

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 1-2, 2026



Parish Office: 1244 St. Francis Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca 95409

Phone: (707) 539-4495, Office faces Raters Dr.

Email: 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

email: jstorm@srdiocese.org

Bob Holgren

email: DcnBob@holyspiritSR.org

Liturgical Music Director

Francis Oliveira, francis@holyspiritSR.org

Director of Religious Education

Matt Conley, matt@holyspiritSR.org

707.539.4495 ext.108

Office Administrator

Ruth Canniff, office@holyspiritsr.org

Men's Club

Bob Benjamin, 707.292.1115

Women's Club

Kathleen Freitag, 415.860.2581

Prayer Chain

Diane Bowman. Call the office.

Parish Finance Council Chair

Brian Connolly,

brian@brianconnolly.net

Parish Advisory Council Chair

Loyde Johnson, loydej@sbcglobal.net

707.921.9292

MASS & SERVICE SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass: Mondays through Fridays 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.***

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

HOME COMMUNION Please contact the office.

CHOIR PRACTICE Thursdays at 7 pm in Church.

VOLUNTEERING Please contact the office.

MACHAKOS DIOCESE INFORMATION

The Diocese of Machakos was one of the largest in Kenya until July 22, 2023 when the Holy Father Pope Francis created Wote Diocese by carving out Makueni County from Machakos Diocese. The Machakos Diocese now has a population of 1,421,932 of which 610,150 are Catholic. It has 117 diocesan priests and 22 religious priests. Though smaller in size, Machakos Diocese has evangelization challenges as only 42.9% of the population is catholic.

The Diocese also faces humanitarian challenges as over 50% is semi-arid with low and unreliable annual rainfall. Drought, famine & poverty are challenges faced by much of the population, since they depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Human disasters such as famine, malnutrition, high maternal and child mortalities, HIV/Aids, water-borne diseases are common scourges that negatively impact the population.

Because of the prayers and past support of Catholics in the United States, the church in Machakos has made a positive impact in the lives of the people including:

- Operating 2 hospitals and over 20 clinics/dispensaries.
- Drilling of wells and provision of storage tanks to provide clean water.
- Supporting “mother child health” programs.
- Maintaining 21 group homes for disabled children.
- Maintaining 4 orphanages for children orphaned by HIV/Aids.
- Supporting rehabilitation programs for street children.
- Providing support on improved agricultural practices.
- Established a primary school for orphans and other needy children.

Purposes for 2026 MCP Appeal Donations

- Support to evangelize since only 42.9% are catholic
- Priests in formation, catechists and lay catholic leaders.
- Support “mother child health” program to reduce maternal and child mortalities
- Provide potable water for domestic use and reduce water-borne diseases.
- Support humanitarian effort of providing famine relief food to starving families.
- Support the adoption of improved agricultural methods to increase food production and eliminate famine relief.
- Support orphanages, group homes and orphans at the Uganda Martyrs Home
- Provide school fees for needy students from poor families.



Above: A nurse attends a mother and her baby at MCH Center.

Below: Beneficiaries of a water tank donated through Machakos.



MASS INTENTIONS: Aug. 1—Aug. 9, 2026

08/01	Sat	9:00 am	For the People
08/01	Sat	5:00 pm	† Cecilia & Walter Conrad
08/02	Sun	8:00 am	For the People
08/02	Sun	10:30 am	† Jack Macy
08/03	Mon	9:00 am	† J.P. Lisciandro Jr.
08/04	Tue	9:00 am	† Irene Woods
08/05	Wed	9:00 am	† Mariathas Martin
08/06	Thurs	9:00 am	Ed & Ann Ronchelli
08/07	Fri	9:00 am	† F.V. & S. DeSimone
08/08	Sat	5:00 pm	† Michelle Miller
08/09	Sun	8:00 am	For the People
08/09	Sun	10:30 am	† Mike Cusack

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: August 8-9, 2026,

Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Min.
Sat. 5:00 pm	#1— Pat B. #2— Carol A.	Cheryl D. Shirley S. Kathy S.
Sun. 8:00 am	#1— Lydia D. #2— Brian C.	Pauline B. Michele M. Elizabeth M.
Sun. 10:30am	#1— Janice W. #2— Loyde J.	Michelle D. Sherry J. Jacky M.

HOMEBOUND EUCCHARISTIC MIN.—Aug. 5

Route 1 — Deanna B.
Route 2 — Harry C.
Route 3 — Pauline B.

Last Week's General Collection \$ 6,082
Online General Collection \$ 2,173

Next week's second collection is for the
Machakos Diocese Mission Appeal.
Please write separate checks .

