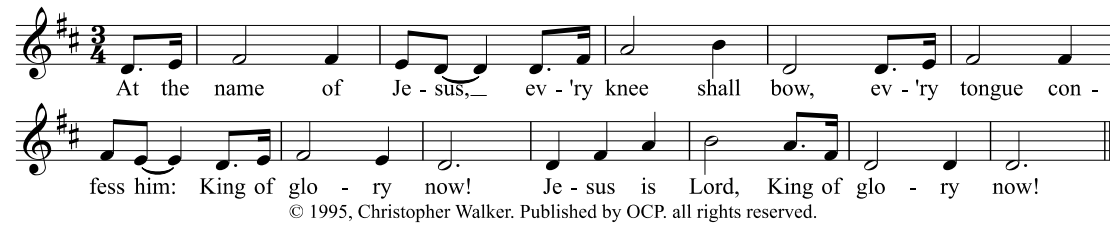


Gathering Song: *At the Name of Jesus* BB#718

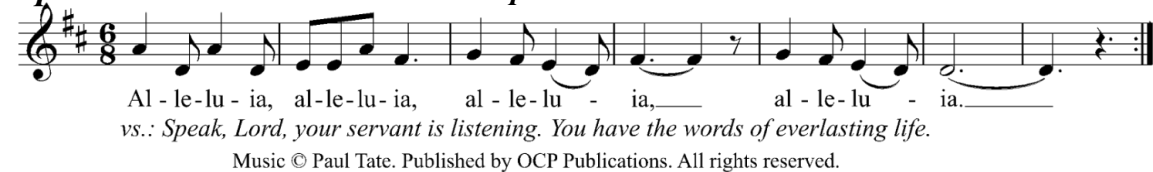


Gloria: *Glory to God*
(Music card is in the pew pocket)

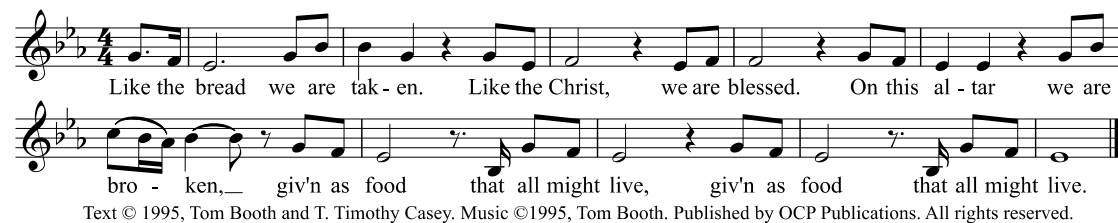
Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 78: Do Not Forget the Works of the Lord*



