



September 20, 2026
25th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

"My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish With my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and first will be last." -Matthew 20:13-16

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH

1690 Janes Road, Arcata, CA 95521

SAINT JOSEPH'S MISSION CHURCH, BLUE LAKE

office@stmarysarcata.org www.stmarysarcata.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 20, 2026

Sun 9:45 am Religious Education (9/20)
Thu 10:30 am Women's Bible Study (9/24)
Sat 10:00 am Office of Christian Initiation of Adults (9/26)

Week of September 27, 2026

Sat/Sun 2nd Coll: Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa (9/26-27)
Wed 5:30 pm Finance Council Meeting (9/30)
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 19: St. Januarius, Bishop, Martyr
4:00 pm – Tony and Joyce Sousa +

Rdgs: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 Lk 8:4-15

Sunday, September 20: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am – Lynette Cahill +

Joan Sanborn +

11:00 am – Jose Freitas +

Rdgs: Is 55:6-9 Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 Phil 1:20c-24, 27a Mt 20:1-16a

Monday, September 21: St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist
No Mass

Rdgs: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Ps 19:2-5 Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday, September 22: Weekday

8:30 am – Maria Nellie Nunes +

Rdgs: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44 Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday, September 23: St. Pius of Pietrelcina

8:30 am – Gabriel Ezra Acosta Vaughn and Deceased Relatives

Rdgs: Prv 30:5-9 Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 Lk 9:1-6

Thursday, September 24: Weekday

8:30 am – Kathy Nitka

Rdgs: Eccl 1:2-11 Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc Lk 9:7-9

Friday, September 25: Weekday

8:30 am – Jose & Deolinda Cabeceina +

Rdgs: Eccl 3:1-11 Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4 Lk 9:18-22

Saturday, September 26: Weekday; Sts. Cosmas and Damian,

4:00 pm – Jose Gomes +

Martyrs

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 or 2:1-5 Mtt 21:28-32

Holy Father Pope Leo XIV intention for September 2026

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

September

30

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

The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works

Perhaps we are familiar with the concept of *schadenfreude*, which Merriam Webster's dictionary describes as "enjoyment obtained from seeing or hearing about the troubles of others." If we're honest with ourselves, we all may fall into a bit of *schadenfreude* at times, particularly when we feel the person experiencing the troubles had it coming to them. Though certainly far from the love of neighbor our Lord calls us to, it's easy to be tempted to delight when someone whom we dislike, or whom we feel deserves it, experiences some hardship or other.

But there's also another less than charitable tendency we see in today's Gospel: We can have a particularly strong reaction when someone we feel hasn't earned it gets something good. There's no fancy word like *schadenfreude* to describe that feeling, but it's very real. In our Gospel we see the anger and confusion of the laborers who worked from dawn until dusk, grumbling against the landowner that the laborers who only worked an hour got the full daily wage. They are angry because the landowner's generosity defies their sense of justice, which wants each person to get exactly what they're due, and no more.

But God's justice doesn't work the way human justice works. As *high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways*, the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah. Other places in Scripture tell us that God *makes the sun rise on the good and the bad and causes rain to fall on the just and unjust* (Mt. 5:45). Or, as our psalm tells us, *The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works*, good and bad, deserving and undeserving alike.

Why? Why is the Lord so indiscriminately generous, even when someone doesn't deserve it? Because of his infinite mercy. *Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving*, Isaiah tells us. The radical generosity of God's mercy helps the sinner to have confidence that it's never too late to turn back, it's never too late to come home.

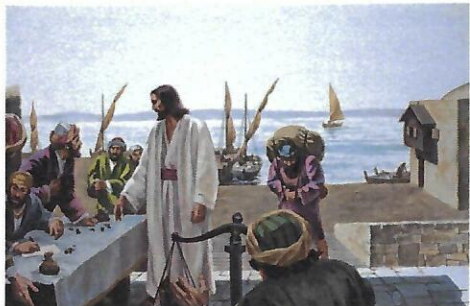
The message of today's Gospel is that no matter what, all is not lost. Though we may have squandered our lives in dissolute living – like the prodigal son – upon coming home to the Father, we know that a heavenly banquet awaits us.

