

October 11, 2026

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

-Isaiah 25:6, 8b

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
DEACON JOHN GAI
DEACON JON PEDICINO

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.
Order of 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 October 11, 2026

Sun	9:45 am	Religious Education (10/11)
Sun	11:00 am	Our Lady of Fatima Portuguese Mass (10/11)
Tue	6:45 pm	Knights of Columbus Rosary/Meeting (10/13)
Wed	9:30 am	Altar Society Meeting (10/14)
Sat	10:00 am	Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (10/17)

Week of October 18, 2026

Sun	9:45 am	Religious Education (10/18)
Thu	10:30 am	Women's Bible Study (10/22)
Sat	10:00 am	Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (10/24)

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

Saturday, October 10: Weekday
4:00 pm – Bobby Murphy, Jr. +
6:00 pm – Portuguese Community, Living and Deceased
Rdgs: Gal 3:22-29 Ps 105:2-7 Lk 11:27-28

Sunday, October 11: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am – David Durbin +
11:00 am – Our Lady of Fatima
Portuguese Community, Living and Deceased
Rdgs: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 Mt 22:1-14

Monday, October 12: Weekday
No Mass
Rdgs: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 – 5:1 Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7 Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday, October 13: Weekday
8:30 am – Natalia & Joe Avelar +
Rdgs: Gal 5:1-6 Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48 Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday, October 14: Weekday; St. Callistus I
8:30 am – Father Christian Casper, O.S.B.
Pastor Gerald Hoeman +
Rdgs: Gal 5:18-25 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 11:42-46

Thursday, October 15: St. Teresa of Jesus
8:30 am – Antonio Lourenco +
Rdgs: Eph 1:1-10 Ps 98:1-6 Lk 11:47-54

Friday, October 16: Weekday; St. Hedwig; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
8:30 am – Jim & Celeste Durkin +
Rdgs: Eph 1:11-14 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 Lk 12:1-7

Saturday, October 17: St. Ignatius of Antioch
4:00 pm – Jose Gonsalves +
Rdgs: Eph 1:15-23 Ps 8:2-3b, 4-7 Lk 12:8-12

Sunday, October 18: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am – Pete Stagnoli +
11:00 am –Jose Homem +
Rdgs: Is 45:1, 4-6 Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10 1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21

Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates **Respect Life Month**. We reflect on the gift of *every* human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. Visit respectlife.org/respect-life-month !





We are invited to the heavenly feast

Both the prophet Isaiah and Jesus in today's Gospel describe God's coming kingdom using the image of a feast or banquet. Isaiah says that on the mountain of Zion – a symbol of the heavenly Jerusalem – the Lord will provide a feast of the finest foods and choice wines for all peoples. Tears will be wiped away and death will be destroyed. Those who have looked to the Lord to save them will rejoice and be glad.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus uses a similar image by comparing the kingdom of heaven to a king hosting a wedding feast for his son. The invitations have been sent, the feast has been prepared, and everything is ready. All that is needed are the guests, but those who receive the invitation either ignore it or do violence to the king's messengers.

What the king does next – destroying the murderers and their city – may seem shocking to our modern sensibilities. However, this response to an attack on the king's honor would have been expected in his first-century Mediterranean context. What would have shocked Matthew's original readers is the king's second response, when he instructs his servants to go out to the main roads and invite anyone they can find to the feast. In Jesus' time, eating together signified shared values and social status. The further the servants traveled on the main road away from the city center, the poorer the people they found would have been. Therefore, this round of invited guests would have entailed an intermingling of the poor and the elite.

Both the good and the bad are invited to the feast. The only one who is thrown out is the one not wearing a wedding garment. There are two aspects of the kingdom that we can discern from this passage. First, the kingdom of heaven is a present reality. We are invited here and now to attend the heavenly banquet. Second, the fullness of God's kingdom will arrive in the future, and only those who are prepared will be allowed entrance. Having received our spotless garment at baptism, we have been instructed to keep it clean until the time when we will meet Jesus, our king and bridegroom, at his second coming.

At each Eucharist, we receive a foretaste of this heavenly feast. Let us prepare ourselves to accept the invitation to this heavenly banquet, clothing ourselves in the appropriate attire of repentance and good deeds.

FAITH CATHOLIC

Eucharistic Adoration Opportunities

St. Mary's Church, Fridays 9-9:30am (after Mass)
Christ the King Church, Fridays 3:30-4:00pm
Newman Center Chapel, Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm

More announcements on the back page of the bulletin!

