

### Gathering Song:

### Lead Us to Your Light

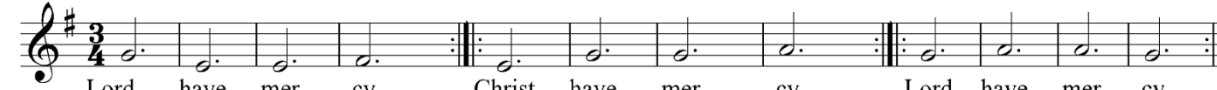


Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness. Lead us to your light. Come, — Je - sus come.

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1. Lord, we await your coming to our world; bring us the gift of salvation.
2. Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber, banish the darkness of night.

### Advent Penitential Rite:



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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### Responsorial Psalm:

### Advent Responsorial



My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In his light I shall be

saved. My soul re - joi - ces in my God. In His love I'll find peace.

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### Gospel Acclamation:

### Gospel Alleluia

REJOICE  
for the LORD is near!

BB#856

### Preparation of Gifts:

### The King Shall Come

BB#70

### Mass:

### Mass of Renewal

Holy: BB#858      Memorial Acclamation: BB#859      Amen: BB#862      Lamb of God: BB#863

Curtis Stephan

### Communion Song:

### Beyond the Moon and Stars

BB#48

### Refrain:

Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night, so great our hunger, Lord, to see your light.  
The sparrow finds her home beneath your wing. So may we come to rest where angels sing.

### Closing Song:

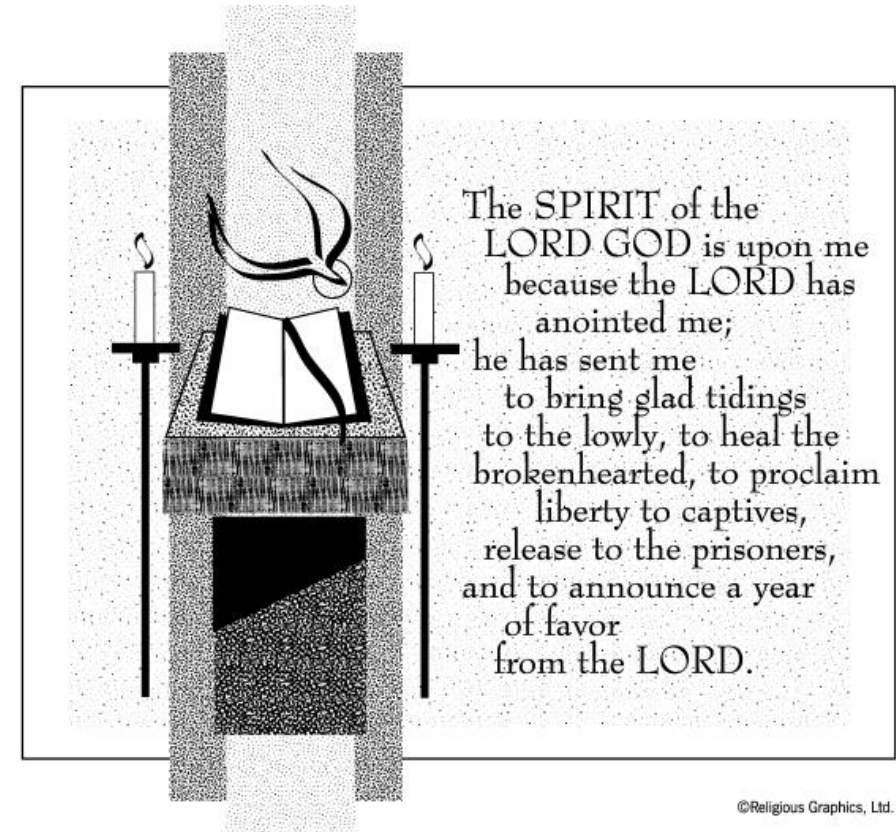
### Ready the Way

BB#53

Refrain: Ready the way, ready the way, ready the way of the Lord. (2x)

- 1 Make straight the road, raise the valleys, and mountains make low.  
Turning from sin, let the broken be whole, and ready the way of the Lord.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of advent December 14, 2025



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**St. Leo's 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.stleesonoma.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 Dec 13 – Dec 21

Sat 13 5:00 p.m. Dan Powers †  
Sun 14 9:30 a.m. Mary Ellen Serafini †  
and Tony Nerio Cotter †  
Mon 15 8:30 a.m. Jim Haver †  
and Mary Ann Weber †  
Tues 16 NO MASS  
Wed 17 8:30 a.m. Jean Weiner †  
and Edward McCahon †  
Thurs 18 8:30 a.m. Claire Melanephy †  
Friday 19 8:30 a.m. Joan Polan †  
and Rose Byersdorfer †  
Sat 20 5:00 p.m. Richard Facciola †  
Sun 21 9:30 a.m. Joe Byrne †, Frank Lynch †  
Deceased members of Byrne, Lynch & Boyle families

