

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Sir Thomas More was an outstanding Catholic layman who lived over 400 years ago. He was the first layman to be appointed Lord Chancellor of England, next in authority to the king himself, King Henry VIII. The king has a deep personal liking for More, because of his learning and skill, and because of his wit and friendly nature. But More lost favor with the king when he refused to acknowledge the king as head of the Church of England, and then opposed the king's divorce and remarriage. King Henry VIII had More beheaded in 1535. Four hundred years later the Catholic Church declared Sir Thomas More blessed, later on canonized as a saint.

Saint Thomas More ran a truly Christian, Catholic home. There were prayers every day with a short reading from the Bible. With his wife and children and frequent visitors he discussed spiritual ideas around the table. He attended Mass every day and recited the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin. He sang in the church choir and at times served Mass. The poor and needy were always welcome as were people of learning and talent. Seldom did he invite the rich and renowned. It was an ideal situation - his church helped his home and his home helped his church.

My suggestion is that we do something like that. Whether or not you can attend any or all services in church these coming days, try to keep Holy Week in your home. Start this Sunday. Put your palm branches or leaves in some prominent place; for instance, in a vase on the table or television. Talk about what it means - we honor Christ as King with the crowd of the First Pal Sunday. Between now and Holy Thursday, family and meal prayer should be more meaningful and devout. You might read small portions of the story of Christ's sufferings and death, as told to us several times this week.

On Holy Thursday make a special effort to have the family eat together. At the meal, someone, preferably the father, should remind everyone of what took place on the first Holy Thursday: Jesus began the first Holy Mass; for the first time Jesus gave us Himself in Holy Communion; Our Lord established the Catholic priesthood. Pray for all our priests. Every truly Catholic home has a crucifix. Put it in a different place this Good Friday to emphasize its meaning: it tells of the death of Jesus for all of us. On Saturday, light a candle in some prominent place to represent Christ, the Light of the world, who lights up every grave in the world. Think about Easter's meaning. Yes! your home is a church. Renew all things in Christ and for Christ. Start in your home. Celebrate Holy Week there. Try also to be in church. Do everything possible to remember the tremendous truths we relive during this coming week.

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.	April 7	N/A
Rosela Villanueva		ily Militar
(birthday)		•
Wed.	April 8	N/A
Fr. Ciaran Dillon†	L	ily Militar
Thur.	April 9 Holy Thursday	N/A
Fr. Ciaran Dillon †		Imelda
Fri.	April 10 Good Friday	N/A
Julia P.Magno †	Ве	rnardina †
(birthday) Thomas		
Sat.	April 11 Easter Vigil	N/A
People of the Parish		
Sun.	April 12 Easter Sunday	N/A
People of the Parish	n	
Port Costa		N/A
People of the Parish		
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Sunday Collection - March 29

St. Rose, Crockett \$1220

St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$35

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND A WAY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR PARISH!

Online Donations

The Diocese of Oakland is trying to help those parishes and parishioner where online giving is not in place. To do this, they have set up a way for people to donate online through the Diocese to their own parish.

ALL DONATIONS THROUGH THIS LINK GO DIRECTLY TO THE PARISH THAT IS SELECTED.

There are a couple of ways this can be accessed.

 Put this link directly into your internet browser:

https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support

2) Go to the Diocese of Oakland home page

Click on the Giving tab

Select the Parish Support option

This link will take you directly to the giving page. Once there, you will enter your gift information, parish affiliation, name, address, and payment preference. Once you submit, you will get a short reply confirming that the transaction was successful. A few minutes later, a message will land in your email account with a summary of the gift, including the parish it will be directed towards, and a simple thank you. The Diocese will process the gifts, which entails charging the credit or debit cards and running the bank account debits.

NOTE: Your accounts may not be charged immediately, but when the gift is processed by OMA staff.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

With the constant change that is occurring around us, the Diocese is still adhering to the following protocols:

- All social gatherings that can be rescheduled, postponed or cancelled, should be.
- All public Masses are suspended.
- ALL CHURCHES WILL REMAIN CLOSED!

We all have many questions in regard to what is going on around us, and we will keep you as up to date as possible. The best suggestion is to wash hands frequently and do your part by staying home if you are not feeling well. This is a very fluid situation, and no one has all the answers. Please just remember to take a breath, and don't make decisions in panic or haste!

Due to the current stricter conditions in Contra Costa County, as of April 1st the Diocese has asked that all churches remain closed, even for individual prayer. Due to this we will **NOT BE OPENNING THE CHURCH** until further notice. Fr. Leo is currently coming up with a plan for Holy Week and Easter Sunday, possibly streaming some of the services for this week. Palms will remain available outside of the church following Palm Sunday so that parishioners can pick them up.

We know that is seems as though the parish is constantly asking for money, and this is very frustrating. Our parish family has risen to challenge every time, and we are forever in debt to that. Unfortunately, this Coronavirus epidemic is hitting us in an already bad time. If your family is able to continue to send their Sunday tithe to the parish office it may help us keep our heads above water for the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to offer.

