

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The death of Jesus has been referred to by some as a tragedy. In no sense was it such. In ancient Greek tragedy, a man was thought of as being on a wheel of fortune. Once he had risen to the top, the gods spun the wheel to bring the man back to the bottom. The tragic hero was hurled to destruction by an inexorable fate. As presented by William Shakespeare, tragedy was also the fall of a hero, but his fall was brought about through his own fault, because of a flaw in his character – which critics have come to call the tragic flaw. For example, Macbeth's tragic flaw was his "vaulting ambition," a fault cleverly manipulated by Lady Macbeth, and which led to his destruction.

Jesus was certainly a hero, but his death was only an apparent fall. Moreover, his death was brought on neither by an inexorable fate nor by any flaw in his character. Rather, it was the result of a supreme virtue, his loving obedience to his father. On Good Friday Jesus was in the eyes of men a failure, but in the eyes of God, he had completed a life of perfect success because of his loving obedience. The death of Jesus was only an apparent tragedy.

On Easter Sunday, God the Father in raising Jesus from the dead, manifested to the whole world the fact that the death of his Son was a great triumph. As we hear in the letter to the Philippians, "Because of this (that is his loving obedience unto death), God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every other name." It was precisely because of his obedient death that God the Father exalted Jesus. In other words, the triumph of Jesus came through his apparent tragedy. Through his death he rose to his throne in heaven as king.

In Christ's triumphant procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people hailed him as king, but they did so for the wrong reason. They were enthusiastic in their shouts of praise because they thought his reign would be nationalistic, political and within the immediate future. They wanted a king who would win an earthly kingdom through

war, not a king who would gain a heavenly kingdom through death. And so, on God Friday the inscription on the Cross, "This is the King of the Jews," was one of mockery, not praise.

In this weekend's liturgy, we hail Christ as or King but we must make sure that we do so for the right reason. He has not promised worldly peace that can be obtained from nationalistic security, but a spiritual peace which comes from imitating his loving obedience to God. He has proposed no political character that would ensure material prosperity, but a way of living that guarantees eternal happiness in heaven.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

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Tues.	April 12	11:00AM
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Wed.	April 11	11:00AM
Pax Lacsina†	7	Lacsina Family
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Thur.	April 12	7:00PM
Holy Thursday		
Regina Lemy		Mom
Fri.	April 13	12:00PM
Not full mass		
Rosela Villanueva	1	Lily Militar
(birthday)	4	
Sat.	April 14 📗	7:30PM
Easter Vigil	7	
Clare Alvarado†		Jensen Family
412		
Sun.	👛 April 15	9:00AM
Easter Sunday	-	-
People of the Parish		
F		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		_
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Sunday Collection - April 3		
•	-	
St. Rose, Cro	ockett	\$2289

Thank you again to all who support our Parish

St. Patrick Mission

<u>Upcoming Projects</u>



Some of you may remember a couple years ago before Covid, though it feels like eons, we had the air conditioning unit for the church serviced and found that one of the air compressors was no longer working. The repair was

put on hold due to cost, which was then compounded by Covid. As we resurface and begin to move forward, our Maintenance Committee has put this project at the top of a long list of things to do. KelAire came out to take a fresh look at the unit and give us new quotes for repair and replacement. The Pastoral Council reviewed these quotes and felt that replacement, for \$5,980 was the best choice, especially since the unit is from the late

90's. With this in mind, we are asking parishioners if they would consider donating specifically to this project so that we can hopefully reach the goal of \$6,000! We hope to have the system up and running in a couple months.



RCIA

We have two RCIA candidates this year, who have made the time to meet with Father Leo every week to more fully become part of our Catholic Church. We invite any who would like to renew their own Baptismal promises and welcome our candidates as they receive their sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass, this Saturday April 14th at 7:30PM.

Confirmation



\$495

Please join us Saturday, April 23rd at the 4:30 Vigil Mass to celebrate our young Confirmation candidates receiving this sacrament. They have worked for two years, through all the ups and downs of Covid to achieve this goal!



<u>Parish Mission (Renewal) at St.</u> Callistus Church

Fr. John Mark Ettensohn, OMI of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate will conduct a three-day Parish Mission (Renewal) at St. Callistus Church, 3580 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante CA 94803, from April 10 through Tuesday, April 12. The faith community of St. Callistus would be most happy to have you and your friends as their guests for this grace-filled event. The principal powerful message will be at 7:00 p.m. each evening. For more information, please call the St. Callistus Parish Office at 510.223.1153.

