

🔟 📗 Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

If St. Luke were writing this Gospel today, he would not include the names of Tiberius Caesar, and Annas and Caiaphas, and the rest of them. Rather he would use the name of the Pope, the President, and perhaps the mayor. That would be his way of giving his message a realistic and historical context. He would then proclaim to us that the word of God is coming to us, that the Lord is near, and that we must prepare the way for him.

As a matter of fact, this description is not a mere imagination on my part. There is precise truth in it. The word of God comes to us during the mass just as surely as it did to St. John the Baptist in the wilderness. That word tells us that the Lord is near and that we must prepare for his coming. We must be prepared for the celebration of his coming. We must be prepared of his coming at Christmas so that we will be prepared for his coming at the end of time.

The only catch is that we have to be prepared; that is the warning that the word of God gives us today. It has now become a cliché to observe that we must keep Christ in Christmas. We all know how materialism has taken over. I do not say that we should do away with all the decorations and the gift giving. If we did, our economy would collapse. More importantly, a lot of the spirit of joy and enthusiasm surrounding Christmas would probably be lost. We should reconsider once again the whole situation. We have to have the right attitude.

This Christmas, Jesus will just as truly come to us as he did to the people of the Gospel story. Jesus was born many centuries ago, but this Christmas through the Liturgy, he will be born once again in our hearts, and he will bring to us his love, his truth, and his help. But we have to be ready for him. We simply cannot afford to pass him up, to fail to recognize him, to say that there is no room in our lives for him. Do we need Jesus, I can hardly think of a time when we needed him more? The whole world needs him, and each one of us in particular needs him.

Why do we decorate? Because we want to celebrate the coming of the Savior. It is a happy occasion. We just have to remember why we decorate in a spirit of joy. Why do we give gifts? It should be in commemoration of the greatest gift God has given us: God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten

Son. Our gift giving at Christmas should be an imitation of the great generosity of God our Father.

But above all we must try to make our Christmas primarily a religious experience by letting the Christmas Mass be the center of our celebration. I suggest that we plan our day around the Mass rather than our Christmas dinner. It is the spirit of the way in which we approach the Mass that will make the difference. The Church teaches us that Advent is more than a preparation for Christmas; it is also a preparation for the final coming of Christ. All that we do now prepares us for the final coming. The way in which we try to make Christmas primarily a religious experience, the Christian spirit of generosity and joy with which we give gifts and decorate our homes -all these are meant to direct us to the final coming of Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion Mass Intentions for the Week

<u> </u>		
Tues.	December 7	11:00AM
Frank Manas †		ICF #14
Wed.	December 8	11:00AM
Czarina Clara Lacsii	na	Bernas Family
Thur.	December 9	11:00AM
Thur. Ric Liquid †		Jenny
<u>Fri.</u>	December 10	
Bill McFarling †		ICF #14
Sat.	December 11	4:30PM
Teddy & Steve Galle	o†	June
Sun.	December 12	
Edgar Allan		Mom & Dad
(birthday)		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		
* *************************************		
<u> Sunday Collection - November 28</u>		
St. Rose, Crockett		\$1596

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

\$296

St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa

Breaking Bread Mass Book

We know that many would like to follow during Mass, and we have the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2021-Thanksgiving 2022) available. If you are interested in a personal copy for a \$10 donation, please come by the office or let Father Leo know!



Immaculate Conception

Mass next Wednesday, December 8th, will be at 9:00AM instead of 11:00AM in honor of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Snowflakes

During Advent, we are inviting all who visit our parishes during the season to sponsor a snowflake (suggested donation of \$5). Your snowflakes can be for whatever intentions you hold in your heart. The snowflakes will be hung up on trees at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission, and you are welcome to write the intentions on the snowflakes themselves, leave them blank or simply put your family name. Snowflakes will be available at the office and before all masses.



Mexican Drive-Thru Dinner

Our parish is having a Mexican drive-thru dinner on Friday. December 10th as part of our celebration of la Virgen de Guadalupe. Our serving hours will be 4:30PM -6:30PM, and the price of a ticket is \$18. Your dinner will include two chicken enchiladas, a beef taco, beans and rice and tortilla chips with salsa prepared by Ricky Gomez!



Reserve your dinner by this Monday, December 6th.

For more information, or if you would like to help, please call the office, 787-2052. Spread the word, and come out and support our parish!



Communal Anointing of the Sick

December 18th & 19th, we will be having our annual Advent Communal Anointing of the Sick at all masses. If you have family members or friends who need this sacrament invite them! Come and be healed with God's healing touch.

Crockett Cub Scouts Pack 41

Our local Cub Scouts have organized a community service project of collecting supplies for the animals at our Contra Costa Animal Shelter. Fr. Leo has kindly allowed St. Rose to be one of the drop off locations! The kids are looking for towels, blankets, sheets, treats and toys through December 19th. They are hoping to deliver all the items the week of Christmas.

