

September 27, 2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Make known to me Your ways, Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. For you I wait all the long day, because of your goodness, Lord.

-Psalm 25:4-5

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH

1690 Janes Road, Arcata, CA 95521

SAINT JOSEPH'S MISSION CHURCH, BLUE LAKE

office@stmarysarcata.org www.stmaryschurcharcata.org

FR. FRANCIS GAYAM, PASTOR
FR. GNANA PRAKASH THUMMA, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. MR. JOHN GAI, DEACON
REV. MR. JON PEDICINO, DEACON

Parish Office/Rectory: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Monday through Friday (707) 822-7696

For Emergency Only: (707) 672-5859

Mission Statement: We, the parishioners of St. Mary's Church and St. Joseph's Mission Church, are a welcoming, Catholic community in the northern part of Humboldt County, who strive, through grace, to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word, Sacrament, and service to others.

Vision Statement: Through prayer, fellowship and by sharing our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure, we will become disciples of Christ, beacons of light and love, as we build the Kingdom of God.

Masses:

Saturday Vigil:	4:00 pm St. Mary's, Arcata
Sunday:	8:30 am and 11:00 a.m. St. Mary's Arcata
Weekdays:	8:30 am Tuesday through Friday
Blue Lake:	12:30 pm Third Sunday of Every Month

Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church
2:00-2:30 pm Saturdays, or by appointment

SACRAMENTS:
Baptisms: By appointment. Please call the rectory.
Marriages: Please call the rectory six months in advance.
Pastoral Care of the Sick and Homebound: Please call the rectory for home or hospital visits.
Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): For those inquiring about Initiation and Communion with the Catholic Church, please contact the rectory.
Parish Registration: We welcome new parishioners. Registration forms are available in the office or the church.

Week of September 27, 2026

Sat/Sun 2nd Coll: Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa (9/26-27)
Sun 9:45 am Religious Education (9/27)
Wed 5:30 pm Finance Council Meeting (9/30)
Fri 10:00 am Italian Catholic Federation Meeting (10/2)
Sat 10:00 am Office of Christian Initiation of Adults (10/3)

Week of October 4, 2026

Sun 9:45 am Religious Education (10/4)
Thu 10:30 am Women's Bible Study (10/8)
Fri 10:00 am Italian Catholic Federation Meeting (10/2)

Mass Intentions– Please contact the office at 707-822-7696 if you would like to schedule a Mass Intention.

Saturday, September 26: Weekday; Sts. Cosmas and Damian
4:00 pm – Jose Gomes +
Cecilia Mendonca +
Rdgs: Eccl 11:9 – 12:8 Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17 Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday, September 27: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am – Avery Gallacci +
11:00 am – Avelino & Ana Homem +
The Michael Nunes Family
Rdgs: Ez 18:25-28 Ps 25:4-9 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

Monday, September 28: St. Wenceslaus
St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions
No Mass
Rdgs: Jb 1:6-22 Ps 17:1b-3, 6-7 Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday, September 29: Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael
8:30 am – Summer Raye Seeley +
Rhonda Allen +
Rdgs: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a Ps 138:1-5 Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday, September 30: St. Jerome
8:30 am – David Durbin +
Rdgs: Jb9:1-12, 14-16 Ps 88:10b-15 Lk 9:57-62

Thursday, October 1: St. Therese of the Child Jesus
8:30 am – Miss Amy's Students
Rdgs: Jb 19:21-27 Ps 27:7-9c, 13-14 Lk 10:1-12

Friday, October 2: The Holy Guardian Angels
8:30 am – Cecilia Mendonca +
Rdgs: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14b Mt 18:1-5, 10

Saturday, October 3: Weekday
4:00 pm – Joan Sanborn +
Rdgs: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 Lk 10:17-24

Sunday, October 4: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am – Priests of California
11:00 am – Eduardo & Maria dos Santos Rafael +
Lucinda & Luis Rafael +
Rdgs: Is 5;1-7 Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43

Join the Altar Society

If you would like to serve the Lord by helping to prepare the church for Mass each week, the Altar Society invites you to join them in this ministry. Please call (661) 332-0536 with any questions you may have.

The next **Finance Council Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the rectory conference room.

More announcements on the back page of the bulletin!

God is just and rewards the humble and repentant heart

In our Gospel today, we hear the parable about two sons who are called by their father to work in the vineyard. The first says *I will not* but changes his mind; the second says *Yes, sir,* but doesn't go after all.

Part of the message in our readings today is that it is not enough for us to say we are following Christ; our actions must match what we say we will do. Our "yes" must mean "yes." That's why the son who said he would go into the vineyard, but then did not, does not do the will of his father. It is not enough to say we are following Christ; our actions must match what we say we will do.

