

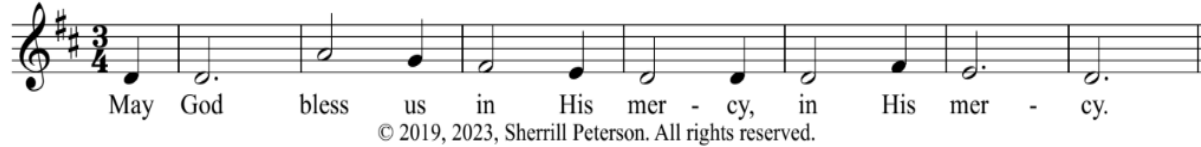
Gathering Song: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* BB#99

Gloria: *Angels We Have Heard on High* BB#84

- 1 *Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.*
- 2 *Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?*



Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 67: May God Bless Us in His Mercy*



Gospel Acclamation: *Christmas Alleluia*



Preparation of Gifts: *Pray for Us*
*Refrain: Pray for us, pray for us. Holy Mary, pray for us.
Lead us, lead us to your beloved Son, Jesus. Jesus, Jesus.*

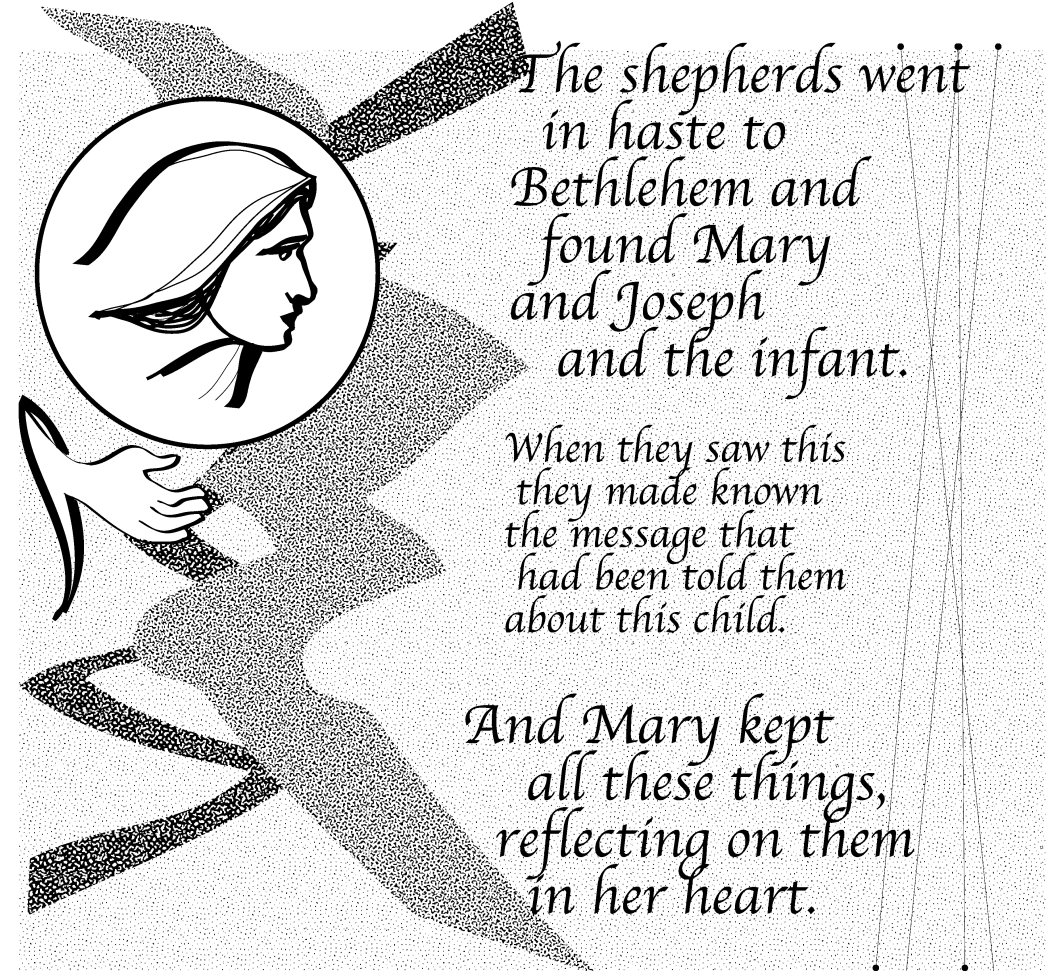
Mass: *May We Be One*
Copies in the pew pocket

Communion Song: *Hail Mary: Gentle Woman* BB#706
*Refrain: Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright.
Gentle mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.*

Closing Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* BB#100
*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2023



*The shepherds went
in haste to
Bethlehem and
found Mary
and Joseph
and the infant.*

*When they saw this
they made known
the message that
had been told them
about this child.*

*And Mary kept
all these things,
reflecting on them
in her heart.*

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Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF
Pastor, (707) 996-8422 ext. 13
Email: pastor@stleosonoma.org
601 W. Agua Caliente Rd., Sonoma, CA 95476
P.O. Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416
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

**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

✠ **Sacraments** ✠
Baptisms: Call the office, (707) 996-8422
Weddings: Call the office, (707) 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS Dec. 31st – Jan. 8th

Sat 31	5:00 pm	Bill Ramirez †
January 2023		
Sun 1	9:30 am	Gil Abeyta †
Mon 2	8:30 am	Pete Peterson †
Tues 3		NO MASS
Wed 4	8:30 am	Dr. Felix C. Mapa †
Thurs 5	8:30 am	Robert Tompkins †
Friday 6	8:30 am	Maria Reyes Ramirez †
Sat 7	5:00 pm	Virgilia Vargas Mapa †
Sun 8	9:30 am	Kathleen Valim †

FISCAL LOG December 24 / 25

Christmas/Sunday Collection: \$ 12,886.

