

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11
Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

*“My soul rejoices
in my God.”*



**St. Dominic's is a Catholic
Parish Inspired by
Dominican Spirituality
Igniting the Faith for the
Salvation of Souls**

Altar Flowers for the Birthday of Lootsee Lustan

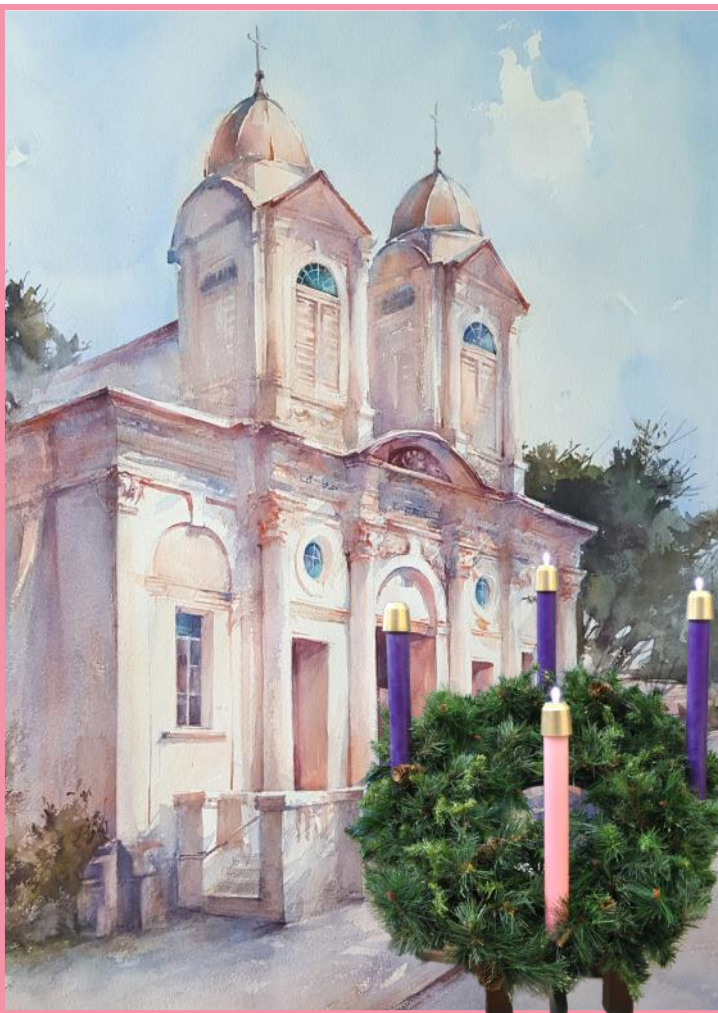
Mass Intentions

Sun	12/17	7:30 a.m.	(R) Lolito Abad
		9:00 a.m.	(T) People of Parish
		11:00 a.m.	(R) Juan & Carmen Espinosa
Mon	12/18	1:00 p.m.	(R) Elvira Castro Cespedes
		6:45 a.m.	(A) Tim & Rena Rubio
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Alex Espinosa
Tues	12/19	6:45 a.m.	(T) Windsor Residents
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Paul Fregosi
Wed	12/20	6:45 a.m.	(R) Maria Lupe Sanchez
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Rogelio Co & Family
Thurs	12/21	6:45 a.m.	(R) Wayne Kohler
		8:15 a.m.	(R) Sharon Fischer
Fri	12/22	6:45 a.m.	(R) Emiliano De Joya
		8:15 a.m.	(R) William Woods
Sat	12/23	8:15 a.m.	(B) Lootsee Lustan
		5:00 p.m.	(R) Gregory Quillin
Sun	12/24	7:30 a.m.	(A) Edgar & Tess Oteyza
		9:00 a.m.	(R) Normando Mojica
		11:00 a.m.	(P) People of the Parish
		1:00 p.m.	(R) Joseph Bettencourt

Legend:

(R) Repose of the Soul (H) Health (P) Prayerful Intention
(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday (T) Thanksgiving

