

**Gathering Song:** *Come to the River* BB#643

**Refrain:** *Come, O come, come to the river flowing from the body of Christ.  
We'll go down, deep in the water, but in the Lord we shall arise.*

1. Washed in waters of rebirth, we have put on Christ Jesus.
4. Let us walk in the light of God's holy promise.

**Gloria:** *Glory to God* BB#858

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 104: Bless the Lord*

Bless the Lord, my soul, oh, bless the Lord, my soul.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** *Watson Alleluia*

**Preparation of Gifts:** *Wade in the Water* BB#646

Wade in the wa - ter. Wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren now.

Wade in the wa - ter. God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

Refrain text: Spiritual. Verses text and music adapt. © 1993, M.D. Ridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

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

**Communion Song:** *Lead Us to The Water*

Lead us to the wa - ter, bring us to the feast.

Fill us with your Spir - it and we will be your peace.

Music: Tom Kendzia and Gary Daigle. arr. by Tom Kendzia. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

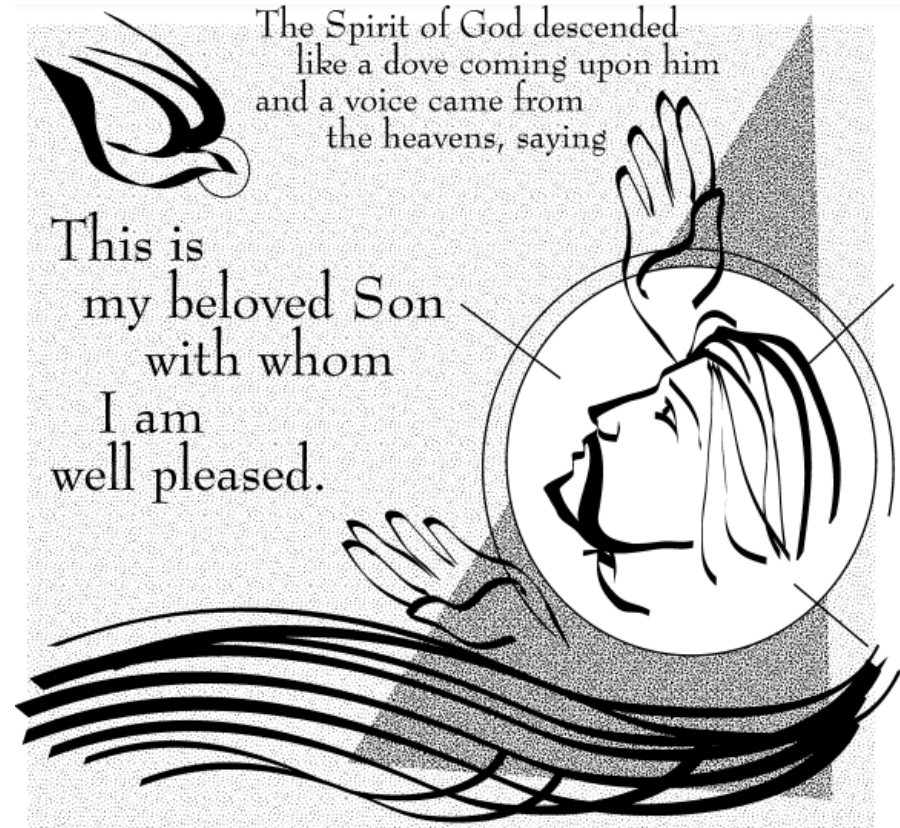
**Closing Song:** *River of Glory* BB#639

**Refrain:** *River of glory, springs of our birth, flood of God's riches poured on the earth.  
We are born from the darkness and clothed in the light! We are bathed in the glory of God.*

- 1 Fountain of mercy, grace flowing free,  
streams of salvation, spilling with love from a tree!

# The Baptism of the Lord

## January 12, 2025



*Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF*  
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**St. Leo Catholic Church**  
Website: [www.stleesonoma.org](http://www.stleesonoma.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](http://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: January 11<sup>th</sup> – Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

Sat. 11 5:00 p.m. Edward McCahon †  
and Pete & Barbara Balopoulos †  
Sun. 12 9:30 a.m. Frank Sammon †  
and Josefa Norona †  
Mon. 13 8:30 a.m. Frank Sammon †  
and Emerencia Balanga †  
Tues. 14 **NO MASS**  
Wed. 15 8:30 a.m. Rene Camacho †  
and Mike Marovich, successful surgery  
Thurs. 16 8:30 a.m. Gordon Tinsley †  
Fri. 17 8:30 a.m. Catalina Protasoff, speedy recovery  
Sat. 18 5:00 p.m. Florante Abelaida †  
Sun. 19 9:30 a.m. Joe Byrne †, Frank Lynch †  
and deceased members of the Boyle family †

## FISCAL LOG: January 4 / 5

**Sunday Collection:** \$6,022.  
**Development Fund:** \$2,778.

**NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE**  
129 Parishioners pledged: \$124,519.38 86%

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jan 12 RE Classes Resume (Sunday group)  
Jan 12 Confirmation, Mandatory Parent Meeting 11AM  
Jan 15 RE Classes Resume (Wednesday group)  
Jan 18/19 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection -Church in Latin America  
Jan 22 SVDP Monthly Meeting, 9AM, BR

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
Dedication for January  
Mapa Family



**CONFIRMATION:** A **MANDATORY** parent / teen meeting for teens in our Youth Group planning on being confirmed here at St. Leo's will be January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in Benziger.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:** Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your support provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith.

