

Gathering Song:
*Refrain: Come and be filled here at this table. Food for all who hunger and drink for all who thirst.
Drink of his love, wine of salvation. You shall live forever in Jesus Christ the Lord.*

Here At This Table
BB#309

1 You who labor for justice, you who labor for peace,
you who steady the plow in the field of the Lord.

2 You with lives full of pain, you who sorrow and weep,
You, beloved of Christ, come to him, come to him!

Gloria:

Glory to God
(Music in the pew pocket)

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 138: Lord, Your Love is Eternal*



Lord, your love is e - ter - nal; do not for - sake the work of your hands.

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Gospel Acclamation:

Watson Alleluia



Preparation of Gifts:

God of Mercy
BB#510

*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:

Mass of Creation
Marty Haugen

Holy: BB#865 Memorial Acclamation: BB#866 Amen: BB#867 Lamb of God: BB#868

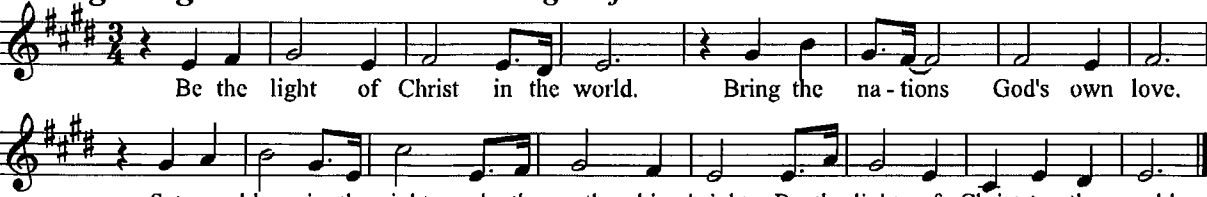
Communion Song:

By Our Love
BB#509

*Refrain: By our love, by our love, they will know we are Christians by our love.
Not by words, but how we live,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.*

Closing Song:

Light of Christ



Be the light of Christ in the world. Bring the na - tions God's own love.

Set a blaze in the night, make the earth shine bright. Be the light of Christ to the world.

Text and music: Tom Kendzia, b. 1954, © 1991, Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026



TU ES PETRUS

You are Peter and upon this rock
I will build my church and the gates
of the netherworld shall not
prevail against it.
I give to you the Keys of the Kingdom.

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

St. Leo's Catholic Church

Website: www.stleosonoma.org



UPDATED 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: August 22nd – August 30th

Sat 22 5:00 p.m. Mary & Renzo Antonini †
Sun 23 9:30 a.m. Chief Daren Ellach, Healing
and a Special Intention
Mon 24 8:30 a.m. Bill Maffei †
Tues 25 **NO MASS**
Wed 26 8:30 a.m. Students going off to school
Thurs 27 8:30 a.m. Joan Polan †
Friday 28 8:30 a.m. Ralph Sobieski †
Sat 29 5:00 p.m. Prayers for the infirmed of the
parish
Sun 30 9:30 a.m. All our children starting school

FISCAL LOG August 15 / 16

Sunday Collection: \$ 4,216.
Seminarians: \$1,074. Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Aug 24 SVDP Monthly Meeting, 5PM, Benziger Rm.
Aug 29/30 2nd Collection – St Vincent de Paul
Sept 6 End of Summer Fiesta / Gran Kermes
Sept 11 Funeral Mass for Virginia Slevin, 11AM
Sept 15 Men's Club Monthly Meeting, 6PM, LSW

SANCTUARY LAMP
Dedication for August
In Loving Memory of
Pat & Bill Ramirez



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

The 5th Sunday of the month 2nd Collection is for our St. Vincent de Paul Society. We truly appreciate your continued support and generosity.

PARISH MEMBER, OFFICE VOLUNTEER:

Virginia Slevin passed this last weekend. A funeral Mass and reception will take place here on Friday, September 11th at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Virginia and her family in your prayers.

