

Gathering Song:

Gather Your People

BB#310

Refrain: Gather your people, O Lord. Gather your people, O Lord.

One bread, one body, one spirit of love. Gather your people, O Lord.

1. Draw us forth to the table of life;
brothers and sisters, each of us called to walk in your light.
2. We are parts of the body of Christ, needing each other,
Each of the gifts the Spirit provides.



Gloria:

Glory to God

(Music in the pew pocket)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 145: The Lord is Near



Gospel Acclamation:

Watson Alleluia

Preparation of Gifts:

Be Still, My Soul

BB#673

Mass:

Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

Holy: BB#865

Memorial Acclamation: BB#866

Amen: BB#867

Lamb of God: BB#868

Communion Song:

You Are My Refuge

BB#449



Text based on Psalm 91; Music: Christopher Walker. Text and music © 2022, Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Closing Song:

Glory and Praise to Our God

BB#576

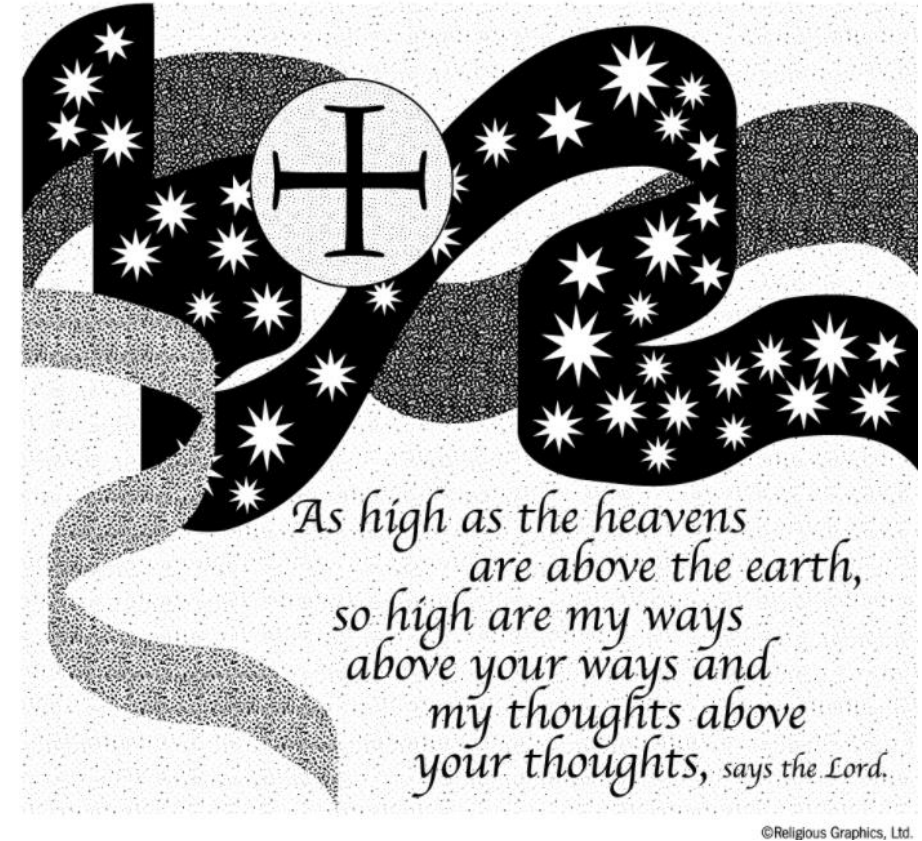
Refrain: Glory and praise to our God, who alone gives light to our days.

Many are the blessings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

1. We, the daughters and sons of him who built the valleys and plains,
Praise the wonders our God has done in every heart that sings.
2. In his wisdom he strengthens us, like gold that's tested in fire.
Though the power of sin prevails, our God is there to save.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2026



Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF

Pastor, (707) 996-8422 ext. 112

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Parish Office, (707) 996-8422 Fax, (707) 996-3984

St. Leo's Catholic Church

Website: www.stleosonoma.org



Parish Office Hours

Monday – Thursday, 9AM to 6:30PM
Parish Office is Closed on Fridays

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

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: September 19th – Sept. 27th

Sat 19	5:00 p.m. Richard Facciola 
Sun 20	9:30 a.m. Kay Adams 
Mon 21	8:30 a.m. Raymond J. Mapa 
Tues 22	NO MASS
Wed 23	8:30 a.m. Frank Shine 
Thurs 24	8:30 a.m. Bill Maffei  , Raymond and Andre Levesque 
Friday 25	8:30 a.m. John M. shine 
Sat 26	5:00 p.m. Hugh Pendergast 
Sun 27	9:30 a.m. Cosme Ramirez 

FISCAL LOG September 12 / 13

Sunday Collection: \$3,936.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sept 26/27	2 nd Collection – Church in Africa & Society of African Missions
Sept 28	SVDP Monthly Meeting, 5PM, FINN
Oct 10	Memorial Service for Declan Cuniff, 11AM

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for September
In Loving Memory of
Bill Maffei
Raymond & Andre Levesque



MISSIONARY APPEAL: Celebrating Mass with us next weekend will be Rev. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA, an incardinated priest of the Society of African Missions – American Province.

