



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Some decades ago, the Virgin Mary was celebrated with great enthusiasm, and at times the emphasis may have been more on the Mother than on the Divine Son. Today, some have gone to the opposite extreme, hardly ever, if ever, mentioning the name of Mary at all, even discarding the Rosary, so often favored by Popes, and relegating Mary to a forgotten shelf. The liturgy set the path in the golden middle. Christ is and will always remain the focal-point of the Christian religion, but Mary is the Dawn of the Day that gives us Christ the Light. She is the Blossom that gives the world the Fruit which brings immortality and Life everlasting. She is the shortest and easiest means



to approach the throne of her divine Son, for she is the Mother and Queen. God made her such, not man. Who are we to deny her that God given place in our religion?

In this weekend's liturgy, it casts the spotlight on Mary, Mother of the Savior. All the preparations of the prophets of old, all the Old Covenant's sacrifices and longings culminated in that act of total abandonment to the divine will, when Mary placed her life at the service of God's plan with those momentous words "I am the little maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Then the Spirit moved, as once he moved over the waters in the first creation, and the Christ-event became a reality for all time and eternity. The new creation took place. God had become flesh in the living Temple of the Virgin Mary, and would draw all of humanity to himself in the One-Person of Christ.

How simply, yet how nobly did the virgin answer the call of God. There was no fuss or fanfare. She paused to think over the matter, she asked a simple question, and when informed of the marvelous plan of God, gave herself up totally to the Spirit. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt within her. Truly she is the highly favored daughter, the most blessed among women. The Lord himself is with Mary to bring about his plan hidden from all ages, yet embracing all nations and peoples. By placing her life at the disposal of the Spirit, her motherhood was raised to the highest possible level of dignity, and Mary becomes Mother of God's own Son, the holy Mother of God. Humanity boasts of doing great deeds by himself, but Mary's

boast is to have let the Spirit of God do great things in her. She prefers to be his little handmaiden, the docile instrument of his mighty divine action.

Mary's response to the angel ought to be our response today as Christmas draws so near, and every day of our life. Only then can God realize best his wonderful plan for us.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

|                      |                    |                |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tues.</b>         | <b>December 22</b> | <b>N/A</b>     |
| Amparo Baloy †       |                    |                |
| <b>Wed.</b>          | <b>December 23</b> | <b>N/A</b>     |
| Special Intentions   |                    |                |
| <b>Thur.</b>         | <b>December 24</b> | <b>4:30PM</b>  |
| People of the Parish |                    |                |
| <b>Fri.</b>          | <b>December 25</b> | <b>9:00AM</b>  |
| People of the Parish |                    |                |
| <b>Port Costa</b>    |                    | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| People of the Parish |                    |                |
| <b>Sat.</b>          | <b>December 26</b> | <b>4:30PM</b>  |
| Thanksgiving         |                    | Ed & Mae       |
| <b>Sun.</b>          | <b>December 27</b> | <b>9:00AM</b>  |
| Jim Dooley †         |                    | Bill & Diane   |
| <b>Port Costa</b>    |                    | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| People of the Parish |                    |                |



Sunday Collection - December 13

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| St. Rose, Crockett              | \$1528 |
| St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa | \$300  |

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



No Indoor Mass!!!

At this time, Contra Costa County has called for outdoor Mass at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission! We are still working on a plan, especially for Christmas. Father Leo is considering returning back to distributing Communion as we were doing earlier in the summer months if people are not comfortable with outdoor Mass due to the cold weather. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU FEEL; IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Breaking Bread Mass Book

Due to the pandemic and safety, we have had to remove all Mass aides, including the missalettes, because we cannot safely clean them, and we anticipate this to follow through next year. We do understand that many would like to follow during Mass, and we do have access to the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2020-Thanksgiving 2021). If you are interested in a personal copy for \$10 donation please come by the office or let Father Leo know! There are only a handful left!



Christmas Masses

Father Leo's current plan for Christmas is as follows:

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Christmas Eve- St. Rose | 4:30PM  |
| Christmas Day- St. Rose | 9:00AM  |
| St. Patrick             | 11:00AM |

We are going to try something a little different for Christmas this year, so please bear with us. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Mass at St. Rose we are asking everyone to please park in the parking lot with the front of the car facing the Church/Hall and tune your radio to 88.7 FM. Father Leo will be doing mass inside the church, and you will either be able to see him on the balcony or we will have a projected image of him doing mass from the altar.

Even if neither of these plans work out, you will still be able to hear mass on the radio.

After Mass is completed, we ask that those who would like to receive communion please DRIVE to the drive way in front of the church and continue to drive in as though you are going to drive down the drive way past the hall. Father Leo will be outside waiting to give communion. As your car approaches where he is, please turn your car off, make sure your mask is on, and approach Father Leo for communion. After communion, please return to your car and proceed down the drive way.

We understand that this may be a little confusing, and it is certainly not the way we would like to celebrate this Christmas season, but we are doing are best to keep our little parish together.