

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

If anyone wants to be a professional in his or her line, there is need of constant progress, and the endeavor to increase one's knowledge and ability. Doctors who do not keep up with new methods and medicines will find themselves at a disadvantage. Teachers who do not continue to widen their knowhow by employing new techniques along with increase of knowledge are less and less effective with their students. Nature demands growth, and success demands progress.

In this weekend's Second Reading, St. Paul speaks to us of "learning Christ." That supposes that the Christian is in the school of the Master, and always has more to learn from the great mystery of our salvation: Christ and his work of love for humankind. If responsible people are always trying to improve their know-how in their respective line of work, if musicians practice interminably to become masters in their field, if athletes keep up a rigid schedule to outdo others in sports, then the Christian must realize that growth in knowledge of Christ and advancement in the faith are not only possible but a real necessity, if the Christ-life is to blossom forth in full maturity.

Many are satisfied with the initial knowledge of the faith acquired in school days and never advance toward a deeper insight and appreciation of the wonderful plan of God's love for humankind in his Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence their growth in the Christ life is stunted, remaining practically at the same level for years. The Christian religion means more than a routine fulfillment of duties and a mere external practice of various devotions and acts of piety. The Christian religion is dynamic, and it purports to lead humankind deeper and deeper into Christ's Paschal Mystery in order to transform him or her more fully each day into the one ideal that is Christ himself. Do all Christians take their calling seriously? How many think of the Church only in the three main events of life: Christian baptism, marriage and burial preparations? Even those who are faithful to Sunday duties often stop there, thinking they have done enough for religion for the week. Can we honestly say they are learning Christ and getting to better appreciate the stupendous mystery of his love, the way the Father in heaven expects of his children? Our Christian faith is intended by

God to penetrate all the phases of our life: work, recreation, family affairs, business interests. God is very interested in every one of our doings and Christ is very near in all of them. As Christians who have put on Christ, we are to excel in all we do. Christ's ideas are to clothe our own, Christ's sentiments are meant to manifest themselves in our words and actions, not only now and then but each day, toward the members of our family, our employees and helpers, our employers and business associates, and all with whom we deal.

Gradually, when the inner person is transformed, life itself is vitalized, and we make steady progress toward that fulfillment which alone can satisfy the human heart.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	August 3	11:00AM
Special Intentions	-	
Wed. Special Intentions	August 4	11:00AM
Thur.	August 5	11:00AM
Special Intentions Fri.	August 6	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Sat.	August 7	4:30PM
Josephine (Josie) Agos	ta†	Stella Noe
Sun.	August 8	9:00AM
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa People of the Parish		11:00AM
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The office will be closed next week, 8/2-8/6.

Sunday Collection - July 25

St. Rose, Crockett \$1765 St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$260

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Current Mass Protocol

We are all excited as the State of California has lifted the color tier system!

Our Churches no longer have government-restrictions on capacity, and many of the practices we have come to see as normal are ending. With this in mind though we must remember that we still need to do our part to keep everyone safe.

- Fully vaccinated persons no longer need to wear masks; and no one is required to wear masks outdoors.
- Social distancing is not required, though we do ask to keep others in mind as we work our way back to "normal."
- Although the Diocese has okayed the use of worship aids, such as the missalettes, it is still recommended to stick to single use items. As there is no good way to clean the missalettes and prayer cards without wearing them down St. Rose/St. Patrick will not be setting these back out just yet.
- The Sign of Peace will still be without physical contact.

The Oakland Dioceses is still following the recommendations of the CDC and Contra Costa Health Services. For a letter from the Bishop, and a full list of the updated guidelines regarding the Oakland Diocese, please visit:

https://www.oakdiocese.org/news/message-frombishop-barber-concerning-june-15-2021-covid-19updates-eng-esp

While the Oakland Diocese and State of California still hold that vaccinated persons do not have to wear masks inside, Contra Costa County recommend masking indoors for everyone as a precaution against increased circulation of COVID-19.

Special Second Collection Next Week

Please take a moment to read the insert in the bulletin regarding next week's second collection for the Annual Mission Appeal. This year we have the pleasure of welcoming Rev Gary Weismann representing the Diocese of Mandeville in Jamaica.

New Project!!!



Many may not realize it, but behind our church buildings there are several nice sized areas for gardening. Over the last few months Father Leo has taken the time

to amend the soil in these areas and began planting various bulbs, tubers and seeds. His hope is that he will be able to create a sustainable source of flowers for our altar so that we do not need to purchase as many as we decorate throughout the seasons. Many of the plants are beginning to poke their heads up above the soil, and some are starting to leaf!

We would like to involve our parishioners in this process, so any words of advice, including what cut flowers may do well, are greatly appreciated. Any donations of excess bulbs, plants, dirt, etc. would also be very kind. This is a great project that could bring us together and help us become a little more self-sufficient!

<u>Liturgical Ministers</u>

Calling all Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Greeters!!!

Now that Masses are mostly back to our old normal, we would like to invite all those listed above to participate in Mass again. Let us know when we can add you back to the schedule. Please call the office, 510-787-2052, and let us know either way.

We greatly thank those who have stepped up during the pandemic and made sure these roles were always covered. It is time to mix some new voices back in!

