

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

"Where all are Welcome"

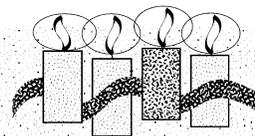
601 W. Agua Caliente Road, Sonoma, CA 95476

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

Office: (707) 996-8422

Rev. Jojo Puthussery, M.F., Pastor

Website: www.stleosonoma.org



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December 19, 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas

YOUR GIFTS FOR RE CHILDREN:

Thank you for generously donating gifts for our Religious Education students. A Posada was held for the kids and their parents, where all gifts were distributed and enjoyed.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY DINNER MEETING:

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

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:

A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious 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.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for December

In Loving Memory of Lucy & Fred Holzknacht



THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE is located on the backside of this bulletin.

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 18th – December 26th

Sat 18	5:00 p.m.	Walter & Olive Cousineau †
Sun 19	9:30 a.m.	Lorraine O'Hern †
Mon 20	8:30 a.m.	Rev. Tom Miyashiro † & Joe & Berta Bernal †
Tues 21	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Wed 22	8:30 a.m.	Dorothy & Erwin Tompkins †
Thurs 23	8:30 a.m.	Patrick McMurtry †
Friday 24	8:30 a.m.	Bill Maffei †
	★ 4:00 p.m.	Carol Torresan †
	9:00 p.m.	
Sat 25	9:30 a.m.	Frank Lynch †
	5:00 p.m.	Joe & Jan Celio
Sun 26	9:30 a.m.	Victor & Connie Vargas † & Maya Yazbeck

FISCAL LOG December 10 / 11

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,050.

Ret. Fund Religious \$ 1,631.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

153 Parishioners have pledged: \$135,966. ~ 94%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec. 21	Men's Club Monthly Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW
Dec. 23	OFFICE CLOSURES AT NOON
Dec. 24	OFFICE CLOSED
Dec. 31	OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 9	Mandatory Parent/Teen Confirmation Mtg.

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@stleosonoma.org

Parish Bookkeeper / Office Asst.

Mayra Alvarez

bookkeeper@stleosonoma.org

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ 996-7503

Rosa Chavez

Coordinator of Youth Ministry ~ 291-1916

Nancy Gibson

stleosym@gmail.com

Nebraska in Winter!

*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 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 they had met - 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. 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 all of 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 out there. We, too, work hard to acquire the food and warmth to delay the mortality that naturally awaits us all.

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 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 infinite worth and 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