

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Toward the end of World War II, a squad of soldiers came to a little Italian village that had been bitterly fought over. In the village square they found a statue of Christ lying on the ground, battered and broken. Some of the soldiers put it together as best as they could and set it back to its pedestal. But they could not find the hands. Finally, one from the group made a crudely lettered sign which read: "I have no other hands but yours". Truly, the Christians are living hands of Christ. They ought always to point to Christ by word and example.

When St. John the Baptist appeared on the scene, he soon won a large following. What attracted the crowds was both the appearance of the man and his intriguing message. St. John practiced what he preached: Penance. He was not clothed in fine garments, but in camel's hair which is rough and for a belt he wore a strip of skin that had been tanned. His food was that of the wilderness: honey extracted from wild bees' nests, and roasted grasshoppers. A more rugged picture of an ascetic can hardly be drawn. Yet this is what drew the crowds, for they knew that the prophets of old practiced rugged asceticism and were close to God. The people were hungry for God.

Also, his message was one of penance: "Repent for the reign of God is at hand. There comes One after me who is mightier than I. I am but his lowly slave, not fit even to perform the slave's task of untying his sandalstraps." With these words spoken in deep humility, St. John the Baptist prepared the people for the Coming One. He had no intention of attracting people to himself, he was not out to make friends nor to win applause. Rather, his whole purpose was to point to the One who alone is the Savior of the world. St. John came solely to bear witness to Christ. All his words and deeds were pointing to Christ.

Our lives as Christians ought always to point to Christ, both by our conduct and by opportune words. If the entire Church is missionary, each one of us has the duty to try to lead others to Christ. Sometimes it is by a mere word that people are brought to Christ. How often converts have mentioned that for years no one invited them to attend Catholic services, or to read some Catholic literature or listen to a homily preached on some special occasion such as a mission, or mass on Christmas, Lent, Easter or ordinary Sunday. Yet they were hungry for the truth and only lacked the courage to take the initiative. Again, how often the faithful example of a devout Catholic wife or husband has brought back a wayward husband or wife to practice of his or her childhood faith. There are many ways to point to Christ and the Christ-life. Like St. John the Baptist, the true Christian does not wish to draw others to himself or herself but to point to Christ and draw all to him. For it is Christ who will accomplish the transformation in our hearts by his Spirit of Love.

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

<u>Tues.</u>	December 8	N/A
Special Intentions		
Wed.	December 9	N/A
Special Intentions		
<u>Thur.</u>	December 10	N/A
Steve Gallo		Mom & Dad
Fri.	December 11	N/A
Winnie E. Mariano	Ν	Aariano Family
(thenke giving)		

(thanksgiving)	D. 1. 10	4.20014
<u>Sat.</u>	December 12	<u>4:30PM</u>
People of the Parish		
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Sun.	December 13	9:00AM
Edgar Allan		Mom & Dad
(birthday)		
Port Costa		11:00AM
Mahoney Family †		Alice Marshall

Sunday Collection - November 29

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1667
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$127

No Indoor Mass!!!

At this time, Contra Costa County has called for outdoor Mass at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission! Since the weather has begun the change, we are coming up with a plan, but would like your input. 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!

Crockett Christmas Committee

As with most things this year, the Crockett Christmas Committee will work a little differently. In order to help keep everyone safe and maintain social

distancing, they will not be able to put together the donated food baskets. Instead of the traditional baskets, the Committee is encouraging donations of money or gift



cards that they will put together for families. If you would like to participate, and we would greatly appreciate it, donations can be dropped off at the St. Rose Office. Checks need to be made to the Crockett Christmas Committee, and some gift card ideas: Target, Walmart, Safeway, etc. Remember, unlike many groups, these donations always stay in our Crockett and Rodeo communities.

Father Leo will be offering Mass, Tuesday, December 8th at 9:00AM for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Who is Saint Nicholas?

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, broadcasters, brewers, repentant thieves, pharmacists, archers, pawnbrokers, and many others. He is the patron of more causes than any other saint. His feast day is celebrated on the eve of December 5^{th} in some countries, and on December 6^{th} .

St. Nicholas, the real Santa Claus! St. Nicholas was a generous hearted bishop from Myra that gave up his inheritance as a young man and devoted his life to serving others. He is most known for feeling sad for three poor unwed girls in his parish that could not afford to get married (they didn't have the money for a dowry). So, St. Nicholas would throw little sacks of gold coins in their windows at night! These

gifts changed their lives, and our tradition of gift giving at night was born! The perfect Saint for Christmas, but also a great role model for charity year-round!



To learn more visit

https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas.

Special Second Collection Next Week

IN REAL

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and other necessities. Thank you in advance.