2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa & Society of African Missions - American Province. Funds collected will provide grants to support the maintenance and growth of the Church in Africa. Projects include outreach programs, schools, evangelization, and the education of clergy and lay ministers. The collection will also support the Society of African Missions, whose missionaries are dedicated to spreading the Gospel in Africa and among African people. As pioneer missionaries, they strive to establish a local Church with local clergy wherever they serve, while engaging in parish ministry, education, healthcare, justice and peace, and care for the environment.

COFFEE & DONUTS: Enjoy your coffee and donuts in the Lillian Wing and if the weather permits, under the outside awning of the wing.

ST VINCENT de PAUL MONTHLY MEETING: The 4th Monday of the month, September 28th at 5:00PM. The meeting takes place in the Benziger Room of the Finnegan Center.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - DECLAN CUNIFF: A memorial service has been scheduled for Saturday, October 10th at 11:00AM with a reception to follow in the Lillian Wing.

SONOMA MARKET / NUGGET MARKET COMMUNITY SCRIP PROGRAM: Support St. Leo's Religious Education by signing up for the free Community Scrip Program. There is no cost to participants or the parish. To sign-up, contact Michelle in the parish office at (707) 996-8422, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM.

PARISH DONATIONS: Donations to support St. Leo's are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!



At present we see dimly as in a mirror . . . (1st Corinthians 13:12)

Judging by the attitude of Jesus toward children as cited in today's Gospel, it seems he would have been delighted with the poet William Wordsworth's romantic (or sentimental?) evaluation of childhood expressed in his poem *Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood*. There he remembers how fresh his vision was as a boy when *meadow, grove and stream, / The earth, and every common sight, / To me did seem / Apparalled in celestial light*. I'm sure all of us have memories of our first, astonishing encounter with a dandelion or snow or butterflies or the immense power of a locomotive. Life was full of wonders.

No wonder then, as an adult, Wordsworth laments those later years when the *Shades of the prison-house begin to close / Upon the growing boy* – how he begins to imitate adults . . . engage in games like cowboys and Indians or in roles of “doctor”, pirate, even priest (I remember at age 10 “saying Mass” at home with a congregation made up of my sister and her friends – communion being one Necco Wafer apiece). Eager to grow up we soon leave wonder behind, so that Wordsworth continues: *Turn whereso'er I may, / By night or day, / The things which I have seen I now can see no more*.

When Jesus in today's Gospel takes a child and says *Whoever welcomes a child such as this welcomes me* . . . and later in Mark's Gospel says, *Let the children come to me, don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these*, doesn't he seem to agree with Wordsworth that childlike simplicity, innocence, wonder, an ever fresh vision of the world should characterize his followers – as opposed to the way his disciples in today's Gospel compete for seniority, engage in adult politics as usual – never noticing a sunrise?

And yet if we turn to another part of the New Testament, we seem to find the exact opposite model – that childhood is something we need to grow out of! For St. Paul in his *Letter to the Galatians* childhood means school days, disciplinarians, classroom custody. (I remember even in the eighth grade, during a break in class, spreading my forearms on the classroom windowsill and looking out at the passing people and cars on the street - envying their freedom.) It's like Paul says: the child is *under the supervision of guardians and administrators until a date set by his father*, ineligible to inherit anything (even equality) until he “grows up”. To Paul childhood seems to mean childishness, immaturity as in 1st Corinthians where he confesses *When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things*.

So, does the New Testament contradict itself? Are Jesus and Paul on the same page – one cherishing childhood, the other anxious for it to be over, eager to grow up? With whom do you stand? Are you inclined toward sentimentality, to recover the innocence (and ignorance?) of Sesame Street or are you eager to grow out of such playfulness, to confront tomorrow, to be ever more conscious, to put on (like a garment) the maturity of Christ? Are Jesus and Paul reconcilable?

But hey! Don't look at me! I'm out of space. I'm just laying out the apparent difference. I'm leaving it up to you to figure it out, to think about it! It will do you good to think about such seeming biblical enigmas. God knows - we don't do enough of it!

(Reprint from 9/20/2015)

Geoff Wood