

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Times

October 23, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Two Sundays ago, through the story of the ten lepers Jesus reminded us of the need to praise and thanks in our prayers. Last Sunday, in the parable about the widow, he indicated the necessity of praying always and not losing heart. This Sunday, he presents the foundation for all prayers, its starting point, which is humility.

Notice that the words of the Pharisee are not a prayer at all. They are an unabashed proclamation of his supposed virtues. The Pharisee uses God as a sounding board for his own praise as he takes all the glory and credit for himself. Since deep down, the Pharisee really feels no need for God, he does not ask God for anything. And as a result, he receives nothing from God except condemnation. In striking contrast, the tax collector can only recognize that before the allholy God he is a sinner. His prayer is from the heart, a simple plea for mercy. Jesus attests that this prayer fulfills the words in the First Reading: "The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds, it does not rest till it reaches its goal...." The Pharisee looked only at himself, but his eyes were blind to his selfrighteousness. The tax collector looked toward God, and his eyes beheld God's goodness of which everyone is unworthy, including ourselves.

Before God we must be humble. There is no doubt that we should feel relaxed and comfortable with God when we come to pray. There is no reason to think of God as wrathful and forbidding. After all, God is our Father and we are his children. Since the church is the house of God, it is our home. But we can never forget that God is God. We are not and never will be his equal. We are invited into his home to eat of the Lord's Supper, but it is not the same as going to McDonald's for hamburgers. The church is a sacred place wherein we hear the holy word of God, and share in the sacrifice of his divine Son. No human being can be worthy of this privilege.

The liturgy attempts to put us in the right disposition for prayer at the beginning of Mass, by means of the Penitential Rite. The priest says: "To prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries let us acknowledge our sinfulness." Before God we are all sinners and are unworthy of him. At the

beginning of Mass, we figuratively take off our shoes. We profess that we are God's servants. This act of humility is the necessary prerequisite for a pleasing prayer. As such, it is not depressing or self-defeating. Rather, since it is honest, it is healthy. Since it is truthful, it is pleasing to God and opens his ears and his heart to our prayers.

Remember that the Pharisee in the parable felt no need for God, and so asked for nothing. The tax collector knew that he needed God. Listen again to his prayer: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Doesn't that sound like the Penitential prayer the Church give us: "Lord, ave mercy"?

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	October 25	<u> 11:00AM</u>
Matt Airoldi†		Rita DeTomasi
Wed.	October 26	11:00AM
Manny Villaruel†		Gina Pena
Thur.	October 27	11:00PM
Vicky Rombawa (birthday)		Gina Pena
Fri.	October 28	11:00AM
Jessica Ouk		Ma & Pa
(health)		
Sat.	October 29	4:30PM
Arturo M. Balagot †		Arturo Balagot
Sun.	October 30	9:00AM
Christina Quiapo		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		

Sunday Collection - October 16th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1095
St. Patrick Mission	\$190

Thank you again to all who support our Parish

October Mass Count

Not many may realize it, but every October the Diocese asks its parishes to count the number of participants at each weekend mass for every week. We thought it was time to make sure that all our parishioners are aware of this! So, now is a great time to check in on those you may not have seen at Mass for a while and encourage them back, invite someone new to come along or even just try to carve out some time in your busy schedule to make it to one of the masses yourself!

All Souls Mass

We will be able to hold our traditional All Souls Remembrance Mass on Saturday, November 5th at 10:00AM. If you want the names of your departed to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, please submit them (\$10 donation per name) by Wednesday November 2nd! We invite all that attend for some light refreshments after the mass. If you are able to donate some store-bought sweets, please let the office know, 510-

Book Your Next Function

at St. 120se Hall

555 Third Ave. Crockett Ca

510-787-2052

787-2052.



Coffee and Canvas

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 10:00AM!!

Join us for a fun relaxing fall 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, or maybe even a Christmas gift for someone special. Set some time aside for yourself; all are welcome!

LAST ONE FOR THE YEAR!!!

Sign-ups in the vestibule.





Coming Soon

St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission will be having our Christmas Boutique on November 19th and 20th. While we prepare for this wonderful event, we are looking for vendors, so if you know anyone who would be interested, please spread the word? You can call the office for more information, 510-787-2052!

Mass Times

Father Leo will be having mass at 9:00AM and 6:00PM on Tuesday, November 1st for All Saints Day.

Mass on Wednesday, November 2nd will be at the regular 11:00AM mass time.