



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When many of us were children, one of our favorite pastimes was the working of jigsaw puzzles. We would dump all the pieces on the table and start to put the puzzles together. At first it was all confusion, and if some important pieces were missing, we could not make sense out of it at all. But we always had the picture on the box to show us how the puzzle was supposed to turn out.

The amazing episode of the Transfiguration of Christ in this weekend's gospel is somewhat like an important piece of a jigsaw puzzle. It is really just one part of a big picture, and we need all the pieces to make sense out of it. One week before the event Jesus had made the third prediction of his passion to his apostles. He told them that he would go up to Jerusalem and that there he would be mocked, scourged and put to death, but that he would rise again on the third day. The predictions of his death were such a shock and disappointment to the apostles that they scarcely even heard the words about resurrection. They were downcast and dejected.

The full picture of the life of Christ is as important to us as it was to the apostles. The reason is that our lives are meant to follow the pattern of Christ's life. When Jesus made the prediction of his passion a week before the transfiguration, he added these important words for all of us. "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps." To be a Christian means to be like Christ. If he had to suffer, we can expect the same. But if we suffer with Christ in loving obedience, we can also expect to live with him in happiness forever.

Without Christ, life is the craziest of jigsaw puzzles. All of its frustrations and sorrows simply do not make sense. Without Christ it is absurd to be born into this world, to struggle for survival, to work long and hard, and to find but a drop of happiness in the ocean of human misery and suffering. Though it is true that many lives are not that dismal, every human being must face the dark, deep mystery of death. Is life meant to be nothing more than a vain struggle for a modicum of joy and satisfaction, a struggle that is terminated after a relatively short span of time by the awesome conclusiveness of death?

Jesus shows us that life is not absurd, only paradoxical. He teaches us that it is in unselfishness that we will find satisfaction, in suffering that

we will come to happiness, and in dying that we will come to eternal life. That is what he meant when he said, "Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." In this weekend's gospel, God the Father himself warns us that we must listen to Jesus. And indeed, not only must we listen to him, but also follow his example of taking up the cross in loving, willing obedience to God.

Life is indeed a puzzle, like the jigsaw puzzle we used to play as kids. The life of Christ is the picture on the box of life that tells us how the puzzle is supposed to turn out. But we cannot complete the puzzle of our own lives until we have fitted in the most important piece of all, our sharing in the resurrection of Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. March 15 11:00AM (Albert Niko, Imelda Bernas), Wed. March 16 11:00AM (Thanksgiving, Ed & Mae), Thur. March 17 11:00AM (NO MASS), Fri. March 18 11:00AM (Mary Pagni, ICF #14), Sat. March 19 4:30PM (Virginia Fernini, Lena McCrossen), Sun. March 20 9:00AM (Johanna Ochinero, Gilbert & Linda Molina), Port Costa 11:00AM (People of the Parish).

Stations of the Cross have begun, Friday after the 11:00AM Mass, approximately 11:30.



Sunday Collection - March 6th

Table with 2 columns: Collection Name, Amount. Rows: St. Rose, Crockett (\$3176), Ukraine collection (\$989), St. Patrick Mission (\$400), Ukraine collection (\$10).

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Advertisement for Corned Beef & Cabbage Drive Thru Dinner. Includes details about the menu, reservation deadline (March 21st), pickup time (4:00-6:00pm), and contact information for Donna.



"Feed my lambs, feed my sheep"

2022 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

To successfully achieve both our parish goals and the overall diocesan goal, we need your help! A pledge to the Appeal will help us reach out to thousands in the East Bay through Diocesan ministries, programs and services.

If you have not had an opportunity to make a pledge by returning your card through the mail, please complete a pledge envelope found in the pew, or donate online at https://www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal-donation-page.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

For more information on the 2022 Bishop's Appeal please visit www.oakdiocese.org/giving

DUE TO A NOTICE FROM THE BISHOP, THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH AS FATHER LEO HAS TO ATTEND AN ALL-DAY MEETING! SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

February Financial Overview

Financial overview table for St. Rose. Expense: Priest Salary (\$2456.36), Secretary Wages (\$1627.24), etc. Total Expense: \$9,446.11. Income: Sunday's Plate (\$7834.00), Holy Days (\$10.00), etc. Total Income: \$9,087.00.

St. Patrick Mission

Financial overview table for St. Patrick Mission. Expense: PG&E (\$114.76), Contra Costa Water District (\$60.75). Total Expense: \$175.51. Income: Sundays Plate (\$1319.00), Maintenance (\$30.00), etc. Total Income: \$1399.00.