**Our parish raised \$10,707 for the
CRS Earthquake Relief Effort in
Venezuela! Thank You!**

FUNERALS

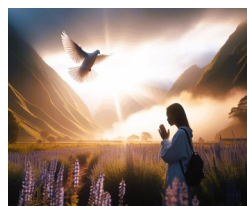
*Paula Badano ~ Friday, August 7 at 11 am

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Nicole Murray, Lois Callas, Theresa Stachowiak, Leroy Perry, Margie Edson, Sister Maureen Carroll, Greg Macy, Lynn Connolly, Derek O'Leary, Anthony and Beth Donato, George Fiori, H. Vincent McNally, Sister Noreen Duffy CSJ, Betsy Crook, Danny Ruckman, Cindi Doell, Deb Stucke, Joanne Landen, Jordyn P. , Richard LaRussa, Tristan Humble, Larry Kubo, Yolanda Farias, Marie Mahoney, Gary Mahoney, Diana Rives, Charles Marchese, Mollie Nichols, Roland Thibault, John Guth, Eliana Pavlicka, Ellie Steffens, John May, Janice Wright, Joe Turdo, Russ Dieter, Ralph Sobieski, Francis Dolan, Scott Humble, Jessica Berlo, and the Holy Spirit Phone Tree.

FOR THE SOULS

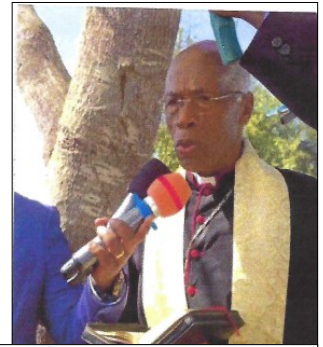
Leeza Larrance, Paul Higdon, Mark Higdon, John Paul "JP" Lisciandro, Jr, Joey Mesa, Manuel Martinez, Eleanor Travaglini, Josephine Poni, Lynette Mulert, Jenny Lemp, Mike Murray, Diana Magri, LuAnn Capps, Suzanne Borgert, Mary Davis, Teresa Resende, Shari Brown, Don Linch, Jerry Williams, Jim Coddington, Emilio Ricci, Rhio Reigh, Bob Spaulding, Bob Crozier, John Scott, Patricia Crook, Millie Jaskola, Mike Cusack, Erma DeSimone, Julie Caruso, Karen Pano-ski, Benjamin and Jessica Stone, Horst Tilsch, Louis Capuano, Richard Vitali, Mike Largent, Eileen Poggi, Roger Provey Jr., Dale Hands, Barbara Bardella.



Please call the office if you wish to add, remove 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.

BACKGROUND TO KOMAROCK PILGRIMAGE ON FEB. 15, 2025

Komarock hill, the pilgrimage site is a revered Kamba sacred place since the mists of time. Kamba elders would offer sacrifices at the traditional altars (Ithembo) on the hill - praying for fertility of the Kamba land and protection from pestilence. Season after season they sacrificed to the unknown with unshakable faith that their petitions were answered. They believed that a mystic power rested on the Komarock hill. An elderly resident neighboring Komarock tells of a Kamba man, at the dawn of 1830s, known as Mwithi, who decided to erect a small hut on top of the rocky outcrop. From there he would watch Maasai bandits as they stage an ambush to steal cattle from the Kamba. As Mwithi's wives went about collecting firewood and grass to thatch their huts, they started seeing apparitions. They would see a vision of a young white woman holding an infant in her arms. They would then bow their faces from the gleaming sight, only to see it had disappeared into the blues upon looking up again.



THE MYSTERY OF THE ROCK

In 1971 Mowlem Construction Company was contracted by the government to construct the Nairobi-Kangundo road and the arduous work of blasting the rocky outcrop at Komarock to acquire hard core and ballast began. The elders opposed the move but later agreed that the thembo be relocated to the foot of a Mugumo tree (Strangler Fig or African Fig) at the end of the hill. A bag of sugar and two goats were offered to appease the spirits. Despite the rituals, blasting was very hard. Machinery would break down and the process became very slow. Strangely, rocks from other places were easy to blast. There seemed to be an eccentric force preventing the rock from being damaged.



THE WAILING CHILD

The road contractor engineer who had pitched his tent on the lonely Komarock hill, one night in the wee hours was aroused from sleep by the wails of a child. In the utter dark, the child's voice said: "Mom we will soon have to leave this place, they are destroying our home". The mother comforted the child saying: "No, my son, we will continue staying here". The first night the man heard this, he ignored and went back to sleep. The nondescript conversation continued for two nights. When the man, an Israeli contractor, shared his concerns with the workers, they downed their tools and the work stopped. Numerous unused holes abandoned on the rocks is testimony of the bizarre occurrences.

THE CLEANSING

A cleansing ceremony was conducted by Catholic priests and the rock was made a Catholic shrine where pilgrims from near and far come to pray and meditate. On February 15, 2025 Rt. Rev. Norman King'oo Wambua, the Bishop of Machakos and Apostolic Administrator of Wote Diocese, led a great population of Catholics from both Machakos and Wote Dioceses in the pilgrimage to Komarock. Those who attended the event were in the region of 40,000.