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Long time parishioner, Marion Williams, passed away peacefully in her home. Please keep Marion and family in your prayers. No services have been scheduled at this time.

**COFFEE & DONUTS THIS WEEKEND:** Come enjoy donuts and a cup of coffee and some company in the Lillian Wing after Sunday Mass.

**2025 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED:** We have received our 2025 Catholic Calendars just in time for the start of the New Year. Please take a copy home today. They are located at the entrance of the Church.

**YEAR END STATEMENTS:** Looking for a Tax break? Make it a tax-deductible donation to St Leo's. Even if your donations are received in early January, and dated in December 2024 we can back date it to reflect it was received by year's end. Statements will be mailed out later in January.

**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.

**JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE:** A Jubilee Year is a special time in the Church's tradition encouraging holiness through acts of reconciliation and communion with our brothers and sisters. The Church celebrates an Ordinary Jubilee every twenty-five years. Jubilee Year 2025 will be marked by special opportunities for grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, local pilgrimages and the Jubilee Indulgence. Seeking forgiveness and growing in repentance are special fruits to cultivate during a Jubilee Year. Additional information can be found at the entrance of church.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** Book Club meeting, January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss LGBTQ+ issues after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, in the Benziger Room. We'll also discuss forming a fellowship group. All are welcome.

## Mutation

Like the songwriter of a generation ago, the Hebrew author of the first chapter of Genesis might confess: *Don't know much about biology; don't know much about geology . . .* But he sure had a poetic flair for describing the origin of our world: *In the beginning, . . . the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the sea. And God said . . . Let the waters be gathered together into one place and let the dry land appear.* He then goes on to portray the creation first of vegetation, then animal life and finally human beings. In broad terms that's pretty much how modern science describes the sequence of our evolution: life emerging from the sea and advancing through plant and animal stages to culminate in *homo sapiens*.

Despite the similarities, however, there's really a big difference between Genesis and modern science, because science prosaically views the origin of the world as a purely physical event whereas the Hebrew author writes of it as also a dramatic event. So, where he speaks of God's Spirit hovering over a primeval sea, it's not simply a watery sea he's speaking of. No! For him the sea serves also as a symbol of *chaos and suffocation*. And if you wonder why, just go take a look at the Pacific on a gray, stormy day - the waves assaulting the rocks as if they would chew them to pieces. Or imagine yourself adrift at night far out in the middle of its mindless waves, the big fry feeding on the small fry right beneath you and you yourself likely to be swallowed up without a trace.

So - when the Hebrew writer tells of the Spirit of God hovering over the sea and commanding it to back off to allow dry land and life to emerge, he sees nothing less than God's colossal love lifting us out of some primeval whirlpool that would otherwise suck both us and the Garden we inhabit back into nothingness. And his purpose? To shape each of us into an immortal and somehow immense miniature of himself – creators everyone!

Nor are biblical authors in general so naive as to think of creation as simply a past event. The Bible is very aware of our human tendency to go *rushing back* (like lemmings) into that impersonal sea whence we came. Take for example the people in the Noah story. Repudiating their humanity, they choose to live like predators and soon we find them sinking beneath a Deluge of their own making. All except Noah, who, retaining his sense of justice and humanity, stands safe upon a mountain top while the waters of the Deluge recede, and God has to create his world all over again - not from scratch but with the help of the zoo Noah salvaged in the Ark!

Or consider the later Israelites, who slavishly allow themselves to get caught in the undertow of dictatorial Egypt and end up gasping for life and liberty - until God has to intervene once more to lift them out of the waters of the Red Sea and direct them and all humanity toward their destiny of eternal intimacy with God and each other and nature itself. Given this Old Testament imagery, perhaps you can now see why the New Testament writers chose to describe the commencement of Jesus' career today in terms of his rising out of water while the same Spirit of Genesis hovers above him. They did it because they sensed in the arrival of Jesus a fresh beginning for the human race - the ascent, out of primeval suction, of that invincibly caring human being God has been trying to create ever since *homo sapiens* set foot upon this earth. That's what we celebrate today - a mutation students of evolution have yet to recognize and revere.

(Reprint 1/13/2019)

**Geoff Wood**