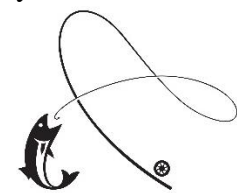




From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When I was Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in El Cerrito, my Pastor loves fishing. Once a year he and his friends would travel to Baja, Mexico or Alaska to fish. Honestly I am not a fan of this sport or recreation, whatever you may call it. The odds against catching a fish seem enormous. There you are in a boat, in the middle of a lake, surrounded by a huge expanse of water, into which you drop a tiny little hook. Fish have so much space and depth in which to swim and feed. That it should find and bite your little hook seem incredible. It is not as if you could see them, track them down into a narrow inlet and drop your hook within inches of your prey.



I've always been fascinated by the number of references to fish in the gospel. In St. Matthew's gospel, Christ's says: "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind." When he miraculously fed the multitude he used fish as well as bread. He even found the money to pay his taxes in the mouth of a fish. Fish figured so prominently in the Gospel that the early Christians in Rome chose the symbol of a fish to designate their tombs in the catacombs. The letter which make up the Greek word for fish, "ichtus" can to signify "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior".

There were a lot of other people in Palestine in the time of Our Lord Jesus besides fishermen. Yet when it came to picking his apostles, he showed a marked preference for them. He made 'the big fisherman' Simon Peter, their head. And he reserved his special miracles, such as the transfiguration and the raising to life of the little girl, only for him and his two fishing partners, St. James and St. John.

"Put out into deep water." he told St. Peter. St. Peter knew, as every fisherman knows, that fish only feed in shallow waters. Jesus was testing him. After a whole night covering the best feeding- grounds on the lake, it was asking a lot. But St. Peter complied, almost as if to humor Jesus. His compliance was amply rewarded. More importantly, he had passed the test. "From now on"; Christ told him, "it is men you will catch." (Or as St. Mark phrased it, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people.")

The one virtue, above all others, that fishermen need, is the virtue of hope. To cast a small hook into a large expanse of water in the expectation of catching a fish, is an act of hope. And to do it time after time, hour after hour without catching anything, without even the tiniest bite, is to hope beyond hope. It was the one virtue Christ needed in the person he chose to lead his followers. He was, as history has shown, launching St. Peter into very deep waters indeed. But he knew what Tielhard de Chardin expressed almost two thousand years later, that "the world belongs to him who will give it its greatest hope."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. February 11 (Thanksgiving), Wed. February 12 (Natalie Bañaga), Thur. February 13 (Angela Rubang), Fri. February 14 (Valentino A. Lacsina), Sat. February 15 (Saturday Choir), Sun. February 16 (Vincent & Noel Buenafior), and Port Costa.



Sunday Collection -February 2nd

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. Rows include St. Rose, Crockett (\$2482), Faith Formation (\$338), St. Patrick Mission (\$240), Faith Formation (\$73).

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

***In able to meet our 2025 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. ***



St. Rose Fish Fry!

We

know it may seem early, but it is time to start planning our annual Fish Fry! Please mark the date on your calendars, Friday, April 11th!



FUNDRAISER CROCKETT LIONS CLUB Neil Desmond Memorial CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER. Includes details about the event, ticket prices, and contact information for John Cameron.

Valentines

St. Valentine's Day is not only about candy and cards; it's a day rich in history and fascinating facts. Here are some intriguing tidbits to learn and share:

First Celebration: The very first Valentine's Day celebration was held in the year 496, making it a tradition that's been around for more than 1,500 years!

Patron Saint of Beekeepers: St. Valentine is known as the patron saint of beekeepers, promoting a sweet life and offering protection against bee stings.

Relics in Dublin: The relics of St. Valentine can be found in the Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland, a place where people from all over the world gather to honor the saint.

Multiple Valentines: There might have been more than one St. Valentine! The Roman Catholic Church recognized different individuals with the name Valentine, all celebrated on February 14th.



SHOES

St. Rose will continue to collect shoes for the unhoused since it was so successful. Please remember that we really need shoes that will be warm, as well as useful in the outdoors, i.e. boots, sneakers, casual shoes, etc.

Thank you!



Council Induction

As we have started the new year, there have been some changes in our Finance and Pastoral Council memberships. At next Sunday's Mass at St. Rose, Father will would like to recognize the current Finance and Parish council members with a small induction ceremony.