

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

MASS INTENTIONS July 22nd – July 30th

Sat 22	5:00 pm	Ralph & Anna Celio † and Gus Amador †
Sun 23	9:30 am	Mary Powers †
Mon 24	8:30 am	Bill Maffei †
Tues 25		NO MASS
Wed 26	8:30 am	Victor & Connie Vargas †
Thurs 27	8:30 am	Bob Keefe †
Friday 28	8:30 am	Mike Brocco †
Sat 29	5:00 pm	Hugh & Catherine Pendergast †
Sun 30	9:30 am	Albert Damien Balint, Happy Birthday

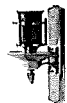
FISCAL LOG July 15 / 16

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,575.
Peter's Pence collection: \$ 1,004. Thank you!
2023 APC– 107 have Pledged \$107,513.11 @ 74%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

July 26	SVDP Monthly Meeting, 9AM, FINN
Aug 5	RE Registration, 9AM -1PM

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for July
In memory of James Gater



ST. LEO'S BOCCE CLUB INFORMATION:
Interested in playing on a team, volunteering or just need info? Email stleobocceclub@gmail.com or call Rick Schuhriemen, (707) 217-9710.

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL 5th SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 2nd COLLECTION: Next weekend's 2nd Collection will be for our SVDP Society.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING: The group will meet Wednesday, July 26th at 9 a.m. in the Finnegan Center.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION:

Anyone In need of food can call the office Wednesday thru Friday to 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.

A BIG THANK YOU SHOUT OUT: Mary Pat would like to thank all the wonderful folks that donated time, food, or both for Geoff Wood's reception on Monday. It truly takes a village to put together such a beautiful gathering. Leftovers were delivered to Sonoma Overnight Shelter much to their delight.

SPECIAL EVENT FOR GRIEVING MOTHERS:

Mothers and grandmothers are invited to a comforting afternoon of Reflection & Remembrance at the Chapel Building at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette on Sunday, July 30, 1st30 - 4:30 p.m. For information visit www.sacredsorrow.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION:

There will be a one-day registration for First Year kids wanting to have their First Communion and returning or Second Year First Communion kids, on **Saturday, August 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate when registering. First Year cost is \$60 per child and \$80 for those students that will receive their First Communion.

ST. LEO'S ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN:

June 30th brought the end of our fiscal year. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please consider doing so. The income from the APC helps pay for our salaries, monthly bills and so much more.

THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA is looking for a full-time office employee to join the chancery team. If you are interested, please call (707) 566-3322 or email Lori Norcia: lnorcia@srdioocese.org.

MONDAY NIGHT OPEN PLAY BOCCE: Looking for players for Monday's at 6:00p.m. for open play Bocce games. No teams and no commitment to play every week. Never played before, no worries! Bring your favorite beverage, snack, and show up when you can and have fun.

Parables

Over these last two Sundays of July we meet parables spoken by Jesus to his disciples and recorded for our benefit as well. You can read them two ways. First in a detached way, the way you read something on a page held at a distance from your eyes (and soul). As a mere observer you can read "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed or like yeast . . ." and try to imagine the tiny mustard seed grow into an impressive tree; or the yeast make dough rise into a delicious, homemade loaf of Italian bread such as my grandmother used to make.

Or you can eliminate the distance between you and the page. In other words walk right into the parables as Alice walked into a mirror and found her room reversed – as you walk right into a grand cathedral, beyond its façade, and experience a different world. For instance when today's Gospel speaks of a field into which someone has sown weeds, if I let myself enter the story or let it enter me I might think: In the course of my life much good stuff was sown in me, my mind, my imagination – that motivated me to want to learn more, to be attuned to great ideas, skills, awe at things natural and man made – that humanized me.

But I was also influenced by the polarities of politics, of cynical "authorities", questionable pieties, commercial seduction, films issuing from the small minds of so called artists – a gunfight every ten minutes, chauvinism. Weeds were sown in my mind, my field, choking the good stuff, questioning it not with an intention to educate but to tear down. And yet it was good that the Lord let me experience the bad seed – because the negative stuff may ultimately confirm me in the good. So, see? The parable tells me so much about myself, my life, about hope.

Or I am a mustard seed, tiny (one to two millimeters in diameter) within my shell, buried, out of sight. But gradually I experience my shell cracking open, my vital kernel pressing out, always, even now, reaching out, emerging from the soil – I feel planted, open to the sunlight, the dew, the rain, the nutriments of God's world – sacraments. I begin to grasp things, to take root in the good things of my culture. I reach for the sky quietly, without commotion day after day. I sprout leaves, so many tongues to taste and see that the Lord is sweet. I acquire a zing, become spicy in the best sense of the word, great to spread on a hot dog! That's me! That's me planted within the kingdom of God, an environment of life and grace - gustoso, pleasant to others.

The parable is about how your life can be ever far reaching, becoming a social gathering place, as for "the birds of the air" wherever you may be. Or you can identify with a smidgen of yeast buried in a lump of dough. When I entered the first grade did not my teacher, a Catholic nun, tell me that? "Geoff, you are a lump of dough, heavy to handle, malleable, easily shaped this way and that, cold – but I'm going to place this pinch of yeast (the word of God) deep into your little mind – and by this time next year you will have risen into a nutritious little fellow after all – or I'll eat my coif. "

Try that whenever you are confronted by a parable of Jesus. BE the mustard seed, BE the yeast-empowered dough, BE a treasure buried in a field, BE an expensive but as yet undiscovered pearl, BE a net thrown into the sea . . . Indeed, let's play around with more of these parables next week.

Geoff Wood

(Reprint from 7/2017)