

August 16, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This weekend's Gospel is a story of dogged persistence, but it also reveals a deep insight into the Heart of the Savior. A mother had a little daughter whom she loved dearly, but for days the little one had been writhing with a strange ailment, and every available medicine had been of no avail. Beside herself with grief, the mother was helpless to do anything more. Then she heard that the Wonderworker from Nazareth was in the vicinity at the border of her country. He was being hailed as the long- awaited Son of David. He had healed many, fed thousands in the wilderness, cast out demons, and was kindness itself to all. Courage came back to the mother's heart. Though she was a pagan, she approached him with deep faith and humility, convinced that he could heal her daughter, "Son of David, have pity on me." She cried. "My daughter is sorely troubled by a demon."

There is a sudden silence. All look at the master, expecting a sign from him. But Jesus says not even one word. They pass on. They leave her prostrate on the ground. Her prayer was not heard. Her little child would not be cured. But the mother is determined. Again, she runs after the Master. Again, she shouts and continues to shout her request: "Have pity on my little one who writhes in pain at home." Then the apostles intervene. But not in her favor. Her continued clamor embarrasses them and they beg the Master to send her away. This time Jesus speaks. But what does He say? "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel". That sounds fine. She was a pagan. The Son of David is Israel's Messiah. His mission was not for the pagans. The conclusion was evident.

The second blow is still harder to bear, since it sounds final. The mother was crushed. She was unheard, unanswered. A woman with less determination would have given up then and there. Yet there is nothing too hard for a mother's heart, when it concerns one of her own. With a last supreme effort, she manages to buoy up her faith and hope to the utmost, and coming before Jesus she falls at His feet, with one word: "Lord, help me", Surely the kind heart of the Wonder-worker will not refuse this last persistent plea. He speaks. But what he says was totally unexpected, almost unbelievable. "It is not fair to take the bread that belongs to the children and cast it to the house dogs." The disciples gasp. The air is tense.

But the good woman stood that final test. Cleverly she entered into the picture given by the Master, and rose to the occasion. She was humble enough to accept the insinuation, but she has a ready answer: "Oh! Yes Lord! The little dogs do feed on the crumbs and the scraps that fall from their Master's table!" At that, even the Master could not repress His great admiration. "O woman, great is your faith!" You have won out; you have stood the test. Go home now, your little one is cured!"

The woman's persistence won the day. And her example will give courage and faith to thousands who hear of her courage and her faith.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	August 18	N/A
Essex & Janice Ianne		Mom & Dad
(anniversary)		
Wed.	August 19	N/A
Kyle Arriola		
(thanksgiving)		
Thur.	August 20	N/A
Ronnie L Escala		Mariano Family
(birthday/thanksgiving	g)	·
Fri.	August 21	N/A
Special Intentions		
Sat.	August 22	N/A
People of the Parish		
Sun.	August 23	N/A
Edgar Allan & Theresa		Mom & Dad
(anniversary)		
Port Costa		N/A
Sister Marget Krchnak	C.D.P.F.	Theresa
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Sunday Collection - August 9

St. Rose, Crockett \$1665 St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$170

St. Patrick Mission

Mass will be held in the parking/street area just in front of the church. Please bring your own seat if possible because very few chairs will be available. Space is very limited. Mass will be a little shorter than normal, and everyone will stay in their spot until the end of mass. At that time Father will invite participants up to receive communion starting with the back row and **keeping 6ft apart at all times!** After communion, in an orderly manner, the parishioners will pick up their chairs and return directly to their cars.

St. Rose of Líma

Please bring your own seat and stay on the marked spots in front of the church. We will only be able to accommodate 25% of the space in the courtyard. Mass will be a little shorter than normal, and everyone will stay in their spot until the end of mass. At that time Father will invite participants up to receive communion starting with the back row and **keeping 6ft apart on the markings!** After communion, in an orderly manner, the parishioners will pick up their chairs and return directly to their cars.

As we prepare for Masses inside in the future, and to keep our outdoor Masses going, we just want to check in with all our ministers! To keep contact at a minimum Lectors, Ushers and the Welcome Committee are the members we need at this time. If you are part of any of these groups, please contact the office (510-787-2052) or talk to Father Leo when you see him to let us know how comfortable you are resuming these important duties!

For us to move inside eventually, we will also need some help in wiping down the pews and a few other items after Saturday and Sunday Masses. If anyone is willing to help, please call the office and let us know! We will not be able to have Mass indoors until we can train some volunteers to help with this.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

With the constant change that is occurring around us, the Diocese is still adhering to the following protocols:

- All social gatherings that can be rescheduled, postponed or cancelled, should be.
- All public Masses are suspended, or must be conducted outdoors with no more than 100 participants.

With this information, and the Contra Costa County announcement that in church services are currently not allowed. It has been verified that our outdoor Masses may continue, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS EVERYONE PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTION! SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED! Please follow these directions or we will discontinue Mass.

July Financial Outlook (St. Rose)

Expenses

Priest Salary	\$2656.36
Secretary Wages	\$1531.07
PG&E Classrooms	\$130.05
PG&E Church/Rectory	\$546.57
Comcast	\$212.16
Garbage	\$256.72
Health Insurance	\$1073.95
Taxes (IRS)	\$1066.70
EDD	\$107.27
EBMUD (Classrooms)	\$75.67
EBMUD (Church/Rectory)	\$410.27
Liability Payment	\$2572.13
Unemployment Compensation	\$15.28
Our Sunday Visitor (envelopes)	\$121.16
Clergy SERP (retirement)	\$ <u>1200.00</u>
	\$11975.36

Income

Sunday's Plate	\$4608.00
Holy Days	\$10.00
Donations	\$310.25
Maintenance	\$170.00
CCD Envelope	\$50.00
Interest from Diocese	\$884.12
	\$6032.37