

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 24, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Helen Keller who was both blind and deaf, once asked a friend what she saw in the woods out of which they were emerging. "Nothing much", replied the friend, "just some trees and some flowers". "Oh! But there was so much beauty in that woods" responded Helen, "I felt the various shape of the leaves, their different veins, the roughness or smoothness of the bark of the trees, the shape of the petals of the flowers, the size of the flower and its general contour, and I could not help admiring the wisdom of the Almighty who gave such order and variety to his creation". If a blind woman can appreciate nature in such a wonderful way, we ought to appreciate much more the gift of sight, whereby we can also see color, shape, beauty and variety in God's creation.

He was blind! But he wanted to see. His only hope was Jesus who was passing by. For long years he had groped his way in the streets, he was helped upstairs or into rooms by other persons, he heard them clapping when a parade was passing by, he listened to them admiring the blossoming trees, the flaming sunset, the myriad of stars at night. But he could never see them. All was dark for him, perpetual night. He had learned to help himself as best he could, but he could not earn a livelihood, so he had turned to begging. How often people repulsed him, cursed him! They had not the least understanding or sympathy for his condition. He could not help it that he was blind. He did not know why the Lord in heaven had let him be blind. Did not all those who had the ability to see, know that it was truly a gift of God? Could they not take pity on one who did not have that gift?

But now there was a ray of hope that came into the gloom of darkness. The wonder-worker of Nazareth was passing by. He could cure him. He could receive from him the gift of sight! This was his only chance. So, he cried out as loud as he could: "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me". That cry made the crowd look around. To call him "Son of David" meant to acknowledge him as Messiah, King of Israel. Many in the crowd did not like that, especially the Pharisees. He might be a prophet, they thought, but never the Messiah! He had no standing, no education! So, they turned on the blind Bartimaeus and scolded him sharply, trying to intimidate him and keep him quiet. But for Bartimaeus, Jesus was his only hope. He cared

nothing for the words of the crowd, but cried out all the louder with increased hope and faith. Jesus heard his request. He acknowledged his profession of faith. And he restored his sight. What a joy! He could see!

There are many physically and spiritually blind people in the world today. It is those who are spiritually blind who really need the Savior, because unless they learn to see in him their sole hope of salvation, they will never see the Light that is the Eternal Day. It is up to the faithful Christians who believe in Christ, to bring others to that blessing of true Light by their prayers, by their labors, yes, by their missionary efforts.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	October 26	11:00AM
Elias Valdivia Sr.		Lily Milita
(healing)		·
Wed.	October 27	11:00AM
Little Matthew †		Grandad & Lola
Thur.	October 28	11:00AN
Special Intentions		
Fri.	October 29	11:00AM
Bailey Militar		Lily Milita
(birthday)		J
Sat.	October 30	4:30PM
Banaga Family		Bob & Lydia
Sun.	October 31	9:00AN
Richard, Clementina	& Faustino	Barb & Ed
Pag	ni †	
Port Costa	ı	11:00AM
People of the Parish		
† ************************************		

Reminder



Parish Council meeting this coming Tuesday, October 26th at 7:00PM in the parish hall. All welcome!

Sunday Collection - October 17

St. Rose, Crockett \$1325 St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$160

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Current Mass Protocol

Our Churches no longer have government-restrictions on capacity, but many of the practices we have come to see as normal are changing again due to the increase in COVID cases. With this in mind we must remember that we still need to do our part to keep everyone safe.

- All persons need to wear masks indoors; 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.

Contra Costa County and the Oakland Diocese now require masking indoors for everyone as a precaution against increased circulation of COVID-19.

All Souls Mass

We will be able to hold our traditional All Souls Remembrance Mass on Saturday, November 6th 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 3rd!

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, 510-787-2052.

Mission Alignment Process

It's official! The Disciple Maker Index Survey opens this week and we need your help!

Please help us participate by completing a 10–15-minute survey as soon as possible.

- Go to https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/k4xck2
 The link is also posted on our website and
 Facebook page for easier access.
- There are also opportunities to complete the survey after daily and Sunday Mass and you can obtain a paper copy in the vestibule or by contacting Christina Littleton in the office at 510-787-2052.

The survey will only be **available from October 14** – **November 22** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Father Leo, our various ministries and you, our parishioners, as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

While I know that some of you are skeptical of this process, the results and who really benefits, I urge you to please participate. Let's show the Diocese how strong our little parishes are! Who knows what we will be able to do with the information, but if we don't participate, we will never know!

Mass Times

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

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