

Gathering Song: *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus*

Mar-a - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu ia!

Mar-a - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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Penitential Rite:

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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Responsorial Psalm: *Advent Responsorial*

My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In his light I shall be saved. My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In His love I'll find peace.

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Gospel Acclamation: *Watson Alleluia*

Preparation of Gifts: *A Voice Cries Out* **BB#46**
 Refrain: *A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare a way for the Lord!"*
A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Make straight a highway for God!"

Mass: *May We Be One*
(Mass card is in the pew pocket)

Communion Song: *All Those Who Wait*

All those who wait for you, O God, know your love and mer - cy.

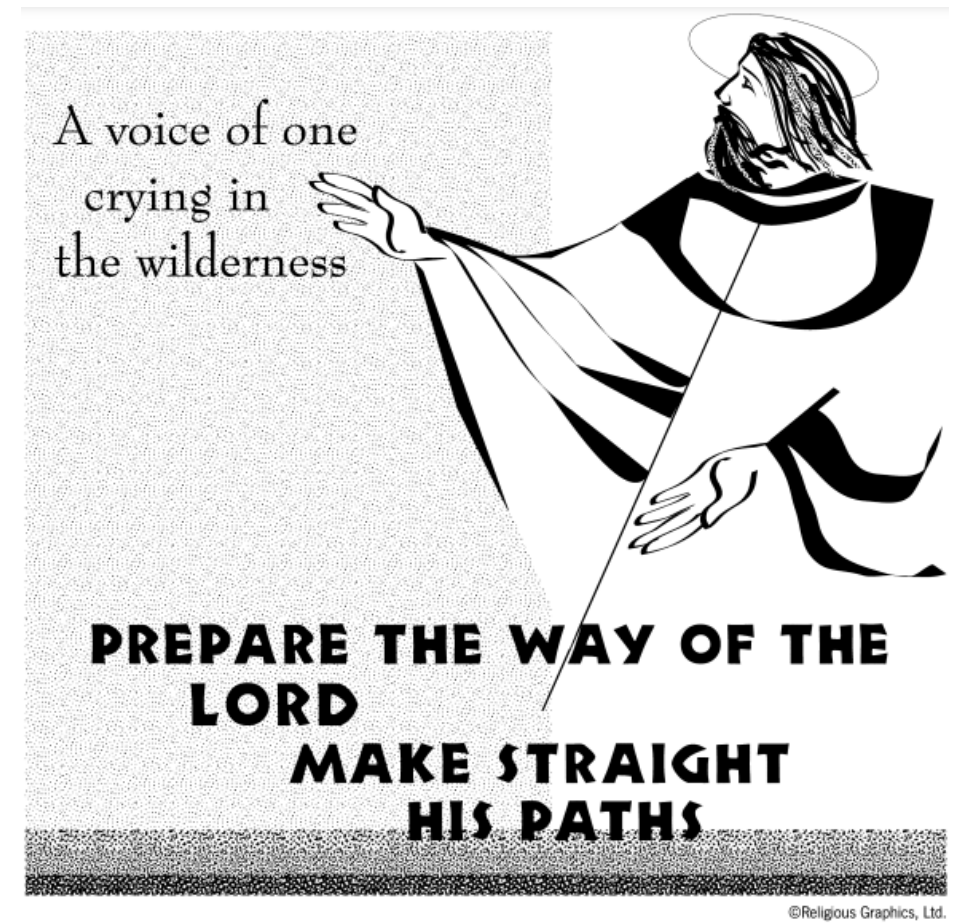
More than the night - watch waits for dawn, we wait with hope in you.

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Closing Song: *Ready the Way* **BB#53**
 Refrain: *Ready the way, ready the way, ready the way of the Lord.*
Ready the way, ready the way, ready the way of the Lord.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF
 Pastor, (707) 996-8422 ext. 13
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 Parish Office, (707) 996-8422 Fax, (707) 996-3984

St. Leo Catholic Church
 Website: www.stleosonoma.org



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

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

MASS INTENTIONS: Dec. 7th – Dec. 15th

Sat. 7 5:00 p.m. Richard Facciola †
Sun. 8 9:30 a.m. Ellie Dossee †
and Alan Bornstein †
and Charles Egidio Bettinelli, Jr. †
Mon. 9 8:30 a.m. Raymond J. Mapa †
Tues. 10 **NO MASS**
Wed. 11 8:30 a.m. Raymond J. Mapa †
Thurs. 12 8:30 a.m. Elena Wardwell, Happy birthday
Friday 13 8:30 a.m. Kai Rego †
and Raymond Mapa †
Sat. 14 5:00 p.m. Charles Canevari †
and Raymond J. Mapa †
Sun. 15 9:30 a.m. Deceased members of the
Byrne, Lynch & Boyle families †

FISCAL LOG: November 30 / Dec. 1

Sunday Collection: \$ 4,258.
Development Fund: \$ 2,454. Thank You!

NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE
123 Parishioners pledged: \$115,319.38 80%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 8 Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.
Dec 14/15 2nd Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious
Dec 17 Men's Club Parish Christmas Dinner, 6PM
Dec 25 Christmas

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for December



Marcella Murphy & Frederick Welch

TICKETS ON SALE FOR OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER: Members of our Men's Club will be selling tickets for our Annual Christmas Dinner after 5p.m. and 9:30a.m. Masses this weekend. The date for the dinner is Tuesday, December 17th.

COFFEE AND DONUTS THIS WEEKEND: Come enjoy some company and a cup of coffee!


2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND – Retirement Fund for Religious. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

TOYS FOR RELIGIOUS ED. STUDENTS: It's that time of the year that we ask for unwrapped gifts for our RE kids, 7 to 12 years of age. Items can be dropped at the office or in the receptacle at the back of church.

ST. LEO'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Finnegan Center.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY OF ST. LEO'S: Anyone in need of food can call the office (707) 996-8422 by 11a.m., Wednesday thru Friday to order from the pantry. Pick-up time is 11:30a.m.

SATURDAY CONFESSION OFFERED: In the church on Saturdays at 4:30p.m. Use the confessional to your left when entering the church.

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(s) of those you wish to be remembered and send your request and donation of \$10 to St. Leo's Church, Attn. Michelle Levesque, PO Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, Ca 95476. 

ADORATION DURING ADVENT: During the season of Advent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be every Friday following the morning Mass.

FREE RIDES FOR SENIORS: The Vintage house Senior Transportation Program, LIMO, offers free door-to-door rides, Mon. – Fri., 9a.m.-5p.m. Call 996-0311 for more information.

Our Annual Return from Exile

There's a chapter in the novel *Moby Dick* in which the good ship Rachel approaches Captain Ahab's whaling ship in the mid-Pacific. Ahab, who is obsessed with finding and killing Moby Dick, calls out, *Hast thou seen the White Whale?* The Rachel's Captain Gardiner replies, *Aye, yesterday.* But Captain Gardiner's concern is not over the White Whale but over the disappearance of one of his whaleboats, among whose lost crew is his twelve year old son. *My boy, my own boy among them. For God's sake - I beg, I conjure. For eight-and-forty hours let me charter your ship- you must, oh, you must, and you shall do this thing.* But, as you know, Ahab had no time to help the Rachel find its missing boat as long as Moby Dick lay just over the horizon. And so the Rachel (named for the mother of Israel whose tribes were also lost among the nations) goes on her *halting course and . . . woeful way . . . weeping for her children, because they were not.*

There's a similar poignant passage in the biblical book called *Baruch*. That book is all about a time when the Jewish people were brutally deported from their homeland, to be eventually scattered throughout the Middle East. And therein the author describes Jerusalem as a mother weeping over the disappearance of her children: *Hear, you neighbors of Zion! God has brought great mourning upon me, for I have seen the captivity brought upon my sons and daughters. With joy I fostered them; but with mourning and lament I let them go. Let no one be glad over me, a widow, bereft of many . . . They have led away this widow's cherished sons, have left me solitary, without daughters. Farewell, my children, farewell.*

A boy lost at sea; a sad father. God's people dispersed across the face of the earth; a sad mother. What relevance may they have for us at this season of the year? Well, in my case: much! Because every year, with each passing month, I find myself scattered here, there and everywhere. Here's a pressing deadline, there's the latest aggravating headline. Here's the monthly bills, there's the fence needing painting. Here's a ton of e-mail screaming to be answered, there's a book that's a month overdue. Here's a Nike logo and there's a Pepsi logo - and here's another phone call in the middle of dinner inquiring whether I'm ready to sell my house. Everywhere around me lies a totally secularized society, bereft of any sense of the sacred. By the time December rolls around, it's like I've spent my whole year in exile - been lost at sea, my mind disoriented, longing to find solace, a home among things that really matter - the meaning of my life.

And so, thank God, for the Christmas season - because every year, when things seem darkest, it awaits us like Jerusalem of old, like a mother expecting our return - ready to gather us within the warmth, the ambience of Christ's creche - where (home from exile at last) we may, like Mary, ponder things in our heart - reconnect with our ultimate source and destiny.

And so, let Baruch (in our first reading) indeed play the herald today saying: *Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery.* Let him alert mother Jerusalem to our homecoming at last, saying: *Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you, borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.* Christmas has always been literally considered a time of homecoming. The Church would have us understand it to be a time of homecoming in the profoundest sense of the word.

Geoff Wood

(with permission: *Living the Lectionary, Year B, Geoff Wood; LTP e-mail: orders@lt.org*)