

PLEASE WELCOME AND THANK:

Fr. Gabriel and Fr. Jim who continue to help in Fr. Jojo's absence.

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 November 25th - Dec 3rd

Sat 25	5:00 pm	Anna Vagnozzi †
Sun 26	9:30 am	Brian Bluth † & Bernie Fitzpatrick †
Mon 27	8:30 am	John D. Shine †
Tues 28		NO MASS
Wed 29	8:30 am	Alberto & Remedios Anchetta †
Thurs 30	8:30 am	Donna June Lewis †
December		
Friday 1	8:30 am	Mary Ellen Shine †
Sat 2	5:00 pm	Bernie Fitzpatrick †
Sun 3	9:30 am	Socorro Goodacre, Birthday & Larence (Larry) Brown †

FISCAL LOG November 18 / 19

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,183.
2023 APC- 116 have Pledged \$113,863.11 @ 79%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 2/3	St Leo's Development Fund
Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 16/17	2 nd Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious
Dec 19	Christmas Dinner hosted by the Men's Club

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for November
In loving memory of Mike Brocco



FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Friday, December 1st, in the church from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. All parishioners are invited to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: St. Leo's Development Fund. All donations to the **Development Fund** stay at St. Leo's and help support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORIAM:



The St Leo's Ladies Guild invites you to join in their fundraiser that helps decorate our church for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Please PRINT the name of a person or persons you wish remembered and send your request and donation of \$10 to St Leo's Church, ATTN. Michelle Levesque, P O Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR: Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Faith Lutheran Church, 19355 Arnold Dr. Local crafters display a variety of handmade gifts, fashion accessories, and home goods. Homemade goodies for sale to enjoy onsite or take home. Free admission and parking.

ST LEO'S CHRISTMAS DINNER, hosted by the Men's Club, Tuesday, December 19th. Cocktails and appetizers, 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$40. Tickets go on sale next weekend. The main course is as follows; Salad, Grilled Tri Tip, Champagne Chicken, Butternut Squash Ravioli, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, and Dessert.

LION'S CLUB WANTS YOUR OLD GLASSES: There is a box in the back of church for no longer used **eyeglasses**. Rose and Dave Carey (parishioners) are members of the Lion's Club and will collect them when the box needs to be emptied. Thanks!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: Thank you to the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Leo's, the Redwood Empire Food Bank, and the numerous volunteers that helped with the Thanksgiving give away on Saturday. Some 340 families received a box filled with food and a gift card to Lucky's.

ATTENTION LECTORS: The First Sunday of Advent is December 3rd, which is when we change the missal, Breaking Bread. Lectors will need the 2024 Lector Workbook to prepare. Both English and Spanish workbooks are in the sacristy. Please pick yours up today.

Once upon a time

In the final year of my father-in-law's life he had a moment of not so much panic but genuine concern. His talking wristwatch had broken. You see he had been sightless for over a year. When you're sightless you find yourself suddenly adrift in time and space with only caregivers to inform and direct you. At least with his talking wristwatch he could at any time press its button and hear a recorded voice say, "It's twelve minutes to ten A.M." In other words, it oriented him as to whether it was morning or night, close to dinner time or bed time. It made his existence meaningful in terms of expectations, if in ever so reduced a way. In other words, time became very important to him.

And yet it seems there has always been a longing in our culture to *escape from time* – to hanker after an eternity where it would always be *forever now*, never again a yesterday or a tomorrow. Often our spirituality itself gets caught up in this longing to be free from time and space, no more change, *eternal peace*.

But this kind of spirituality had more to do with Plato and Greek philosophy than with our Judeo-Christian creed wherein our God had no hesitation to become *incarnate*, to be born into time and space, *made flesh* – and again (according to our creed) ascended *bodily* (wounds and all) but only to return to this world of time and space somehow – as today's Scripture readings describe in a lyrical, almost operatic way.

Which leaves us with another way of spiritually understanding time and space – and God's manifestations in time and space. Why do we remember things *out of the past* – those special things, events that changed history or that changed your life and mine? Why do I remember in all its detail my first discovery of a Christmas living room transfigured by a tree with lights and ornaments and the evidence of playthings and a miniature village spread beneath? Maybe because I had ventured out of bed, out of my sleepiness and sat myself at the top of our staircase where I wouldn't be seen as my parents performed such magic. What was it Jesus said about his arrivals, his epiphanies that would occur in the course of our lives? *Watch therefore, because you know not when the master of the house will return - whether in the evening, at midnight (in a transfigured living room), or when the cock crows, or in the morning.*

Time is not something to bemoan, its passage neutralized into something habitual, something we have to live with in a workaday world of one distracted moment after another. Time, whatever may happen tomorrow and the next day, whatever has happened day after day since our birth, is always a Christmas gift to be unwrapped, a revelation. It is certainly least of all "the news of the day" – but it may be the autumn colors under a azure sky (may that not be the face of God?). Or it could be an event, maybe not newsworthy at all, but an experience that broadened and deepened your sense of who you are, of what things "mean". Thus every day becomes like a gentle wave for you to breast with expectation – or as in the case of the Advent Calendar, with its village scene and windows numbered with the dates of December, which when opened day after day reveal the progress of a nativity. Yours as well as that of Christ!

Geoff Wood

(Reprint from 12/2/2018)