Saint Ignatius of Antioch



Born in Syria, Saint Ignatius of Antioch converted to Christianity and eventually became bishop of Antioch. In the year 107, Emperor Trajan visited Antioch and forced the Christians there to choose between death and apostasy. Ignatius would not deny Christ and thus was condemned to be put to death in Rome.

Saint Ignatius is well known for the seven letters he wrote on the long journey from Antioch to Rome. Five of these letters are to churches in Asia Minor; they urge the Christians there to remain faithful to God and to obey their superiors. He warns them against heretical doctrines, providing them with the solid truths of the Christian faith.

The sixth letter was to Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, who was later martyred for the faith. The final letter begs the Christians in Rome not to try to stop his martyrdom. "The only thing I ask of you is to allow me to offer the libation of my blood to God. I am the wheat of the Lord; may I be ground by the teeth of the beasts to become the immaculate bread of Christ."

Ignatius bravely met the lions in the Circus Maximus.

Reflection: Ignatius' great concern was for the unity and order of the Church. Even greater was his willingness to suffer martyrdom rather than deny Christ. He did not draw attention to his own suffering, but to the love of God which strengthened him. He knew the price of commitment and would not deny Christ, even to save his own life.

FRANCISCAN MEDIA

October is. . .

A month of the Rosary: *Hold the beads. Open your heart. Let Mary lead you closer to Jesus.*

A month to pray for our priests: *Pray our priests be holy and courageous.*

A month to pray for an end to abortion and euthanasia.

CCD/Youth Education

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.

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. We have a meeting this Wednesday in the Fr. Kelly Room of the church.

New Church Website

We have a new website now, and it has a different address. Please type this domain in Google:
www.stmaryschurcharcata.org

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention for October 2026

For mental health ministry: Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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 26 & 27, 2026 . . $2,633.28
Online Donations Sep. 27-Oct. 3, 2026 . . . . . 290.00

St. Mary's Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA) Update

St. Mary's 2026 AMA Goal **$19,300**
Amount received through September 30 . . **$16,776**

Amount needed to reach our goal: $2,524

AMA funds are sent from each parish to the Diocese to support the many ministries throughout the Diocese. The Newman Center and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission are just some of the local ministries that receive these funds. Your efforts to reach this goal are greatly appreciated.

Lost and Found

Items: teddy bear, two rosaries with pouches, single drop earring, women's olive parka, girls' pink velvet headband, Cal Poly water bottle, black and yellow umbrella.

Our Lady of Fatima Festa

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

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)

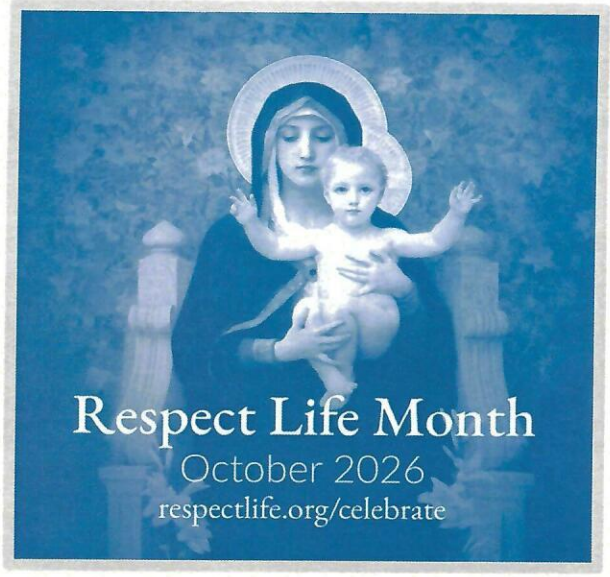
Sunday Mass – 11:30am

St. Joseph (Blue Lake)

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

Timber Ridge (McKinleyville)

Wednesday 10:00am
First Wednesday of the month



"An old Irish proverb says, 'It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.' Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life's end, we may not know how best to 'shelter' them. Here are some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them: usccb.org/end-of-life-care."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Caring for Loved Ones at Life's End

College Students!

Humboldt Newman Club

Sunday, October 11
5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's
7 pm Dinner and Faith Discussion at Newman (700 Union Street, Arcata)

Wednesday, October 14
11 am Christian Prayer Meeting Nelson Hall West 215
6 pm Disciples

Thursday, October 15
At the Newman Center (700 Union Street, Arcata)
5:30 pm Adoration, Confession, and Evening Prayer
6:30 pm Fr. Prakash's Famous Indian Feast

Friday, October 16
11 am - 1:30 pm Tabling on the Art Quad for Fall Preview
5 pm Choir Practice at Newman
6 pm Friday Fun Night at Newman

GO NEWMAN!

Sunday, October 18
5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's