

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. 17th – 25th

Sat 17 5:00 pm Joe McDermott †
 Sun 18 9:30 am Raymond †, Anita †,
 & Richard Hines †
 Mon 19 8:30 am Maria Ofelia Mapa †
 & Steve Lunch, Improved health
 Tues 20 **NO MASS**
 Wed 21 8:30 am Connie & Victor Vargas †
 Thurs 22 8:30 am Dorothy & Erwin Tompkins †
 Friday 23 8:30 am Claire Melanephy †
 & Thomas Freyberg †
 Sat 24 4:00 pm Bill Maffei †
Xmas Eve Dan Keefe, Speedy Recovery
 9:00 pm the People of St. Leo's
 Sun 25 9:30 am Frank Lynch †, & Joe Byrne †

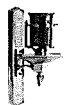
FISCAL LOG December 10 / 11

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,448.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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 THIS 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, who 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.

MANY THANKS FOR THE GIFTS FOR OUR

RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS: On Thursday, December 15th the RE students celebrated a posada and your donated gifts were given out to all. Many thanks to the generous folks at St. Leo's for making this special event possible.

Merry Christmas to the community of St. Leo's.

*Best wishes from,
 The Office Staff*

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE: The parish office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24th & Monday, Dec. 26th.

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	



Nebraska in Winter!

(Out of sympathy for our fellow citizens east of the Sierra)

The first snowfall came early in December. I remember how the world looked from our window as I dressed behind the stove that morning. The low sky was like a sheet of metal; the blond cornfields had faded out into a ghostliness at last; the little pond was frozen under its stiff willow bushes. Big white flakes were whirling over everything. Winter on the still wild prairie of Nebraska in the 1890's as seen by a boy named Jim Burden in Willa Cather's My Antonia!

Jim lived with his grandparents who with two hired hands, Otto and Jake, managed a farm on what seemed to Jim to be the outer rim of the known world. All summer and fall the family and hands worked hard cultivating, harvesting, caring for livestock, storing up for winter. And now it had arrived, the snow so deep at times that no one could exit their half underground homestead except to see to the stabled horses and cows. *The basement kitchen seemed heavenly safe and warm in those days - like a tight little boat in a winter sea. Next to getting warm and keeping warm, dinner and supper were the most interesting things to think about. Our lives centered around warmth and food.* In the evening they would sometimes pop corn and make taffy and Otto would sing "O Bury Me Not On the Lone Prairie". On other bitter nights as they sat around the stove they could hear coyotes down by the corral and then Otto and Jake would tell chilling stories about wolves, bears and outlaws - and funny tales as well.

Christmas was an especially welcome time. Unable to get to town, the family made its own presents and put up a cedar tree which grandmother and Otto decorated with gingerbread animals, strings of popcorn, bits of candle and some old German paper figures - a heart, the three wise men, a baby in a manger - so that the tree became "the talking tree of the fairy tale; legends and stories nested like birds in its branches." Then on Christmas day grandfather would read solemnly from Matthew's story of the birth of Christ and lead them in prayer. He led them in prayer too one day at the burial of a neighbor . . . while Otto led the mourners through that old hymn: *Jesus, lover of my soul / Let me to thy bosom fly / While the nearer waters role / While the tempest still is high.* Nebraska in winter! But was that all Willa Cather had in mind when she wrote her story? I think maybe she had in mind us, too, who live beneath the transparent ceiling of this homestead we call Earth, situated in the midst of that other cold and boundless prairie called the Universe. We too live in awe of the forces of nature.

But Willa Cather makes it clear that food and fire were not all the Burdens depended on to survive. It was their stories, legends, songs, prayers, festivals that kept them alive in a truly human sense - and not like stabled cows and horses! And so it is with us as we ride this planet from whence to who knows where. It is our stories, our Gospels, our festivals of Christmas and Easter, our hymns that keep us sane, that nurture our sense of finite worth and yet our conviction that we shall live forever! Take away those stories, those images, the spiritual nourishment of celebrations like the Eucharist and, no matter how full our larder may be, you take away our lives and humanity.

Geoff Wood