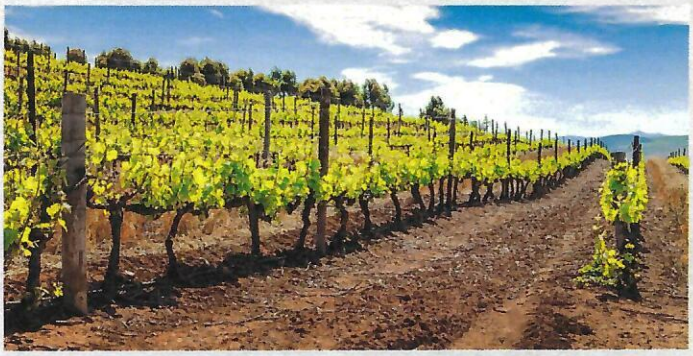


October 4, 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant; he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! For justice, but hark, the outcry!

-Isaiah 5:7

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 October 4, 2026

Sun	9:45 am	Religious Education (10/4)
Thu	10:30 am	Women's Bible Study (10/8)
Sat	10:00 am	Office of Christian Initiation of Adults (10/10)
Sat	6:00 pm	Our Lady of Fatima Mass & procession (10/10)

Week of October 11, 2026

Sun	9:45 am	Religious Education (10/11)
Sun	11:00 am	Portuguese Mass (10/11)
Tue	6:45 pm	Knights of Columbus Rosary/Meeting (10/13)

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

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

Monday, October 5: St. Faustina Kowalska; Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
No Mass
Rdgs: Gal 1:6-12 Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday, October 6: St. Bruno
8:30 am – Diana Henchke
Rdgs: Gal 1:13-24 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15 Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday, October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary
8:30 am – Jeffrey & Jacqueline Vaughn
Rdgs: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Lk 11:1-4

Thursday, October 8: Weekday
8:30 am – Avelino & Ana Homem +
Rdgs: Gal 3:1-5 (Ps) Lk 1:69-75 Lk 11:5-13

Friday, October 9: St. Denis and Companions; St. John Leonardi
8:30 am – Maria & Jose Avelar +
Rdgs: Gal 3: 7-14 Ps 111:1b-6 Lk 11:15-26

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

New Church Website

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

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.

God always gives us another chance to bear fruit

The prophets were known for delivering harsh rebukes and warnings on behalf of the Lord. Isaiah's prophecy in today's first reading is a prime example of one such message, as is Jesus' parable in the Gospel.

At first glance, these stories seem to be bad news for their audiences, and for us. After all, the greedy tenants are put to wretched deaths for their unfaithfulness. And the vineyard that produces bad grapes is left to die. Yet there is more to these passages.

Despite their harsh rebukes, Isaiah and Jesus ultimately were the deliverers of God's *good news*. Perhaps this is most evident in the fact that the warnings have come repeatedly throughout salvation history. The landowner in the Gospel, for instance, offered not one messenger but three. And then his very own son! With each new round of messengers from the landowner, the tenants had the chance to soften their hearts and repent.

To take these admonitions seriously is to consider our own hardness of heart. Have we become resigned to our weaknesses, mired in stubbornness or despair? How often do we recognize areas of potential growth yet double down and lean into patterns of sin?

A soft heart, on the other hand, continually reflects on areas that aren't bearing fruit. For example, instead of resigning ourselves to our usual grumpiness or indifference, we can repent and ask for help. When we notice our impatience, for example, we can say: "Take my impatience, Lord, and help me to bear all things patiently." Or "take from me the tendency to seek the path of least resistance rather than the path that virtue requires." "Take my habits that lead me away from the holiness you call me to." "Lord, you can bear fruit in me."

In today's second reading, Paul offers us a list of such fruit. He writes, *whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

We have heard the warnings from Jesus and the prophets time and again. Will we respond like the tenants with hardness of heart, resigned to our sin despite the signs in front of us? Or will we embrace the good news of the prophets – that it is never too late to change, that mercy is always at hand. For even the most barren of vineyards has potential for good produce, one rain at a time. When we soften our hearts, God will transform our wild grapes into true fruit.

FAITH CATHOLIC



It's Respect Life Month! Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month. Visit respectlife.org/celebrate



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

"I prefer the monotony of obscure sacrifice to all ecstasies. To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul." These are the words of Thérèse of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun called the "Little Flower," who lived a cloistered life of obscurity in the convent of Lisieux, France. And her preference for hidden sacrifice did indeed convert souls. Few saints of God are more popular than this young nun. Her autobiography, The Story of a Soul, is read and loved throughout the world. Thérèse Martin entered the convent at the age of 15 and died in 1897 at the age of 24.