Gospel Acclamation: *Gospel Acclamation*



Preparation of Gifts: *Like the Bread*



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

Communion Song: *God So Loved* BB#149

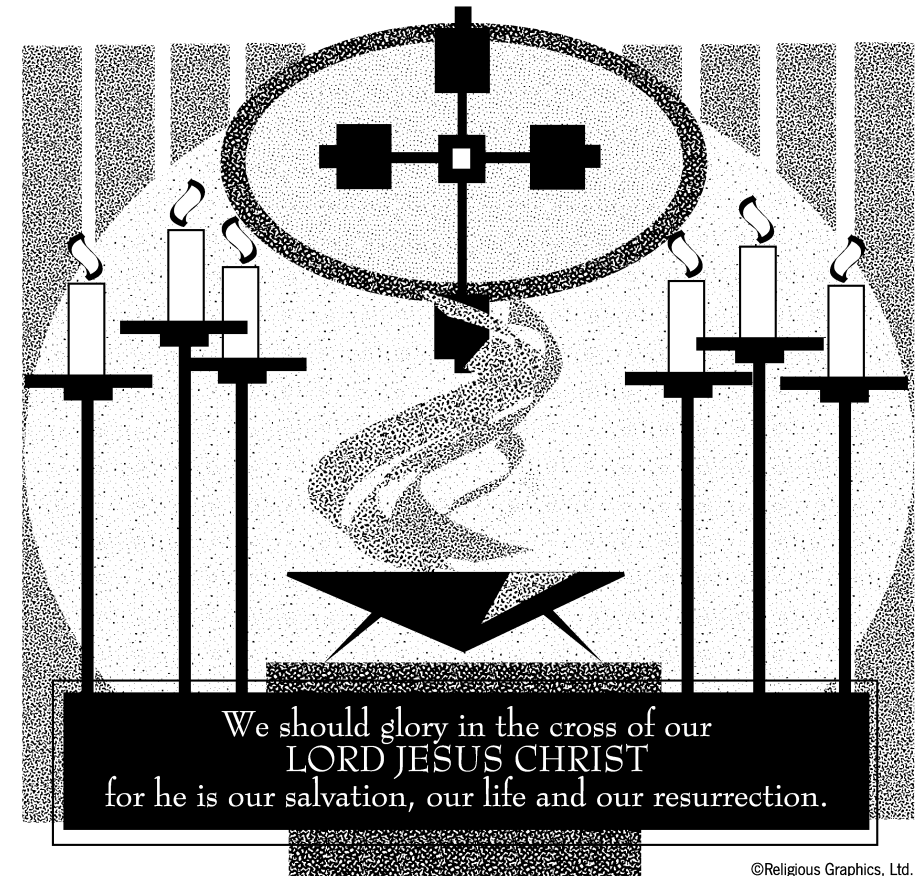
Refrain: God so loved the world. God so loved the world he gave his only Son,
His only Son. And, to those who believe in him; you shall not fear death,
For you shall have eternal life. Yes, you shall have eternal life.
God so loved the world.

Closing Song: *Take Up Your Cross* BB#702

Refrain: Take up your cross, take up your cross, take up your cross and follow me.
Take up your cross, take up your cross, take up your cross and follow me.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025



Rev. Jojo Puthussery, MF

Pastor, (707) 996-8422 ext. 13

Email: 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



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: September 13th – 21st

Sat. 13	5:00 p.m. Patricia Ramirez †
Sun. 14	9:30 a.m. Carol Hanna † and Dennis Donnelly †
Mon. 15	8:30 a.m. Margaret & Thomas Kelly †
Tues. 16	NO MASS
Wed. 17	8:30 a.m. Jim Haver † and John Paul Ochango † and Pat McColly, Special Intention
Thurs. 18	8:30 a.m. Joan Polan † and Margie & Burk Stokes †
Friday 19	8:30 a.m. Anthony Canevari †
Sat. 20	5:00 p.m. Louis Casini † and Edna O'Hara †
Sun. 21	9:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Byrne, Lynch, & Boyle Families

FISCAL LOG: September 6th / 7th

Sunday Collection:	\$ 3,716.
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 2,524.
Spare Change Fundraiser:	\$27,048.95

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:


Sept20/21	2 nd Collection – Arch. for Military Services
Oct 3/4	SLBC Tournament & Banquet
Oct 12	Annual Autumn Festival, 12PM, LSW

SANCTUARY LAMP

Dedication for September

In Memory of

Bill Maffei, Ray & Andre Levesque



COFFEE & DONUTS IN LSW: Coffee & Donuts in the Lillian Wing after the 9:30a.m. Mass.

WE THANK FR. JIM AND FR. JUAN for celebrating Masses in Fr. Jojo's absence.

SAVE THE DATE: Our parish community is invited to our annual **Autumn Festival on Sunday, October 12th** starting at 12:00pm at the East wing parking lot. A feast like this is a chance for us to gather as a family. An event like this takes many hands to make it a success and If you can help with setting up, serving, or cleaning up, we would be so grateful for your assistance. Your time and talent are what makes our parish so special. If you can volunteer, please contact the Parish office.

