

Gathering Song: *Christ, Be Our Light* BB#518

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Gloria: *Glory to God* BB#858

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24: Who is This King of Glory

Who is this king of glo- ry? It is the Lord, it is the Lord.
Music © 2012, Tony Alonso. Published by GIA Publications. All rights reserved.

Gospel Acclamation: *Watson Alleluia*

Preparation of Gifts: *The Lord is My Light* BB#681

The Lord is my light; the Lord is my help; the Lord is my sal - va - tion.
Based on Psalm 27. Text and music © 1996, Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

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

Communion Song: *Psalm 27: The Goodness of the Lord* BB#748

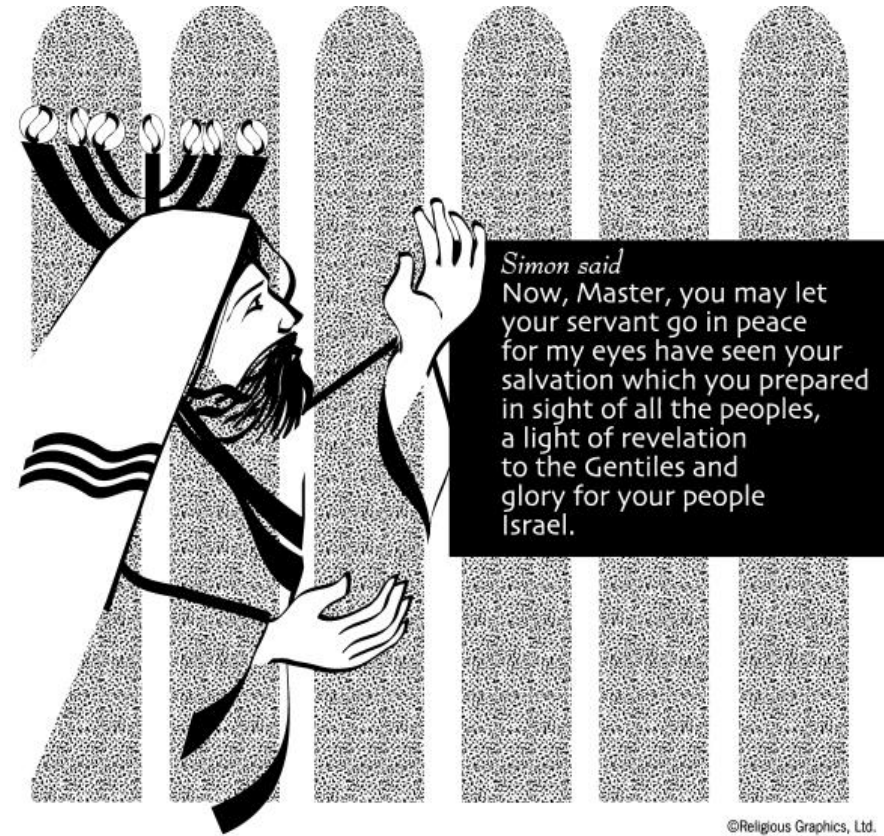
I be - lieve, I be - lieve I shall see the good - ness of the
Lord in the land, in the land of the liv - ing.
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Closing Song: *Lift Up Your Hearts* BB#548

Refrain: *Lift up your hearts to the Lord, praise God's gracious mercy!
Sing out your joy to the Lord, whose love is enduring.*

Presentation of the Lord

February 2, 2025



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.stleesonoma.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: February 1st – Feb 9th

Sat. 1 5:00 p.m. Special Intentions & Prayers
Sun. 2 9:30 a.m. Maria Ofelia Mapa †
and Aracely Cortes †
Mon. 3 8:30 a.m. Dr. Felix C. Mapa †
Tues. 4 **NO MASS**
Wed. 5 8:30 a.m. Virgilia Vargas Mapa †
Thurs. 6 8:30 a.m. Jay England †
and Michael DiPaolo †
Fri. 7 8:30 a.m. Raymond Mapa †
Sat. 8 5:00 p.m. Marina V. Mapa, R.S.C.J. †
Sun. 9 9:30 a.m. Rita Shine †

FISCAL LOG: January 25 / 26

Sunday Collection: \$ 4,456.

NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE
130 Parishioners pledged: \$124,919.38 86%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Feb 1 / 2 2nd Collection-St Leo's Development Fund
Feb 6 Confirmation Meeting, 6:30-8PM, HH
Feb 8 Service for Barbara Stephens, 1PM
Feb 13 Chicken & Polenta Dinner, 5:30PM, LSW
March 5 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
March 16 Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for February
In Loving Memory of
Rita & John Shine



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

The first weekend of the month is dedicated to the St. Leo's Development Fund. Donations to this very important collection help support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds. Recently the heater in Matthews Hall has stopped working. We had it looked at and concluded that repairing the old one could be very costly with no guarantee. We're looking at a split system that would have heat and cooling, making the room a much more enjoyable space.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: A prayer service for Barbara Stephens, wife of parishioner Mark Stephens, will be here on February 8th at 1:00p.m. Please keep Mark and the family in your prayers.

