

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

"Where all are Welcome"

601 W. Agua Caliente Road, Sonoma, CA 95476

P.O. Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416

Office: (707) 996-8422

Rev. Jojo Puthussery, M.F., Pastor

Website: www.stleosonoma.org



January 9, 2022 ~ Baptism of the Lord

2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference,

Visit: www.usccb.org/latin-america

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN 2021 UPDATE:

This is a great big **Thank You** to everyone who donated to this year's APC. We are 101% pledged. The funds from the APC go to staff salary, gas & electric bills, and a host of other parish necessities.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Michelle Levesque

NOTE: The new 2022 APC will begin in mid-March.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, January 18th in the LSW. Cocktails at 6p.m. and dinner at 7p.m. Questions? Contact Steve Rogers, (707) 771-9290.

CONFESSION OFFERED:

Confessions with Fr. Jojo are by appointment only. Call the office, (707) 996-8422 to set up an appointment.

SVDP NEEDS YOUR EXTRA BAGS:

Our SVDP Society is requesting the donation of your extra plastic grocery bags and paper bags. The bags may be dropped off near the Food Pantry or at the Parish office. Thank you in advance.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY to last weekend's Development Fund.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for January

Deceased Members of the Mapa Family



Mass Times

Saturday Mass:
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:
8:00 a.m. Spanish
9:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. Spanish

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 and Adoration

✠ Sacraments ✠

Baptisms: Call the office, (707) 996-8422

Weddings: Call the office, (707) 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS: January 8th – January 16th

Sat 8	5:00 p.m.	Robert & Frances Okuno †
Sun 9	9:30 a.m.	Bob Zwiener †
		& Betty Pong Soon Kim Fo †
Mon 10	8:30 a.m.	Harriet Jean Sueda †
Tues 11	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Wed 12	8:30 a.m.	Josefa Noroña †
Thurs 13	8:30 a.m.	Emerencia Balanga †
Friday 14	8:30 a.m.	Lyndall Berry Scott †
Sat 15	5:00 p.m.	All Souls
Sun 16	9:30 a.m.	Frank Lynch †
		& Bernardine Ulgherait †

FISCAL LOG January 1 / 2

Sunday Collection: \$ 1,793.

Development Fund: \$ 2,025.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UNDATE:

158 Parishioners have pledged: \$146,416. ~ 101%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jan 9	Mandatory Parent/Teen Confirmation Mtg.
Jan 15/16	2 nd Collection, Church in Latin America (D)
Jan 18	Men's Club Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW
Mar 2	Ash Wednesday

Staff

Office Manager ~ (707) 996-8422

Michelle Levesque
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Parish Bookkeeper / Office Asst.

Mayra Alvarez
bookkeeper@stleosonoma.org

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ (707) 996-7503

Rosa Chavez

Coordinator of Youth Ministry ~ (707) 291-1916

Nancy Gibson
stleosym@gmail.com

*All men will know that you are
my disciples if you love one another.*

John 13:35

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION – MANDATORY PARENT / TEEN MEETING:

This is an in-person meeting. One adult must accompany each teen. Teens must have all prayers completed by now.

All Sunday classes will begin with attending Mass as a group. Students should arrive by 9:15 a.m., dressed appropriately. Following Mass, the group will meet until 12noon in Hunt Hall.

To be confirmed this year students must attend the following 6 classes.

Sundays, February 6th & 27th, 9:15am – 12noon

March 6th & 27th, 9:15am – 12noon

April 3rd

Only one meeting due to Easter Sunday, April 27th. Please attend with your family.

May 1st & 15th, 9:15am – 12noon

Any Questions, please contact Nancy Gibson,
(707) 291-1916.

*In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway
for our God!*

Something recently reminded me of the 1944 film *The Fighting Sullivans* (originally titled just *The Sullivans*). It commemorated the loss of five brothers who served in the USS Juneau – sunk in the slugfests between surface ships near Guadalcanal. It was against Navy policy that siblings should serve on the same ships but the Sullivans insisted and the luck of the Irish ran out. The film takes us back to the birth and baptisms of each boy in Waterloo, Iowa. Their father was a railroad freight conductor. We are carried along by episodes during their boyhood and early adult years – recalling their solidarity – a kind of “all for one and one for all” attitude. One scene shows them gathering upon a water tower platform beside the railroad waving to their father as he boards his caboose to commence his work.

And so it goes – even fist fights with bullies and admonitions for better behavior from their Catholic pastor. And then one Sunday (which I recall): Pearl Harbor! – and the boys all enlist together and within only months the Juneau went down leaving only ten survivors. Which is where the film’s audience “falls apart”. The scene follows where Ward Bond as a naval officer comes to the Sullivan home one morning. The family is up – the father getting ready for work. The mother welcomes Bond into their parlor. It’s clear he has a message. The father senses what it is and asks: “Which one?” And Ward Bond (and I assume he had to redo this scene several times) pauses and says: “All five.” I have seen grown men in the audience break into tears. When I was studying in Rome in the early 1950’s I watched the film a second time in a parish hall full of Italian mothers. When that scene happened – the floor of that hall literally began to flow with tears – and the air became loud with moans and no! no! no!

Now in order to close the film on a positive note (a positive note??) the producers’ final scene shows the five brothers in their naval uniforms alive in a ghostly way ascending toward a distant light we assume is heaven – and waving goodbye. It doesn’t work. And in our day it’s unlikely that any such happily-ever-after ending would work. For judging by the global media the systems, the values of our world seem to be deconstructing. As a poet has said: *Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.* Which makes me want to return to the scene played before that ghostly goodbye.

It shows the father going off (after Bond’s visit) to work as on any other day. He climbs up to the platform of his caboose and as the freight train pulls away he looks up to the water tower from which the boys *used* to wish him goodbye. Far from imagining his sons on their way to an afterlife in heaven, the look on the father’s face (played by Thomas Mitchell) is dubious, quizzical, like asking “why?” The tragedy has begun to make him *think, interrogate* his store of beliefs – which is where authentic philosophy and theology *begin*. It’s a good place to be, without our waiting for tragedies to strike, because our beliefs over time can go stale, become rote and if now in the history of the world it isn’t a time for us to *think, to ponder, to wonder* instead of to *argue* our way back into community, when will it ever be?

Geoff Wood