

**Gathering Song:** *All Are Welcome* BB#318

**Refrain:** *All are welcome in this place. Behold love's amazing grace!  
All are welcome, all are welcome!  
Bring your hopes, bring your dreams. Mercy flows and love redeems!  
All are welcome, all belong.*

**Gloria:** *Glory to God (card is in the pew pocket)*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 146: Praise the Lord, My Soul*

Praise the Lord, my soul! Praise the Lord, my soul!  
Music: M.D. Ridge © 1990, 1996, M.D. Ridge. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia (card in the pew pocket)*

**Preparation of Gifts:** *Say in the Frightened Heart* BB#468

Say to the fright- ened heart: have cour - age, do not fear, for  
God whose love is ev - er - last - ing comes to save us.  
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**Mass:** *Mass of St. Joseph (card in the pew pocket)*

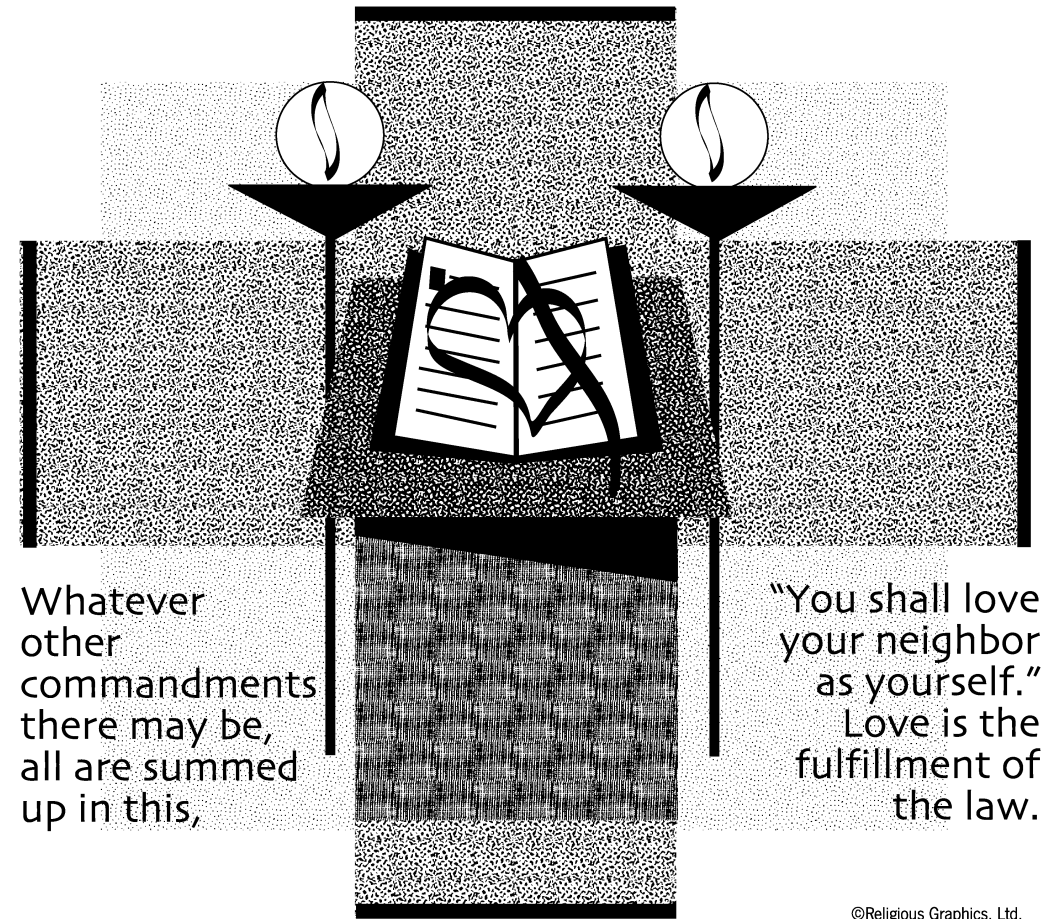
**Communion Song:** *As the Deer Longs* BB#512

- 1 As the deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God.  
My soul does thirst for the living God, when shall I come to see your face?
- 2 My tears have fed me day and night, while some have said "Where is your God?"  
But I recall as my soul pours dry, the days of praise within your house.
- 3 Who do I mourn and toil within, when it is mine to hope in God?  
I shall again sing praise to Him. He is my help, He is my God.

**Closing Song:** *In the Day of the Lord* BB#578

In the day of the Lord\_ the sun will shine like the dawn of e - ter - nal  
day. All cre - a - tion will rise\_ to dance and sing the glo - ry of the Lord!  
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# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time September 8, 2024



Whatever  
other  
commandments  
there may be,  
all are summed  
up in this,

"You shall love  
your neighbor  
as yourself."  
Love is the  
fulfillment of  
the law.

