

Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The woman working in the giftw-wrap department neatly made the final fold in the red paper, fastened it with a piece of tape, and passed the package back over the counter to the customer. As she did, she glanced at the long line of people waiting with Christmas gifts to be wrapped, each person burdened with items hastily purchased and wearing that strained and impatient "I'm tired" and-in a hurry look." To no one in particular, and to everyone in general, she sighed, "Isn't it terrible what's happened to Christmas?"

We know of course, what she meant. The birth of Jesus Christ, the coming into our world of the Word made flesh, what the writer of Titus calls, "the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior," all of this has been nearly lost beneath the mad rush of buying and wrapping, fighting traffic, standing in line, and beating the deadline at the post office. We no longer count the days of Advent, but rather the "shopping days until Christmas." The angels' song "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace," is now a merchandising background music heard through a tiny department store speaker, surrounded by the ringing of cash registers. "Isn't it terrible," she sighed, "what's happened to Christmas?" "Yes" we say, "It's terrible, if only we could get back to the real meaning of Christmas."

When we talk about getting back to the "real" meaning of Christmas, what we mean, of course, is the religious": meaning. After all, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Christmas is about what God in Christ is doing in and for the world, the joy, the grace, and the hope for peace which the birth

of Jesus brings into our lives. These are religious convictions, spiritual truths., and Christmas is a holy day. It seems to us to be a sad failure that Christmas must now take place in a materialistic environment which obscures its genuine splendor. Small wonder that we yearn to go back to the real, and religious meaning of Christmas.

As strange as it may sound, though, whenever we think this was, whenever we long to have a Christmas as pure and as holy and as innocent as the scenes on our Christmas cards, we run the danger of missing the whole point of Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas is that God entered the real world of flesh and blood in Jesus Christ.

So, next time we hear the angels' song being sung above our heads as we push our shopping carts down the discount store aisle, we can know this was the way the world first heard that music, as it went about its

weary and worldly business. And as we look around us at the long lines and the people whose eyes their many burdens, glimpsing the tired clerk as she pushes back her perspiration -



soaked hair, we can know that the news of Christmas is truly for them, and for us, too."To you is born this day a Savior."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	December 27	11:00AM	
Dorita Villar †		Villar Family	
(birthday)			
Wed.	December 28	11:00AM	
Bill Valli †		ICF #14	
Thur.	December 29	11:00AM	
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae	
Fri.	December 30	11:00AM	
Matt Airoldi †	December 60	Gallo Family	
Co4	December 21	4.20DM	
Sat.	December 31	4:30PM	
Deborah Ghirardo †		Bill & Diane	
Sun.	January 1st	9:00AM	
People of the Parish			
Port Costa		11:00AM	
People of the Parish			
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Sunday Collection - December 18th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1980
Flowers/Decorations	\$479
St. Patrick Mission	\$100
Flowers/Decorations	\$66

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

New Year's Schedule

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR)

Usual weekend schedule Saturday, December 31st at 4:30 PM Sunday, January 1 9:00AM St. Rose Crockett 11:00 AM St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa



CURZZXEUNOMN YMWIHFRAPEACEGW

MYRRH

PEACE

JESUS SAVIOR JOSEPH SHEPHERE MANGER **FRANKINCENSE** WISE MEN

GIFTS

GOLD

ANGEL

BABY

ANIMALS

BETHLEHEM



Christmas Concert



Thank you to all who made this year's Christmas Concert a success. Through donations and ticket sales, the parish collected \$2,265. This will greatly help with the many needs of St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission.



Office Closed

The office will be closed Monday, December 26th – Tuesday, January 3rd! If anything comes up, please leave a message or send an email, these will be checked in the middle of the week.