Of course, there is ultimately only one Son who does the will of the Father perfectly: Jesus Christ. Saint Paul calls us to have the same attitude as Jesus, who *humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death*. Jesus' "yes" to his Father was complete and absolute, and he followed through even though that "yes" would lead to the cross. So often in our lives we want to obey, but when obedience becomes difficult, we falter from our initial commitment. In order to persevere in obedience, we need the humility to recognize that we cannot do it on our own; we need God's grace to remain faithful.

At other times in our lives, we may more readily see ourselves in the son who initially says he will not go to work in the vineyard and then changes his mind. Perhaps we have gone through life opposing God's will, only to find that it's a path that leads nowhere. Sometimes we're the son who goes our own way, only to realize that our Father's way is better. When we repent and change our ways – returning to the path of the Father – we will find life. *If he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life,* the prophet Ezekiel tells us.

Jesus' response about sinners entering the kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders should give us hope. The son who changed course, overcoming his initial hesitation to do what the father asked him, was closer to the path than the son who ultimately only paid lip service to the father's command. Jesus' words remind us that even great sinners can enter the kingdom of heaven first, if they repent. It is never too late to return to God and to do God's will. And perhaps paradoxically, it's often those who repent who are the first to find their way to the kingdom. The tax collectors and prostitutes of Jesus' day knew what their earlier "no" led to. Once they saw what saying "yes" to God offered, they became zealous in seeking it.

As we gather as disciples of the Lord at this Eucharist, we ask for the grace of humility, that we may recognize our need for the Lord's grace to say "yes" and to remain faithful in doing all the Lord asks of us. May this Eucharist also stir our hearts to repentance and hope, recognizing that despite our failures, at any moment, the kingdom lies open to all who turn their hearts back to God.

FAITH CATHOLIC

Archangels are messengers of God and role models for us.

In the Gospel this week on Tuesday Jesus says, *Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.* This passage is timely because today we celebrate the Feast of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. The word "angel" is derived from a Greek word *angelos*, which means messenger. If we look at salvation history, we can see that angels did, indeed, serve as God's messengers.



The name Michael means "Who is like God?" His primary role is to protect us from evil. We may be familiar with the *St. Michael Prayer*, which asks St. Michael to defend us against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

The name Gabriel means "God is my strength." He announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive and bear a son, Jesus. Through that astounding message, the Son of God became man.

The name Raphael means "God has healed." Raphael appears in the Book of Tobit, where he guides and protects Tobias during his journey. Raphael also heals Tobias' father of his blindness.

Although the archangels played a pivotal role in salvation history, they did not direct attention to themselves; rather, they always sought to reveal the glory of God. Unlike Lucifer (the devil), who became an angel of darkness due to his pride, the archangels humbly professed that all power and authority come from God.

Like the archangels, we, too, serve as messengers of God when we share the Gospel by our words and actions. Although we serve an important role, we are not the authors of the message; rather, we are merely messengers.

As we celebrate the archangels today, we ask for their intercession, that they will guard us and guide us on our journey of faith.

FAITH CATHOLIC

Youth Religious Education 2026-2027

Youth Religious Education for the 2026-2027 school year has begun. Classes are on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45 in the religious education office on the church campus, 1710 Janes Rd. If you have not yet registered your child(ren), please bring your registration to class on Sunday. Additional registration forms can be found in the church narthex, and forms will be on hand at class. **Scholarships are available.** If you have questions, please call Dr. Kenny Richards at 707-498-2791.

OCIA Classes

It's not too late to sign up for OCIA! OCIA is for:

1. Those who would like to join the Catholic Church, both those who have not been baptized, and those who are validly baptized in other faiths. 2. Those who were baptized Catholic but have not received other sacraments. 3. Any parishioner who wants to refresh and grow in his or her faith.

All are welcome. Classes are Saturday mornings at 10:00. Please call the church office to register, 707-822-7696.

Those attending who wish to receive sacraments, please bring a copy of your birth certificate, photo ID, and if you have been baptized, a copy of your baptism certificate.

Prayer Requests

PRIEST'S VISIT: If you would like a priest to visit for Anointing of the Sick and/or to receive Holy Communion, please call the office at 707-822-7696.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: *Names are listed here by request & will remain for four weeks. Please call the office to extend the listed time or to add a name.*

Ruth and Steve Nunes, Nathan Lehmann, Kenny Richards, Kenneth Wright, Scott Cahill, Margie Pilot, Marjorie Dimmick, Lithia Burns.

