Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 12, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The Mass is so rich that we do not seem to be able to settle on a single designation. The Mass is the bloody sacrifice of the cross, it is the Lord's Supper it is the living memorial of the Paschal Mystery, it is the sacrament of the death and resurrection of Christ, it is truly his body given up for us and truly his blood poured out for us, it is the pledge of resurrection to eternal life. Amid all these splendid indications of the Mass, many priests and people since the Second Vatican Council have settled on one word, and that word is "Eucharist."

"Eucharist" is from a Greek verb used in the new Testament which can be translated as "to give thanks." It involves more than the gratitude which we owe at times to our fellow human beings since it concerns our relationship with God. For this reason when the priest says, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," in the Preface before Consecration during Mass, the response is "It is right and just." (In the old Missal the response is "It is right to give him thanks and praise.") Adding the word "praise" alerts us to the truth that we are offering thanks to God. We are recognizing our relationship to our Father in heaven who is also our Lord and God.

To remember to give thanks is beautiful; to forget to do so is ugly. When only one of the ten lepers who had all been cured came back praising God in a loud voice, Jesus asked "Where are the other nine?" We can almost hear the note of disappointment in his voice. But we need not disappoint Jesus and his Father. Remember that the Mass is our Eucharist, our thanksgiving to God.

We all have our own reasons to offer thanks to God in the Mass. Today we may wish to thank God for the gift of life in a new baby, or the blessing of health restored to an elderly person. We may want to thank God for employment after a long lay off, for the resolution of an old family argument, or for the graciousness of a devoted friend. Every Sunday, we need to reflect on our personal motives for thanksgiving but then we should remember that it is right always and everywhere to give thanks to God simply because God is God. Thanksgiving expresses our relationship with God.

In the First Reading this weekend, thanksgiving is what Naaman the Syrian wanted to offer to God. He was cleansed of leprosy by bathing seven times in the waters of the Jordan River. He asked for two loads of the earth of Israel so that he could build an altar upon it in Syria, his home, in order to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. His experience is a symbol of our baptism. We have been washed clean in the waters of baptism and had been given a share in the priesthood of Christ. Baptism calls us to be a people who worship God, who offer him thanks and praise. But we need no special soil, no particular location, for the offering of thanks and praise to God. For us it is right and just always and everywhere to give thanks to God, and we have the means to do so in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 14**	**11:00AM**
NO MASS		
Wed.	**October 15**	**11:00AM**
NO MASS		
Thur.	**October 16**	**11:00AM**
NO MASS		
Fri.	**October 17**	**11:00AM**
NO MASS		
Sat.	**October 18**	**4:30PM**
Curtis Cook†		John & June Valentini
Sun.	**October 19**	**9:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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