HR.\_4/4 at 2-3pm

•STATIONS OF THE CROSS \_4/4 at, 3-3:30pm

•MEN'S CLUB DINNER\_4/8 at 7pm

•OCIA \_4/9 from 7-8 pm

•EASTER EGG HUNT & ACTIVITIES\_4/12

### HOLY SPIRIT MEN'S CLUB

***RELAX & ENJOY DINNER***

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH**

**DOORS OPEN 6 PM, DINNER AT 7 PM**

**PORK ROAST , LAMB ROAST, FIXINGS,  
AND TWO COCKTAILS FOR \$25**

**Bring a Friend!**

**Newcomers get free dinner!**

### DIOCESE NEWS

Please visit [www.srdiocese.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.srdiocese.org/employment-opportunities)

**to see what positions are available in our parishes and schools.**

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

*An opportunity to learn and share*

**APRIL 2nd—IN PARISH HOUSE**

**First and Third Wednesdays of the Month.**

**7-8 pm with Kenn Vondrak.**

*Reflecting on the upcoming gospel reading.*

### FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

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

**Year 2 Communion** Wed. 4:30-5:45 pm

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

For more information contact Matt Conley,

DRE, email: [matt@holyspiritsr.org](mailto:matt@holyspiritsr.org) or

707.539.4495 ext. 108