COFFEE & DONUTS IN THE LILLIAN WING:

Come enjoy donuts and a cup of coffee and some company in the Lillian Wing after Sunday Mass.

SATURDAY CONFESSION OFFERED:

Fr. Jojo is available to hear confessions in the church on Saturdays from 4:30 – 4:45 p.m. Use the confessional to your left when entering the church.

ST. LEO'S ITALIAN DINNER:

Our Chicken and Polenta Dinner will be on Thursday, February 13th. Tickets are on sale after Mass this weekend. This is always a well-attended dinner so plan to purchase your tickets early. No more than 90 tickets will be sold.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN 2024 IS COMING

TO A CLOSE: If you have not completed your pledged amount for the APC '24, now is the time to do so. We will be ramping up for the 2025 APC in early March. If you have questions about your balance, feel free to contact us in the office, (707) 996-8422. The funds collected from the APC goes toward our staff salaries, Youth & Religious Education programs, paying monthly utility & water bills and anywhere else it is needed.

HOLD THE DATE: March 16th for the parish Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner.

This is a fundraiser for the parish put on by members of the parish. We're asking the congregation for help with ticket sales, set up, and clean-up for the event. If you're able to help in any way please call the office, (707) 996-8422. Thank you!

Truth lies at the bottom of a deep well.

(c. 2001)

"As a child, they could not keep me from wells." So begins a poem by the Irish poet Seamus Heaney. *I loved the dark drop, the trapped sky . . . / I savored the rich crash when a bucket / Plummeted down at the end of a rope. / So deep you saw no reflection in it.* Wells have fascinated human beings from as far back as we can remember, probably because there's something mysterious about a deep, dark shaft that reaches down to hidden waters - as though it were a corridor to the very Source of the universe. Hence the popular belief in wishing wells. There's one old well near the river Tyne in England out of which archeologists have retrieved close to 13,500 coins dating from between 41 and 383 AD - no doubt tossed into the well to obtain a favor from some pre-Christian deity.

But Christians were hardly to be outdone in this regard. There are sacred wells all over Europe to which pilgrims travel to this very day to seek beneficial contact with not just the bottom of a well but the Foundation and Wellspring of all creation, God. In Kildare there's St. Bridget's Well and in Wales there's St. David's Well and the famous Well of St. Winifred dating back some twelve hundred years.

And think how often wells are featured in the Bible! For instance, there's the story of Sarah's maid Hagar and her infant son Ishmael, who were left alone to die in the desert, when along came an angel to point out a well which saved their lives. And then there's Jacob's Well beside which Jesus conversed with that Samaritan woman. Jacob's Well was more than a source of water to the Samaritans. Reaching down into it, they were reaching not only for water but symbolically reaching down through time itself to Jacob and the God of Jacob, the wellspring of their religious heritage. The Gospel of John also mentions the healing pool of Bethesda and the pool of Siloam to which Jesus sent a blind man to wash and regain his sight.

Of course, we live in a secular age that smiles at belief in wishing wells. But are wishing wells really out of date? What are all the sciences and humanities taught at our secular universities but wishing wells of a sort? Aren't geologists and philosophers and biologists and geneticists and anthropologists and paleontologists and psychologists all peering into matter and back through time, seeking the origin, the meaning of life and this universe, looking for some wellspring? And what's a telescope but a kind of well down which astronomers gaze at our starry past to relieve our ignorance about what we are if not who we are? Or take literature and poetry. What are they but attempts to plumb the mysteries of nature and human existence? Seamus Heaney admits he has become too old to go bending Narcissus-like over literal wells. It's beneath his adult dignity. Instead, he says, *I rhyme / To see myself, to set the darkness echoing.*

As for me, I'm not that modern or secular that I would forego a chance to visit one of those pilgrimage wells like St. Winifred's to make a wish. I'm still Catholic enough to think sacramentally and see in all things great and small some glimmer of the spiritual origin of our world. And wells must especially have that quality, considering that Jesus chose one day to say of himself: "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink" and thereby described himself a wellspring out of which all humanity might experience the true meaning of life. And then he went on to say, "Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" And what does that mean but that, our thirst relieved by Christ, we may ourselves become wishing wells, each a source of profound spiritual refreshment to all who come in contact with us?

(Reprint 3/4/2018)

Geoff Wood