

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 20, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

There is an old saying that you have to fight fire with fire. Frankly, I have never quite understood this saying. In the literal sense it is obviously false.; you have to fight fire with water. I suppose that in the figurative sense it is supposed to mean that you cannot let people take advantage of you. If people cheat you, you have to cheat them back. If people malign you or vilify you, you have to treat them in kind.

How different from this approach is the teaching of Jesus. In effect, he says that we must fight the fire of hatred with the quenching water of love. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to bless those who curse us. The scholars point out that the word "curse", used in the original Greek, implies spite, jealousy, bad will. Jesus then, is not talking about a situation in which someone may unintentionally hurt us, as for instance when someone says something that wounds our feelings without realizing it. No, Jesus is talking about even those circumstances in which someone deliberately and maliciously offends us.

It is easy for us to profess that we love all humankind – all humankind that nebulous something which we never encounter except in the abstract. It is an altogether different manner to love an individual in the concrete who is, from the natural point of view, entirely unlovable as far as we are concerned. Jesus refuses to allow complacency of professing a love for humankind in general. He has deliberately put his teaching about love as the greatest commandment within the context of its severest tests and proof. Christianity is not supposed to be easy. I am a demanding religion that is intended to bring out the highest qualities of the human spirit, as elevated and assisted by God's grace. In fact, it is only by God's grace that we can live the Christian life. The teaching of Jesus in this weekend's gospel, viewed humanly, is difficult in an extreme degree.

Jesus did not merely mouth this doctrine. He practiced what he preached and taught. In his passion and death, Jesus put his teaching into practice. Even though the human race had disobeyed God and lost his friendship Jesus did not abandon us. Even though we had offended God, Jesus did not decide to have nothing to do with us. He gave the supreme expression of love by dying on the Cross. And his love and his forgiveness

were not just for some nebulous abstraction known as "sinful mankind." His love and forgiveness were for each of us individuals who had maligned and vilified him and conspired to put him to death.

The love taught by Jesus is a demand that unaided human nature cannot meet. We must put out the fire of hatred by means of the quenching waters of Christian love.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	February 22	11:00AM
Esteban Echano Jr.		Lisa Urbano
(healing)		
Wed.	February 23	11:00AM
Czarina Clara Lacsin	a	Imelda
Thur.	February 24	11:00AM
Special Intentions		_
Fri.	February 25	11:00AM
Special Intentions		_
Sat.	February 26	4:30PM
Athena Bernas		Imelda
Sun.	February 27	9:00AM
Yumi Lipton &		Imelda
Dolly Lacsina		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		_

Sunday Collection - February 13th

St. Rose, Crockett \$1570 St. Patrick Mission \$237

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Mass will be held at 9:00AM and at 6PM for Ash Wednesday.





Current Mass Protocol

Contra Costa County and the Oakland Diocese require masking indoors for those who are unvaccinated (ages 2 and up) as a precaution against increased circulation of COVID-19 and its variants.

Currently no one is required to wear masks outdoors.

Social distancing is not required, though we do ask to keep others in mind as we work our way back to "normal."

Although the Diocese has okayed the use of worship aids, such as the missalettes, it is still recommended to stick to single use items. As there is no good way to clean the missalettes and prayer cards without wearing them down, St. Rose/St. Patrick will not be setting these back out just yet.

The Sign of Peace will still be without physical contact.



OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY!

Synod

Last week's bulletin introduced us to the concept of the Synod, so that our parish could better understand what we were being asked to participate in. This week, we are preparing to put together some listening sessions to reflect on the four questions that this synod will be focusing on. If you would like to participate in this process, or want to know more, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. We also encourage you to reach out to others, especially those who have questions or have fallen away from the church, and invite them as well





Because it has flexible hours and days, Friendly Helper volunteering is the perfect volunteer opportunity for busy individuals who still want to give back.

Our Friendly Helper Program assists seniors with errands, such as:

- Going to the grocery store
- Picking up medication from a local pharmacy
- Running to the Post Office
- Taking a senior to the bank, and more!

Volunteers are needed 2-4 hours a month across the County with a greater need in West and East County.

To fearn more, contact Carolyn Eghrari at 925-627-7895 OR via email at ceghrari@mowdx.org. To sign up to volunteer, apply online at https://www.mowdiabloregion.org/get-involved, or contact Lee Davenport at 925-954-8736 or idavenport@mowdx.org.



1300 CIVIC DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596 • 925.937.8311

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Parish Council

Reminder, parish council meeting next Tuesday, February 22nd at 7pm in the hall.

