

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

Sunday Masses are Live Streamed
 on Facebook, YouTube, or
 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: Call the office, (707) 996-8422
Weddings: Call the office, (707) 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS Dec. 10th – 18th

Sat 10 5:00 pm James Sullivan †
 Sun 11 9:30 am Tony Bertolini †
 Mon 12 8:30 am Kai Rego †
 Tues 13 **NO MASS**
 Wed 14 8:30 am Les Matthews †
 & Elena Wardwell, Happy B-day
 Thurs 15 8:30 am Eduardo LeFever †
 Friday 16 8:30 am Margarita Ramos †
 Sat 17 5:00 pm Joe McDermott †
 Sun 18 9:30 am Raymond †, Anita †,
 & Richard Hines †

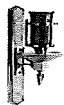
FISCAL LOG December 3 / 4

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,841.

2022 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN
 123 Parishioners pledged: \$123,422. 85%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 11 Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
 Dec 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
 Dec 20 Parish Christmas Dinner
 Dec 23 OFFICE CLOSED
 DEC 26 OFFICE CLOSED



SANCTUARY LAMP
 Dedication for December
 In memory of
Bob & Emme Field

2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Retirement Fund for Religious. Nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry – educating the young and more. Years serving for little or no pay has left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of this collection helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities.

COOKIES NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Men's Club is looking for individuals to bake Christmas cookies to be served for dessert at the Dec. 20th Dinner. They figure 20 dozen cookies will be needed. Questions or for more info call John Shiels, (415) 720-5309. Thank you.



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 of a person or persons you wish to be remembered and send your request and donation of \$10 to Leo's Church, Attn. Michelle Levesque, PO Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Ellie Dossee had spine surgery about 6 weeks ago. She is doing well and slowly regaining movement and strength. Ellie is staying for a time at Pleasant Hill Post Acute in Pleasant Hill, 1625 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 if you'd like send her get well wishes.

GIFTS FOR RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS: Please help in providing our R.E. children with a toy this Christmas by donating one or more toys for children between 6 – 12 years old. There is a box at the entrance of Church where you may place the gift(s). Or you can drop them off at the parish office. Thank you and God Bless.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER: Tues. Dec. 20th. Tickets on sale THIS weekend. Cost is \$40 per person. **A FINAL COUNT of attendees is needed by Tuesday, Dec. 13th so get your tickets today.** Tickets can also be purchased in the parish office, M – F, 9a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24	Sunday, December 25
4:00PM Children's Mass	8:00AM en Español
6:30PM Posada	9:30AM English
7:00PM en Español	11:30AM en Español
9:00PM English Mass	



The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

What does that mean? Jesus has just given a laudatory affirmation of his predecessor John the Baptist, who was imprisoned by King Herod and soon to be executed. *What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? . . . Someone dressed in fine clothing? . . . I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist.* That's saying a mouthful! Last Sunday you had a glimpse of why John was so praised. He was a one-person-opposition-party, taking on not only the Temple authorities but also causing the royal authorities worry over his outspoken exposure of their lax allegiance to Judaism's biblical heritage.

And yet now Jesus seems to undercut his extreme praise of John's prophetic stature by saying: *Nevertheless, the least resident of the kingdom of heaven is greater than he!* If John has been greater than anyone "born of women", how can he be inferior to anybody?

One way to approach this is to think "accreditation". Jesus is grading John the Baptist as the A+ of all A+s that have ever been born. (This reminds me of my first year at Catholic University when after struggling through a semester in Physics I approached my professor and asked what grade I should try for during the looming finals. And he said: "If I were you I would try to attain the highest grade possible, like an A+ which would allow you a D- for the semester." The result? I studied all day and night and passed.)

We live in a world of accreditation, having to prove yourself worthy of a contribution to society, to abide by laws, regulations, win (not lose), don't look back, someone may be gaining on you (thank you, Satchel Paige). We are under some kind of evaluation or judgment every day – nor do we need anybody else to do the judging; we judge ourselves sometimes mercilessly. And many a person wilts under the constant need to climb the ladder, measure up . . . So in evaluating John the Baptist so highly Jesus was speaking from the accreditation side of the ledger – where the Law, Accountability held sway – as it does in our everyday both religious and secular worlds.

But notice the pivot Jesus makes after praising John: *Nevertheless the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.* What is this kingdom of heaven? It's the realm of pure grace into which Jesus and his Gospel would lead the human race – where we are bathed baptismally into an experience of Being that cares, where credentials no longer sort us out as winners and losers, worthless and worthy, this race or that, a plus or a minus – but all are one in solidarity with Being (I am who Am) itself. You are and I am and she is and they are – as much as trees and roses and clouds and galaxies *are*.

I mean the fundamental thing about you is that you *are* – which is already a manifestation of God as grace. We forget that. Which is something the parables of Jesus understand. Grace is something we lose touch with in a world of "justification" – and so we must recover it as a buried mustard seed, as buried yeast, as buried treasure – all of which implies – our resurrection into fullness of life.

Geoff Wood