

January 10, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

There was no need for Jesus to be baptized by St. John for he is God's beloved Son, the spotless lamb of God whom John will soon proclaim as the One who will take away all sins from fallen humankind. But his purpose in descending into the waters is twofold.

First, he has always submitted to the Law as a true Israelite and how he wishes to humble himself before the eyes of all and receives the baptism of St. John the Baptist. Like all the rest, he allows them to think him to be also a sinner. In reality, he is taking all humankind with him and plunging it into his Paschal



Mystery. The sinless One embodies in himself all humankind, so as to cleanse them from defilement. The bystanders see Jesus of Nazareth as a sinner like themselves, but in reality, he is the Lamb covered with the sins of humankind, though spotless and sinless himself.

But water is not the only symbol of cleansing. It is chiefly the sign of new life. Without water, the life of plants and animals and even human beings eventually dies. But with water, life comes again. Even in the Book of Genesis (Genesis 1:2) the author sees living creatures first emerging from waters. (For him, only creatures with blood were considered living.) Jesus descends into the water to sanctify it, as the sacred element which he will designate for the rebirth of all humankind, the sacred sign of Christian baptism. In the waters that Jesus has sanctified, all who accept him will be born anew with a rebirth that is marvelous, making humankind the very child of God.

Second, in baptism, the child is immersed into a totally new atmosphere, that of the Most Blessed Trinity. This is the Christian atmosphere which surrounds and envelops every one reborn in Christ. Again, the Father looks down, and says of the newly baptized child: "This is my beloved child, my favor rests on him". Again, the Spirit comes to possess the newly baptized, and dwell in it as in his Holy Temple. He is the Spirit of love and mercy, of gentleness and purity, all of which is symbolized by the image of the dove. Impelled by that Spirit, which is the identical Spirit of Jesus, the Christian's aim in life is to spread

the fragrance of the Christ-life, which is that of love and mercy, gentleness and purity of heart.

The Feast of Our Lord's Baptism ought to reawaken in us the earnest desire to appreciate our own baptism and carry out faithfully our baptismal commitment. This we can only do with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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

<u>- ()</u>		
Tues.	January 12	N/A
Special Intentions		
Wed.	January 13	N/A Mariano Family
Carolina O. Mariano		Iariano Family
(birthday/thanksgivi	<i>C</i> ,	
Thur.	January 14	N/A
Robert Pallotta †		ICF #14
Fri.	January 15	N/A
Joe Quiapo †	Combong Family	
Sat.	January 16	4:30PM
People of the Parish		
Sun.	January 17	9:00AM
Albert & David Ponti †		Franca
Port Costa		11:00AM
Robert Pallotta †	Mr. &	Mrs. Donald
+ +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	*****************	Angotti
<u>Sunday Collec</u>	tion-Jani	uary 3
St. Rose, Crockett	-	\$1498
St. Patrick Mission	, Port Costa	\$130

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

No Indoor Mass!!!

At this time, Contra Costa County has called for outdoor Mass at both St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission! We are still working on a plan, especially for Christmas. Father Leo is considering returning back to distributing Communion as we were doing earlier in the summer months if people are not comfortable with outdoor Mass due to the cold weather. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU FEEL; IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Masses

For our Christmas Masses at St. Rose, Father Leo was able to celebrate the Mass on the altar while we shared in the mass from our cars in the parking lot through the radio and a projected image. While this is still not the mass experience we are all missing, it is what is necessary to keep our parish and community safe. We would really like to know how our parishioners felt about this? As an older parish we have found that many of our parishioners were not fulfilled with Masses being streamed online., so we are trying to be creative! It is all a work in progress, that takes many hands, so for now Father will do Mass from the balcony of the church, just inside the vestibule, facing the parking lot. Please tune to 88.7FM to hear Father say Mass. After Mass is completed, we ask that those who would like to receive communion please DRIVE to the drive way in front of the church and continue to drive in as though you are going to drive down the drive way past the hall. Father Leo will be outside waiting to give communion. As your car approaches where he is, please turn your car off, make sure your mask is on and approach Father Leo for communion. After communion, please return to your car and proceed down the drive way. We are working on having a screen back so that Father can again be on the altar.

Scarves

Runette has been kind enough to donate her time in making some scarves like the ones offered at the Christmas Boutique last year. If anyone is interested in purchasing some (\$15 each) to keep you or your family warm they are available in the rectory Mon- Fri from 8:30AM-2:00PM.

<u> December Fínancial Outlook</u>		
St. Rose		
Expense:		
Priest Salary	\$2556.36	
Secretary Salary	\$2091.18	
Priest Food Reimbursement	\$357.31	
PG&E Classrooms	\$190.28	
PG&E Church/Rectory	\$540.32	
Comcast	\$212.91	
Garbage	\$256.72	
Health Insurance	\$1065.48	
Taxes (IRS)	\$1051.07	
EDD	\$105.55	
Liability	\$5144.26	
Assessment 4 th payment	\$3715.00	
Total	\$17286.44	
Income:	φ17200:11	
Sunday's Plate	\$5920.00	
Donations	\$7700.00	
Maintenance	\$700.00	
CCD Envelope	\$195.00	
Facility Use (Parking lot lease)	\$300.00	
Facility Use (Little Roses)	\$1320.00	
Holy Days (Saints, Souls, Imm.Con		
Christmas	\$5125.00	
<u>Total</u>	\$21625.00	
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St. Patrick Mission		
Expense:	ф.40 2 .66	
Liability	\$492.66	
PG&E	\$51.88	
Water	\$110.72	
Biannual reimb. admin costs	\$1250.00	
Assessment 4 th payment	\$392.00	
Kel-Aire (heater)	\$340.00	
<u>Total:</u>	\$2637.26	
Income:	фо. 12 .00	
Sundays Plate	\$942.00	
Maintenance	\$30.00	
CCD Envelope	\$20.00	
Christmas	\$585.00	
Immaculate Conception	\$10.00	
Solemnity of Mary	\$55.00	
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1642.00</u>	

In your prayers, please remember in a special way Geraldine (Gerry) Rose.