

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

By appointment, call (707) 996-8422 or before the Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Mass.

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

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: March 9th – March 17th

Sat 9	5:00 pm	Joseph Hurley †
Sun 10	9:30 am	Kara Mazza † & Diane Marino †
Mon 11	8:30 am	Edward McCahon †
Tues 12		NO MASS
Wed 13	8:30 am	Joan Polan †
Thurs 14	8:30 am	Carl Weathers †
Friday 15	8:30 am	Kevin Tompkins †
Sat 16	5:00 pm	Richard Facciola † and Michael Manning †
Sun 17	9:30 am	Deceased members of the Byrne, Lynch & Boyle Families

FISCAL LOG March 2 / 3

Sunday Collection: \$ 5,588.
Development Fund: \$ 3,024. Thank you
2023 APC– 124 have Pledged \$124,613.11 @ 86%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Mar 15	Taize Prayer, 4PM, Congregational Church
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 19	Men's Club Monthly Meeting, 6PM, LSW
Mar 24	Palm Sunday
Mar 31	Easter Sunday

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for March
In memory of
Mario Alioto, Jr.



THE ADULT EDUCATION GROUP would like to invite you to a second meeting on the **Synod** with Fr. Jim, Noelani and Mary Shea. They will be meeting today after the 9:30a.m. Mass (10:30a.m.) **in the Benziger Room**. Hope you can join us!

A SPECIAL IRISH TREAT FOR NEXT SUNDAY
In Honor of St Paddy's Day, Mary Pat tells us that instead of donuts next Sunday there will be Irish Soda Bread and coffee offered. Open to all, Irish or not.

LENTEN FISH-FRY FRIDAY: The Knights of Columbus will host To-Go or Dine-In dinner on Friday, March 15th from 5:30 – 8p.m. at Fr. Roberts Hall at St Francis. The dinner choices are, Fish & Chips, \$20. or Fish Tacos, \$20. Beer and wine available for purchase. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. There are flyers at the back of church with contact info and a QR code to scan for more information.

2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: Catholic Relief Services & Catholic Campaign for Human Development. 25% of your contributions to the CCHD stays in our diocese to create opportunities to help end poverty.

LENTEN SPARE CHANGE FUNDRAISER: The label on each jar explains what this year's fundraiser is for. Thank you in advance.

LENTEN STONES

On Good Friday, when you come to venerate the Cross, bring the stone with you. Put it in the basket at the foot of the Cross, giving the stone and all it holds in care of Jesus on the Cross.

LENTEN TREE OF PETITIONS

Cards on which to write your petitions are on the table at the entrance of the church. You may hang your petitions on the tree where they will remain until Holy Saturday.

LILIES IN MEMORIAM: As Easter draws near, it is an appropriate time to remember our loved ones who have gone before us. If you would like a lily in memory of a special person, please send your check of \$10 payable to St. Leo's Ladies Guild along with the loved one's name. Please send to Michelle Levesque, St Leo's Parish, PO Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416. The list with names of those remembered in this thoughtful way will be published in our bulletin after Easter.

SONOMA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT:
Saturday, March 30th at 10a.m. at Woodland Star Charter School (Dunbar school), Glen Ellen. Be sure to bring a basket or sack to collect your eggs.

Ah, Lord God! I said, I do not know how to speak. I am too young! Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth . . . See, I place my words in your mouth! (Jeremiah 1: 6-10)

Emma's eyes were instantly withdrawn; and she sat silently meditating, in a fixed attitude, for a few minutes. A few minutes were sufficient for making her acquainted with her own heart. A mind like hers, once opening to suspicion, made rapid progress. She touched – she admitted – she acknowledged the whole truth. Why was it so much worse that Harriet should be in love with Mr. Knightley, . . . Why was the evil so dreadfully increased by Harriet's having some hope of a return? It darted through her, with the speed of an arrow, that Mr. Knightley must marry no one but herself.

That's just a few lines from Jane Austen's enduring novel *Emma* – a twenty year old of an English country village around the early 1800's. The above quote tells of Emma's shock when she discovers that her protégée Harriet Smith is drawn not to the matches Emma has encouraged but to a Mr. Knightley – because it now dawns on Emma that Mr. Knightley is the very man whom *she* hopes to marry! But aside from the story itself, I chose the quote to illustrate *how Jane Austen writes*: the language, it's very proper syntax as well as its musical quality – as though the words were less prose and more like notes on a scale. You can almost feel the suddenness of her anxiety (*It darted through her, with the speed of an arrow*), her rising concern.

But I'm taken especially by her mastery of the English language, her attention to the order imposed upon it by centuries of use. Back in parochial school, classes in which the Sisters would have us diagram sentences fascinated me. You know: subject / verb / object with appendages for adjectives and adverbs to modify their sense – as well as subordinate clauses that were also sentences but amplified the main sentence as to its why, how, if, when, where, introducing changes of mood – all linked logically together and, if we kept at it, approaching the way Jane Austen writes – as literature. Language! What a powerful, often beautiful event out of the history of our universe – and terribly powerful if misused - as by the serpent in Eden and demagogues. Which raises the question: when did language begin.

From what I read, science hesitates to reply; it's not sure. One philosopher I know ventures a non-scientific guess. Language began when we began to hear someone or something calling us ("hailing" us as in "hailing a taxi") out of or from beyond nature itself. Like someone trying to engage us in conversation, that draws us into noticing things, questioning them, giving them names like rose or seagull or ocean or sky; as if the seemingly mute things of creation plead with us to give them voice, which both human scientists and poets do, each in their particular way. And so we begin to speak – and begin to live in our world as a *familiar place*, a *neighborhood*, not just an environment.

Sounds a lot like our biblical notion of language. God speaking the universe: "Let there be light." And then conversing with Adam in the cool of the evening and with patriarchs and prophets, with minds and imaginations everywhere – speaking to us in him whom we call the Word made Flesh. And out of such dialogues we ourselves begin to speak, to say more than ouch, or hey, or wow . . . but things like *Emma* or Lincoln's Gettysburg Address . . . which raises the question: how can we let a lifetime go by and read or listen to only the "talk" of the media that would claim our attention without even caring who we are? Unless we care who we are!

(Reprint from 03/11/18)

Geoff Wood