

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

depends upon the soft winds

of companionship and the

cool refreshment of food and drink. You know that you need help.

Imagine yourself alone in death valley. It is summer. The sun keeps pressing its heat relentlessly through your skin to the muscles, organs, and bones of your body; and the dry winds keep taking your breath away. All about you, you notice bones, bones parched by the sun and wind, the bones of those who have succumbed to the dryness and death of the desert. You are bewildered, almost delirious, as you grow faint. You are alone, weary and hot, hungry and thirsty. Finally exhausted, you begin to dream of restful shade and cool breezes across your hot forehead. And you know, know surely, that your very life

The prophet Ezekiel knew it, knew it long before the coming of Jesus. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.E., he imagined Israel in its captivity and exile as dry bones strewn in a desert. And he dreamt of a time when a cool breeze, the refreshing breath of God, the Spirit of God, would breathe life into the bones. Even graves would be opened, and the people would be restored. Israel would live again, at peace, in their own land. After all, God had promised help, and God's promises are sure.

The apostle St. Paul knew that we needed help. He knew it because of Israel. And he knew it because of Jesus. For St. Paul, the choice is between the dry desert of the flesh and the refreshing oasis of the Spirit. Life in the Spirit is life with others, life where we are helped, life where we gladly share food and drink. The ultimate choice, the choice between life and death, is the choice between the death of separation and and abandonment and the life of fellowship.

And Lazarus knew it. The story of Lazarus, as the gospel of St. John tells it, is detailed and vivid. It is a story of illness and death, of burial and resurrection. Told as a sign of Jesus' power, it includes the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept." And in it we know the compassion of Jesus. Yet at its heart is the message that Jesus, like Moses is engaged in God's work of helping. And the goal, if you move on to the rest of the story, is the meal which Jesus shares with Mary and Martha

and Lazarus. For Jesus, as for Moses, life finds its possibility and its meaning in a feast. We are helped by, and towards a table.

God helps, yes. And we help too! Our efforts are a part of God's plan. They always are. Mercifully, history is filled with the stories of those whose efforts have helped. Moses, Ezekiel, Jesus, Mary, Martha, and countless generations of the faithful, both men and women. And now, God wants our help.

Now, especially, just now, as we near this season of Lent, when many, old and young are coming from death of the desert to the new life in Christ, God welcomes our help. For many whose lives we may touch, what we do may be a matter of life and death, death and life. Life together in Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

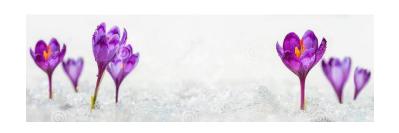
Tues.	January 31	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Wed.	February 1	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Thur.	February 2	11:00AM
Jessica Ouk		Ma & Pa
Fri.	February 3	11:00AM
Thomas Wolthuis †		Roxene
Sat.	February 4	4:30PM
Bill Valli †		Bruce & Gina
Sun.	February 5	9:00AM
Matt Airoldi †		Bill & Diane
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		

Sunday Collection - January 29th

St. Rose, Crockett \$1902

St. Patrick Mission \$240

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



Tax Time

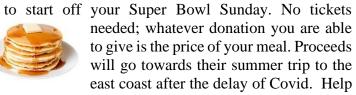
If you need a copy of your contributions for 2022. please call the office (510-787-2052). Leave your name, phone number and



address (if it has changed) and we will be happy to help out.

Pancake Breakfast

The Crockett Scouts' annual pancake breakfast is Sunday, February 12th from 8-11AM. Come enjoy a hot breakfast



send these boys and girls to Washington D.C this summer. Come out and support our Crockett Scouts, Troop 171 and 173!

Coffee and Canvas

Sunday, February 19TH AT 10:10AM!!

WE ARE BACK!



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.

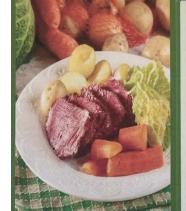
FUNDRAISER

CROCKETT LIONS CLUB

Neil Desmond Memorial

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER





Dine in

Saturday February 11, 2023

St. Rose Hall 555 3rd Ave, Crockett

Dinner includes Corned Beef, Potato, Carrots, Cabbag

925) 381-5486

\$15 for Children under 12