

Gathering Song: *Here At This Table* BB#309
Refrain: *Come and be filled here at this table.*
Food for all who hunger and drink for all who thirst.
Drink of his love, wine of salvation.
You shall live forever in Jesus Christ the Lord.

Gloria: *Glory to God* BB#876

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 78: The Lord Gave Them Bread*

The Lord gave them bread, bread from heav - en.

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Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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Preparation of Gifts: *Give Us, O Lord*

Give us, O Lord, the bread of your word, give us the bread of your ta - ble.

Be in our prayer, be in our la - bor as we seek to do your will.

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Mass: *Mass of Renewal*
Holy: BB#879 **Memorial Acclamation:** BB#880 **Amen:** BB#883 **Lamb of God:** BB#884

Communion Song: *Take and Eat* BB#364

1. Take and eat, take and eat: this is my bod - y,
 Take and drink; take and drink:

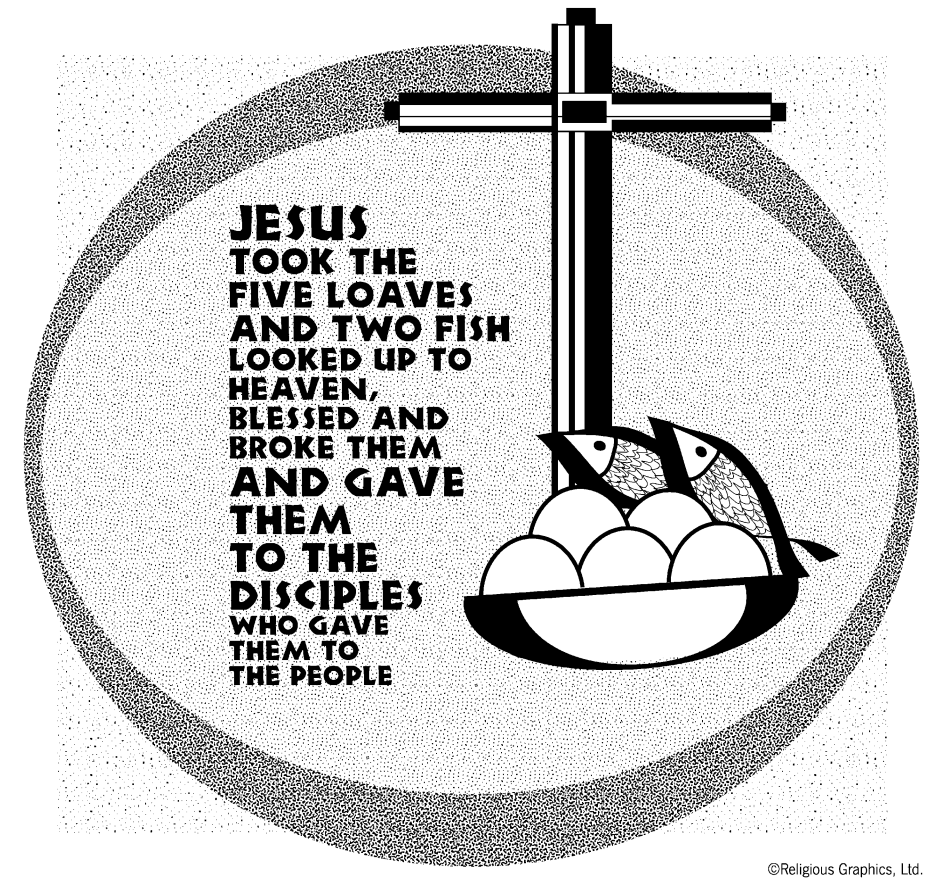
2. giv - en up for you. this is my blood giv - en up for you.

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Closing Song: *Glory and Praise to Our God* BB#556
Refrain: *Glory and praise to our God, who alone gives light to our days.*
Many are the blessings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 4, 2024



Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF
Pastor, (707) 996-8422 ext. 13
Email: office@stleosonoma.org
601 W. Agua Caliente Rd., Sonoma, CA 95476
P.O. Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416
Parish Office, (707) 996-8422 Fax, (707) 996-3984

St. Leo Catholic Church
Website: www.stleosonoma.org



Mass Times

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m. Spanish
9:30 a.m. English
11:30 a.m. Spanish

Confession: 4:30 p.m., Saturdays
6:30 p.m., Wednesdays

Our website: www.stleosonoma.org

Weekday Mass:
8:30 a.m. M, W – F (no Mass on Tuesday)
7:00 p.m. – Wed. – Spanish Mass

✠ Sacraments ✠
Baptisms and Weddings
Call the office, (707) 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS: August 3rd – August 11th

Sat. 3 5:00 p.m. Val Matthews †
Sun. 4 9:30 a.m. Mattia Beltrame †
Mon. 5 8:30 a.m. Val Matthews †
Tues. 6 **NO MASS**
Wed. 7 8:30 a.m. Dr. Felix C. Mapa †
Thurs. 8 8:30 a.m. Ramona Sy-Quia †
Friday 9 8:30 a.m. Bob Keefe †
Sat. 10 5:00 p.m. Edwin Tompkins †
Richard Facciola †
Sun. 11 9:30 a.m. Emerencia Balanga †
Hilary La Rosa †

FISCAL LOG July 27 / 28

Sunday Collection: \$ 2,931.

NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE
112 Parishioners pledged: \$103,359.38 71%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Aug 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgen Mary
Aug 20 Men's Club Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW
Aug 24/25 2nd Collection, Diocesan Seminararians (D)
Aug 28 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, 9AM, FINN

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for August
In Memory of
Pat & Bill Ramirez



Save the Date
ST. LEO'S PARISH FIESTA
September 8th, 2024
More information to follow



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

St. Leo's Development Fund. Your donations to the Development Fund help to support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

APPRECIATION: We are very thankful to have Father James Fredericks and Father Alvin Villaruel here to cover Masses during Father Jojo's absence.

SVDP NEEDS PAPER AND PLASTIC BAGS:
SVDP needs your unwanted paper and plastic shopping bags for their Tuesday, "Groceries to Go" program. Please bring your bags to the parish office.
Next meeting is August 28th at 9:00 a.m. C U then.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

First Communion: There are no spots left. Classes for first and second year are full.

Youth Ministry/Confirmation: There are a few spots left for High School students. Please visit the parish office to register. Classes for Jr. High are full.

Thank you to everyone who came to register.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Long-time parishioner Louis Ferrario passed away on July 28th. A Memorial Mass is set for Monday, August 12th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Mr. Ferrario and family in your prayers.

ENGLISH PRE-BAPTISMAL CLASS OFFERED: This class is mandatory for parents & godparents who are wishing to baptize their child. Call the office, 707 996-8422 for more info.

EUCARISTIC MINISTER TO THE SICK & HOME BOUND: If anyone is interested in this very fulfilling ministry, please call the parish office, (707) 996-8422. Ministers needed for Sunday visits.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY OF ST. LEO'S: Anyone in need of food can call the office Wednesday thru Friday to order from the pantry. Clients must call the parish office, (707) 996-8422 by 11a.m. to place an order. Pick up time is 11:30a.m. Every Tuesday, our SVDP and the Redwood Empire Food Bank distribute "Groceries to Go" in the parking lot from 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. The food distribution is first come, first served. No need to call, just show up.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA,

August 16th-18th, 2024. Visit NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information or Call (704)-665-0455.

So I did sit and eat

In the preface to her 2008 book *Sacramental Poetics* Regina Mara Schwarz (scholar at Northwestern University) says, "The Eucharist has always been mysterious to me. As a Jewish child, nothing in my tradition could prepare me for such a ritual." In Judaism, according to Regina, "The separation between the Creator and his Creation is the fundamental tenet." In other words, God by nature had to be absolutely distant, even unimaginable – or one might end up worshipping idols.

And yet the Mass with its presence of the divine in bread and wine fascinated her. Why? Maybe because we now seem to live in a disenchanted world – where thanks to modern trends our world seems rinsed clean of the divine presence that used to be found in the wind, the rain, the sunrise, in roses, in prophets and kings. We live in an age when people speak glibly of the "death of God" and glory in the freedom that comes of his absence (until the emptiness that follows upon such godless freedom leads many to despair even in the midst of prosperity). In other words, what need have I for some divine Other (with a capital O) when I have my Self for companionship?

Finding a disenchanted, godless world unsettling, Regina felt drawn to the Mass now and then – with its faith in God's presence in bread and wine. She would try to be inconspicuous during the service – until communion. Then she was drawn into the procession toward the altar – except, "while I gave my limbs the command to stand and walk, they did not move. Frozen and embarrassed, I began to reassure myself that I was neither sinner nor convert, but someone who simply wanted to join [in]. I tried again . . . but again I was unable to move."

The restraints of her Jewish upbringing, fear that her experiment was insensitive to the beliefs of the congregation . . . all kept her back. But ultimately it seems she felt – after the horror of the Holocaust – that the world was not yet fit for the proximity of God. Nevertheless she found solace in the Eucharistic poetry of the English writers of the 17th century – people like George Herbert. In reading such poetry a kind of non-physical communion might be had – in one's imagination. Take his poem *Love (III): Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back / Guiltie of dust and sinne. / But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack, / From my first entrance in, / Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, / If I lacked any thing. // A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, You shall be he. There is further hesitancy but Love insists upon being the gracious host: You must sit down, says Love, / and taste my meat: So I did sit and eat.*

Regina says something else at the close of her book that hits home. She admits that Christians down through time have made the Eucharist an occasion for warfare, for painful discrimination between those who are welcome and those who are not. But its real intent is "to create a community that coheres, not from blood or territorial boundaries, not from history or from political allegiance, but through SHARING DIVINITY . . ." [The capitals are mine!] It seeks "to overturn the pain of difference, to achieve reconciliation."

Does that ever enter your mind as you take the bread and wine into your being – that you are consuming divinity, becoming divine, becoming the Love who plays the host in George Herbert's poem? After communion do you behave in godly ways?

Geoff Wood

(Reprint 8/2/2015)