February 2024 Intentions Open January 2



**Please pray for the recovery of the sick
listed in our Book of Intentions
and the following:**

Rolando Cortez, Paul Cruel, Joshua Oehler, Meredith Morrow, Laura Starkey, Cheena Gutierrez, Maria de Fatima Pereira, Victoria Montgomery, Eileen Hayes, Brigitte Michael, Barbara Donley, Cecilia Tan, Sherry Thomas, Barbara Helms, Greg Gormley, Joshua Chavez-Carroll, Colin Larkin, Jerry Schilz, Pauline Soop, Alma Johnson, Lee Schaffner, Barbara Flores, Rob Lustan, Nita Calvo, Mel Gaoaen, Sean Daly, Jackie Ho, Laura Carnes Dietrich, Lisa Santini, Liz Thurin, Rosie & Don Klatt, Aurora Basilio, Leonor Cruel, Mark Nees, Lilian Fajardo, Margaret Lobo, Albert Tan Co, Ron Pearman, Patricia Weber, Bernice Cure, Margaret Haddad, Monika Pangelinan, Gladys Haddad, Julia Haddad, Pete & Dorothy Szabo

**Please remember the following recently deceased
(and their families) in your prayers:**

Mark Meagher, Elizabeth McWalters, Apolonia Reyes, Cecelia Siu, Ross Martino, Maria Lupe Sanchez, James Donahue, Russell Ho, Robert Coronado, Andrew Kinane, Jack Curran, Arlene Saitz, Siong Beng Tan, Gregory Quillin, Bernadette Godwin, Percy Samson, Emma Juarez, Antonio Cortez, Vickie Dorsch



475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510
707.747.7220 www.stdombenicia.org
@stdombenicia #stdominicsbenicia #stdombenicia



Pastor's Corner



Father Gregory and I have followed a common theme this season of encouraging everyone to embrace Advent as a truly holy time of joyful anticipation. Each in our own ways, we have cautioned against "checking out," spiritually. I recommended that we make

Advent new year's resolutions for how we want to grow in our walks with the Lord throughout the rest of the liturgical year. Fr. Gregory exhorted us to make time during these four weeks for "going into the desert" and cutting back on things like social media and some entertainments in order to prepare our souls for Christ's arrival on Christmas.

Our candlelit Advent Stations service was intended to drive home our overall theme. And hopefully it has given a helpful context to some of the lighter stuff we have done this season, like walking in the Benicia Christmas Parade last Saturday. Doing that was such a blast, but it wasn't just about getting high on what I call the "Holly Jolly Happy Pills." Yes, we wore Santa hats and passed out candy canes as we marched down 1st Street, but we also distributed cards inviting people to join us for Mass on Christmas. And as you may have seen online or in print, we were even able to give our evangelical message to a reporter from the Vallejo Times-Herald who was on the scene.

Celebrating Advent with true spiritual depth is important in general so that our appreciation of Christ's birth on Christmas is imbued with the significance of what his birth ultimately means for our Salvation and overall purpose in life. Also, it enables us to recognize the joy of Christmas, regardless of the seeming victories or hardships we may be experiencing in any given year. During my first Advent and Christmas as a priest, I was struck by how on some days I would spend time with a person who had just gotten the job of his or her dreams or was welcoming a new baby into the world, and then a few hours later be with someone who was in between jobs or going through chemotherapy. Some Christmases feel easy and fun, while others can seem much more of a trial. If we keep Christ integrated into everything we do during this time of year, no matter what overall period of life may be happening for us, our hearts will be fuller of the good news the season proclaims. So, stay joyful! Christmas is getting close!

Fr. Andy Opsahl, O.P. - Pastor
frandy@stdombenicia.org 707-335-4668

Upcoming Events

Moms, Merriment, & Mimosas - TODAY!

Sunday, December 17

4:00 p.m. - Parish Hall

Parish Reconciliation & Holy Hour

Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.- Church

School Christmas Break

December 18 to January 2

Parking Lot Open for Daily Masses

Christmas at St. Dominic's

Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses

Sunday, December 24

4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m. - Vietnamese Mass

Midnight Mass

Christmas Carols at 11:30 p.m.

Mass at 12:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25

8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m. Spanish/English

Dear parishioners,

As you have perhaps seen in the media,

Bishop Jaime Soto will

be filing a Chapter 11 petition on

behalf of the Diocese of Sacramento with the United States Bankruptcy Court in 2024. He will likely do so in March. This pertains to the heartbreaking matter of sex abuse claims made against clergy and employees of the diocese. The diocese has provided a list of questions and answers addressing the matter on their website (link below). Also, to be clear, it is the diocese that is filing for bankruptcy, not individual parishes, like St. Dominic's, which are entities legally separate from the diocese. For the sake of due diligence, however, a committee has been established by the parishes to represent them in working with their own legal counsel on any issues that may arise, and to keep them informed as the diocese's bankruptcy progresses. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim-survivors.

