

Gathering Song: *Lift Up Your Hearts* BB#566

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

Gloria: *Gloria to God (in pew pocket)*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 147: Praise the Lord*



Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.
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Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia*

Preparation of Gifts: *God of Mercy*

Refrain: *God of mercy, holy mystery, ever faithful one,
you have pitched your tent among us, reconciling love.
Heart and mind of Christ, live within our lives,
form us into people of mercy and grace.*

The just person is a light in the darkness BB#877
BB#524



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Mass: *Mass of Renewal*
Holy: BB#879 Mem Acc: BB#880 Amen: BB#883 Lamb of God: BB#884

Communion Song: *In the Breaking of the Bread* BB#181

Refrain:

In the break-ing of the bread, we knew him, Lord
Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Closing Song: *Go Out and Tell*

Refrain:

Go out and tell, make dis - ci - ples of na - tions. Go out and tell
the good news. Sing from your heart, sing to
all of cre - a - tion. Go out and tell the good news.

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 2024



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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: February 3rd - February 11th

Sat 3	5:00 pm	Richard Facciola †
Sun 4	9:30 am	Renan Dominguez †
Mon 5	8:30 am	Virgilia Vargas Mapa †
Tues 6		NO MASS
Wed 7	8:30 am	Diane Marino †
Thurs 8	8:30 am	Ellie Dossee †
Friday 9	8:30 am	Donna June Lewis †
Sat 10	5:00 pm	Joseph Vagnozzi †
Sun 11	9:30 am	Edward McCahon †

FISCAL LOG January 27 / 28

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,501.
2023 APC– 124 have Pledged \$124,613.11 @ 86%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Feb 3/4	2 nd Collection - St Leo Development Fund
Feb 8	Italian Chicken & Polenta Dinner, 5:30PM
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday
Feb 14	2 nd Collection - Central & Eastern Europe (D)
Feb 17	Memorial Mass for Val Matthews, 11AM
Feb 18	1 st Sunday of Lent
Feb 19	Presidents' Day, Office Closed
Feb 20	Men's Club Monthly Dinner, LSW, 6PM

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for February
In memory of the
Correa & Wilson Families



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

St. Leo's Development Fund ~ All donations to the Development Fund help support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

COFFEE AND DONUTS THIS WEEKEND: Grab a donut, cup of coffee, and catch up with friends.

REMINDER TO THOSE WHO PURCHASED TICKETS FOR THE POLENTA DINNER: The dinner is this coming on Thursday, February 8th, doors open at 5:30 p.m. See you there.

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 14, 2024

	8:30 a.m.	Mass in English
	12:00 p.m.	Liturgy / Ashes
	5:00 p.m.	Liturgy / Ashes
	7:00 p.m.	Mass in Spanish

A PRAYER FOR SAFE TRAVELS: Father Jojo had the privilege of being asked to celebrate the wedding of a couple in our Hispanic community in Mexico. He will be away from Friday, Feb. 9th – Tuesday, Feb. 13th. May he return safely, and we appreciate Fr. Jim Fredericks for covering during this time.

ST. LEO'S BOCCE CLUB: Please check out their latest newsletter for opening day information, courtside tile project, new AED unit installation and much more. Newsletters are available at the entrance of the church.

PRE-BAPTISMAL CLASS: We are excited to announce that we now offer an English Pre-Baptism preparation course. This class is mandatory for parents & Godparents. If you are interested in attending, please call the parish office at, 707-996-8422.

FREE RIDES FOR SONOMA SENIORS: The Vintage House myRide program is a local service that provides Sonoma Valley seniors (age 60+) who no longer drive with free door-to-door rides. Rides are available within Sonoma Valley, Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. Vintage House membership is not required but a 3-day notice is required to reserve your ride. For more details, please call 707-509-3186.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Anyone In need of food can call the office Wednesday thru Friday to place an order from the pantry. Clients must call the parish office, (707) 996-8422 to place an order by 11a.m. Pick up time is 11:30a.m. Every Tuesday, our SVDP and the Redwood Empire Food Bank distribute "Groceries to Go" in the parking lot from 8:30 – 9:30a.m. The food distribution is first come, first served.

"I give you the end of a golden string . . ."

I never knew that when we say, "somebody doesn't have a clue" it basically means "somebody doesn't have a ball of thread". Look up clue (or clew) on your computer's Merriam-Webster dictionary and you'll find that's what it once meant: a ball of thread.

They say it all goes back to a Greek myth in which the hero Theseus (when he and other youth were confined deep within a twisting cave to serve as a monster's dessert) attached the end of a ball of thread (a clue) to the portal of the cave. Thus, having unwound the ball on his descent into the monster's den and having then slain the monster, he was able to rewind the thread (the clue) and lead his companions back into the light of day.

Tom Sawyer used the same device when he and Becky became lost in a cave. Their candles had gone out, so what to do? Tom had a spool of kite line in his pocket. So, tying the end of it to a projection of rock near Becky, he unwound the spool to its full length down a couple of corridors in search of some outlet. Eventually he "glimpsed a far-off speck that looked like daylight". Tom groped toward the speck and eventually "pushed his head and shoulders through a small opening and saw the broad Mississippi rolling by!"

So, a clue becomes the thread of a spool that, if wound up (or unwound), can lead one out of darkness. In detective stories it leads us to the motive of the crime or to the perpetrator. It could be the handwriting on a cancelled check or a fingerprint on a weapon. At any rate, it points to more than the check or fingerprint. It clears up a mystery. The Gospels are full of clues – images that are but a thread, which if you roll it up will lead you to your true self, beyond the clueless self you are and have been.

Today Jesus uses salt. Tells you to pick it up, taste it – and begin to discover how you can pass from something, someone tasteless, bland, hardly good for anything but to be trampled underfoot (even in your own self estimate) to acquiring a saltiness, an ability to flavor the world, the lives of people around you. (I once knew an elderly woman whose name was Salty Allen! I assumed then that there was something pert, mischievous, engaging, flavorful about her – and there was!)

Then today's Gospel speaks of a lamp. That's another clue as to who you are or could be, if you but reel in the metaphor. It reveals that you are or could be the light of the world, someone able to illuminate rather than darken the lives of people around you. There is so much darkness in our world today, invectives, braggadocio, people cowed into wearing lampshades for hats. When all the while we should be singing that old time hymn: *This little light of mine / I'm gonna let it shine . . . All around the neighborhood / I'm gonna let it shine . . . Hide it under a bushel? No! / I'm gonna let it shine . . .*

So, try to acquire this knack of sensing the Gospels to be full of clues – be it only a mustard seed or five loaves and two fishes or bread and wine or the whole story of the healing of a paralytic. Indeed, the world we live in is full of clues, tips of thread that can lead you out of whatever cave you may inhabit. So thought that great English mystic William Blake who says of the very poems he writes *I give you the end of a golden string; / Only wind it into a ball: / It will lead you in at Heaven's gate, / Built in Jerusalem's wall.*

(Reprint from 02/05/2017)

Geoff Wood