FISCAL LOG: December 6 / 7

Sunday Collection: \$4,645.  
Development Fund: \$2,367. Thank You!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 16 Christmas Dinner in the Lillian Wing, 5PM  
Dec 24 Office Closed  
Dec 25 Christmas Day – Office Closed  
Dec 26 Office Closed  
Jan 1 Holy Day of Obligation

SANCTUARY LAMP  
Dedication for December  
In Loving Memory of  
The Mapa Family



2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: Retirement Fund for Religious. A lifetime of service deserves care in return. “Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community,” says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

DANISH AND DONUTS IS BACK! Coffee and donuts in the LSW following the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY: The Religious Education department is collecting new, unwrapped toys for children ages 6-13. Please place your donations in the box at the church entrance any time before December 15<sup>th</sup> or drop by the parish office.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:  
Vigil of Christmas – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00PM – Children’s Mass, English  
6:30PM – Posada  
7:00PM – Spanish Mass  
9:00PM – English Mass

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM – English Mass  
11:30AM – Spanish Mass

POINSETTIAS IN MEMORIAM: St. Leo’s Ladies Guild invites you to join in their fundraiser that helps decorate the altar for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Please PRINT the name of the person(s) you wish remembered and send your request and donation of \$10. To St. Leo’s Church, ATTN: Michelle Levesque, PO Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED MEMBER OF ST. LEO’S? We invite you to register and become an active member(s) of the St. Leo’s community. Registration enables the parish pastor and staff to get to know you better and to communicate with you by sending you our seasonal mailings. It also allows us to record contributions for end-of-year statements that we send out in January. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of changes in address or phone number. Forms are located at the back of church.

The Parish Mission

I don’t hear of them often anymore but way back *before* Vatican II (1960’s) parishes frequently scheduled a two-week mission to be conducted by visiting priests from one or another religious order – Jesuit, Dominican, Franciscan . . . As I remember they were gender split: one week for the men, one for the women. I also remember attending one of them with my father when I was twelve years old. Now my father was not a churchgoer, so that’s probably one reason why I remember that particular parish mission. He seemed to be too preoccupied with economic survival to attend Sunday Mass. Still he placed me in parochial schools, and it was the parochial school and Catholic parish environment that became my real home, *not* the house I lived in.

The first night of this parish mission was a disorienting experience. The pews were filled with men and boys. Out of the sacristy a stalwart looking Redemptorist priest advanced to the altar rail. Redemptorists wore black cassocks but also a sash into which was thrust a fairly large crucifix – like a weapon. He stood silent for a noticeable while, the audience increasingly expectant. And then he shouted things like: when were we going to wake up; who did we think we were; do we think hell is going to be a holiday; what kind of catholic men are you to take sin so casually . . . and the like. His face was grim, no tolerance of any humor. Finally he pulled his crucifix from his sash, wound up and threw it with a clatter and bang right down the center aisle of the church, causing a defensive reflex among the audience – saying, “That’s what you do to Christ every time you commit a mortal sin.” The rest of his lecture had men eyeing the nearby confessionals for immediate future reference. The lecture ended and this fellow retired to the sacristy leaving fellows wondering what they had gotten into.

After a hymn or two (intermission), a second Redemptorist came forth and approached the communion rail. He was smiling as he invited us to share with him something he would not like his colleague to hear. He asked us, first of all, to show compassion for his companion who had retired to the sacristy. He informed us in hushed tones that the man was known even in the seminary to have a terrible temper, intolerant of the least mistakes, not much fun to be around. “And I apologize that all of you had a taste of that tonight.” This priest then reminded us that the Gospel was good news, something to enlighten our lives, that God was merciful and loved us all. Bad cop, good cop – that was the method used. Slap them, then offer them a cigarette. And it must have worked considering the numbers that turned out and the increase in the parish collections.

Somehow it seems the Church designed Advent along these lines. We get a heavy dose of John the Baptist, dressed in camels’ hair, looking wild, warning people of a winnowing fan and of chaff and unquenchable fire. We adopt the color purple to tone down our silly self-satisfaction. But we must remember ultimately that something wonderful is about to happen again: the birth of God, of absolute grace among us, of him whose yoke is sweet and whose burden is light, of him who said to John the Baptist’s followers: Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind now see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up; I came to open up lives, open up people’s senses, not bury them. Or may it not be said that Advent is but prelude to joy as in the words of Bob Camp’s and Bob Gibson’s gospel song: *Well you can tell the world about this / You can tell the nation about that / Tell’em what the master has done / Tell’em that the gospel has come / Tell’em that the victory’s been won / He brought joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy / Into my heart.*

(Reprint from 12/13/2015)

Geoff Wood