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

Deborah Clancy, Joao Morais, Manuel Leal, Joan Sanborn, Joe Gonsalves, Lynette Cahill, Ana Homem, Pete Stagnoli, Ron Wachel, Hazir Kermani, Jose Homem, Gabriela Murphy, Michael Goodman, Diana Bridges, Avelino Homem.

WELCOME TO ST MARY'S! Whether you are a long-time parishioner, a returning Catholic, or a new member, we hope your time with us is a meaningful and spiritual experience. If you haven't registered, please complete this form and return it to the parish office or place it in the offertory basket.

Name:_____ New Parishioner yes / no Phone: _____

Address:_____ Email:_____

St. Mary's Needs Your Support

Please consider donating to St. Mary's Church, 1690 Janes Rd, Arcata, CA 95521, or online at www.stmarysarcata.org. **Thank you for your generosity**!

Offertory Donations for September 19 & 20, 2026 . . .$3,462.72
Online Donations Sep. 13-19, 2026 . . . . . 205.00

College Students!

Humboldt Newman Club

Sunday, September 27
5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's
7:00 pm Dinner and Faith Discussion at Newman (700 Union Street, Arcata)
Wednesday, September 30
6 pm Disciples
Thursday, October 1
At the Newman Center (700 Union Street, Arcata)
5:30 pm Adoration, Confession, and Evening Prayer
6:30 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Fr. Prakash on Human Sexuality
Friday, October 2
At the Newman Center
5 pm Choir Practice
6 pm Friday Fun Day
Sunday, October 4
5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's

Please remember First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for reparation for sin, the salvation of souls, and for peace. *See, my daughter, My Heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at every moment with blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, make sure to console me and announce that all those who for five months, on the first Saturdays, go to Confession, receive Communion, say five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for 15 minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary,with the purpose of making reparation to Me, I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls.* Our Lady to Lucia, October 10, 1925

Additional Mass Opportunities

Newman Mass (St. Mary's)
Sunday – 5:30 pm

Christ the King (McKinleyville)

Weekdays:
Monday Mass – 9:00 am
Friday Adoration – 3:00 pm
Friday Mass – 4:00 pm
Weekends:
Saturday Mass – 5:30 pm
Sunday Mass – 9:00 am

Holy Trinity (Trinidad)
Saturday Mass – 6:30 pm
First Saturday of the month and every Saturday during the summer (June, July & August)



St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Hoopa)

Sunday Mass – 11:30am

St. Joseph (Blue Lake)

Sunday Mass – 12:30pm
Third Sunday of the month

Timber Ridge (McKinleyville)

Wednesday 10:00am
First Wednesday of the month

New Church website!

Okay, no matter what you heard before, we really do have a new website now, and it has a different address. Please type this domain in Google: **www.stmaryschurcharcata.org**

Thank you to Daniel Muniz, Director of Communications at the Diocese of Santa Rosa, for designing St. Mary's beautiful new website. We hope you all enjoy it.

Our Lady of Fatima Festa

St Mary's Portuguese community will be celebrating the Lady of Fatima festa during the weekend of **October 8-11th** (see enclosed flyer). All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend this beautiful celebration. We hope to see you there!

Portuguese Donuts!

Portuguese Hall Arcata is having a donut fundraiser on October 3rd, $20 per dozen. Please call Souzina Sousa, (707) 822-0078. Leave a message with your name, phone number, quantity, and specify whether you want a sugar topping, or no sugar topping. You will be called when your order is ready for pickup.

Also...

The Society of the Holy Trinity- Portuguese Hall, Arcata will be open on Sunday, September 27—from noon to 2pm, **to receive donations for our annual Aarial Booth game** (white ticket Game).

Jesse Manibusan Concert

Jesse Manibusan is a singer, songwriter, storyteller, and humorist who travels the world with a message of hope, compassion, joy, and solidarity.
Saturday October 10, 7:00 pm
St. Bernard's Church Parish Hall, 615 H Street, Eureka
Tickets $20, available at Picky, Picky, Picky, 600 E Street, Eureka, Green's Pharmacy, 1058 Main Street, Fortuna, or at the door. Tickets will also be sold after St. Mary's masses this weekend and next.

St. Bernard's Italian Catholic Federation will hold its Jerry Colivas Memorial Scholarships pasta dinner fundraiser on Sunday, October 11th from 5:00 PM to 6:30PM at St. Bernard Church Hall in Eureka.

There will be a Dutch raffle with many prizes and Italian music in addition to the delicious pasta dinner prepared by Colivas's sons using Jerry's original recipe. Price is $10 per person; $5 per child; and $25 per family. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling or emailing Joe at 707-445-5799 (landline) or fjb504@gmail.com or Mary Wheeler at 707-599-8110.