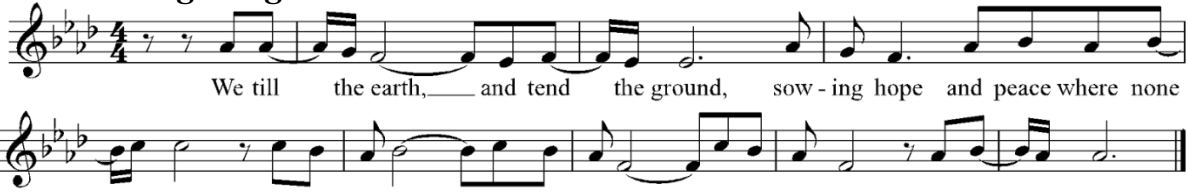


**Gathering Song:** *Tend the Ground* BB#624

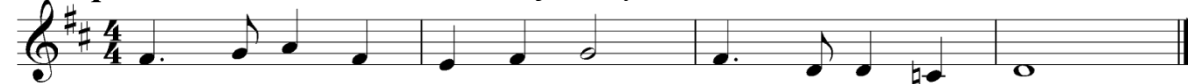


We till the earth, and tend the ground, sow - ing hope and peace where none  
is found. In self-less love God's life a - bounds. We till the earth, we tend the ground.

Text inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*; Music © 2016, Curtis Stephan. Published by OCP. all rights reserved.

**Gloria:** *Glory to God*  
(Music card is in the pew pocket)

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 90: If Today You Hear His Voice*



If to - day you hear his voice, hard - en not your hearts.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** *Gospel Acclamation*



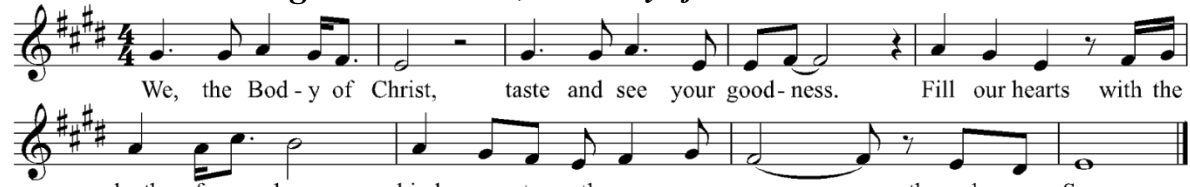
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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**Preparation of Gifts:** *I Love the Lord* BB#467

**Mass:** *Mass of St. Joseph*  
(Music card is in the pew pocket)

**Communion Song:** *We, The Body of Christ*



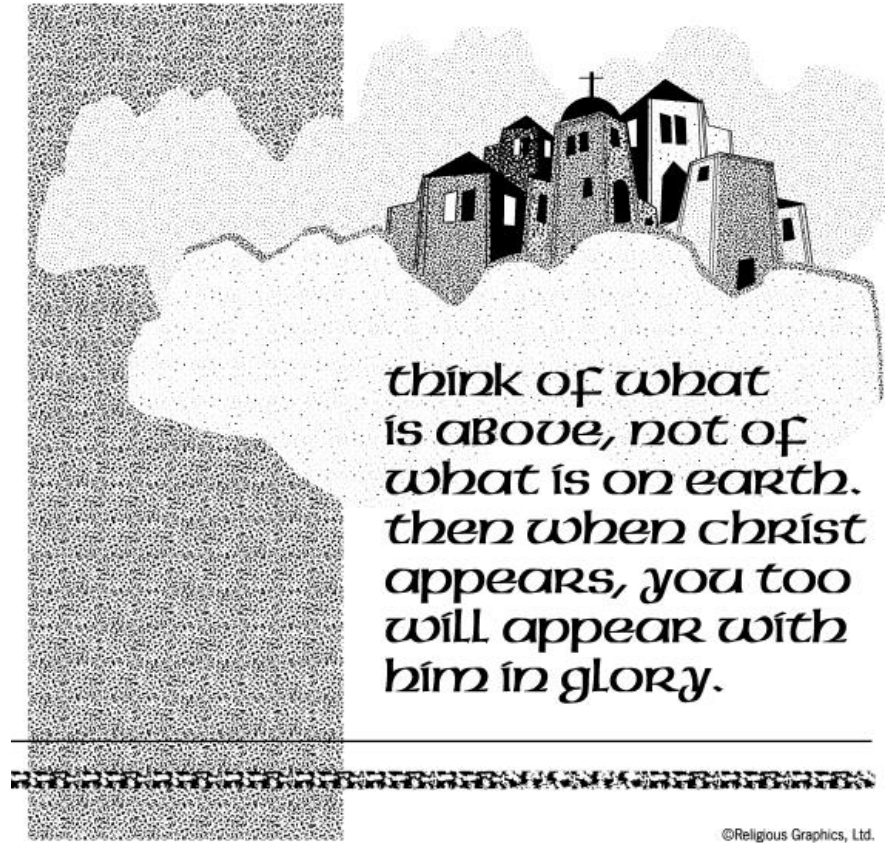
We, the Bod - y of Christ, taste and see your good - ness. Fill our hearts with the  
depth of your love; bind us to - geth - er as one through your Son.