2022 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN
126 Parishioners pledged: \$126,022. 87%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:


Dec 31 2nd Collection, St Leo Development Fund
Jan 1 2nd Collection, St Leo Development Fund
Jan 2 OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 15 RE Classes resume
Jan 18 RE Classes resume
Jan 19 RE Class resumes



SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for January
St. Joseph

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR **St. Leo's Development Fund**. Donations to this collection help to maintain the multiple buildings on site as well as the landscaping needs. To name a couple of those needs: the furnace repair for the LS Wing and the new roof on the Finnegan Center which was completed before the heavy rain. A huge thanks to **A+ Quality Roofing** for a job well done.

COFFEE & DONUTS THIS WEEKEND: The heater is now working in the LSW, so grab a donut, cup of coffee, and catch up with friends.

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORIAM:  The poinsettia dedication list is included in this weekend's bulletin. Thanks to your donations the altar was again beautiful during the holidays.

WE WISH TO THANK OUR HISPANIC COMMUNITY for decorating the church so beautifully for the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration and Christmas holiday. It was very festive and colorful.

THANK YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS DINNER: We'd like to thank Steve Rogers and the Men's Club for putting together the Christmas dinner that was enjoyed by 58+ folks. Also, a big thanks goes out to the kids from the Youth Group who helped with serving and clean-up. The food and company were great.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HOLIDAY BREAK: There are no classes until Sunday, January 15th, Wednesday, January 18th, and Thursday, January 19th. Again, thank you to all who donated gifts for the students of our RE program.

OFFICE CLOSED:

The parish office will be closed
Monday, January 2, 2023.

Wishing all the Happiest & Healthiest New Year

Best wishes,

The Office Staff

Raise your eyes and look about . . . you shall be radiant at what you see . . .

I live alone now. At my advanced age it has been hard to get into what we call the Christmas spirit – especially as nightfall arrives so early – and things get dark – and Jane lives in assisted living. And so it was with little of such spirit that I arose on Christmas day to drive to St. Leo's to attend its 9:30 AM Mass. I usually arrive at the parking lot around 9:10 in a diagonally marked place facing the grass plot along the paved road past the rectory – and just sit. Lately I sit there unmindfully, directly in line with that golden tree standing so erect upon the lawn. It does catch my attention – even though not my thoughts. I'm not sure what kind of a tree it is botanically speaking – except that even at this late date of the season it rises as an explosion of gold leaves rising above a carpet of its own golden leaves lying at its base. In other words: it's gorgeous.

And then the thought came to me: that tree wouldn't be there; it wouldn't exist, if I were not here looking at it. Indeed, nothing would be there, not even the earth or the sky or the stars above would be there if it weren't for us human beings being here. Think of it. If nobody with eyes to see and ears to hear and senses to touch tenderly or roughly, there would be nothing. Things would be there but – in a sense – unseen as by us human beings, who would otherwise know they are there? Rabbits and birds and tigers might see sky and creeks and trees and other animals – but in instinctual ways. They would not "know" them as anything but shelter and sustenance; there would be no universe, nothing universal about their "knowledge". A globe with no one like us human beings to experience it as we do would disappear as far as any meaning is concerned. As the Book of Genesis says: In the beginning . . . the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss. And you could say that's how it would still be if we human beings hadn't arisen from the ground of which we're made.

So it dawned on me what philosophers already know: that it is we human beings who, by way of our unique senses, minds, and imaginations bring this otherwise invisible, inaudible, fascinating world into being there for us to see, to touch, to inhale, to question and learn so much – and admire and wonder why – and come up with writings we call sacred and poetry and science to live a life of mysteries unconcealed. To say nothing of the language we speak which allows me to name that sunlit thing - a "tree"! To give names like grass, leaves, sky, clouds, birds . . . to draw things out into an identity they did not have and then to add adjectives like: beautiful, green, golden, tall, majestic – as well as adverbs: things to be treated respectfully, carefully, usefully, not cheaply and selfishly. And whence comes this language we utter? Our tradition says it comes from the very Source of what and who we are, as a power to name creatures, to tell as in the tolling of a bell the astonishing story of this world in which we live.

Except that over time, we tend to forget the co-creators we are; we abuse our powers of intelligence and speech and treat all that variety of beings as only "things" to use and abuse – in other words fast reducing them (by hyper-technology) to a nothing that's actual! . . . as say a forest gone, a city bombed, a species erased, a people too much at odds to care about their responsibility to care for things and each other – in loving detail – like that golden, almost adorable tree.

Geoff Wood