

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

November 7, 2021 ~ Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

TODAY'S 2nd COLLECTION – ST. LEO'S DEVELOPMENT FUND: The funds collected from this collection is for the maintenance and upkeep of the church and surrounding grounds.

THANKSGIVING BOX GIVE AWAY: Our St. Vincent de Paul is teaming up with the Redwood Empire Food Bank to supply 300 food filled boxes for the Thanksgiving give-away. This year the Thanksgiving give-away will be on Saturday, **November 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** NO need to sign-up to receive box of food. Again, the distribution will be a drive-through process. Members of the SVDP Society will not be soliciting donations from our parishioners but, if you find yourself in a position to help, they would more than welcome any donations.

CONFESSION OFFERED:
Fr. Jojo is available to hear confessions by appointment only. Call the office, 996-8422 to set up an appointment.

LAST CHANCE JAM SALE:
The final chance for the year to buy St. Leo's jams will occur next weekend AFTER Masses. The price will remain \$5.00 a jar and are limited to two per household (unless the limited number of jams are not sold; then you can buy more). We have two types of jam – organic, low sugar peach and apricot. We also have some canned pears which will be priced: \$9.00 for the large quart jars. Any proceeds will go towards the maintenance of our parish orchard (which has not produced much yet - though we are hopeful for the future.)

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR:
Saturday, December 4th, 10a.m. to 4p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 19355 Arnold Dr. The Fair offers holiday shopping for gifts, home goods, jewelry, and décor handmade by local crafters, artisans, and bakers. This event is held in compliance with CDC and So. County health dept. COVID-19 guidelines.

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for November
The People of St. Leo's



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: November 6th – November 14th

Sat 6	5:00 p.m.	Cathy Ortelle †
Sun 7	9:30 a.m.	Austin & Margaret Williams †
Mon 8	8:30 a.m.	John S. Shine †
Tues 9	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Wed 10	8:30 a.m.	Gloria Durante † & Pauly Balanga †
Thurs 11	8:30 a.m.	the Sacred Heart
Friday 12	8:30 a.m.	Nancy Nielson †
Sat 13	5:00 p.m.	Elma Radosevich †
Sun 14	9:30 a.m.	Austin & Margaret Williams †

FISCAL LOG October 30 / 31

Sunday Collection: \$ 2,957.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UNDATE:
152 Parishioners have pledged: \$131,066. ~ 90%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nov. 6/7	2 nd Collection, St. Leo's Development Fund
Nov. 20	Thanksgiving Box Give-Away, 1 – 3PM
Nov. 20/21	2 nd Collection, Communications & Catholic Univ. of America (D)
Nov. 25	Office Closed, Thanksgiving
Nov. 26	Office Closed

SYNOD 2021 – 2023: The fundamental concept that guides this consultation is Synodality by which the Holy Father means that the Church journeys together in announcing the Gospel. This gives rise to two fundamental questions which form the foundation for our encounter.

- 1) How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church?
- 2) What steps does the Spirit invite you to take in order to grow in your “journeying together”?

These questions will be discussed at the Regional Gatherings. It is also planned to have a Link on the Diocesan website to allow individuals to offer comments by way of electronic media.

(Complete text with session dates and places is on our outside bulletin board)

Staff

Office Manager ~ 996-8422

Michelle Levesque
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Parish Bookkeeper / Office Asst.

Mayra Alvarez
bookkeeper@stleosonoma.org

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ 996-7503

Rosa Chavez

Coordinator of Youth Ministry ~ 291-1916

Nancy Gibson
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Don't put out the Spirit's fire.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you - by grace - for a different gospel (not that there is another). Galatians 1: 6-7

The *Letter to the Galatians* is a bombshell. The Apostle Paul is angry. Having passed through Galatia during his journeys sharing the good news of the Jesus event, he had relieved many a Galatian along with the local Jews of their fear of God and the future and hereafter . . . free of their prior and constant worry that if you didn't do this and that, pay this tithe, make this sacrifice, carry this amulet, keep your proper place within the required segregations of the human race . . . – in a word: if you didn't trust in the absolute graciousness of the Maker of this universe, proclaimed and manifest in Christ, releasing the human race to become finally full of grace itself in the image of its Maker, you were backtracking into the perpetual conflict that arises out of perpetual malaise – missing the aim of your existence.

And what had happened? Proponents of the better effectiveness of *fear* to compel people to stay in line followed Paul into town – scaring his converts back into their prior worries – insisting they pick up the tools of ignorance that insecurity generates (as in more modern times guns as much as fetishes). So that Paul rants: *O stupid Galatians! Who has bewitched you . . . Are you so stupid? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? . . . how can you turn back again to the weak and destitute elemental powers* (which is a way of saying elementary school when it comes to religion?).

Indeed we should be grateful that the early Church preserved these challenges of Paul even as it in some ways allowed things to go elementary again itself. Hence the need for Councils like Vatican II.

But I only bring all this up because this week I came across a lecture by a well educated (Princeton Theological Seminary!) minister in which he appeals to this *Letter to the Galatians* to protest against the efforts of the medical and public establishment encouraging people to get vaccinated! I would wager that St. Paul wouldn't even know what the word means – that medical issues were not on his mind but ailments much more profound. Nevertheless this fellow lines things up like this – within the playing field of Paul's long ago letter. On the one side you have (in the role of the Pharisees) governments aggressively pushing COVID vaccine, instituting vaccine mandates and passports, segregating the unvaccinated as “deplorables” – outcasts. Doctors and other health professionals are the new “priests” imposing complex laws in authoritarian ways . . . with religious zeal, creating the “cult of covid” – a civil religion.

On the other hand you have the “Galatians” – the “true Christians” whom Paul is portrayed as warning: “don't succumb to those doctors, those vaccination requirements – maintain your freedom and trust (and here is where Jesus gets dragged into it not too subtly) in the Lord who set you free. This seems to be a case of forcing the right foot to fit the wrong shoe. And so it goes down through history: counterpunching in front of a mirror wherein your right *appears to become* your left and your left, your right. Nor will it ever end - nor maybe should it? It may pretend to be theology but it's really “politics”.

Geoff Wood