From the Desk of Fr. Leo

People are willing to undergo a great deal of trouble and expense in order to have their health restored. They submit willingly to a physician, undergo frequent treatments, take expensive medicines, in fact, anything if only they can regain physical health, even though they be at an advanced old age. How many are equally concerned with regaining the health of the inner person, which may have been brought low by the poison of sin, paralyzed by evil habits of long standing, or jeopardized by willful carelessness in thoughts and actions? Yet, what is more important when a person stands before God at the gate of eternity, physical health or the integrity of the inner human being?

Everything in this weekend's Gospel seems to bring before our eyes the penitent sinner who seeks reconciliation and healing from Christ, the great sacrament of God's love. Not as if leprosy were necessarily connected with personal sin, but this weekend's Gospel vividly conjures up to the mind the dispositions required of the penitent sinner, aware of his great need of the Savior; the loving and willing action of that same Savior in the sacrament of healing which he instituted for the express purpose of healing humankind's inner spirit; and the effects as well as the requirements of the sacrament.

The goal of the sacrament of penance is to return to Christ in love. Emphasis shifts in the new rite of penance from merely seeking remission of sin to reconciliation with God in Christ. Christ is the Way God wants to encounter all of humankind. He instituted the sacrament of reconciliation so that this encounter takes place through the ministers of his Church. Through Christ and the ministry of the Church, the sinner is reconciled to God. So, the heart of this sacrament is meeting Christ personally, as the leper in the Gospel. For Christ is present in his sacraments, and by means of this sacrament he reaches into the heart of humankind to heal it of its wounds and defects, and fill it with his love. Thus, Jesus reached out to touch the leper, though the leper was himself one of the untouchables. The Savior is far more eager for the love of the penitent than the latter is for forgiveness and reconciliation. Again, we are reminded of the good shepherd who sought out the lost sheep until he found it, and then carried it back home close to his heart.

Like the leper who is totally renewed in bodily integrity and can live an entirely new life not admissible for him before, so the repentant sinner, renewed in God's love, walks in the newness of the Christ-life, all his or her actions and motivations taking on a renewed direction. His or her aim now is to be more conformed to the image of Christ, his or her Savior, and that will mean a thorough conversion from sinful ways.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	February 13	11:00AM
Wanda Abbondanza†		John Collins
ي_	-	
Wed.	February 14	9AM, 6PM
Valentino Lacsina		Lacsina Family
(birthday)		
Thur.	February 15	11:00AM
Carmen McFarling †		ICF #14
Fri.	February 16	11:00AM
Vincent Noel Buenafl	or† Bu	enaflor-Roth
Vincent Noel Buenafl	or† Bu	
Vincent Noel Buenafl Sat.	or† Bu February 17	enaflor-Roth Family
	1	enaflor-Roth Family
Sat.	1	enaflor-Roth Family 4:30PM
Sat.	1	enaflor-Roth Family 4:30PM
Sat. John & Gen Heuser †	February 17	enaflor-Roth Family <u>4:30PM</u> Trudi
<u>Sat.</u> John & Gen Heuser † <u>Sun.</u>	February 17	enaflor-Roth Family 4:30PM Trudi 9AM Bernas Family
<u>Sat.</u> John & Gen Heuser † <u>Sun.</u>	February 17	enaflor-Roth Family <u>4:30PM</u> Trudi <u>9AM</u>

<u>Tax Tíme</u>

If you need a copy of your contributions for 2022, please call the office (510-787-2052). Leave your name, phone number and



address (if it has changed) and we will be happy to help out.

Sunday Collection - February 4th

St. Patrick Mission \$195

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

***In able to meet our 2024 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. ***



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will begin this Friday after the 11:00AM mass.



<u>Ash Wednesday</u>

Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday, February 14th. We will have mass here at St. Rose at **9:00AM** and **6:00PM**. Also, this is an obligatory day of fasting (15-60 years) and abstinence (15 and over). As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused.



<u>Thank You</u>

A big thanks to a special group of "cleaning angels" that came out last week as part of a community service project. The St. Patrick 7th grade dusted, vacuumed, swept, wiped pews and even picked up the rotten fruit in the yard. The hall was also swept, moped, dusted and chairs were wiped down.

