

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: August 16th – August 24th

Sat. 16 5:00 p.m. Bill Ramirez † & Jim Haver †
Sun. 17 9:30 a.m. Joe Byrne †, Frank Lynch †,
Deceased members of the Byrne, Lynch & Boyle families
Mon. 18 8:30 a.m. John & Frances Wason †
Tues. 19 **NO MASS**
Wed. 20 8:30 a.m. Margaret Tompkins †
Thurs. 21 8:30 a.m. Joan Polan †
Friday 22 8:30 a.m. **NO MORNING MASS**
Sat. 23 5:00 p.m. Rich Facciola † &
Sherry & Doreen Hodai †
Sun. 24 9:30 a.m. Bill Maffei † & Timothy Shea †

FISCAL LOG: Aug 9 / Aug 10

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,945.
Spare Change Fundraiser: \$27,048.95

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Aug 19 Men's Club Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW
Aug 22 **NO MORNING MASS**
Aug 22 Walt Picchi Funeral, 10AM
Aug 23 Friends & Family Dinner, 6PM, LSW
Aug 24 Adult Ed w/Fr. Fredericks, 10:30 AM, BR

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION START DATES:

1st Year FC students start Wednesday, Sept. 17th,
5:00 to 6:30p.m.
2nd Year FC students start Sunday, Sept. 21st,
9:30a.m. to 11:00a.m.

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND is for
Diocesan Seminarians. This collection provides
financial support to help defray the cost of educating
young men in the seminary who are discerning a call
to the priesthood in our diocese.

**CHANGE OF VENUE FOR COFFEE &
DONUTS:** Next Sunday coffee & Donuts will be in
the Finnegan Center after the 9:30a.m. Mass because
of the Adult Ed presentation. This weekend it's still in
the LSW. Coffee is \$1. and \$2. each for donuts.

MEN'S CLUB DINNER MEETING: Tuesday,
August 19th in the Lillian Sanders Wing. Cocktails at
6:00 p.m. and dinner to follow. All men of the parish
are welcome to attend. Questions, call the Men's Club
President, Greg McSweeney, (415) 238-5940.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DINNER: Join us for the
"August Friends and Family Dinner and Bingo"
Tickets will be available for purchase after Masses and
in the parish office.

Date: Saturday, August 23rd

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Italian Menu: Tuscan Chicken, Pasta Alfredo,
Salad & Dessert

Cost: \$25 per ticket



IN LOVING MEMORY:

Walter (Walt) Picchi was a dedicated and long-serving
parishioner, as well as a committed bocce ball player.
A rosary will take place on Thursday, August 21st at
5:30PM here at St. Leo's and a funeral mass will be
held on Friday, August 22nd, at 10AM at St. Leo's as
well. He entered eternal rest on August 4, 2025.

ADULT EDUCATION PRESENTATION:

Just three months ago, Robert Prevost was elected
Pope Leo XIV. Fr. Jim has prepared a presentation on
what we can expect from Pope Leo, the first American
pope. The title of his presentation is "What's in a
Name?"

Date: Sunday, August 24th ; Time: 10:30 am

Place: Benziger Room **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

ST. VINCENT De PAUL:

Bags are needed for the Tuesday morning "Groceries
to Go" food distribution. Please drop your extra paper
or plastic shopping bags at the pantry or at the parish
office. **Remember - no SVDP meeting this month.**

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Faith ultimately means swallowing the whole enchilada

It must have been disconcerting to an early Christian – in the immediate years after Pentecost –
to find some Egyptian or Syrian showing him deeper into his pew to gain space for this alien's odd
looking family to have a seat. (I'm not saying that churches back then looked like ours – but just for the
sake of an example.)

For you see the earliest Christians were Jews. They didn't cease to be ethnically proud of their
patriarchs and prophets and history and Temple. But within a few years of early Church preaching by
the apostles and deacons like Philip and especially that "fanatic" Saint Paul, non-Jews were increasing
in number, sharing in the sacraments . . . whereas in the old days (to bring the experience up to date)
all the news broadcasts were delivered by white males, now people of different physiognomy and color
and gender and even speech were taking over.

Indeed a division developed within the early Church between those Christians who wanted the
Church to remain Jewish (well within the familiar traditions of the Old Testament) and Gentile Christians
(Greek, Roman, African, Lebanese) growing in number, who valued the freedom, the grace, the wider
horizons offered to them by the Gospel. By 80 AD, the date of Matthew's Gospel, such diversity was
leading to a schism, the clear separation of Synagogue and Church which lasts to this day.

Given that crisis people began to read today's Gospel passage in the light of "what to do" about
this now unstoppable influx of Gentiles into a tradition so rooted in the history and images of Israel. And
so we have a scene in which Jesus himself is portrayed as staying in Gentile territory amid Canaanites
– just as Christians by that date were living among Gentiles throughout the Mediterranean region. And
these Gentiles want to sit at table with these Christians, experience the power of Christ. But some early
(Jewish) Christians say, "No. They are unclean." and the now Gentile majority says, "Yes, the Gospel is
universal in its range." What would Jesus do?

Well, he does what he did. He behaves with profound respect for his Jewish heritage of which
his Gospel is the blossoming. You don't benefit from the Gospel if you don't embrace the whole drama
of the Old Testament that gave birth to it. Nobody can just walk in and have the cookies and walk out.
Jesus wants a commitment to the whole story, which is not something you can take or leave, toss away
the wrappings and walk off with the taco. But in effect Jesus says, "This woman may not recognize the
whole rich tradition out of which the Gospel comes; but she knows enough to want to know." And
ultimately she had a faith, a trust capable of educating Jesus to that wider world about which he himself
was preaching. To which he could only say: "O woman! Great is your faith!"

Which reminds me of old Father Aloysius Craven at Graymoor long ago. Pilgrims came up the
Hudson on weekends to spend a day among our chapels and statues and – gift shop. There arrived a
time when more and more of the pilgrims were Baptists from Harlem, who inevitably gathered in great
numbers for the outdoor Mass. Aloysius panicked every Sunday! In his Irish brogue he would say, "I
repeat! Only Catholics are allowed to come to communion." The Baptist participants nodded they
understood. But every time, as communion was distributed, up they came smiling, while Aloysius felt
another year of his life slide prematurely away.

Reprint from 8/20/2017

Geoff Wood