

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

"Where all are Welcome"



601 W. Agua Caliente Road, Sonoma, CA 95476

Office: (707) 996-8422

Rev. Jojo Puthussery, M.F., Pastor

Website: www.stleosonoma.org

September 19, 2021 ~ Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND FOR HAITI:

A letter was sent to all bishops asking for a special collection to support the Church and humanitarian needs arising from the massive earthquake and tropical storm that hit Haiti. **Today's second collection is for Haiti**, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

WITH A HEAVY HEART:

Parishioner Kathleen Valim passed away unexpectedly last Sunday evening. A rosary will be held at Duggan's on Monday, Sept. 20th at 6:30 p.m. Her funeral will be here at 11:00 a.m. on Tues., 21st. Kathleen worked tirelessly helping to plan our 50th Anniversary a couple of years back. She also accompanied Fr. Jojo and others to the Holy Land in 2019. Please keep Kathleen and her family in your prayers.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY DINNER MEETING:

Tuesday, September 21st, in the LSW. Cocktails at 6p.m. and dinner at 7p.m. Come, enjoy a great meal, and find out what the Men's Club is all about. Questions? Contact Steve Rogers, (707) 771-9290.

CONFIRMATION MEETING INFORMATION:

We are planning on having face to face in person meetings this year with the exception of our first meeting.

HS 9th - 12th grade: Our Wednesday, Oct. 6th meeting will be virtual to ensure that students are familiar with our site and google classroom. Wednesday, Oct. 13th from 7 – 8:00 p.m. will be the first in person meeting in Hunt Hall.

Jr. HS 7th & 8th grade: Our Thursday, Oct. 7th meeting will be virtual to ensure that students are familiar with our site and google classroom. Thursday, October 21st will be the first in person meeting in Hunt Hall.

Questions? Call Nancy Gibson, (707) 291-1916.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for September

In Memory of Judy Paolini



Mass Times

Saturday Mass:

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

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, 996-8422

Weddings: Call the office, 996-8422

MASS INTENTIONS: September 18th – September 26th

Sat 18	5:00 p.m.	Walter & Olive Consineau †
Sun 19	9:30 a.m.	Frank Lynch †
		And Afonso Valim †
Mon 20	8:30 a.m.	Mia McCarter Veeck †
Tues 21	8:30 a.m.	NO MASS
Wed 22	8:30 a.m.	Ron D. Foster †
		And Bridie O'Sullivan, Happy B-day
Thurs 23	8:30 a.m.	Elma Radosevich †
Friday 24	8:30 a.m.	Ray André Levesque †
		And Bill Maffei †
Sat 25	5:00 p.m.	Hugh Pendergast †
Sun 26	9:30 a.m.	Anita Hines †

FISCAL LOG September 11 / 12

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,110.

ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

149 Parishioners have pledged: \$127,866. ~ 88%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sept. 18/19	Special 2 nd Collection for Haiti (D)
Sept. 19	RE classes resume
Sept. 21	Men's Club Monthly Meeting, 6PM, LSW

Staff

Office Manager ~ 996-8422

Michelle Levesque
office@stleesonoma.org

Parish Bookkeeper / Office Asst.

Mayra Alvarez
bookkeeper@stleesonoma.org

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ 996-7503

Rosa Chavez

Coordinator of Youth Ministry ~ 291-1916

Nancy Gibson
stleosym@gmail.com

EUCCHARIST TO THE SICK:

If you know of someone that is ill or is not able to attend Mass who would like to receive the Eucharist, please let us know by calling the rectory, 996-8422.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

The office staff is available Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parish office phone number, 996-8422.

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

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in CHRIST JESUS

2 Timothy 3:15

Taking a child . . . he said . . . , “Whoever receives one child such as this . . . receives me . . .” Mark 9:37

Elsewhere in Mark’s Gospel we meet a similar expression: *Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.* And then there is Matthew’s Gospel’s version of the same statement: *Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.* What can Christ mean by those words The Kingdom of God or The Kingdom of Heaven? Where lies this Kingdom of Heaven into which only a child can enter? Well think back to your childhood because if a child can enter the Kingdom of Heaven and, of course, you were once a child, you must at times have stumbled into it back then.

Old age, increasingly bewildered by the disarray of current times, tends to recall those earlier stages of one’s life. And so I remember when – as the Great Depression came to a close - my parents chose to leave the inner city with all its brick, mortar and asphalt (we had two trees on our street of sixty face to face houses) and overnight I found myself in a suburb of some development but where still there were woodlands, abandoned farms with fields gone fallow and fruit trees growing wild; there were rose arbors, creeks, swimming holes – a region reached only by Toonerville trolleys. It was a new world where I could wander wide, discover snakes and jump at the sudden flight of a pheasant . . . a Garden of Eden [on the verge of urbanization]. The Kingdom of Heaven!

Children do have this knack – un-introduced as yet to the lethal silliness of adults – to see things fresh. Maybe it’s because it’s their imaginations more than that enlarged walnut in our craniums that directs their vision. I have mentioned in the past Kenneth Grahame’s stories describing the way a family of British children – appalled at the way adults had to live – found an illustrated story book whose pages in their eyes became three dimensional – where they saw meadows set with flowers, blue and red, like gems and a white road looping up a steep hill crowned with towers, and belfries – and knights riding two by two . . . a ship in port with an odd sort of crow’s-nest at the top . . . *a world wherein a story lay hidden.* Grahame titled that story “The Walls Were Made of Jasper” – like those of St. John’s heavenly Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation descending upon our earth.

May not the Kingdom of Heaven be this very world into which we are born – which can be turned into a hell on earth by adults who have eyes to see but do not see – or are conditioned to see only production lines that transform nature into stuff – useful stuff – but no more pheasants? Old John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) – a poet whom I have quoted before – envied any child who still inhabited that Kingdom of Heaven:

Blessings on thee, little man, / Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan! / . . . With thy red lip, redder still / Kissed by strawberries on the hill; / With the sunshine on thy face, / . . . From my heart I give thee joy, — / I was once a barefoot boy! // Prince thou art, — the grown-up man / Only is republican. / Let the million-dollared ride! / Barefoot, trudging at his side, / Thou hast more than he can buy / In the reach of ear and eye, — / Outward sunshine, inward joy: / Blessings on thee, barefoot boy!

Geoff Wood