From the Desk of Fr. Leo

If you remember the movie "The Exorcist", there was a scene wherein those who endeavored to expel the evil spirit failed utterly at first, no matter what they tried, and only seem to succeed through a tragic turn of events. How different with the Lord: with one word he commands the evil spirit and it instantly obeys. There are no wild gestures, no shouting, no long-drawn-out prayers. Just a word, a command, and Jesus is master of the situation. What a contrast!

Why did Jesus drive out demons, cure all manner of diseases, and raise the dead to life? Was it always in the first place to prove his divine mission? If that were so, why should he refuse the Pharisee when they demanded a sign? Why lose himself in the crowd as soon as the miracle had been wrought? Why impose secrecy on those he had cured? No, the main purpose of his miracles was not to offer credentials for his divine mission. They were primarily intended as the means to establish the reign of God among humankind.

At the very outset, Jesus had proclaimed that the reign of God was at hand. By the word and deed, he had set about establishing it. He himself was the embodiment of its perfect realization, he who, full of the Spirit of God, was the perfect image of divine Love. But there was one great adversary to God's plan for humankind: Satan, whose influence over mankind from the very beginning had been disastrous. From those earliest times, mankind had come more and more



under Satan's sway, and Satan was not going to give up his domain without a mighty struggle. So, Jesus, met him head on at the beginning of the public ministry in the forty days in the desert. He met the Adversary and came forth victorious.

From then on, his

ministry was greatly taken up with driving out demons. If he is to establish the reign of God, he must first of all dethrone Satan from his hold on humankind, in order to enthrone instead in the heart of humankind the God of love. He knew that he was dealing with an archenemy of great acumen and malice, who would concentrate all his forces before yielding his domain.

But he was also aware that he, Christ was the Stronger One.

There is still much to be done. The forces of evil grow apace day by day. Yet in the same Spirit of Christ, which each has received at baptism, and in whom so many are renewing themselves today, the members of Christ can carry on the work of the Master.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

| Tues. | January 30 | 11:00AM |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Shirley Junio † | Bu | enaflor- Roth |
| | | Family |
| Wed. | January 31 | 11:00AM |
| Carmen McFarling † | | ICF #14 |
| Thur. | February 1 | 11:00AM |
| Rogelio & Nenita Arcega | | |
| (Anniversary) | | |
| Fri. | February 2 | 11:00AM |
| Patrick McBride | | Lydia |
| (conversion & he | ealing) | |
| Sat. | February 3 | 4:30PM |
| Linda Benish† | Bı | uenaflor-Roth |
| | | Family |
| Sun. | February 4 | 9AM |
| Paolo Coccé | | Stella |
| Port Costa | | 11:00AM |
| People of the Parish | | |

Sunday Collection - January 21st

| St. Rose, Crockett | \$1958 |
|---------------------|--------|
| St. Patrick Mission | \$80 |

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Tax Time

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.

Coming soon . . .

Please mark your calendars now for Friday, March 22nd! The tentative sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the vestibule. For anyone interested in being part of the planning, the first meeting is Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30PM in the hall.

It was uplifting to see volunteers from many different groups work together so well last year, and hopefully you can all make that happen again.







<u>Pancake Breakfast</u>

The Crockett Scouts' annual pancake breakfast is Sunday, February 11th from 8-11AM. Come enjoy a hot breakfast to start off your Super Bowl Sunday. No tickets needed; whatever donation you are able to give is the price of your meal.





Proceeds will go towards summer camp and other group activities. Come out and support our Crockett Scouts, Troop 171 and 173!