Life in a Carmelite convent is indeed uneventful and consists mainly of prayer and hard domestic work. But Thérèse possessed that holy insight that redeems the time, however dull that time may be. She saw in quiet suffering a redemptive suffering, suffering that was indeed her apostolate. Thérèse said she came to the Carmel convent "to save souls and pray for priests." And shortly before she died, she wrote: "I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth."

Thérèse of Lisieux was canonized in 1925. On October 19, 1997, Pope John Paul II proclaimed her a Doctor of the Church, the third woman to be so recognized in light of her holiness and the influence of her teaching on spirituality in the Church. Her parents, Louis and Zélie, were beatified in 2008 and canonized in 2015

Reflection: Thérèse has much to teach our age of the image, the appearance, the "self." We have become a dangerously self-conscious people, painfully aware of the need to be fulfilled, yet knowing we are not. Thérèse, like so many saints, sought to serve others, to do something outside herself, to forget herself in quiet acts of love. She is one of the great examples of the gospel paradox that we gain our life by losing it, and that the seed that falls to the ground must die in order to live.

Preoccupation with self separates modern men and women from God, from their fellow human beings, and ultimately from themselves. We must re-learn to forget ourselves, to contemplate a God who draws us out of ourselves, and to serve others as the ultimate expression of selfhood. These are the insights of Saint Thérèse, and they are more valid today than ever.

Saint Thérèse is the Patron Saint of: Florists, Missionaries, Pilots, Priests

FRANCISCAN MEDIA

More announcements on the back page of the bulletin!

Parent CCD/Youth Education Meeting

12:15 P.M. – 12:45 P.M., after 11:00 A. M. Mass, October 4, in St. Mary's Church
Discussion of the CCD/ Youth Education Program for 2026-27

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.

CCD Volunteers to be recognized

This Sunday, October 4, Father Francis will recognize and commission our CCD/Youth Religious Educators during the 11:00 am Mass. We are most grateful for their willingness to share the Catholic Faith with the children of our parish.

The Vine: The Diocese of Santa Rosa newsletter
Sign up to receive messages from Bishop Vasa and info on happenings around the Diocese. Go to:
https://dioceseofsantarosa.flocknote.com/home

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 . . .$2,262.75
2nd Collection: Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa 671.00
Online Donations Sep. 20-26, 2026 . . . . . 305.00
St. Joseph's Mission, September 20, 2026 . . . . . .139.00

College Students!

Humboldt Newman Club

Sunday, October 4
5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's
7:00 pm Dinner and Faith Discussion at Newman (700 Union Street, Arcata)

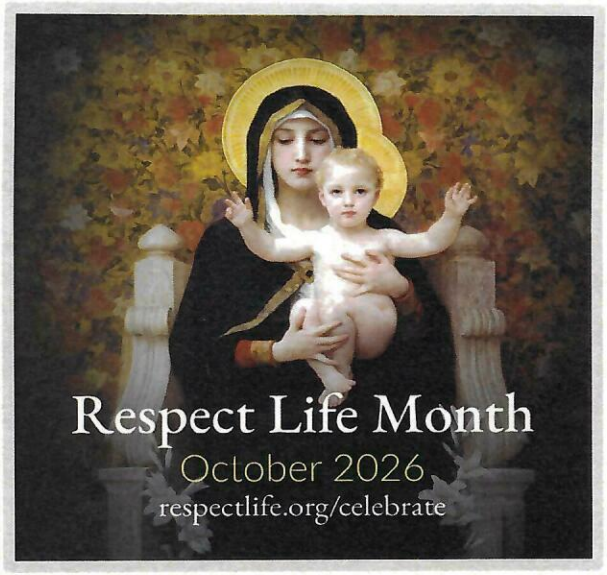
Wednesday, October 7
6 pm Disciples

Thursday, October 8
At the Newman Center (700 Union Street, Arcata)
5:30 pm Adoration, Confession, and Evening Prayer
6:30 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Campfire

Friday, October 9
At the Newman Center
5 pm Choir Practice
6 pm Hammond Trail Hike

Saturday, October 10
6 pm Our Lady of Fatima Mass and Procession starting at St. Mary's

Sunday, October 11
5:30 pm Newman Mass at St. Mary's



"When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the mother of life. Mary's acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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.

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

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!

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.