## From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Almost everyone knows the story of how in combat David, the youth, overcame Goliath, the giant. By doing so, David saved the Israelites from a terrible war with the Philistines. The victory won favor from the people of David, but hatred from King Saul. Saul convinced himself that David was his enemy and would try to usurp the throne. He tried without success to kill David. In this weekend's first reading, the tables are turned. David has the opportunity to kill the King, but out of respect for him as the Lord's anointed he refuses to do so. He actually forgives the King for his attacks upon him.

Where today do we find an example like that of David? Surely not among the politicians who assassinate each other with words and TV ads during every political campaign. We have an excellent model, however, in the person of the late Pope John Paul II (now St. John Paul II). After he had recovered from the blatant attack upon his life when he was shot in St. Peter's Square, one of the first things he did was to visit his assailant in prison and offer him forgiveness and reconciliation.

A man falsely accused the late Cardinal Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, of having molested him as a youth. The man soon recanted his preposterous story. It would have been understandable if the Cardinal had railed in indignation against his dishonest accuser. Rather the Cardinal sought him out to forgive him.

These are two extraordinary examples of forgiveness. But we look even beyond these two exemplary men to the person of Jesus. Jesus preached compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation as we learn in this weekend's Gospel. His teaching is very much the opposite of what we hear and see in our society. Jesus also practiced what he preached. Jesus looked out upon those who crucified him and prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing."

We must be a people who follow the teaching and the example of Jesus. We must be that way publicly and privately. For example, some Catholics do not agree with the Pope and the United States Catholic Bishops who are opposed to the death penalty. The Pope and the bishops see clearly that the execution of a human being reduces us to a barbaric

state from which the teachings of Jesus would lift us. It is time for Catholics to reflect the values of a vindictive society to embrace the principles of Christ. We must leave to God an appropriate punishment for capital crimes.

In every Mass, we hear the raging words of Christ: "This is the cup of my blood....It will be shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." Receiving Christ in Holy Communion, partaking of his blood shed for the sake of forgiveness, gives us the strength we need to be a people of forgiveness and reconciliation, and not of hatred and vindictiveness. We can and must be like Christ himself.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	February 25	11:00AM
Special Intentions		

Wed.	February 26	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
<b>7</b> 1	E.L	11.00 4 14

Thur.	February 27	11:00AM
Thanksgiving		Lacsina Alday
		Family
<u>Fri.</u>	February 28	11:00AM
Tony Jacob†		Your family
(death anniversary)		
<u>Sat.</u>	March 1	4:30PM
Sheila Elliott †		Bill & Diane
Sun.	March 2	9:00AM
Richard "lee" Lane †	Buitrago-	
		Cohoon Family
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		

People of the Parish



#### Sunday Collection - February 16th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1232
St. Patrick Mission	\$260

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. \*\*\*

# <u>SHOES</u>

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.



### <u>Tax Time</u>

If you need a copy of your contributions for 2024, please call the office (510-787-2052). Leave your name, phone number and



address (if it has changed) and we will be happy to help out.



After years of dedicated service, Mike Thomas will be retiring from maintaining the St. Rose grounds at the end of March. We thank him for all the hours that have been given from keeping the weeds at bay to battling the fruiting trees in the courtyard!

With that being said, any volunteers that would like to give some time with landscaping/yard maintenance are encouraged to let Father know! No one is expected to take all of this on by themselves, so even if you only want to give a few hours a month, please let us know.



## <u>Ash Wednesday</u>

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have mass here at St. Rose at11:00AM and 6:00PM. Also, this is an obligatory day of fasting (15- 58 years) and abstinence (15 and over). As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused.



### <u>Second Collection Next Weekend</u>

Next weekend's second collection is for our monthly collection. This month we are supporting our maintenance fund Thank you!

