

## 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](http://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 November 18<sup>th</sup> – Nov 26<sup>th</sup>

|           |         |  |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Sat 18    | 5:00 pm | Marina V. Mapa, R.S.C.J. †<br>& Richard Facciola † |
| Sun 19    | 9:30 am | Joe Byrne †<br>& Frank Lynch †                     |
| Mon 20    | 8:30 am | Rose Troia †                                       |
| Tues 21   |         | <b>NO MASS</b>                                     |
| Wed 22    | 8:30 am | Sandra Shine †                                     |
| Thurs 23  | 8:30 am | Frances A. Bugno †                                 |
| Friday 24 | 8:30 am | Bill Maffei † & Tess Valliyil †                    |
| Sat 25    | 5:00 pm | Anna Vagnozzi †                                    |
| Sun 26    | 9:30 am | Brian Bluth †<br>& Bernie Fitzpatrick †            |

## FISCAL LOG November 11 / 12

Sunday Collection: \$ 5,468.  
2023 APC– 116 have Pledged \$113,863.11 @ 79%

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Nov 18/19 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Catholic Communication and Catholic Univ. of America |
| Nov 22-24 | OFFICE IS CLOSED – Thanksgiving Holiday  |
| Dec 2/3   | St Leo's Development Fund  |
| Dec 12    | Our Lady of Guadalupe  |
| Dec 16/17 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious                       |
| Dec 19    | Christmas Dinner hosted by the Men's Club  |

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
Dedication for November  
In loving memory of Mike Brocco



**WHILE THE PASTOR IS AWAY:** We'd like to thank Fr. Jim, Fr. Paul, and Fr. Gabriel for helping out while Fr. Jojo is on vacation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:** Catholic Communication Campaign & Catholic University of America. Your generosity to the CCC appeal connects people around the world with Christ and builds Catholic communities. 50% of the CCC is retained by our diocese for use in local communication projects. By giving to the CUofA, collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders, both religious and lay, who are being formed by a faith rooted education.

## 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.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR:** Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Faith Lutheran Church, 19355 Arnold Dr. Local crafters display a variety of handmade gifts, fashion accessories, and home goods. Homemade goodies for sale to enjoy onsite or take home. Free admission and parking.

**ST LEO'S CHRISTMAS DINNER,** hosted by the Men's Club, Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Cocktails and appetizers, 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$40. Tickets go on sale next weekend. The main course is as follows; Salad, Grilled Tri Tip, Champagne Chicken, Butternut Squash Ravioli, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, and Dessert.

## LOIN'S CLUB WANTS YOUR OLD GLASSES:

There is a box in the back of church for no longer used eyeglasses. Rose and Dave Carey (parishioners) are members of the Lion's Club and will collect them when the box needs to be emptied. Thanks!

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE:** Thank you to the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Leo's, The Redwood Empire Food Bank, and the numerous volunteers that helped with the Thanksgiving give away on Saturday.

**ATTENTION LECTORS:** The First Sunday of Advent is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is when we change the missal, Breaking Bread. Lectors will need the 2024 Lector Workbook to prepare. Both English and Spanish workbooks are in the sacristy. Please pick yours up today.

## The Parable of the Talents

This might be called Matthew's Wall Street parable – it's about people investing money in order to make money. And do you remember, in the artist Caravaggio's famous painting of the summons of Matthew by Jesus, how Matthew is seated at a table with busy accountants adding up stacks of coins? So the dynamics of the episode are familiar to Matthew.

This doesn't mean that the parable advocates capitalism. Jesus can play with the workings of an economic system without necessarily sanctifying it. The emphasis is on *an aspect* of the system that Christians might emulate, namely learning how to take a chance, to invest their lives in something really profitable, i.e. Christ's Gospel of Grace, the way secular brokers and traders invest in something less sublime. In today's parable two servants double their master's money while he is away while the third is too timid to chance it – and is booted into the darkness outside. He's a loser and our society doesn't like losers.

St. Luke's Gospel has a variation on this theme – within a bigger picture. Luke's version as told by Jesus speaks of an aristocrat who goes on a journey "into a far country to receive kingly power and then return." Some scholars suggest that Jesus had recent history in mind, familiar to his hearers in Judea, for upon the death of King Herod the Great in 4 BC, his son Archelaus travelled to Rome to be confirmed as Herod's successor – despite much opposition at home. And, when he became successor for a short period of time, he made his opposition suffer severely; he was brutal and eventually removed.

At any rate the aristocrat in Luke's parable, possibly reflected in this not too distant news event, distributes a gold coin a piece to ten servants and says invest it until he returns. When he returns he finds one servant had increased his one gold coin by ten, another by five – while a third had wrapped his up in a handkerchief for fear of losing it. So his coin was transferred to the fellow who made ten and this now royal master (much like the real Archelaus) executed his opponents en masse. Any way *the moral is the same as Matthew's version:* take a chance on love or wind up unloved.

Personally I don't like such parables where the losers are condemned and the good guys are rewarded. Sounds too much like a third grade catechism lesson. I prefer another parable in Luke, the one about the Pharisee and the tax collector in the service of the Romans and therefore despised by his fellow Jews. The story is quite simple.

They both go to the temple to pray. The Pharisee goes right up front and says: *O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.* The tax collector on the other hand and from a respectful distance doesn't even raise his eyes to heaven but simply, candidly pleads, *O God, be merciful to me a sinner.*

*There's a parable that really captures the spirit of Jesus – compassion for all of us who stand at the end of the line. The loser comes in first! As Jesus says, the latter went home justified, graced, and very likely ready to change his way of life.*

**Geoff Wood**

(Reprint from 11/18/2017)