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**Closing Song:** *We Are the Light of the World* BB#520  
Refrain: *We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all,  
that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.*

# 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## August 3, 2025



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 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.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 2nd – August 10th

Sat. 2 5:00 p.m. Mary & Ralph Pujolar Sun. 3 9:30 a.m. Larry Carolan, Happy Birthday Mon. 4 8:30 a.m. Marina V Mapa, R.S.C.J. Tues. 5 NO MASS Wed. 6 8:30 a.m. Charles Canevari Thurs. 7 8:30 a.m. Felix Mapa Friday 8 8:30 a.m. Gunther Solomon and Charles Shockey Sat. 9 5:00 p.m. Edwin Tompkins Sun. 10 9:30 a.m. Carol Hanna

FISCAL LOG: July 26 / 27

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,099. Spare Change Fundraiser: \$27,048.95 Missionary Appeal: \$ 4,903. Thank you

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Aug 2/3 2nd Collection, St Leo's Development Fund Aug 6 /7 Confirmation Reg. for HS & 8th grade, FINN Aug 15 Assumption of Mary, OFFICE IS CLOSED Aug 16/17 2nd Collection – Diocesan Seminarians Aug 19 Men's Club Dinner Meeting, 6PM, LSW



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

OUR ST. VINCENT De PAUL NEEDS BAGS for their Tuesday morning "Groceries to Go" food distribution. Please drop your extra paper or plastic shopping bags at the pantry or in the parish office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY: We greatly appreciate your support for the Dominicans in Africa. As a parish we raised \$4,903. for the missionary appeal.

COFFEE & DONUTS in the LSW this weekend. Next weekend we're serving scones.

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: Today's collection will support St. Leo's Development Fund, which helps maintain our parish buildings and grounds. As an example, a leak was discovered on the sprinkler riser at the parish office, and funds from this collection helped cover necessary repairs.

MAD HATTERS NEED YOUR EXTRA YARN Happy colored yarn is needed for our Mad Hatters. Please drop your extra yarn in the Ushers Room or bring it to the parish office.

HIGH SCHOOL & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION will be on Wednesday & Thursday, August 6th & 7th, from 11a.m. to 3p.m. in the Finnegan Center. This will be the only time to register your child. Class sizes are limited. Priority will be given to student families registered at St. Leo's parish.

A NIGHT OF CAROLE KING: Jon Foreman has secured tickets at the Transcendence ticket office for St. Leo Parish, Men's Club and the St. Leo Bocce Club for the August 14th production of: "It's Beautiful; A Night of Carole King".

Here is the link to purchase tickets for August 14th, https://transcendencetheatre.org/event-details/?event\_id=bck

Your savings Code is: STLEOS 30% Discount on Pink Seats. Normal Ticket price \$65. With the savings Code you save \$15.90 per ticket. Total group price \$49.10 with all fees and discount.

The performance will be at Mario Fazio field at the Field of Dreams, First St. West in Sonoma (behind Sonoma Police station).

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

What makes love in old age so much more profound and enduring than the romantic, erotic kind that characterized our youth?

Far out in the country one cold December day a very old black woman, wearing a red bandanna and long dark dress was walking along a path through the pinewoods. Her name was Phoenix Jackson. She had a little cane and as she made her way through the wintry Mississippi landscape she would say things like, "Out of my way all you foxes and jack rabbits. I got a long way to go." On she went, up steep hills and through thorn bushes and over a log thrown across a creek. "I wasn't as old as I thought," she said, having managed that. Then through a field of cornstalks until she reached a road. Once upon the road she stumbled into a ditch and lay there on her back like a June bug until a hunter lifted her out and said, "Granny, take my advice and stay home."

But on she went until she reached the streets of Natchez, full of perfumed Christmas shoppers. She entered a big building, climbed its staircase and entered a doctor's office. "Aunt Phoenix," said the nurse, "Is your grandson's throat any better since the last time you came?" The boy had swallowed lye some years earlier and he would not heal. "Oh my little grandson, he sit up there in the house all wrapped up, waiting by himself. We is the only two left in the world. He suffers but it don't seem to put him back at all. He got a sweet look. He going to last. I not going to forget him the whole enduring time. I could tell him from all the others in creation." The nurse gave Phoenix some medicine and a nickel as a Christmas charity. Phoenix went out and bought her grandson a paper windmill on a stick.

Eudora Welty called this story "The Worn Path". It's about love - not romantic love or cold, crisp charity but the kind of love that rises from somewhere just below your heart and compels you to go that extra mile, to be devoted to someone whom no one else in this world might even notice. And what if Phoenix Jackson's grandson is dead? Readers asked Eudora Welty that and she replied, "What if he is?" Old Phoenix would make that same journey (as pilgrimage?) again and again if only to keep alive a sense of her grandson's presence, his need, of her connectedness to what had become for her a pearl of great price. Phoenix Jackson, by way of her grandson, had developed a habit of love she could never lose.

This story says a lot to me, having had a child who was also ill, afraid of this world and therefore given to ways of escaping it, like becoming addicted to drugs in his teens. And I followed my own worn path (as parents do) back and forth to the city, up the Waldo Grade, across the Golden Gate, looking for him, finding him, losing him, tutoring him, sheltering him, enjoying him with a breakfast here, a movie there, discovering in him things that made my journey less and less a "paternal obligation" and more and more a compassionate delight.

Nor has his death ever stopped the momentum of the "Phoenix Jackson" love I feel for him. I still make the trips, visit the familiar streets to place a rose upon a doorstep or by a hotel entrance. It's something I'm driven to by an experience of awe and love that must be familiar to each of you older folk. And again, it's not romantic, it's not duty, it's not charity. It's rather a surge such as Jesus must have felt when in the Gospel it says, "He was driven by the Spirit" - an upwelling that compels us wonderfully and in the face of death itself to walk the walk of dedication and delight.

Geoff Wood

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