

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 8, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The parable in the gospel from St. Matthew this weekend is quite clear. The house holder is God. The servants are the prophets. The son is Jesus. The story has to do with the hardheartedness or sinfulness of the people. Later in the gospel, Jesus exclaims, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you!" Jesus, God's beloved son receives the same treatment as the prophets who had preceded him. The prophet's messages fall on deaf ears. To the degree that the prophets are heard, they are rejected.

The story of Jesus, however, has a different ending to it. The rejected one has become the cornerstone in the new foundation.

St. Matthew's insight clearly reflects that of a Christian community after the resurrection. The crucified one has been vindicated, and the gospel, is now being preached to the Gentiles as well. St. Matthew understands the parable as referring to Jesus, Jesus understood in the light of the resurrection. Yet the heart of the parable is about servants of the Lord and the servant par excellence all murdered by the people.

What is it that leads people to respond to God's messengers in this way? Would you respond differently? Not much has changed. Injustice and violence mark the response of the tenants, most dramatically evident in the treatment they give to God's only son.

Why are injustice and violence such characteristic responses? And has much really changed? Are we any different from the rotten grapes of the prophet Isaiah's vineyard or the tenants in St. Matthew's parable? We would like to think so. But why do we continue as a people to support or tolerate nuclear arms buildup? Why are innocent people being shot? Are we less violent? Would we not do the same as the tenants in the gospel to someone who challenges us forcefully to live justly? Why does the call to justice disturb and threaten us so?

Both St. Matthew and the prophet Isaiah are teaching us about hardness of heart and ingratitude to God. We may well prefer not to see ourselves in the texts. Yet we are there. So much of the Bible and the teaching of Jesus long to turn our hearts of stone into

hearts of flesh. God, the compassionate one, longs for us to be compassionate as God is. Why should compassion be so difficult? Why are our immediate responses so often selfish and hostile? What is it in us that makes us proud of being tough?

We need compassion. Compassion is not weak. It takes strength. Compassion is not foolish. It reflects wisdom. God longs for us to be compassionate because compassion will save us. Compassion keeps us human.

We need not be like the tenants in the parable, rejecting the word of the Lord. Today we can allow ourselves to hear that word and act accordingly.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	October 10	11:00AM
Elliott Avery		Lolo & Lola
(birthday)		
Wed.	October 11	11:00AM
Tony Jacob †		Bernas Family
Thur.	October 12	11:00AM
Gloria Subocz		Lee Montesano
Fri.	October 14	11:00AM
Thanksgiving		
Sat.	October 15	4:30PM
Banaga Family		Bob† & Lydia
Sun.	October 16	9:00AM
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		11:00AM
Manuel Morales †		Your Children
* *************************************		
Sunday Collection - October 1st		
St. Rose, Crockett		\$2531

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

\$210

St. Patrick Mission

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH!

<u>Virtus Training</u>

If you have done your training in the last two years you are good. Please log onto virtusonline.org to sign in. If you are a new user, please start a new account. The website is https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus.

I know in the past many have expressed their feelings that this training does not pertain to them because they do not come into contact with any youth, but the program is not just for that. Virtus will help you learn how to see signs of abuse, how to help those who have been abused in the past and how to avoid creating an environment where abuse can happen. Taking these classes can help **ALL THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE AND SOCIETY!** It goes far beyond just our little parish and children.

If you are unsure of doing this at home, or don't have access to the internet, we are happy to have you come to the office and take the class on the computer here with help. Remember the online class does not have to be taken all at once; you may do it at your own pace.

NO MATTER WHAT POSTION YOU SERVE IN OUR PARISH, YOU NEED TO DO THIS TRAINING!

All Souls Mass

We will be celebrating our traditional All Souls Remembrance Mass on Saturday, November 4th at 10:30AM. If you want the names of your departed to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, please submit them (\$10 donation per name) by Wednesday November 1st (All Saint's Day)! We invite all that attend for some light refreshments after the mass. If you are able to donate some store-bought sweets, please let the

office know, 510-787-2052.

TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK FR. LEO FOR ALL HE DOES FOR THE CHURCH THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH. IT IS CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY!

I.C.F Crockett Branch #14



POLENTA & SAUSAGE DINNER October 21, 2023 at 6:00PM

St. Rose of Lima Hall

Tickets are \$25.00, and dine in and take out are both available. Dinner will include antipasto, salad, sausage, bread and dessert, and of course polenta! Wine also included for dine in. Great Raffle prizes too.... For tickets, please contact Donna Hoffman (510-367-5669 or Pat Botta (510-787-1131).

Coffee and Canvas

SATURDAY, October 14TH AT 10:00AM!!

Join us for a fun relaxing morning of carefree painting

and coffee! Enjoy a light breakfast and lunch while you get the chance to paint a simple canvas, guided by a wonderful instructor from our parish. And of course, there will be coffee!! All of this for \$30, plus your painting to take home as a memento. Set some time aside for yourself; all are welcome!

Sign-ups in the vestibule.

October Mass Count

Not many may realize it, but every October the Diocese asks its parishes to count the number of participants at each weekend mass for every week. We thought it was time to make sure that all our parishioners are aware of this! So, now is a great time to check in on those you

time to check in on those you may not have seen at Mass for a while and encourage them back, invite someone new to come along or even just try to carve

edule to make it to

out some time in your busy schedule to make it to one of the masses yourself! Our counts will start next weekend.