

**Gathering Song:****Come to the River**

**Refrain:** Come, O come, come to the river, flowing from the body of Christ.  
We'll go down, deep in the water, but in the Lord we shall arise.  
1. Washed in waters of re-birth, we have put on Christ Jesus.  
2. Priestly people are we, sealed and sent by the Spirit.

BB#656

**Gloria:**

**Glory to God**  
(Music card in pew pocket)

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 29: The Lord Will Bless Us With Peace**

The Lord will bless us with peace. The Lord will bless us with peace.  
Music © 2020, Sherrill A. Peterson. All rights reserved.

**Gospel Acclamation:****Gospel Alleluia**

BB#856

**Preparation of Gifts:****God of Mercy**

**Refrain:** God of mercy, holy mystery, ever faithful one,  
you have pitched your tent among us, reconciling love.  
Heart and mind of Christ, live within our lives,  
form us into people of mercy and grace.

**Mass:**

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

**Communion Song:****Lead Us to the Water**

Lead us to the water, bring us to the feast.  
Fill us with your Spirit, and we will be your peace.  
Music: Tom Kendzia and Gary Daigle. arr. by Tom Kendzia. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

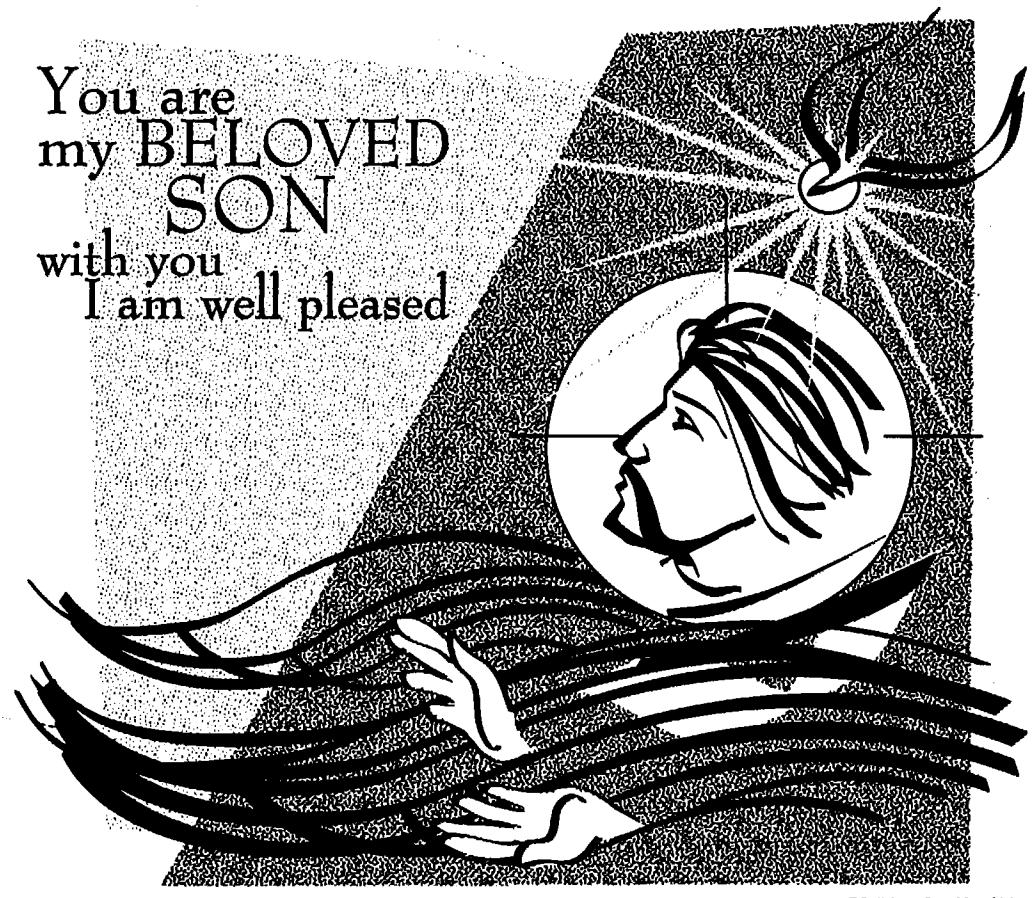
**Closing Song:****Hallelujah is Our Song**

BB#174

1. What hope we have, even in the longest night, for the light will overcome,  
We will not fear, for we know the sun will rise. Hallelujah is our song.  
**Refrain:** Hallelujah! Hallelujah! He is risen over all.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah is our song.
2. What peace we have, even in this wounded world where the battle rages on.  
We will not fear, for we know who heals our souls. Hallelujah is our song.

# The Baptism of the Lord

## January 11, 2026



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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's Catholic Church****Website: [www.stleosonoma.org](http://www.stleosonoma.org)**

## Mass Times

**Saturday Mass:** **Sunday Masses:**  
5:00 p.m. 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

### ꝝ Sacraments ꝝ

**Baptisms and Weddings**  
Call the office, (707) 996-8422

## MASS INTENTIONS: January 10<sup>th</sup> – Jan 18<sup>th</sup>

Sat 10 5:00 p.m. the People of St Leo's  
Sun 11 9:30 a.m. Edward McCahon †,  
& Frank Sammon †  
Mon 12 8:30 a.m. Josefa Noroña †  
Tues 13 NO MASS  
Wed 14 8:30 a.m. Emerencia Balanga †  
Thurs 15 8:30 a.m. Special Intention  
Friday 16 8:30 a.m. Jim Haver †  
Sat 17 5:00 p.m. Jim & Cheryl Taylor,  
Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sun 18 9:30 a.m. Shirley A. Macpherson †

## FISCAL LOG: January 3 / 4

**Sunday Collection:** \$ 4,271.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jan 17/18 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Church in Latin America  
Jan 20 Men's Club Monthly Meeting, LSW, 6PM  
Feb 7 Memorial for Bobbie Scanlon, 11AM  
Feb 7/8 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – St Leo's Development Fund  
Feb 18 Ash Wednesday  
Feb 18 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - Central & Eastern Europe  
March 5 Annual Polenta Dinner  
April 5 Easter Sunday

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
*Dedication for January*  
*In Loving Memory of*  
*Edward McCahon*



**HOLD THE DATE:** March 5<sup>th</sup> for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Chicken & Polenta Dinner. Tickets on sale 2/7/26

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND** for the Church in Latin America. Your support for this collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.