In Christ,

Fr. Andy

Some online resources from the Diocese of Sacramento:

<https://scd.org/news/media-release-diocese-sacramento>

<https://scd.org/news/letter-faithful-about-upcoming-bankruptcy>

<https://scd.org/news/questions-and-answers-owning-and-atoning-sin-clergy-abuse>



DIOCESE OF
SACRAMENTO

Children's Christmas Choir

Sing at the Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Mass

Rehearsals

Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

December 6, 13, & 20

Ministry Center - Mary Magdalene Room

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation, but for church musicians, it is a time for preparation of music, as well. This year, St. Dominic's is inviting children ages 6 and up to join in a special Christmas Youth Choir to sing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass! Under the guidance of Ms. Maddie Burmann, children will sing familiar carols, some new music selections, and learn how to sing as part of an ensemble.

If you have any questions, please email Maddie Burmann at MadelaineBurmann@gmail.com.



The Castejón Family

Javier María, Diana Alexis,
Joaquín Iñigo, & Iris Carmen
Will light the Advent candle for the third week
of Advent at the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Our family tradition on Christmas is we hear mass on Christmas Eve and when we come back home we celebrate a bit, and have a family Christmas lunch together. We also set up our nativity which symbolizes the holidays- the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas

Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m. - Vietnamese Mass

Midnight Mass

Christmas Carols at 11:30 p.m. - Mass at 12:00 a.m.

-Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25, 2023

8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m. Spanish/English

New Year's Eve (Vigil) Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2023

11:00 p.m. - Followed by Reception in Hall

New Year's Day Mass

Monday, January 1, 2024

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:15 a.m.

at St. Dominic's

475 East I Street, Benicia

Advent Reconciliation

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.

Saturdays 3:30 p.m.

Reconciliation with Visiting Priests:

Monday, December 18th

9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.



at St. Dominic's
475 East I Street, Benicia



Coffee Hour Fellowship

Sundays after 11:00 a.m. Mass
Parish Hall
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us for coffee, snacks and conversation. Coffee and juice is provided. Snacks to share would be a blessing to all.

Bring something to share! Suggested items include cookies, cheese & crackers, finger foods or small bite snack items.

Come Let Us Adore Him!

**Adoration Chapel
Hourly Needs**

Monday: 12, 1, 9 a.m. & 12 p.m.
Tuesday: 1 a.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.
Friday: 1 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday: 4 a.m.

Can you spare an hour for our Lord?
Contact: adoration@stdombenicia.org

Help St. Vincent de Paul during the Holiday Season!

SVDP's Holiday Giving Tree

Thank you to all those who donated, prepared, organized, delivered, and made Christmas happen for so many families in our little community!



Want more information?

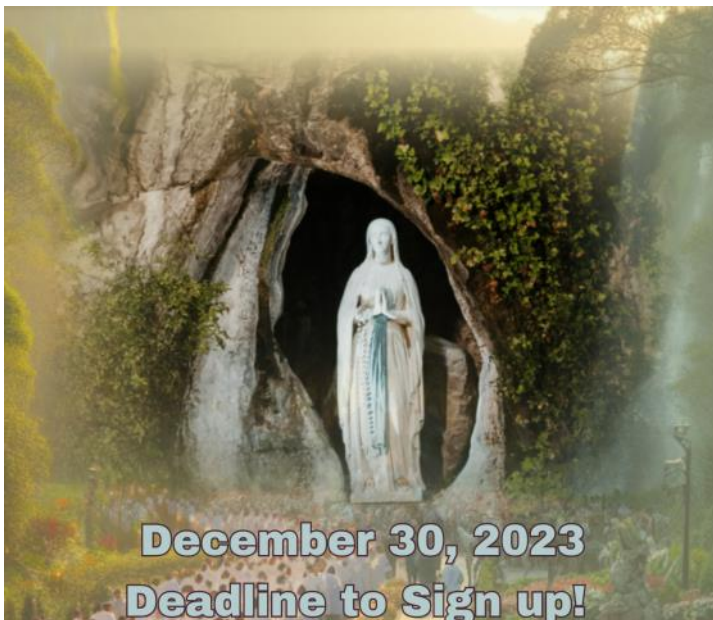
St. Vincent de Paul ministry meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and get involved this holiday season! To learn more about these events, our ministry, or to get involved contact svdp@gmail.com or svdp@stdombenicia.org.

