Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 13, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

On Good Friday people flock to the churches, and rightly so. They know how important to our religion is the death of Jesus on the cross. On Easter Sunday even larger crowds fill the churches, and rightly so. People recognize that the celebration of the Lord's resurrection has special meaning. But regular church goers notice that after Easter the crowds at Mass grow smaller.

Regular church goers are often tempted to ask, "Where are they the rest of the year?" Judgments we must leave to God, but we should reflect on our instinctive recognition that every Sunday is important to us as Catholics and that the Mass should be a regular part of Sunday so that we may celebrate our salvation. In fact, the Church teaches that Sunday is the first holy day of all from a tradition which has been handed down from the apostles. Catholics on Sunday without the Mass are like members of an orchestra without their instruments. Neither can fulfill their purpose. Our purpose on Sunday is to celebrate the events of our salvation.

These events, which are the death and resurrection of Jesus, transpired over a period of three days, but now they are one reality which the Church calls the Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery was the whole purpose for the coming of the Son of God into our world. From all eternity the Father had determined that sin and death would not frustrate his plan, that his Son would indeed save us from sin and death through his Paschal Mystery.

St. Luke presents Jesus in the Gospel as on a journey up to Jerusalem. His face is ever turned toward the Holy City since it was there that the prophecy Jesus himself uttered three times was to be fulfilled: "The Son of man must endure many sufferings... be put to death and then be raised up on the third day."

We acknowledge the meaning of the death of Jesus in our Eucharistic acclamation: "Dying you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life" When Jesus' side was pierced, water and blood poured forth. The ancient tradition of the Church sees in the water a symbol of baptism and in the blood a symbol of the Eucharist.

In another of our acclamation we say of our reception of the Eucharist, "When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory." Every Sunday we celebrate the Paschal Mystery which is a reality that has been uppermost in the mind of God from all eternity. We come to the Mass every Sunday to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**July 15**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**July 16**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**July 17**	**11:00AM**
Jhing Beunaflor-Roth (birthday)		Buenaflor- Roth Family
Fri.	**July 18**	**11:00AM**
Jocie D. Alba		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**July 19**	**4:30PM**
Alfonso Combong Sr.		Ed & Mae
Sun.	**July 20**	**9:00AM**
Shawn Duttenhefner		Buenaflor-Roth Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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