SONOMA MARKET / NUGGET MARKET COMMUNITY SCRIP PROGRAM: When you sign up and participate in the Sonoma Market / Nugget Market Community Scrip Program, you become partners for a cause. The cause here is support of St. Leo's Religious Education. The program is free, with no cost to participants or beneficiary organization. To get your own Community Scrip Card and help the cause contact Michelle in the parish office, (707) 996-8422, M – Thurs., 9am to 3pm. It takes about 10 minutes to get registered.

8th GRADE CONFIRMATION:

Our 8th grade class and wait list are full. There is still available space in the High School program. To sign up or have any questions, contact Nancy Gibson, (707) 291-1916.

RELIGIOUS ED. / FIRST COMMUNION INFO:

Contact Rosa Chavez, (707) 996-7503.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS: It has been requested to change the meeting day and time to accommodate working members. Our meeting day and time will change to the 4th Monday of the month at 5:00pm starting this month. Our next meeting will be Monday August 24th at 5:00pm in the Benziger Room.

HOLD THE DATE: Sunday, September 6th, starting at 1:00 p.m. and going to 6:00 p.m. for the **Annual Autumn Festival, Gran Kermes.** Entry to the event is free. Tickets in which to purchase the different foods are on sale now. This is a fun event for families and friends to gather and enjoy good food and entertainment. All are welcome.

COFFEE & DONUTS: The ceiling is done in the Lillian Wing. Enjoy your coffee and donuts inside the hall or under the outside awning.

Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

One day while ostensibly walking home after school in North Philly I accompanied a classmate until we reached 29th Street where he made a left turn – and so did I. That made him look at me funny, for he sensed I had diverted from my usual route home. He was right. When he eventually turned into his own street I kept on walking south. At age 9, I was running away. I was heading for South Philly where my maternal grandmother lived and where life seemed saner than with my distressed parents and other *depressed* grandmother. I made it to Girard Avenue and stopped this side of the street – to wonder. My maternal grandmother and her still juvenile children would be confused; my father might be angry; the school might expel me; the distance was five miles through avenues and parkways and cobblestone streets. Then I thought: Well, maybe some other time. And I retreated but only to complete the idea later by entering a minor seminary at age 15. I got away after all! And have never lived in Philly since.

The Bible has several runaway stories or stories of regret for having forsaken some place or some one. Judas comes to mind. The charm of Jesus had apparently worn off; money concerns absorbed his attention – the more of it the merrier. And so he sold Jesus out and wallowed in remorse: *I have betrayed innocent blood.* Then there is the story of the Prodigal Son who much to the distress of his father took his inheritance and set off for a distant country and as the Gospel says: *squandered his wealth in wild living.* Then came the regrets – especially when all he had to live on were the pods thrown to barnyard pigs - *Here I am starving to death. I will set out and go back to my father . . .*

And then there is Jonah. Told to go preach to the city of Nineveh, capital of a ruthless empire, he lights out not a mere five miles to South Philly but to the other end of the Mediterranean Sea – Spain. He was swallowed up by fear translated into a huge fish. And it says when he became faint he remembered the Lord in his Temple and promised to repent, which somehow made the fish nauseous so that he vomited Jonah onto a beach – where he could reverse his flight and serve his Lord.

But the modern classic of a runaway is presented in the famous poem of Francis Thompson (1859-1907), an English convert to the Church – who studied to be a doctor, became hooked on opium, lived on the streets, was cared for by a prostitute, taken in by the Catholic publisher Wilfred Meynell and recovered enough to write *The Hound of Heaven.* Given the chaos of his short life the poem reveals Thompson's personal experience of God's pursuit but it fits us all – in private. Of how like some divine beast of prey God was always there:

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; / I fled Him, down the arches of the years; / I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways / Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears / I hid from Him, and under running laughter. // Up vistaed hopes I sped; / And shot, precipitated, // Adown Titanic glooms . . . / From those strong Feet that followed, followed after. // But with unhurrying chase, / And unperturbèd pace, / Deliberate speed, majestic instancy, // They beat—and a Voice beat / More instant than the Feet— // 'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.'

The Hound of course is the Love of God – as the poem says at the end: *Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me.*

(The poem has been recorded by outstanding actors like David Suchet and Richard Burton.)

(Reprint from 8/26/2018)

Geoff Wood