Please help us stock our pantry. We are in need of mayo, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups, beef stew, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, fruit cups, etc.

If you know anyone who could use St. Vincent de Paul's help, please have them call **707-746-1773**.



**Merry Christmas to all
our Confirmation
families and
parishioners!**



**December 30, 2023
Deadline to Sign up!**

Marian Shrine Pilgrimage

Fr Isaiah Mary Molano, OP.
Fr Gregory Liu, OP.

May 8th - May 20th '2024

PORTUGAL - SPAIN - FRANCE

LISBON - FATIMA - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - AVILA
- ZARAGOZA - BARCELONA - LOURDES - PARIS

**For booking and information,
please contact:
Tessie Gonzales
Call/Text: 323-702-7289
Email: teresitagonzal6453@att.net
Full itinerary available in the
church vestibule.**

- Roundtrip Air tickets from Los Angeles (LAX), & San Francisco (SFO)
 - One check-in luggage per passenger
 - 49 Seats Motor Coach Land Transportation
 - 2nd Class Train ticket (Loudes - Paris)
 - 11-night accommodation at 4-Star Hotels
 - Hotel Porterage Service
 - 11 Breakfasts & 11 Dinners
 - English-speaking escort throughout the trip
 - Entrance to: Fatima Basilica, Jemimos Monastery, Valencia Cathedral, Barcelona Cathedral, La Sagrada Familia (Offical Guide & Whisper)
 - Rate is based on 40 passengers, and subject to change based on final group size.
- EXCLUDES:**
Tour Guide, and Driver's Tips



TODAY!

YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

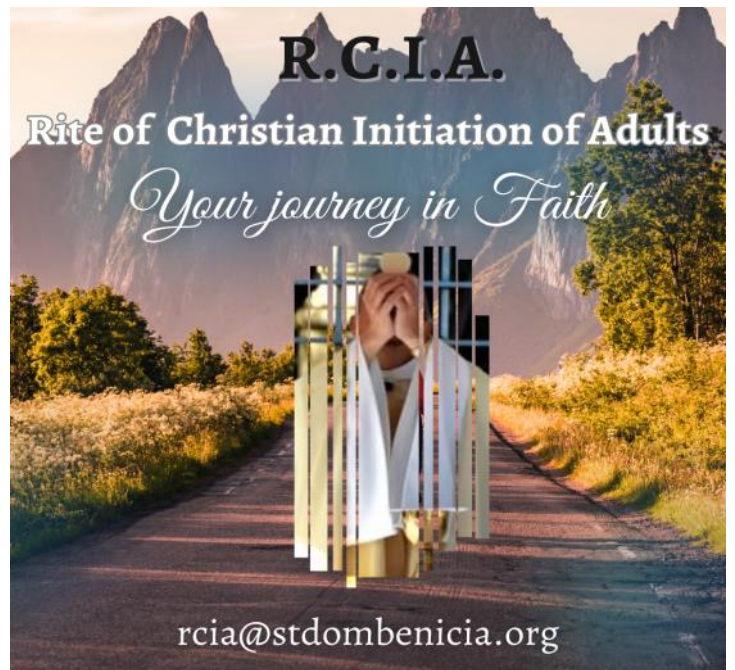
**Moms, Merriment,
Mimosas**

December 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall

Calling all moms!
Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and join MoM group for an afternoon of "mimosas," ornament and sugar scrub making, and fun!

RSVP TO
MOTHERS@STDOMBENICIA.ORG

St. Dominic's Catholic Church



R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Your journey in Faith

rcia@stdombenicia.org

RCIA News


With great joy and deep gratitude to God, we would like to share with you that last Sunday (December 10), two candidates, Gustavo Farias and James Roman, completed their sacraments of Christian initiation in the presence of the parish community. Specifically, Fr. Andy received James into full communion with the Catholic Church, and conferred confirmation and first communion to both Gustavo and James. As we congratulate Gustavo and James and welcome them into our community, let us continue to pray for other candidates who are still undergoing catechesis and preparation for baptism and confirmation!

Legacy & IRA Giving

You can remember St. Dominic's, Benicia in your estate plans through your will, retirement plan or other assets. Legacy gifts are used for capital projects that may otherwise not be possible and are never used for day to day expenses. You can even designate your gift to a specific fund (i.e. building fund).

If you own a traditional IRA and are over the age of 70 1/2, the IRS requires that you take yearly distributions (MRD's). But did you know you can designate the MRD to St. Dominic's Church and you don't have to pay taxes on the distribution? For more information, visit the IRS website or contact your tax or financial consultant.

