

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

"Where all are Welcome"

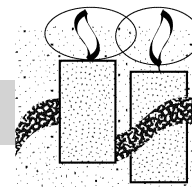
601 W. Agua Caliente Road, Sonoma, CA 95476

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

Office: (707) 996-8422

Rev. Jojo Puthussery, M.F., Pastor

Website: www.stleosonoma.org



December 5, 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

SAYING GOODBYE TO ONE OF OURS:

A Mass at 8:30 a.m. followed with a coffee and pastry gathering will be held on Wednesday, December 8th for Claire Melanephy, who passed unexpectedly at her home on December 23, 2020. Claire was an active St. Leo office volunteer for many years as well as a member of the SVDP Society and other parish groups. Drop in and share a story or just listen to one.

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

Donations to the St. Leo's Development Fund support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

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.

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.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for December



In Loving Memory of Lucy & Fred Holzknacht

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 4th – December 12th

Sat 4	5:00 p.m.	Bud Weitzel †
Sun 5	9:30 a.m.	Rosito Correa †
Mon 6	8:30 a.m.	Socorro Goodacre, Happy Birthday & Gil Rapiz, Speedy recovery
Tues 7	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Wed 8	8:30 a.m.	Nancy Nielson † & Claire Melanephy †
Thurs 9	8:30 a.m.	Elma Radosevich †
Friday 10	8:30 a.m.	Paul E, Fisher †
Sat 11	5:00 p.m.	Elena Wardwell, Happy Birthday
Sun 12	9:30 a.m.	Frank Lynch † & Joe & Berta Bernal †

FISCAL LOG November 27 / 28

Sunday Collection: \$ 4,935.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UNDATE:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec. 5	2 nd Collection, Development Fund
Dec. 12	2 nd Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious (D)
Dec. 16	RE kids Christmas party
Dec. 21	Men's Club Monthly Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW

DIOCESAN JOB OPPORTUNITY:

Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor has an open position for a Part-Time Bookkeeper. If anyone you know has bookkeeping experience and is looking for more hours or work, please direct them to the employment page of the diocese website: srdiocese.org/employment-opportunities. Thank you!

CONFESSION OFFERED:

Fr. Jojo is available to hear confessions by appointment only. Call the office, 996-8422 to set up an appointment.

OUR WEBSITE HAS WHAT YOU NEED: You will find Geoff Wood's notes from his Lectionary talks as well as the weekly Sunday bulletin essays. Visit us at www.stleosonoma.org for general info.

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

LECTOR WORKBOOKS ARE HERE:

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

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of HOSTS the whole earth is filled with his GLORY

Isaiah 6:3

Dementia

Dementia has to do, among other things, with becoming disoriented about time, people, and places – progressively at different rates. I first experienced my wife Jane's symptoms about twenty-two years ago but the event passed and all returned to normal until seven years ago – coincidental with a needed surgery – after which the decline has been steady, a fading away as into a mist of sorts – and myself reaching into the mist for whatever tangibility can be possible.

She is now comfortably settled into residential care while I inhabit a home furnished as if she were present – everything in place as it has been for years but more like a place to “muse” as in a “museum” than to dwell.

I visit her every day and there is recognition – no conversation, just touch and the caress of my words, little nothings that I utter like reminders of things we used to do, places to which we used to go (supplemented by photographs), paging through her old high school and college year books, which makes you marvel at how quickly time and youth and beginnings pass away.

All of which hurts – but there is (you could say) a positive cost/benefit. At long last in the isolation of these moments you finally know without a doubt what love IS – and how frustrating it can be when you *now* know it in the wake of opportunities long past when maybe you were too busy to know it and show it.

And there is another such benefit of this phase of our lives. Jane's residence houses perhaps twenty or more other residents, not all dementia cases – but all elderly and each a personality. Their past may be forgotten but their moves, their looks, their individuality, uniqueness stand out – they are a community of interesting human beings that make you want to know more about them. Compared to my living at home, I find myself wanting to visit not only Jane but experience the company of this fragile yet fascinating humanity. (Indeed, I worry that I am becoming too much “at home” there!)

And speaking of positive cost/benefits: you finally begin to recognize how it is the little, ephemeral, even split-second things that really matter in life – that have been like a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great price unnoticed upon a counter of costume jewelry or like that grain of sand or wild flower of which William Blake wrote: *To see a world in Grain of Sand / and a Heaven in a Wild Flower.*

In the end it is not the big moments of your life you hang on to but those catalogued by Ira Gershwin when he wrote: *The way you wear your hat / The way you sip your tea / The memory of all that / No, no, they can't take that away from me // The way your smile just beams / The way you sing off-key / The way you haunt my dreams / No, no, they can't take that away from me // . . . The way you've changed my life . . .*

Geoff Wood