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SVDP MONTHLY MEETING: Wednesday, January 22nd at 9:00 a.m. in the Finnegan Center. All members are encouraged to attend.

Mass Times

Saturday Mass: Sunday Masses: 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. Spanish 9:30 a.m. English

<u>Confession</u>: 4:30 p.m., Saturdays 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays

Our website: www.stleosonoma.org

11:30 a.m. Spanish

Weekday Mass: 8:30 a.m. M, W – F (no Mass on Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. – Wed. – Spanish Mass

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

MASS INTENTIONS: January 18th – Jan 26th

- 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 +
- Mon. 20 8:30 a.m. Jojo Ancheta, special intention and Omar Figueroa. special intention
- Tues. 21 NO MASS
- Wed. 22 8:30 a.m. Marion Williams +
- Thurs. 23 8:30 a.m. Lillian Sanders +
- Fri. 24 8:30 a.m. Stella Pertigera +
- Sat. 25 5:00 p.m. The People of St. Leo's
- Sun. 26 9:30 a.m. Amanda Conti Haver +

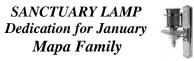
FISCAL LOG: January 11 / 12

Sunday Collection: \$3,339.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jan 18/192nd Collection -Church in Latin AmericaJan 22SVDP Monthly Meeting, 9AM, BRFeb 1/22nd Collection-St Leo's Development FundFeb 66:30 – 8PM, Confirmation Meet, HHFeb 13HOLD THE DATE, Polenta Dinner



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: This week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean lack access to church programs and ministries due to the rugged rural terrain and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity helps those in need to share in the life of the church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous in this special collection.

ST LEO MEN'S CLUB DINNER MEETING: Tuesday, January 21st in Lillian Sanders Wing. Cocktails at 6p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. All men of the parish are welcome to attend. Please Contact Steve Rogers, (707) 771-9290.

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST: Celebrate and walk for life at the 21st annual Walk for Life WC on January 25th. Rally begins at 12:30 p.m. at Civic Center Plaza in SF. For more information visit: walkforlifewc.com.

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

COFFEE & DONUTS IN THE LILLIAN WING: Come enjoy donuts and a cup of coffee and some company in the Lillian Wing after Sunday Mass.

ADULT EDUCATION: Book Club meeting next Sunday, January 26th 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.

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. Jubilee 2025 will be marked by special opportunities for grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and local pilgrimages. Additional information can be found on the bulletin board at the entrance of church. **END-OF-YEAR** statements have been processed. These statements provide a summary of your contributions throughout the year for you records and tax purposes. They will be mailed out this week, so please keep an eye out for them.

What the waves are saying

The biblical boy Samuel was born during a dark time in Israel's history. The nation's priests had lost interest in the God who brought them out of Egypt. They were more impressed by the gods of the Philistines, who were so much more prosperous than the Israelites. And they had begun to make of their own religion a profitable business. Israel's spiritual condition is aptly summed up in the opening lines of the Book of Samuel: *The word of the Lord was rare in those days and there was no frequent vision; the high priest Eli's eyes had begun to grow dim.*

Still, the lamp of God had not yet gone out. The boy Samuel, serving at the high priest Eli's temple, was still innocent enough to pick up the whisper to which God had been reduced. He wasn't sure of the source of the inspiration he felt, but he had the curiosity to say: *Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.* And what that child heard was a challenge from God that would produce an age of prophets, of moral poetry that would forever deepen humanity's understanding of what true freedom and humanity are all about! Of course, it took a child to hear that whisper. Adults too often lose that capacity. They become deaf to any other opinion but their own; blind to any other vision but short term gain. That was true of Samuel's era; it's true of our own modern age.

Take for example Mr. Dombey in Dickens's *Dombey and Son.* A prosperous, uncompromising businessman, he was much like the new railroads in which his Firm invested: a kind of juggernaut, determined to push his way forward, to lay track through town and countryside, to create a shambles of the landscape and people's lives, as long as it produced a profit. And he was so satisfied when at last his wife produced a son named Paul to share top billing in the Firm's title: Dombey and Son! But how inconvenient for the mother to die in childbirth. And how inconvenient that the son remained so frail! How could Nature be so uncooperative with the will and intent of the great House of Dombey? And why was the child so pensive, so distracted as he grew to boyhood?

Well, perhaps, like Samuel, the boy (being not suited to his father's kind of world) was more susceptible to echoes and visions of another reality beyond materialism. While convalescing by the seaside one day he awoke suddenly from his slumber and listened. His sister Florence asked him what he heard: "I want to know what it says," he answered, looking steadily in her face. "The sea, Floy, what is it that it keeps on saying?" She told him that is was only the noise of the rolling waves. "Yes, yes," he said. "But I know that they are always saying something. Always the same thing. What place is over there?" He rose up, looking eagerly at the horizon. She told him that there was another country opposite, but he said he didn't mean that; he meant further away - further away! Very often afterward, in the midst of their talk, he would break off, to try to understand what it was that the waves were always saying; and would rise up in his couch to look toward that invisible region far away.

Perhaps there's still some vestige of a child within each of us that, despite the material din of the Dombeys of this world, can still hear what the waves are saying - that despite the admonition: '*Tis but the noise of water / Dashing against the shore / And the wind from some bleaker quarter / Mingling with its roar,* insists: *No! it is something greater / That speaks to the heart alone / The voice of the great Creator / Dwells in that mighty tone!* (Joseph Edward Carpenter)

(Reprint 1/17/2017

Geoff Wood