CALLED HOME TO GOD: With heavy hearts, we share the news of the passing of our dedicated parishioner, Bobbie Scanlon. She passed away on September 8, 2025. Bobbie was a cherished member of our community, known for always baking cookies for receptions, being an office volunteer for many years, being a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and always having an “excellent” spirit. Please keep Bobbie and her family in your prayers. A memorial service will be arranged in the month of October, further details to come.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION START DATES: 1st Year First Communion students start Wednesday, Sept. 17th, 5:00 to 6:30p.m. 2nd Year First Communion students start Sunday, Sept. 21st, 9:30a.m. to 11:00a.m. All classes are in the Finnegan Center.

CONFIRMATION START DATES: 8th Grade classes start on Thursday, October 2nd, from 6:30 – 7:30p.m. High School classes start on Wednesday, October 1st, from 7 – 8:00p.m. All meetings are in Hunt Hall.

GRANDE FESTA DELLE BOCCE: St Leo's Bocce Club 4th Annual Tournament and Banquet, **October 3rd & 4th**, to benefit St Leo's Men's Club. Buy tickets for the Banquet early because it's usually a sellout. \$35. per person includes all American BBQ with all the fixings. For information on the Bocce Banquet or tournament, download the registration form at: www.stleobocceclub.org/events or pick one up at the back of the church. The deadline for team registration is Monday, September 15th. Volunteers are needed for all duties before, during, and after this event.

TAMALE SALE: Our Nueva Esperanza group will be having a tamale sale after all Mases, until sold out, on the weekend of September 27th and 28th. Proceeds will benefit this amazing group dedicated for anyone 60 years of age and older and meets every Thursday here at St. Leo's.

September 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, commemorates three events: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its exaltation for public veneration in 335, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628. Today, this feast also celebrates the boundless impact of Christ's Cross upon all of creation.

The Edict of Milan, issued in 313, granted religious freedom across the Roman Empire. After the Edict was signed, from 314 to 324, there was continual conflict between Roman Emperors Constantine I in the West and Licinius in the East. Tensions escalated when Constantine accused Licinius of plotting against him. In 324, Constantine defeated Licinius in battle and executed him on charges of conspiracy. Constantine became sole ruler of the Roman Empire, including Jerusalem, which had previously been under Licinius's control.

In 326, Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, a devout Christian, embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to identify significant sites from Christ's life and establish a church at each. In Jerusalem, she hoped to find the True Cross and to build a church over the sites of Mount Calvary and Jesus' tomb, known as the Holy Sepulchre. Upon identifying Mount Calvary and the empty tomb, she discovered three buried crosses. After an investigation, the local bishop confirmed they were the crosses used to crucify Jesus and the two thieves. Since Helena did not know which cross was Christ's, she arranged for a sick woman to touch all three. The woman was immediately healed upon touching one of them, indicating that it was the True Cross.

Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of a church to encompass Mount Calvary and Christ's tomb and to house the True Cross. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was erected and dedicated on September 13, 335. Legend says that the following day—September 14, 335—Christ's Cross was brought outside the church for the faithful to venerate. Over the next three centuries, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated annually in Jerusalem and varied elsewhere.

In 614, the Persians invaded Jerusalem, taking the True Cross as a trophy. The Persians, followers of the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism, were not Christians. Allowing the Holy Cross to remain in their possession was seen as sacrilegious. In 622, Eastern Roman Emperor Heraclius initiated military campaigns to recapture Jerusalem and the True Cross. In 628, he triumphed, and the following year, Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem with the True Cross, restoring it to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After that, the Feast of the Holy Cross became a universal celebration within the Church, starting in Rome and subsequently spreading throughout the empire.

Although we commemorate three historical events today, the celebration's core is not the Cross's wood or the holy sites where Jesus died and was buried. The primary focus is the infinite love shown through the Son of God's selfless and perfect Sacrifice and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result. The Cross, a cruel instrument of torture and death, is now the symbol of God's perfect love, further magnifying that love and showcasing God's infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life and to transform the greatest act of cruelty ever known into the greatest act of mercy ever bestowed upon the world

Source: mycatholic.life