

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This weekend's Gospel centers around two expectant mothers, Mary and Elizabeth. The episode took place several months before the birth of Jesus. When Mary learned that her elderly cousin had conceived, she felt that it was her duty to visit the older woman and offer her help. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth greeted her with these words, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," words that have come to form part of the prayer "Hail Mary."

Elizabeth's greeting is not surprising. She herself had an exquisite appreciation of motherhood. For many years of her life with her husband, Zechariah, she had been without a child. Then in her old age by the special power of God she conceived John the Baptist. Her many years of patient waiting made her value all the more the mysterious sacredness of begetting a child. She had an even greater sense of sacredness and mystery when she realized how God's special power had been at work.

And so, when she saw Mary, all of her own awareness, her own appreciation, overflowed in her exuberant greeting. If every new life is sacred, how much more sacred was the life Mary was carrying in her womb. If God's power had been at work in Elizabeth's conceiving of John, how much greater was God's power at work in Mary's conceiving of Jesus. No wonder, then that Elizabeth exclaimed, "But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

In just a few days, we will celebrate the birth of Christ. We will try to renew all our spirit of awe and wonder at the mysterious sacredness of the birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus in all of its magnificent reality is beyond our ability to comprehend. It is something we simply cannot grasp. And we can ask, "Who are we that the Lord himself should come to us in human flesh like our own?"

In the Preface of the Mass, we hear these words, "In his love he has filled us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes, he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise." Indeed, our hearts should be filled with wonder when we think about the meaning of Christmas. "Wonder:" means astonishment, even surprise. And it is astonishing that the God who made the universe, who controls the

movement of the stars and planets, and shapes the destiny of all of humankind, became a tiny infant. It is surprising that the all-powerful, all-knowing God who holds all life in his hand, went through the whole mysterious process of conception and birth. Astonishing, surprising – and true.

And because of this, our hearts should be filled not only with wonder, but also with praise. On Christmas day we will sing, "Glory to God in the highest." God is worthy of our praise and glory. What a magnificent thing he has done in sending His Son into our world to be our Savior.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	December 21	11:00AM
Jennifer Sebastian †		Jenny
Wed.	December 22	11:00AM
Simeon Rojo †		Imelda & Dolly
Thur.	December 23	11:00AM
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Fri. De	ecember 24 4:	30PM, 10:00PM
People of the Parish		_
Sat.	December 25	9:00AM
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		_
Sun.	December 26	9:00AM
Bernas Family		
(Thanksgiving)		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		



Sunday Collection - December 12th

St. Rose, Crockett \$2063

St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$230

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Breaking Bread Mass Book

We know that many would like to follow during Mass, and we have the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2021-Thanksgiving 2022) available. If you are interested in a personal copy for a \$10 donation, please come by the office or let Father Leo know!



Snowflakes

During Advent, we are inviting all who visit our parishes during the season to sponsor a snowflake (suggested donation of \$5). Your snowflakes can be for whatever intentions you hold in your heart. The snowflakes are hung on trees at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission, and you are welcome to write the intentions on the snowflakes themselves, leave them blank or simply put your family name. Snowflakes will be available at the office and before all masses.



Holiday Hours

The office will be open Monday, December 20th – Wed December 22nd. We will be closed Thursday, December 23rd, and Tuesday, December 28th – until January 3rd.

Families in Need

If you know any families in need, please encourage them to reach out to us for the Crockett Christmas Committee. Send us an email, leave a note in the collection basket or leave a message with their information and we will pass it along.

November Financial Outlook		
St. Rose		
Expense:		
Priest Salary	\$2556.36	
Secretary Wages	\$1548.16	
Priest Food Reimbursement	\$501.19	
PG&E Classrooms	\$289.53	
PG&E Church/Rectory	\$546.36	
EBMUD Church/Rectory	\$475.25	
EBMUD (CCD)	\$120.16	
Comcast	\$248.50	
Garbage	\$279.96	
Health Insurance	\$1071.90	
EDD	\$111.89	
IRS	\$1140.54	
Property Tax	\$2154.63	
Liability	\$1919.70	
Printer/Copier Contract	\$56.30	
Office Supplies	\$209.42	
Church supplies	\$380.15	
Missals	\$531.17	
Our Sunday Visitor (envelopes)	\$140.03	
Total	\$14,281.20	
		
Income:	¢7224 00	
Sunday's Plate	\$7224.00	
Holy Days (All Saints/All Souls)	\$1800.00	
Thanksgiving	\$225.00	
Donations	\$115.00	
Maintenance	\$362.00	
CCD Envelope	\$185.00	
Sacramental Service	\$100.00	
Facility Use (Little Roses)	\$660.00	
Facility Use – Rental	\$900.00	
Total St. Potrick Mission	\$11,571.00	
St. Patrick Mission Expense:		
PG&E	\$49.31	
Property Tax	\$1343.09	
Day/Nite Pest Control	\$1545.09	
Total:	\$1550.40	
Income:	¥200010	
Sundays Plate	\$1096.00	
Holy Days (All Saints/All Souls)	\$50.00	
Thanksgiving	\$25.00	
	+=2.00	

Maintenance

Donations

Total

CCD Envelope

\$15.00

\$5.00

\$30.00

\$1221.00