

December 12, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

A friend of mine once said to me, "If only God did not demand so much of us, life would be much easier." If only God did not demand so much of us... Does it seem that God does demand much? If not, then maybe we have missed something of the meaning of Christianity. As a matter of fact, God wants everything. If all we had to do, was to come to Mass and to tell God that we loved him, it would be a snap. Words are cheap, they come easy.

The people in this weekend's Gospel seemed to have realized that more than words was required of them. They had heard St. John preach repentance. They had listened to his call for a change of life. In a spirit of enthusiasm generated by the challenging preaching of the Baptist, they cried out, "What ought we to do?" And St. John was quick to reply with equal enthusiasm. He told them to be generous; to share their goods with others. He urged them to be fair, to be just, to be charitable.

But that is nothing new. We have heard it all before-many times. And I am sure that we all want to be generous, fair, just and charitable with others. We tell God in our prayers that we love him, and that we want to do his will, but maybe that is nothing new to God either. Maybe he has heard it all before - many times. But what must we do? Perhaps we feel that it would be a wonderful thing if a preacher like St. John the Baptist were standing in the pulpit today, to tell us exactly what we must do to please God. Perhaps we wish that the Church could go back to the old way of pointing out to us precisely what to do and what not to do. The old way was so comfortable and convenient. No meat on Friday, go to confession and Communion at least once a year, come to mass every Sunday, there seemed to be a nice, neat answer for every question of what we could or could not do.

Today, almost everything seems so different. One priest may tell you one thing, while another gives a completely opposite story. Yes, the old way certainly was convenient, but it was dangerous and it was deadening. It was dangerous because it made it possible for us to feel complacent, to feel satisfied in doing just the minimum that a precisely formulated law required of us. It was deadening because it took the challenge out of Christianity. It tended to treat us like children who need to be told everything, who cannot make decisions that require generosity and maturity.

I am not saying that the Church has abandoned her role as a moral guide. I am not suggesting that two priests are both right when they contradict each other. I am not hinting that each one of us should just go ahead and do whatever we want to do and then try to square our conscience with our actions, instead of squaring our actions with our conscience. What I am saying is that God demands much of us. He is not satisfied with a strict legalism, with a mere sticking to the letter of the law. We must not become complacent and self-satisfied because we think we have kept the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church. We must not sit back and wait to be told what to do, as if we were little children. It would be convenient if God were to tell us exactly what we must do and must not do in every moment of our lives, but in such a situation there would be no challenge and no chance of maturity.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	December 14	11:00AM	
Thanksgiving			
Wed. Living Memorial	December 15	11:00AM	
Thur.	December 16	11:00AM	
Christina Quiapo		Mom & Dad	
Fri.	December 17	11:00AM	
Frank Manas †		ICF #14	
Sat.	December 18	4:30PM	
People of the Parish			
Sun.	December 19	9:00AM	
Bill McFarling †		ICF #14	
Port Costa		11:00AM	
Franklin Jurik †		Andrea Delsid	
† ************************************			

Sunday Collection - December 5th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$2382
Christmas Decorations	\$746
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$150

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

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!



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.



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.





An immense thank you to all who made the Christmas Boutique a success! We were able to raise \$2362!

We would also like to take a moment to recognize Runette, the hidden force behind this success. Thank you for doing everything! You are an angel to this parish

Special Second Collection

Give in gratitude.

A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.



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.