To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit: [usccb.org/latin-america](http://usccb.org/latin-america).

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** the family of Joan (October 9) and Al Bruni (November 30), who passed away in 2025. They both served as greeters at 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass for many years.

**COFFEE AND PASTRIES THIS WEEKEND** in the LSW following 9:30a.m. Mass.

**HOLD THE DATE:** The Memorial Mass for Bobbie Scanlon will be on Saturday, February 7, at 11a.m. Please keep Bobbie and her family in your prayers.

## KOLBE-TRINITY SCHOOL NEWS:

Kolbe-Trinity Annual Crab Feed, featuring a silent and live auction, live music by The Henry Coopers and dancing will take place on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 – 10:30 P.M. at Roche Winery on 22097A Bonness Road in Sonoma. Early-bird special ticket price of \$105 is available through Tuesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> at <https://givebutter.com/2026CrabFeed> (\$120 after). Enjoy a truly gourmet crab feed – a hidden gem among the Napa/Sonoma Valley crab feeds! All proceeds benefit tuition assistance for the students of Kolbe-Trinity in Napa.

**YEAR END NEWS:** Our Annual Parish Campaign 25/26 ends in February 2026. If you have not completed your pledged amount, now is the time to do so. To date this year's APC is at 85%, with \$123,395.38 pledged. Any questions regarding the amount owed please contact the office, (707) 996-8422.

**THE SANTA ROSA DIOCESE MEN'S CONFERENCE**, March 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Eugene's Cathedral. Fathers and sons (18+ years) are invited to attend. The Diocese Men's Conference will offer ways of improving on a "Man's prayer toolbox" and fraternity. You can join them for a session or all twenty-four hours. For more information or to register visit: [www.srccatholicmen.org](http://www.srccatholicmen.org).

**MINISTRY SIGN-UP WEEKEND:** Interested in becoming a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Greeter/Usher? Well, you're in luck! Ministry Sign-up weekend will be Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> & Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Mutation

Like the songwriter of a generation ago, the Hebrew author of the first chapter of Genesis might confess: *Don't know much about biology; don't know much about geology . . .* But he sure had a poetic flair for describing the origin of our world: *In the beginning, . . . the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the sea. And God said . . . Let the waters be gathered together into one place and let the dry land appear.* He then goes on to portray the creation first of vegetation, then animal life and finally human beings. In broad terms that's pretty much how modern science describes the sequence of our evolution: life emerging from the sea and advancing through plant and animal stages to culminate in *homo sapiens*.

Despite the similarities, however, there's really a big difference between Genesis and modern science, because science prosaically views the origin of the world as a purely physical event whereas the Hebrew author writes of it as also a dramatic event. So where he speaks of God's Spirit hovering over a primeval sea, it's not simply a watery sea he's speaking of. No! For him the sea serves also as a symbol of *chaos and suffocation*. And if you wonder why, just go take a look at the Pacific on a gray, stormy day – the waves assaulting the rocks as if they would chew them to pieces. Or imagine yourself adrift at night far out in the middle of its mindless waves, the big fry feeding on the small fry right beneath you and you yourself likely to be swallowed up without a trace.

So – when the Hebrew writer tells of the Spirit of God hovering over the sea and commanding it to back off to allow dry land and life to emerge, he sees nothing less than God's colossal love lifting us out of some primeval whirlpool that would otherwise suck both us and the Garden we inhabit back into nothingness. And his purpose? To shape each of us into an immortal and somehow immense miniature of himself – creators everyone!

Nor are biblical authors in general so naive as to think of creation as simply a past event. The Bible is very aware of our human tendency to go *rushing back* (like lemmings) into that impersonal sea whence we came. Take for example the people in the Noah story. Repudiating their humanity, they choose to live like predators and soon we find them sinking beneath a Deluge of their own making. All except Noah, who, retaining his sense of justice and humanity, stands safe upon a mountain top while the waters of the Deluge recede and God has to create his world all over again – not from scratch but with the help of the zoo Noah salvaged in the Ark!

Or consider the later Israelites, who slavishly allow themselves to get caught in the undertow of dictatorial Egypt and end up gasping for life and liberty – until God has to intervene once more to lift them out of the waters of the Red Sea and direct them and all humanity toward their destiny of eternal intimacy with God and each other and nature itself. Given this Old Testament imagery, perhaps you can now see why the New Testament writers chose to describe the commencement of Jesus' career today in terms of his rising out of water while the same Spirit of Genesis hovers above him. They did it because they sensed in the arrival of Jesus a fresh beginning for the human race – the ascent, out of primeval suction, of that invincibly caring human being God has been trying to create ever since *homo sapiens* set foot upon this earth. That's what we celebrate today – a mutation students of evolution have yet to recognize and revere.

(Reprint from 1/13/2019)

**Geoff Wood**