**For more information or to explore your options please contact
Teresa Stone at tstone@stdombenicia.org or 707-335-4672**



A D O R E
E U C H A R I S T I C A D O R A T I O N
F O R T H E F A M I L Y
Friday, December 29, 2023
5:30 p.m. Snacks/Potluck - Ministry Center
6:00 p.m. Holy Half Hour - Church
6:30 p.m. Dinner/Potluck - Ministry Center



1st Saturday Mass
January 6, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Dominic's Cemetery
5th Street & Hillcrest Ave., Benicia

MUSIC NOTES : December 17, 2023

7:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Organ Prelude: "Nimrod" from Enigma
Variations by Edward Elgar

"Nimrod" is one of the Enigma Variations Sir Edward Elgar composed 1898-1899, a cycle of variations on an original theme. The name "Nimrod" refers to Augustus J. Jaeger, who was a music editor by the London publisher Novello & Co. He was a close friend of Elgar's, giving him useful advice but also severe criticism, something Elgar greatly appreciated. Nimrod is described in the Old Testament as "a mighty hunter before the Lord".

Organ Postlude: "Morning Tribute", arr.
Lyndell Leatherman

This arrangement by Leatherman combines several music sources: "Per Gynt", an orchestral suite by Norwegian composer Edward Grieg, and hymn tunes "Morning Has Broken" and "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Choral anthem (communion meditation) for
11:00 a.m. Mass:

"Night of Silence" by Daniel Kantor is a meditation on winter time and the cold it brings. The composer and lyricist contrasts it with the warmth and joy of approaching Christmas. It may be sung simultaneously with the tune of Silent Night.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 7:30 a.m. - Livestreamed
 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. (Spanish/English)

First Sunday of month Vietnamese Mass – 3:00 p.m.

Daily Mass

Monday – Friday: 6:45 a.m.

Monday – Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

Confession Times

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Ministries at St. Dominic's

♦ Adoration

Euly Legro - adoration@stdombenicia.org

♦ Choirs

Dr. Cyril Deaconoff - cdeaconoff@stdombenicia.org

♦ Consolation/Grief

Patti Erickson - grief@stdombenicia.org

♦ Dominican Laity

Dirk Fulton - domlaity@stdombenicia.org

♦ Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Mike & Sara Monahan - emhc@stdombenicia.org

♦ Gabriel Project

Sandy Scafani & Maria Padrones - gabriel@stdombenicia.org

♦ GIFT - Growing In Faith Together

Shannon Carter - gift@stdombenicia.org

♦ Guadalupana Association

Patricia Chavez - guadalupana@stdombenicia.org

♦ Hospitality

Kristina Ruiz - hospitality@stdombenicia.org

♦ Knights of Columbus

Dan Swienton - beniciaknights@gmail.com

♦ Mothers Ministry

Jamaila Pasternack - mothers@stdombenicia.org

♦ Lectors Ministry

Amar Lagrimas - lectors@stdombenicia.org

♦ Lazarus Ministry

Ann Espinosa - lazarus@stdombenicia.org

♦ Parish Pastoral Council

Kaitlin Demers - ppc@stdombenicia.org

♦ RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Fr. Gregory Liu, O.P. - gliu@stdombenicia.org

♦ St. Dominic School

Penny Ogden - pogden@sdschoolbenicia.org

♦ St. Vincent de Paul

Tom Carroll - svdp@stdombenicia.org

♦ St. Dominic's Cemetery

Lisa Sarnicola - lsarnicola@opwest.org

Our ministries are back to their regular monthly meetings on campus. Please email and find out more about them and how you can join! They look forward to hearing from you.

Parish Office

475 East I Street, Benicia

Current Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 707.747.7220

Parish Staff

Fr. Andy Opsahl, O.P.

frandy@stdombenicia.org

Fr. Gregory Liu, O.P.

gliu@stdombenicia.org

Errol Kissinger

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Teresa Stone

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Debi Thurin

dthurin@stdombenicia.org

Justin Reyes

jreyes@stdombenicia.org

Scott Schilz

sschilz@stdombenicia.org

Fr. David Farrugia, O.P.

Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.

Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Deacon & Dir Rel Ed

Deacon

Deacon

Resident Brother

Business Manager

Music Director

Communications

Teen Ministry

Children's Sacraments

**Wedding Coordinator
& Office Assistant
Maintenance**

**In Residence / Retired
In Residence / Retired**

St. Dominic School

935 East 5th Street, Benicia

www.sdschoolbenicia.org 707.745.1266

Penelope Ogden (K-8th grade) Principal

pogden@sdschoolbenicia.org

Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK)

Preschool Director

tsanchez@sdschoolbenicia.org

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT 7/1/2023-11/30/2023

	YTD	YTD	+ / -
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Offertory	\$ 384,007	\$ 412,917	\$ (28,910)
Second Collections:			
<i>Building Improvement</i>	\$ 18,305	\$ 20,833	\$ (2,528)
<i>Faith Formation</i>	\$ 4,780	\$ 4,583	\$ 197
SDS Tuition Assistance	\$ 5,217		
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 29,790		
Total Operating Income	\$ 533,750	\$ 521,975	\$ (11,775)
Operating Expenses	\$ 616,530	\$ 561,661	\$ 54,870
Net Income/Loss	\$ (82,780)	\$ (39,686)	\$ (43,095)

**Please support the following businesses owned by members of our parish community.
Their contributions each week underwrite our Parish Bulletin. Thank you!**

A & S Chem Dry, Anthony & Shelly Trevino <i>Serving St. Dominic's Parish for over 25 years!</i> (707) 748-7726	Kindred Spirits Pet/House Sitting Dorothy Doscher (707) 334-3776	Reyes Electric Co. & Design LIC#32877 Residential/ Commercial (707) 747-6818
Accident Attorney Mark Basil Pappas, Esq. (707) 567-8206 mbpappaslaw@comcast.net	Law Offices of Barnum & Avila Employment Law (707) 745-3747, www.rmblaw.com	George Schandelmier Landscaping georgeschandelmierjrlandscaping.com (707) 554-2722
All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center FD2286 Funeral, Mortuary, Cremation & Burial. (707)-644-5209 cfcsSacramento.org	Law Offices of Thomas R. Healy Wills/Trusts/Estate Planning/General Practice (707) 553-7360	Sarita's Garden Consulting www.saritasdrygardenconsulting.com (707)-892-0851 First step in gardening!
Amso Healthy Chiropractic 310 Military West (707) 752-2990	Minuteman Press Copy, Print, Posters & Banners (707) 647- 1000, 812 Tennessee St,Vallejo	Shutters and More Bill Simpson, Parishioner (707) 746-8187
ATS Tax & Financial Solutions Tax Angels to your rescue! Returns/ QB (707) 745-1040	Mr. Lawn Landscape Service Landscaping, Maintenance & Installation (707) 747-5273	St. Dominic's Cemetery Lisa Sarnicola, Sales Manager (707) 751-0527
Crane Station, Inc. Rex Sevilla—Crane and Electrical Services (800) 891-3888	Napoli Pizza and Pasta Chris & Lisa Guerrero- Owners (707) 746-8906, www.napolibenicia.com	Teresa Stone - Notary Services tstone@stdombenicia.org (707) 330-0773
David Galligan, Broker Twin Oaks Real Estate 231 First Street 707-319-5397 Text/Call DRE#00847290	Olson Realty, Inc. Kathleen McInerney Olson/Broker (707) 745-3602	Tuolumne Street Auto Repair John McLaughlin, Parishioner (707) 648-3434
Hamann Real Estate, 513 First Street Tim and Jeannie Hamann/Broker-Owners (707) 246-6567 DRE01348061	Omatochi Care for Seniors Hourly, 24-Hr, Live-in, Respite, & Memory Care (925) 905-1662, www.omatochi.com	Up2Code Plumbing Owner Mike Pitta - 24 hour service (707) 751-1714
Richard Joyce, O.D. Optometrist Exams, Glasses, Contacts (707) 745-6266, 874 Southampton Rd.	Passalacqua Funeral Chapel John Passalacqua/Greg Silva, Directors (707) 745-3130	Warring & Assoc. Realtors Bill/Diane Brokers/Owners, 829 First St. (707) 746-6990
		Tim Wright - Carpentry Work 30 years Exp - References Available (707) 319-5357
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER	Dec 03: Building Improvement Dec 08: Immaculate Conception Dec 10: Retired Religious Fund	Dec 10: SDS Tuition Assistance Dec 17: Building Improvement

Parish Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bulletin & E-mail Submissions, Advertising, Ministries, Scheduling, or Promotion please send to: ltelepak@stdombenicia.org