

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](http://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: October 11<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>

Sat. 11 5:00 p.m. Felix C. Mapa †  
And Michael Tompkins †  
Sun. 12 9:30 a.m. Don & Barbara Carlson †  
& Paul & Rae Zraggen †  
Mon. 13 8:30 a.m. Jerry Hipps † & Karey Hipps †  
Tues. 14 NO MASS  
Wed. 15 8:30 a.m. Lucrecia Barrera †  
& Rita Shine †  
Thurs. 16 8:30 a.m. Jim Haver †  
Friday 17 8:30 a.m. John M. Shine †  
Sat. 18 5:00 p.m. Sr. Julianna Vagnozzi †  
& Richard Facciola †  
Sun. 19 9:30 a.m. Joe Byrne † & Frank Lynch †  
Deceased members of Byrne, Lynch & Boyle Families

FISCAL LOG: October 4 / 5

Sunday Collection: \$ 4,161.  
Spare Change Fundraiser: \$27,048.95

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Oct 12 Annual Autumn Festival, 12:30PM, LSW  
Oct 18/19 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – World Mission Sunday  
Oct. 19 FREE Flu Clinic, after 8am & 9:30am Masses  
Oct 21 Men's Club Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW  
Oct 29 SVdP Monthly Meeting, 9AM, FINN

SANCTUARY LAMP  
Dedication for October  
In Memory of the  
Tellez & Ferreyra Families



TODAY: The parish community is invited to our **Autumn Festival on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>** starting at 12:30pm at the East wing parking lot. A feast like this is a chance for us to gather as a family. Extra handicap parking spaces will be available.

2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: Oct. 18/19, **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**. Funds collected support the pastoral and evangelizing work of the Church, including building churches, providing, healthcare, education and training future priests and religious.

ST. FRANCIS SOLANO CHURCH cordially invites you to attend a "Beyond Measure" concert featuring the acclaimed Filipino singing group **4<sup>th</sup> Impact**, scheduled for Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, to be held at Cardinal Newman High School. **4<sup>th</sup> Impact's** strong vocals have been showcased on UK's X-Factor and other international competitions. Call St. Francis parish office for more information, (707) 996-6759.

**FLU VACCINE CLINIC BEING OFFERED, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>:** Sonoma Valley Hospital will offer **free** Flu vaccines after the 8a.m. and 9:30a.m. Masses.

**A REAL BIG THANK YOU:** The Bocce Club Board of Directors wish to thank everyone who helped make last week's tournament a success. The banquet/ awards ceremony was enjoyed by a sell out crowd of nearly 150 players and friends. NOTE: Bocce dues for next year's season are due. Thank you again to all!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY is an international organization that addresses the two great commandments: Love of God and Love of neighbor. Our Mission Statement is: A network of friends, inspired by gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with service to people in need. The St. Leo Conference would like to invite you to become a member. We meet monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. **October's meeting has changed to October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00a.m.** Contact Mary Swisher, 707-935-9725 or Patti England, 707-938-9126 for additional information.

**MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY MEETING:** The Men's Club invites all the men of the parish to the monthly dinner and **meeting on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**. Cocktails start at 6:00pm and dinner is at 7pm.

**SONOMA VALLEY HOSPITAL OFFERS FLU CLINIC:** On Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> during our morning "Groceries to Go" food distribution, personal from the SV hospital will be offering a free Flu Clinic. Vaccinations will be offered from 8 a.m. until around 9:30 a.m.

Equinox

We're familiar with those scenes from Dracula where all the hero has to do is hold up a cross and Dracula wilts away. The rising sun has the same effect upon the Count, who can only operate when all is dark. Well, don't laugh but, as a Church, way back on 9/14 (the Feast of the Holy Cross) we already pulled out that cross again. And why? To help us deal with the encroaching darkness of fall and winter or rather all that it symbolizes. Spring is a distant memory. Summer with its ever-brighter days is almost over. The autumn equinox is upon us - that time of the year when night returns to claim an equal share of our time and will even begin to dominate our days, making them shorter, colder and even depressing.

Our tradition realizes that these longer nights and shorter days are the consequence of a natural process occasioned by the tilt of the earth and its rotation around the sun. But why let an opportunity for spiritual support go unused? And so our tradition asks us to imagine spring and summer as symbolic of those brighter aspects of our lives - of youth, faith, romance, energy, joy, success. But what about those other experiences that cast a shadow: the aging process, sickness, mortality, failure, depression? Sooner or later these too must be encountered like the shadows of autumn and winter: to assault our faith, diminish our hope and possibly even our capacity for love. So what better time than now with the onset of autumn for the Church to pull off its Count Dracula trick and raise up the cross to confront the approaching darkness?

The feast of the Triumph or Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorated St. Helen's reputed discovery of the true cross in 320 A.D. and its later recovery from Persian invaders in 629 A.D. But on a symbolic level listen to the Gospel selection which used to be read at this autumn festival wherein we hear Jesus saying to us: "Now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself . . . The light will be among you only a little while. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overcome you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

In other words, whenever you find yourself entering some season of darkness in your life (whether it coincide with the onset of autumn or winter or not) keep your eyes fixed upon the cross of Christ, which like a beacon must always signal the inevitability of a transfiguration, a resurrection, a rebirth of light, yes, a Christmas! - the victory of unquenchable hope and love over the Prince of Darkness, despondency and despair.

And as a little mantra to recite as autumn darkness now sets in (and I must ask were times ever darker than the news we read today) why not fall back upon that old favorite by John Henry Newman - which he composed during a dark period in his life: *Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom, / Lead thou me on! / The night is dark, and I am far from home - / Lead thou me on! / Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see / The distant scene, - one step enough for me . . . // So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still / Will lead me on, / O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till / The night is gone; / And with the morn those angel faces smile / Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.*

(Reprint from 10/8/2017)

Geoff Wood