



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Suffering enters into everyone's life and many cannot find the right answer for it. Why is a father killed in an accident leaving a young widow to care for a growing family? Why do thousands live homeless and starving only to die in the very streets of our large cities? Why must war fill our wards with maimed and crippled men and women? Why are so many struck down by various ailments in our hospitals? Why: the universal cry of humankind. Those without faith conclude "and blame it on the cruelty of fate. Blasphemers curse God as Job's wife suggested him to do. The friends of Job claimed that all suffering was the result of personal sins. Jesus denied this. When they came upon a blind man, the disciples asked him: Was this blindness due to the man's sins or those of his parents? Neither the Lord replied. Rather, it happened to let the works of God shine forth.

What then is the explanation of the mystery of universal suffering? The answer of Jesus makes it plain that suffering is in the hands of God who has various purposes in mind when allowing people in this period of exile and transition to undergo suffering. He reveals his purposes in many pages of the bible. Joseph suffered much from his own brothers when sold to traders going to Egypt but in the end Joseph himself saw clearly the divine hand of God in his sufferings, when he told his brothers: "Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve his present end, the survival of many people." Or again, the test God gave Abraham must have caused him untold suffering at the thought that he was to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, but God's reward for Abraham's obedience brought on him untold blessings.

Jesus did not remove all sufferings but he was deeply moved by it. He did not remove all suffering, because he realized that suffering can have a maturing effect, since it makes a person more patient and understanding, if properly accepted. It purifies the heart of humankind like fire purifies the gold of its dross. It gives a person a compassionate heart toward all fellow-sufferers. But in his own case, Jesus realized that like the grain of wheat, he had to give up his mortal life, and be broken up like a grain of wheat buried in the earth, in order to let new Life rise as the fruit of his sufferings and death, abundant fruit both for himself as for all who are buried with him in baptismal covenant.

Only through his death would life be given to his fellowmen and women. Only through his suffering would mankind be granted the Spirit of love by which they too could bear their own sufferings gladly, so that united with his sufferings they could bear abundant fruit, a life of virtue now, and a life of everlasting glory then in the world to come.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. March 19 (11:00AM), Wed. March 20 (11:00AM), Thur. March 21 (11:00AM), Fri. March 22 (11:00AM), Sat. March 23 (4:30PM), Sun. March 24 (9AM), and Port Costa (11:00AM).



Sunday Collection - March 10th

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. Rows include St. Rose, Crockett (\$1397), Catholic Relief Services (\$331), St. Patrick Mission (\$480), and Catholic Relief Services (\$15).

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

***In able to meet our 2024 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. ***

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross have begun on Fridays after the 11:00AM mass.



36th Annual St. Rose Fish Fry. Friday March 22, 2024. St. Rose Church Hall. Dinner Served 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Includes fish, fries, corn, coleslaw and a roll. Tickets on Sale now. For tickets call Rectory Office at (510) 787-2052.

Special Second Collection



Church environment is vital for a conducive worship. There will be a second collection on Palm Sunday (March 23 & 24) for Easter decorations and flowers. Thank you in advance for your generosity. There will also be envelopes in the vestibule to donate in honor of a deceased loved one.

How Quickly Can You Find the Four Leaf Clover?

Grid of 20 rows and 16 columns (A-P) containing clover icons for a search game.

Donations

If you are planning on donating any drinks for the Fish Fry (beer, wine, soda or water) please have it dropped off to the office by next Wednesday. Thank you!

