

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

"Where all are Welcome"

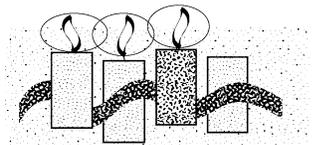
601 W. Agua Caliente Road, Sonoma, CA 95476

P.O. Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416

Office: (707) 996-8422

Rev. Jojo Puthussery, M.F., Pastor

Website: www.stleosonoma.org



December 12, 2021 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS LETTERS ARE IN THE MAIL:

As with Easter, All Souls and Christmas, we send out a letter to our registered parishioners. If you do not receive our mailings but wish to – complete the parish registration form that is located in the wall pocket at the back of church or contact the office, 707 996-8422

RE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

On Thursday, **December 16th at 6PM** the Religious Education kids will have a Christmas gathering in the LSW.

If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped gift for the RE kids, please bring to the office, M-F, 9AM – 12noon, by December 15th.

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

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. A dedication list will be inserted into our bulletin following Christmas. Please **PRINT** the name of the person or persons you wish to be remembered and send your request and donation of \$10. to St. Leo's Church, Attn. Michelle Levesque, P.O. Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416. Please call the office with any questions, (707) 996-8422.

SVDP NEEDS YOUR EXTRA BAGS:

Our SVDP Society is requesting the donation of your extra plastic grocery bags and paper bags. The bags may be dropped off near the Food Pantry or at the Parish office. Thank you in advance.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, December 21st, 6:00 p.m. in the Lillian Wing. Open to all men of the parish.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for December



In Loving Memory of Lucy & Fred Holzknecht

Mass Times

Saturday Mass:
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:
8:00 a.m. Spanish
9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Spanish

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 and Adoration

✠ Sacraments ✠

Baptisms: Call the office, (707) 996-8422

Weddings: Call the office, (707) 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS: December 11th – December 19th

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| Sat 11 | 5:00 p.m. | Elena Wardwell, Happy Birthday |
| Sun 12 | 9:30 a.m. | Frank Lynch † & Joe & Berta Bernal † |
| Mon 13 | 8:30 a.m. | Kai Rego † |
| Tues 14 | 8:30 a.m. | NO MASS |
| Wed 15 | 8:30 a.m. | Rev. Francis G. Peterson † |
| Thurs 16 | 8:30 a.m. | John Fanucchi † |
| Friday 17 | 8:30 a.m. | Lorraine O'Hern † |
| Sat 18 | 5:00 p.m. | Walter & Olive Cousineau † |
| Sun 19 | 9:30 a.m. | Lorraine O'Hern † |

FISCAL LOG December 4 / 5

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,696.

Development Fund: \$ 1,337.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UNDATE:

153 Parishioners have pledged: \$135,066. ~ 93%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 12 | 2 nd Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious (D) |
| Dec. 16 | RE kids Christmas party, Posada 6PM, LSW |
| Dec. 21 | Men's Club Monthly Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW |

Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

Vigil of Christmas – Friday, December 24th

(There will be the regular 8:30 a.m. morning Mass)



4 PM Children's Mass – English

7 PM en Español

9 PM English

Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25th

8 AM en Español

9:30 AM English

11:30 AM en Español

(There will be regular Saturday 5:00 PM Mass and Sunday Mass schedule: 8:00 a.m. en Español, 9:30 a.m., English and 11:30 a.m. en Español.)

CONFESSION OFFERED:

Confessions are by appointment only. Call the office, (707) 996-8422 to set up an appointment.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS ARE HERE:

The new Lector workbook are located in the sacristy. Pick yours up today.

Staff

Office Manager ~ 996-8422

Michelle Levesque

office@stleesonoma.org

Parish Bookkeeper / Office Asst.

Mayra Alvarez

bookkeeper@stleesonoma.org

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ 996-7503

Rosa Chavez

Coordinator of Youth Ministry ~ 291-1916

Nancy Gibson

stleosym@gmail.com

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none."

And that person should be Ebenezer Scrooge because as he is described in Charles Dickens's seasonal "A Christmas Carol": *The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his lips blue; . . . A frosty rime was on his head, on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office at Christmas. Indeed he was cold even beyond feeling either cold or heat – as the story continues: External heat and cold had had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose . . . But what did Scrooge care! It was the very thing he liked.*

Obviously this is hardly a biological description of Scrooge. I mean, even if his bodily temperature measured factually at 98.7 F, Dickens's *metaphorical* description is much more accurate. The chill became obvious to the two charitable men who came to his office requesting a Christmas donation for the poor. Scrooge inquired: *Are there no prisons? . . . workhouses? . . . The treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigor then? . . . I'm very glad to hear it.* Nevertheless when the visitors asked, "What shall I put you down for?" "Nothing!" Scrooge replied. "You wish to be anonymous?" "I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. Brrr.

Dickens is offering us a caricature of the materialist world which has arrived full blown in the commercialism of our own times in which, for example, while you are trying to read an Internet article on the sources of the Nile the screen is interrupted with almost frantic high tech gadget ads among others. Money in terms of budgets, celebrity salaries, deficits, inflation preoccupies the media.

While Dickens makes little mention (if at all) of the Gospel birth narratives, he does subtly suggest why this materialist chill has come over Scrooge and later generations. It's that scene where Scrooge on Christmas Eve returns to his gloomy suite of rooms to sit by his fireplace and sup upon his nightly gruel. The fireplace supplied a very low fire indeed – it was an old one *paved all around with quaint Dutch tiles, designed to illustrate the Scriptures. There were Cains and Abels, Pharaoh's daughters, Queens of Sheba, Angelic messengers descending upon clouds, Abrahams, Belshazzars, Apostles putting off to sea in butter-boats, hundreds of figures (images not dollar signs) to attract his thoughts . . .*

It summoned the attention of this man obsessed with modern accounting to those alternative accounts of biblical events and exemplary characters, of ancient episodes of faith, hope, justice, love, solidarity – things with which the Christmas season still confronts us – despite the commercial racket and music that celebrates snow and sleigh bells and chestnuts and raises excessive lighting displays that blind us to the modest candle light of old that once lit our way through winter darkness into a world of mystery.

Geoff Wood