



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

People want to get the most out of their money. They invest it where it can bring them their highest interest. They take chances on the lottery, hoping that by a small amount they can win a large sum. They purchase shares that promise the best dividends. Years ago, when Xerox duplicating machines came on the market, those who bought up shares for a moderate price, soon became the recipients of large returns because of the giant strides that Xerox had made in a short period of time. Small amounts produced big dividends.

It is worthy of note that in this weekend's Gospel scene, Jesus does not create the food to nourish the immense crowd, but asks first of all from a contribution from his own. A little lad had brought along five barley loaves and two fish. Presumably he had not only intended to nourish himself but also to sell them to others. But when asked to give them to Jesus, he sacrificed both his own nourishment as well as the proceeds he would have obtained by selling the rest. It was a relatively small thing that he gave up, but he made the total sacrifice of it and kept nothing back. What must have been his immense surprise when Jesus fed the great throng of five thousand with five loaves and two fish! How glad he was then to have made the sacrifice. Not only was he himself nourished fully but he was instrumental in feeding that vast crowd. One loaf fed a thousand! What dividends!



and two fish! How glad he was then to have made the sacrifice. Not only was he himself nourished fully but he was instrumental in feeding that vast crowd. One loaf fed a thousand! What dividends!

This is the way the Lord works. He asked us for a small contribution, a small sacrifice of our time, talent or treasure, only to reward it with divine bounty and munificence. He asked the Samaritan woman for merely a drink of water (John 4), but imparted knowledge of the Living Water (the Spirit); he brought her step by step to a conversion from her sinful life to acknowledge her need to a Messiah. Then finally, he granted to her the supreme revelation that he himself was the Messiah., King of Israel, something he had shown reluctance to do even to Israel's great ones. What dividends she got from merely sharing a drink of water! Nor was that all. She became the instrument of evangelization for all her townsmen and women.

When the Lord asks for a contribution of our time, talent or our treasure, he is never outdone in generosity. He told us in the Gospel: "Give, and it shall be given

to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will they pour into the fold of your garment." (Luke 6:38). It is a proven fact that those who sacrifice themselves for others are blessed by God with deep inner happiness. In the words of Dr. Tom Dooley, who worked unremittingly for thousands of unfortunate people in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and other places; "The only way a man can achieve happiness is to strive for the happiness of others."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues. July 27 11:00AM
David Ponti † Mom

Wed. July 28 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Thur. July 29 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Fri. July 30 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Sat. July 31 4:30PM
Gene & Luis Chito Villar Family (Thanksgiving)

Sun. August 1 9:00AM
People of the Parish

Port Costa 11:00AM
Special Intentions



Sunday Collection - July 18

Table with 2 columns: Location and Amount. Rows include St. Rose, Crockett (\$1765), Bishops Appeal (\$210), St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa (\$260), Bishops Appeal (\$8).

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Mass Changes!!! PLEASE READ

We are all excited as the State of California has lifted the color tier system!

Our Churches no longer have government-restrictions on capacity, and many of the practices we have come to see as normal are ending. With this in mind though we must remember that we still need to do our part to keep everyone safe.

- Fully vaccinated persons no longer need to wear masks; and no one is required to wear masks outdoors.
Social distancing is not required, though we do ask to keep others in mind as we work our way back to "normal."
Although the Diocese has okayed the use of worship aids, such as the missalettes, it is still recommended to stick to single use items. As there is no good way to clean the missalettes and prayer cards without wearing them down St. Rose/St. Patrick will not be setting these back out just yet.
The Sign of Peace will still be without physical contact.

The Oakland Dioceses is still following the recommendations of the CDC and Contra Costa Health Services. For a letter from the Bishop, and a full list of the updated guidelines regarding the Oakland Diocese, please visit:

https://www.oakdiocese.org/news/message-from-bishop-barber-concerning-june-15-2021-covid-19-updates-eng-esp

Liturgical Ministers

Calling all Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Greeters!!!

Now that Masses are mostly back to our old normal, we would like to invite all those listed above to participate in Mass again. Let us know when we can add you back to the schedule. Please call the office, 510-787-2052, and let us know either way.

We greatly thank those who have stepped up during the pandemic and made sure these roles were always covered. It is time to mix some new voices back in!

New Project!!!

Many may not realize it, but behind our church buildings there are several nice sized areas for gardening. Over the last few months Father Leo has taken the time to amend the soil in these areas and began planting various bulbs, tubers and seeds. His hope is that he will be able to create a sustainable source of flowers for our altar so that we do not need to purchase as many as we decorate throughout the seasons. Many of the plants are beginning to poke their heads up above the soil, and some are starting to leaf!



We would like to involve our parishioners in this process, so any words of advice, including what cut flowers may do well, are greatly appreciated. Any donations of excess bulbs, plants, dirt, etc. would also be very kind. This is a great project that could bring us together and help us become a little more self-sufficient!

