

# First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

**Gathering Song:** *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus*

Mar-a - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu ia!

Mar-a - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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**Penitential Rite:**

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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**Responsorial Psalm:** *Advent Responsorial*

My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In his light I shall be saved. My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In His love I'll find peace.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** *Watson Alleluia*

**Preparation of Gifts:** *Beyond the Moon and Stars* BB#48  
*Refrain: Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night, so great our hunger, Lord, to see your light. The sparrow finds her home beneath your wing. So may we come to rest where angels sing.*

**Mass:** *May We Be One*  
*(Mass card is in the pew pocket)*

**Communion Song:** *We Wait*

We wait for you, we long for you. Come to us, lead us out of dark - ness. You are the light we seek.

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**Closing Song:** *Find Us Ready*  
*Refrain: Find us ready, Lord, not standing still. Find us working and loving and doing your will. Find us ready, Lord, faithful in love, building the kingdom that's here and above. Building the kingdom of mercy and love.*



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**St. Leo Catholic Church**  
Website: [www.stleosonoma.org](http://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](http://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: Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Sat. 30 5:00 p.m. Anna Vagnozzi †

### DECEMBER

Sun. 1 9:30 a.m. Joyce Richardson †

Mon. 2 8:30 a.m. Danny DeCarly †

Tues. 3 **NO MASS**

Wed. 4 8:30 a.m. Kevin Cunniff †

Thurs. 5 8:30 a.m. Rita Shine †

Friday 6 8:30 a.m. Carolyn Hipps †

Sat. 7 5:00 p.m. Richard Facciola †

Sun. 8 9:30 a.m. Ellie Dossee †

**FISCAL LOG: November 23 / 24**

**Sunday Collection: \$2,942.**

**NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE**  
**123 Parishioners pledged: \$115,319.38 80%**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection, St. Leo's Development Fund

Dec 8 Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.

Dec 14/15 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious

Dec 17 Men's Club Parish Christmas Dinner, 6PM

### SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for December

Marcella Murphy

&

Frederick Welch



**ADORATION DURING ADVENT:** During the season of Advent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be every Friday following the morning Mass.

**TICKETS ON SALE FOR OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Members of our Men's Club will be selling tickets for our Annual Christmas Dinner after 5p.m. and 9:30a.m. Masses this weekend. The date for the dinner is Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### COFFEE AND PASTRIES THIS WEEKEND:

Coffee and pastries resume this weekend. Come share your Thanksgiving moments with us.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** – St. Leo's Development Fund. Funds from this collection help to pay for maintenance and upkeep of our facilities.

**TOYS FOR RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS:** It's that time of the year that we ask for unwrapped gifts for our RE kids, 7 to 12 years of age. Items can be dropped at the office or in the receptacle at the back of church.

**ST. LEO'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:** Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Finnegan Center.

**ATTENTION ALL LECTORS:** The new lector workbooks are in the Usher's Room.

**ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL MASS:** Ernestine Trujillo's 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Memorial Mass will be Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY OF ST. LEO'S:** Anyone in need of food can call the office (707) 996-8422 by 11a.m., Wednesday thru Friday to order from the pantry. Client pick-up time is 11:30a.m.

**SATURDAY CONFESSION OFFERED:** In the church on Saturdays at 4:30p.m. Use the confessional to your left when entering the church.

**ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE:** Star of the Valley invites you for an inspiring afternoon of prayer focusing on *Choose Joy* Wednesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 4 p.m. at the church followed by some Christmas Cheer, 4 – 5 p.m. in the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center. Enjoy Christmas Carols, cookies & more. No Cost/No RSVP.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR:** Sat., December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. Local crafters display a variety of handmade gifts, fashion accessories, and home goods. Homemade foods are on sale to enjoy onsite or take home. FREE Selfies with Santa!

**POINSETTIAS IN MEMORIAM:** The St. Leo's Ladies Guild invites you to join in their fundraiser that helps to decorate our church for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Please PRINT the name(s) of those you wish to be remembered and send your request and donation of \$10 to St. Leo's Church, Attn. Michelle Levesque, PO Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, Ca 95476.



### Advent – the dark time of the year

In a poem dedicated to his deceased Irish mother, Seamus Heaney remembers simple things about her: *And don't be dropping your crumbs. Don't tilt your chair. / Don't reach. Don't point. Don't make noise while you stir.* He remembers, as a child, silently sitting with her over a bucket of water: *I was all hers as we peeled potatoes. / They broke the silence, let fall one by one . . . / Little pleasant splashes . . . / I remembered her head bent towards my head, / Her breath in mine, our fluent dripping knives - / Never closer the whole rest of our lives.*

He remembers the cool that came off the sheets just off the line and how he and she would stretch and fold them and end up hand to hand. And then there was Holy Week and *The midnight fire. The paschal candlestick. / Elbow to elbow, glad to be kneeling next / To each other up there near the front / Of the packed church, we would follow the text . . . / As the hind longs for the streams, so my soul . . .* He remembers, too, (after he had become a famous poet) how she pretended bewilderment over his big words and the names he dropped until he learned to govern his tongue in front of her and lapse into the country dialect of his childhood.

Finally, he remembers her death; how his father *In the last minutes . . . said more to her / Almost than in all their life together. / . . . His head was bent down to her propped-up head. / She could not hear but we were overjoyed. / He called her good and girl. Then she was dead, / The searching for a pulsebeat was abandoned / And we all knew one thing by being there. / The space we stood around had been emptied / Into us to keep, it penetrated / Clearances that suddenly stood open. / High cries were felled, and a pure change happened.*

How similar a scene to my own experience by the bedside of my dying sister long ago! A vacancy is left and yet not a mere vacancy but a peculiar vacancy - a vacancy somewhat like that of Christ's empty tomb, a kind of post-partum vacancy suggesting that a birth rather than a death has occurred.

All of which brings us back to this dark time of the year to revive in us before a tree bright with color and fragile globes of crystal the thought that now - as the days grow dimmer, the leaves fall, the trees go bare, a chill fills the air and the fading year becomes a metaphor of human mortality – something wholesome, warm, alive persists and always will.

The Church obviously considers this a time to think about death: the death of loved ones and our own eventual demise - but with the mellow expectation that, even as winter gives way to springtime, death is but a prelude to our rebirth somewhere, somehow - where you and I shall have an opportunity to relate eternally to others (in my case to my sister) with an intimacy expressible - on this side of the grave - only in poetry such as Seamus Heaney wrote about his mother.

(Reprint 12/4/2016)

**Geoff Wood**