



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Fact or fiction? This is the question which is often asked about the celebration we have this weekend, the Feast of the Epiphany. But there is one thing very certain, the Magi or Wise Men from the East, were men of great determination, with marked pertinacity of purpose which nothing could deter. Mere worldly gains would before long ago have discouraged them. But neither the magnitude of the distance, nor the dangers of travel, lack of information, weariness, nor fear of the coming ordeal to meet the tyrant in Jerusalem stopped them. They were men of determination, bent on a quest of love.

In today's world, humankind search far and wide for fulfillment and happiness. He or she wants to experience total contentment without delay. Therefore, the craze for pleasure, the frequent drug-trips, the unbridled craving for amusement. Yet none of these can really satisfy the heart of humankind because it was made by its Creator for God alone, and it is not at rest until it rests in God. (St. Augustine). How often the search of humankind, especially the youth, ends in total frustration!

The search of the Wise Men, though long and arduous, ended in finding Christ, Emmanuel, Redeemer, Messiah, Savior of the World, God with Us, who alone is the Way to True Peace, to true inner happiness, and to full life, for he is the Life. Yet it was not the glorious and resplendent Christ that they found, but the lowly and humble Jesus in the arms of his Mother. In finding Christ, all their labors were counted as nothing, and they were filled with deep peace and joy. They returned to their own country-people sharing with others their joy and insights concerning this Child. They brought to others the real treasure they now possessed: that of the faith in the Messiah-King.



Only the humble will be wise enough to find God in the lowly Babe of Bethlehem, though they may have to overcome many difficulties, and hurdle many obstacles. As he was found in the arms of His Mother, so he will be found today in the Church where he can be experienced in word and sacrament, the word of the Scriptures and the Paschal Mystery celebration on our altars. Our resolve is to encounter him there on every occasion.

On this weekend's celebration of the Epiphany, Christ has manifested himself as our King, our God and our Crucified Savior. He has manifested himself to the Magi, and he has manifested himself to us. We in turn wish to manifest him to the world around us by our solid Christian or Catholic faith, our undying hope in his promise, and by our universal love which manifests best of all the Spirit of Jesus reigning in our hearts, and coming to the aid of our fellowmen and women in need.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	January 5	N/A
Special Intentions		
Wed.	January 6	N/A
Thanksgiving Ed & Mae		
Thur.	January 7	N/A
Robert Pallotta † Rich & Robyn Thomas		
Fri.	January 8	N/A
Special Intentions		
Sat.	January 9	4:30PM
Ray & Mary Lou Austria † Olivia		
Sun.	January 10	9:00AM
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		11:00AM
Francis Hallekamp † Family		



Sunday Collection - December 27

St. Rose, Crockett Christmas	\$791 \$5125
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa Christmas	\$315 \$585

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



No Indoor Mass!!!

At this time, Contra Costa County has called for outdoor Mass at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission! We are still working on a plan, especially for Christmas. Father Leo is considering returning back to distributing Communion as we were doing earlier in the summer months if people are not comfortable with outdoor Mass due to the cold weather. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU FEEL; IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Breaking Bread Mass Book

Due to the pandemic and safety, we have had to remove all Mass aides, including the missalettes, because we cannot safely clean them, and we anticipate this to follow through next year. We do understand that many would like to follow during Mass, and we do have access to the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2020-Thanksgiving 2021). If you are interested in a personal copy for \$10 donation please come by the office or let Father Leo know! There are only a handful left!

Salesians College Preparatory School



Masses

For our Christmas Masses at St. Rose, Father Leo was able to celebrate the Mass on the altar while we shared in the mass from our cars in the parking lot through the radio and a projected image. While this is still not the mass experience we are all missing, it is what is necessary to keep our parish and community safe. We would really like to know how our parishioners felt about this? As an older parish we have found that many of our parishioners were not fulfilled with Masses being streamed online., so we are trying to be creative! It is all a work in progress, that takes many hands, so for now Father will do Mass from the balcony of the church, just inside the vestibule, facing the parking lot. Please tune to 88.7FM to hear Father say Mass. After Mass is completed, we ask that those who would like to receive communion please DRIVE to the drive way in front of the church and continue to drive in as though you are going to drive down the drive way past the hall. Father Leo will be outside waiting to give communion. As your car approaches where he is, please turn your car off, make sure your mask is on and approach Father Leo for communion. After communion, please return to your car and proceed down the drive way. We are working on having a screen back so that Father can again be on the altar.