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*Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF*  
*Pastor, (707) 996-8422 ext. 13*  
*Email: [office@stleosonoma.org](mailto:office@stleosonoma.org)*  
*601 W. Agua Caliente Rd., Sonoma, CA 95476*  
*P.O. Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416*  
*Parish Office, (707) 996-8422 Fax, (707) 996-3984*

**St. Leo Catholic Church**  
Website: [www.stleosonoma.org](http://www.stleosonoma.org)



## 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: Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 15

Sat. 7 5:00 p.m. Elaine & Paul Tompkins †  
Sun. 8 9:30 a.m. Antonio Cortez †  
Mon. 9 8:30 a.m. Virgilia Vargas Mapa †  
Tues. 10 **NO MASS**  
Wed. 11 8:30 a.m. Joan Polan †  
Thurs. 12 8:30 a.m. Bill Shrum †  
Friday 13 8:30 a.m. Patricia Ramirez †  
Sat. 14 5:00 p.m. Yolanda Celio †  
Sun. 15 9:30 a.m. Felix Mapa

## FISCAL LOG Aug. 31 / Sept. 1

**Sunday Collection:** \$ 3,375.  
**St. Leo's Development Fund** \$ 2,390.

**NEW 2024 ANNUAL PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE**  
118 Parishioners pledged: \$108,769.38 75%

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sept 8 St. Leo's Parish Fiesta, after 11:30 Mass  
Sept 17 Men's Club Monthly Meeting, 6PM, LSW  
Sept 25 SVDP Monthly Meeting, 9AM, BR  
Sept 25 R.E. Classes Begin, 1<sup>st</sup> Year, 5PM, BR  
Sept 26 Ladies Dinner, 6PM, LSW  
Sept 28/29 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection, St. Vincent de Paul  
Sept 29 R.E. Classes Begin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, 9AM, BR

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
*Dedication for September*  
*In Memory of*  
*Bill Maffei*  
*Ray & Andre Levesque*



**ST. LEO'S PARISH FIESTA**  
Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
After 11:30 Mass



**Come enjoy our Annual End of Summer Fiesta**  
Delicious Mexican food for sale: Birria, Pozole, Enchiladas, Fish Tacos and drinks. There will be music/dancing, raffle prizes, face painting, and bounce house for kids! See you there.  
Proceeds from this years' fiesta will benefit the floor project in Lillian Wing.

**BOCCE NEWS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grande Festa Della Bocce**, Friday & Sat., October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration deadline: September 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available in the Bocce pocket out in front of church or online: [www.stleosbocceclub.org](http://www.stleosbocceclub.org).

**OKTOBERFEST LADIES' DINNER:** On Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> we will have our next Ladies Dinner. Tickets will be on sale for \$20 per person the weekend of September 14/15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed, please contact parish office, 707-996-8422. More information to follow.

**SVDP MONTHLY MEETING:** Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Finnegan Center.

**SATURDAY CONFESSION OFFERED:** Fr. Jojo is available to hear confessions in the church on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Use the confessional to your left when entering the church.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS 2024:

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, the Diocese of Santa Rosa will present a day of prayer and fellowship for all adults in the Diocese. The event will be held at Cardinal Newman High School, 4320 Old Redwood Hwy., Santa Rosa. The theme is "Prayer, Our Relationship with God".  
This day is designed to bring spiritual nourishment to all Adults in the Diocese. We look forward to seeing you. We are happy to announce that this year's event is FREE. For more information or to register, please contact Carmen Aanenson at the Diocesan Dept. of Rel. Ed., [dre@srdiocese.org](mailto:dre@srdiocese.org), 707-566-3366.



## Is the Word of God too loud to hear?

We're all familiar with Gulliver's sojourn among the Lilliputians, a people who stood only six inches tall. We're not so familiar, perhaps, with the reverse experience he had when he met the Brobdingnagians, who averaged sixty feet tall!

There Gulliver stood in a field of wheat forty feet high, while a line of Brobdingnagian reapers approached wielding seven-foot sickles. Gulliver screamed as loud as he could, whereupon one of the reapers looked at Gulliver as if he were a mouse, then bent over, picked him up and held him before his eyes. While Gulliver's voice must have seemed so tiny, when a Brobdingnagian spoke it must have resonated like thunder!

The Brobdingnagians treated Gulliver gently as a curiosity. Eventually he was able to converse with their king and boast about England's empire and political institutions. He failed, however, to realize that this gigantic king could evaluate all Gulliver said from a much higher vantage point. And so, far from being impressed by Gulliver's account of English history, the king was appalled. To him it appeared to be nothing but a petty "heap of conspiracies, rebellions, murders, massacres, banishments, the very worst effects that avarice, hypocrisy, cruelty, envy, lust and ambition could produce!" He could only conclude Gulliver's countrymen "to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth!"

Embarrassed by this assessment, Gulliver tried to impress him with the achievements of European science and technology, inventions such as gunpowder and cannonballs (and we might add hydrogen bombs). This too left the king amazed at "how so impotent an insect would entertain such inhuman ideas." He then ordered Gulliver, "if he valued his life, never to mention these things again while in his kingdom."

Gulliver privately ridiculed the king's reactions as shortsighted, forgetting that it was he who was short and therefore shortsighted in this land of benign giants. And obviously Gulliver's comprehension of the Brobdingnagians was compromised by the sheer volume of their king's discourse – he heard the words but didn't quite hear the humaneness of their philosophy – and so he remained stuck in his own culture's inhumane habit of mind.

But may we not see in the Brobdingnagian king's bigness, not only of size but of mind and voice, a reflection of the Jesus of today's Gospel? Even as Gulliver was deaf, so too have we been deaf and tongue-tied relative to Christ's Gospel, both in terms of its bigness of mind and heart, ethics and depth? And so must we not as often as possible re-experience today's Gospel wherein Jesus touches *our* ears and tongues and groans and says with urgency: *Be opened!* - which amounts to: Be Big, Be Grand, Be of an Immense Stature of Soul, Let your Graciousness resound like the Thunder of God, the Thunder of the Gospel, behind which there is always the *still, small voice* of Love, of Mercy, of Understanding?

You know, of course, where Gulliver ran into the Brobdingnagians - along our Pacific Coast, somewhere near a place called Cape Mendocino, which leaves all of us who live in this region today with some pretty big shoes to fill.

**Geoff Wood**

(Reprint 9/09/2018)