When we move from seeing this Gospel through our small-minded lens of someone getting more than they deserve to understanding it from the vantage point of the infinite mercy of God, then perhaps we can move from our all-too-human reaction of grumbling at the unfairness to praise of God's goodness. May this Eucharist we share help us to offer thanks and praise to God for his unfathomable mercy, which gives each of us infinitely more than we could ever deserve.

FAITH CATHOLIC

Christ says to each one of us today, follow me

Every story of Jesus calling his disciples is moving, but this one should strike us in a particular way. As Jesus passes by, he sees Matthew sitting at the customs post. This is an image of a man sitting in a place of injustice, in a position of abusive power, in exile from a relationship with God.



Jesus sees Matthew where he is, understands the truth of his sinful situation, and says, *follow me*. And [Matthew] got up and followed him; he answered Christ's invitation.

What our Gospel tells us is that God doesn't wait for us to get our act together before he calls us to himself. Jesus didn't tell Matthew to repent and that he'd come find him again after a few months of changed behavior. He calls him right where he is.

Jesus isn't after perfect people. He's after sinners: *I did not come to call the righteous but sinners*. And not just minor-league sinners, the type with petty faults and all-too-human weaknesses. Jesus comes to call big-league sinners – sinners such as tax collectors and prostitutes.

Today, that same Jesus comes to us in this Mass. This same Christ sees each of us in our woundedness, in our struggles, and in our sin. He sees our hearts and he loves us. And this same Christ says to us today, *follow me*.

What is his invitation? What new life, what transformation, what essential step, what key change, what movement in our heart, what healing love is he offering us here?

As we go forth from this Mass, Christ will continue to invite us to follow him. May this Holy Eucharist draw us more fully into his love and strengthen us to answer his call as Saint Matthew did. May we, too, fed by this heavenly food, get up and follow him.

FAITH CATHOLIC

More announcements on the back page of the bulletin!

Religious Education 2026-2027

Religious Education for the 2026-2027 school year begins this weekend on Sunday, September 20 from 9:45 – 10:45 am in the Religious Education Office on the church campus, 1710 Janes Road. 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 12 & 13, 2026 . . . \$1786.20
2nd Collection: Annual Ministry Appeal (+online). 532.00
Online Donations Sep. 6-12, 2026 190.00

College Students!

Humboldt Newman Club

Please join us for the **fun events** we have planned this week!

Sunday, September 20

5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's

7:00 pm Dinner and Faith Discussion at the Newman Center ([700 Union Street, Arcata](#))

Wednesday, September 23

6 pm Disciples

Thursday, September 24

At the Newman Center ([700 Union Street, Arcata](#))

5:30 pm Adoration, Confession, and Evening Prayer

6:30 pm Dinner

7:15 pm Making rosaries and beatification of Ven. Fulton Sheen

Friday, September 25

At the Newman Center

5 pm Choir at Newman

6 pm Volleyball or Hike

Sunday, September 27

5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's

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



Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA) Update

St. Mary's Church Goal for 2026 \$19,300
Total Gifts Received as of August 31 \$15,848
Amount needed to reach our goal \$3,452

Italian Catholic Federation Scholarships

The Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) supports our young parishioners through college scholarships. Congratulations to the following students who will be receiving new and ongoing scholarships this year:

Raven Alvarez - Senior at the University of Arizona

Caleb Pitloc - Second year at College of the Redwoods

Nolan Sefick - First year at the University of San Francisco

Thank you to all of our parish members who support our fundraisers. If you are interested in joining the ICF, contact any of our members, such as Anne Carlisle-Eanni, Rosemary Melendy, Jim Monge, or Ruth Mitchell.

Portuguese Donuts!

Portuguese Hall Arcata is having a donut fundraiser on October 3rd, \$20 per dozen. Please call Souza 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 the following Sundays—September 20th and 27th— from noon to 2pm, **to receive donations for our annual Aarial Booth game** (white ticket Game).

Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa Office of Faith Formation will hold a Religious Education Congress on **September 26, 2026**, at Cardinal Newman High School, 4320 Old Redwood Road, Santa Rosa. Join catechists, ministers, and faith leaders for a day of renewal, formation, and fellowship. National Catholic speakers Paul Senz and Fr. Thomas Aquinas Pickett, O.P. will share inspiring talks, practical insights, and joyful witness to the Catholic faith. Register at srdiocese.org/recongress.