



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

One of the greatest dangers for the happiness of humankind today is the breakdown of family life. Our Creator himself intended family life as the solid foundation of humanity, and instituted marriage as something sacred and permanent. Today, free love is rapidly replacing marriage, divorce is being advocated even where that growing cancer had long been resisted, trial marriages and teenage hasty unions frequently end up in frustration. Young people live together as they please, and separate when they please. Broken homes are more frequent each succeeding year.

Against this dark picture of neo-paganism stands the bright light of the Holy Family. What a breath of pure and fresh air we experience as we gaze upon Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their simple but holy life at Nazareth. Theirs was that life of love which the world thirsts for. Nothing sensational happened in their midst year after year. They were not out for the novel or the

spectacular. There was not the rush-rush of our big cities. There were none of the modern means of transportation, convenience or entertainment. Yet peace, deep peace, reigned in this household, the peace of God



and the love of the Spirit, which bound them together in closest union, affording them true happiness. This is the model for every Christian family.

It is not the things of earth that makes humankind happy; neither money nor possessions can really satisfy the human heart. Happiness is found in the interpersonal relations and ultimately in our relation with God. Jesus was happy in the companionship of Mary and Joseph in whose presence he was totally at ease, for they mirrored forth so perfectly the ideal of marriage that God intended from the beginning. He was happy to lead the hidden life of work and prayer in the obscure town of Nazareth as long as the Father willed it so. He was content to work as the carpenter's son and earn a living from the labor of his hands. An old Welsh ballad has three troubadours coming across a man and a youth making wooden yokes to be drawn by oxen. Said the first: That boy is God's Son. Said the second: No! It can't be! Said the third: Would God's Son make yokes for oxen all day? How well the ballad shows that at Nazareth there

is a mystery, the mystery of Christ, who although he was by nature God, emptied himself and took the nature of a slave. (Philippians 2:61)

Let every family realize that their happiness does not consist in their earthly possessions of goods, houses, cars and other facilities, but in the interpersonal relation of each member of the family with the others. Deepest happiness is found in simplicity of life, where daily work and prayer bind the members of the family close together, and Christ reigns over the household. There the Spirit of peace and love heals all wounds, strengthens all ties, and supports all sufferings and trials. The world will only find peace and happiness if it returns to the simple joys of family life, modelled on that of the Holy Family, whom God has given as a blueprint for the Christian home.

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.	December 29	N/A
Juliet Posadas †		Bernardina †
Wed.	December 30	N/A
Barcemia Lauder †		Jenny
Thur.	December 31	N/A
Santiago Mateo †		Bernardina †
Fri.	January 1	N/A
People of the Parish		
Sat.	January 2	4:30PM
Jim Dooley †		Stella Noe
Sun.	January 3	9:00AM
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		11:00AM
Sean Murphy †		Mike & Elena

Sunday Collection - December 20

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1028
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$197

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!



The office will be closed 12/29-12/31!



See you in 2021!



CLEANED AND CRACKED CRAB! TWO POUNDS! Potato Salad, Mixed Green Salad with Dressing, Sourdough Dinner Roll, Dessert Wine, Beer, and Margaritas Available to Purchase to Complement Your Meal! (21 & Over) Purchase Tickets On-Line Through January 11: www.salesian.com/events/crab-feed

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God



Thursday, December 31st at 4:30PM, Vigil Mass at St. Rose of Lima, and Friday, January 1st, 9:00AM Mass at St. Rose of Lima. Please remember these masses are outside, so dress warmly.