

HOSPICE TREE LIGHTING today, Sunday December 3rd at 6PM in the Plaza, for all members of the Sonoma community served in the past or very recently by Hospice teams.

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 December 2nd - Dec 10th

Sat 2	5:00 pm	Bernie Fitzpatrick †
Sun 3	9:30 am	Socorro Goodacre, Happy b-day & Lawrence (Larry) Brown †
Mon 4	8:30 am	Kevin Cunniff †
Tues 5		NO MASS
Wed 6	8:30 am	Ernestine Trujillo †
Thurs 7	8:30 am	For the aged and sick of the parish
Friday 8	8:30 am	Adele Kelly †
Sat 9	5:00 pm	Anthony Canevari †
Sun 10	9:30 am	Mack, Helen, Mack E. Crosslin †

FISCAL LOG November 25 / 26

Sunday Collection: \$ 3,178.
2023 APC- 116 have Pledged \$113,863.11 @ 79%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec 2/3	St Leo's Development Fund
Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 14	RE kids X-mas party
Dec 16/17	2 nd Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious
Dec 19	Christmas Dinner hosted by the Men's Club

SANCTUARY LAMP
 Dedication for December
 In memory of Bob & Emme Field



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: St. Leo's Development Fund. Your donations to the **Development Fund** help support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.



POINSETTIAS IN MEMORIAM:

The St Leo's Ladies Guild invites you to join in their fundraiser that helps decorate our church for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Please PRINT the name of a person or persons you wish remembered and send your request and donation of \$10 to St Leo's Church, ATTN. Michelle Levesque, P O Box 666, Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416.

ST LEO'S CHRISTMAS DINNER, hosted by the Men's Club, Tuesday, December 19th. Cocktails and appetizers, 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$40. Tickets on sale this weekend and next. You may also come by the office to purchase dinner tickets. The main course is as follows; Salad, Grilled Tri Tip, Champagne Chicken, Butternut Squash Ravioli, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, and Dessert.

SYNOD AT ST. LEO'S:

December 10th @ 10:30 AM in the Benziger room, the Adult Ed committee invites you to our continuing series on the Synod. We'll also propose our participation in the worldwide 2024 synod-process here at St. Leo's. Fr. Jim and Noelani Sheckler-Smith will give a report on the first session of the Synod and also propose a plan for how St. Leo's can make a contribution to the second session of the Synod next October.

GIFTS FOR RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS:

It's that time again to ask parishioners to donate toys for our RE students, ages 8 to 13 years. There are 53 girls and 47 boys. Place your gifts, unwrapped, in the box at the back of church or drop them by the parish office. The gifts will be handed out at the RE X-mas party (posada) on December 14th. Thank you for your generosity, and God Bless.

PLEASE KEEP the family of Ernestine Trujillo in your prayers. Due to Ernestine declining health, she had moved to live with her brother in San Francisco. There she passed away last Wednesday. A service for Ernestine will be in January 2024.

ATTENTION LECTORS: The 2024 English & Spanish Lector Workbooks are in the sacristy. Please pick yours up today.

Daybreak, gentlemen!

When my sons were children we always set up an Advent Calendar in the living room prior to Christmas. Advent Calendars originated in Germany long ago. It was a pasteboard thing with imagery of old time houses with windows. And behind every closed window there was some hidden item out of the Christmas story, a shepherd, a star, the Magi, a manger, and by December 24th an infant in a manger. The whole of the Christmas event, initially hidden behind each numerical window of December, opened up to guide us to the birth of Christ.

Quaint though the Calendar might be, it carries a weighty message. It says that each day (not just of Advent) of our lives is not just 24 hours of clock time but signals the arrival each day of *real* time. Advent means "arrival" and what arrives each day, each month, each year of our lives is time not as just a date but as a potential *event*. It can arrive as an insight, a change of view, something you hadn't thought of before, an event that shakes you up or often *suddenly* deepens your understanding of who you are, what life is really about. Haven't there been such moments in your life – so that you are not exactly the person you were before? Time is always a visit of the Holy Spirit bringing you a gift, a wake up call, snapping you out of your distracted existence. Something to be alert to – as Jesus says in today's Gospel: *Watch!*

Jimmy Doyle was exposed to such an experience in James Joyce's short story "After the Race" – part of his slim volume *Dubliners* written in 1905 when automobiles were the novelty. Jimmy was a fortunate (?) Irish youth in that he was the son of a once downtrodden Irish father who became rich in the meat business throughout Dublin, having even contracts with the police (whose job in those days included controlling Irish rebels). To get rich the father, who was once an advocate of Irish independence, lost interest in that for the sake of wealth and a comfortable life. He cozied up to the English who governed the country, made sure his son associated with elite friends, studied at Cambridge. In other words he gave up his identification with his oppressed people, chose material upward mobility, the approval of high society.

And so as the story begins we find Jimmy sharing a racing car with its affluent French owner, Canadian assistant and a less well off foreign pianist. They win the race (even as Jimmy's father has striven to win what's been called the rat race of modern survival). They dine well at an expensive restaurant, discourse on silly things, laugh a lot and finally betake themselves to an American's yacht in the harbor. There follows a whole night of cards (with a condescending Englishman present) in which Jimmy sensed he was not an equal, that his money was what they wanted, not him and his ethnicity. His IOU's grew and drink left him too fuzzy to calculate his losses. In any case, these chaps who were at home with money fleeced him. At which point the pianist, who had stepped out on deck for some air, reentered the cabin and, *standing in a shaft of grey light*, said: *Daybreak, gentlemen*. There the story ends!

Did the fellow simply mean sunrise? That's not what Joyce meant. Joyce meant that by now it should be *dawning* on Jimmy Doyle that the way of life his father chose and the social life to which he was educated was empty, that it could cost him his integrity, his authenticity - that it was time for him to retrieve his roots, a depth of mind, the recovery of whatever grace lingered in his heritage. This season of Advent offers such a wake up call to each of us.

(Reprint from 12/03/2017)

Geoff Wood