



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

We are mostly not a people who experience ourselves as being bound by law. Even in a year marked by the impact of changes in health care, tax laws and no – smoking ordinances, civil laws are not a major factor in our lives. Our religious lives also are lives under the new covenant. What then do we hear as we gather to listen to the words from Matthew's Gospel?

We are no strangers to preoccupation with the external. In many ways, our culture encourages us to skim the surface and to ignore what is underneath. We have failed to grasp the secret which the fox shares with the Little Prince in Antoine de Saint – Exupery's little book "The Little Prince." The fox tells the prince. "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." We still need to hear the emphasis in the Gospel on what is internal. We need to hear the invitation in Jesus' teaching to go beyond the surface of things to discover what is essential. We need to hear the call of the radical new claim of love in our lives, so that we are delivered from doing things merely because they are expected or correct or because they look good. We need to face our inner motivations, desires, and priorities and to hold them up to new standards of honesty and love which Jesus gave to his followers. We need to examine and respond to the demands of relationship to Jesus.

Of course this response comes from individual self-understanding and action. But it does not stop there. Jesus' preaching of the kingdom was not addressed to individuals, but to a community. Matthew wrote the words of this Gospel lesson for a community of believers. We gather together as a community to hear and respond to those words, to that preaching and teaching. We may come to church seeking inner transformation, but we also come to a place where that deep spiritual experience is spoken about and shared. What would a spiritual experience be like? It is to be deeply known and understood, to feel that we are among people who shared that experience.



The love, the new covenant, is not just an abstract philosophical concept or a moral precept each individual Christian seeks. It is a reality here among us. We are brought in touch with the reality of the love of Christ each time we celebrate the Eucharist. This reality of God's presence is available, not just for personal renewal, but for strengthening the community for living the radical new claim of love. One of the Eucharistic prayers in the Episcopalian liturgy asks that we be delivered "from the presumption coming to the table for solace only and not for strength, for pardon only and not for renewal." Even when we are encouraged to pay attention to our internal motivation and transformation, we are not encouraged to get stuck there. We are called to go beyond mere observance of conventions and commandments, to go deeper into a relationship which calls us to respond. And then our response will be action to show ourselves far different from the Pharisees and doctors of the law. In that way we will begin to understand and to participate in the fulfillment Jesus offers.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with columns for Day, Date, and Time, listing mass intentions for each day of the week.

Sunday Collection - January 29th

Table listing collection amounts for St. Rose, Crockett (\$1902) and St. Patrick Mission (\$240).

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Coffee and Canvas

NEXT SUNDAY, February 19th AT 10:10AM!!



Join us for a fun relaxing morning of carefree painting and coffee! Enjoy a light breakfast and lunch while you get the chance to paint a simple canvas, guided by a wonderful instructor from our parish. And of course, there will be coffee!! All of this for \$30, plus your painting to take home as a memento. Set some time aside for yourself; all are welcome! Sign-ups in the vestibule.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22, 2022 Mass will be held at 9:00AM and at 6PM for Ash Wednesday.



January Financial Overview St. Patrick Mission

Table showing expense and income for St. Patrick Mission, including items like St. Rose Biannual Reimb, Day Nite Pest Control, and Sundays Plate.

Total \$6271.13

January Financial Overview

Large table showing St. Rose Expense and Income, listing various categories like Priest Salary, Secretary Wages, and Sunday's Plate.