



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Our identity is bound up with the God who addresses the ancient people of Israel, and with the one who questions his disciples at Caesaria Philippi. Yet God is revealed through the mystery of the mundane.

God is hidden within the mystery of a name: I AM. And God is hidden in the riddle of question: Who do you say that I am? Even a hymn of praise leaves us gaping at the wonder of God: "O the death of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable God's ways!"

Yet identity is revealed in the mystery of the mundane. As on a day at Caesaria Philippi. Where is Caesaria? It might be anywhere: it is especially where people suffer and cry for a savior.

Come! this word beckons us to mundane Caesaria. Caesaria is a world of wheelchairs. The corridors are full of them. Wheelchairs move in slow motion to the beat of once radical Beatles' tunes, poured like syrup from the Living Strings. Gray-haired bodies slump in chronological disfunction against designer decoration. Wilted bodies, enfeebled by a lifetime of two-legged exertion, roll themselves toward distant destinations. An appointment with the hairdresser is like a transcontinental trip. A visit to the physical therapist is like driving in Los Angeles, only more complicated. The traffic in the P.T. room makes the Ventura Freeway look like a child's play.

But we are here to worship. We have come for the Lord's Supper; lessons read, prayers prayed, a bit of bread and wine consumed. If even for a moment, the prayers have cleared the air. We are all alert and leaning toward Christ, his body and blood. Gnarled hands reach like limbs extended from the grave. Hands reach from death to grasp the bread of life. They are like nestling birds straining for sustenance from their mother's beak, aged children of the kingdom craning to get a bit of bread, a sip of wine. Some eyes shed tears: others shine with sparkling joy of a child's eyes on Christmas Eve. We are communing in the border country. We are in sight of the promised land, teetering somewhere between death and eternity. It is like celebrating the sacrament in some splendidly sacred place. It is like communing in Jerusalem amid glorious strains of the B Minor Mass. It is like heaven on earth.

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" St. Peter answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!" Then Jesus binds St. Peter's identity to God and the church: "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah: For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

As with St. Peter, our identity is not a matter of our own will, but of God's. When it comes to identity, St. Peter is no different from us. When recognition comes, it is God's doing. When faith comes, it is God's gift. Against this identity, death has no power.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time, Intention. Rows include Tues. August 29 (Jorgelia Quiapo), Wed. August 30 (Christian Lacsina), Thur. August 31 (Elyse Mathea), Fri. September 1 (Janice Ianne), Sat. September 2 (Sean Murphy), Sun. September 3 (Jorge, Tomasa, Jose and Manuel).

Port Costa 11:00AM
People of the Parish



Sunday Collection - August 20th

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. St. Rose, Crockett \$854; St. Patrick Mission \$1601

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



NO MASS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST!

Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation program will be starting on September 17th! Registration forms are available in the office.

CCD: and preparation for First Holy Communion every other Sunday at 10:15 AM (must be in 1st grade).

CONFIRMATION: This is a two-year formation program. Classes will be every other Sunday at 10:15AM and one weekday a month with Father Leo.

R.C.I.A. for those wanting to become Catholics. It is a two- year formation program for adults. Weekly meeting (TBA).

THANK YOU!



A heartfelt thank you to EVERYONE who made St. Patrick Mission's anniversary celebrations such a success. It was wonderful to have the mission almost full, and to recognize so many faces we haven't had the pleasure of seeing in a while. Thank you especially to our planning committee that came together and gave so much of their time and talents to make this a polished event. And we could not forget Phillips 66 and the Port Costa Conservation Society that supported this event and gave us a space to celebrate in.

If anyone has pictures or videos they would like to share, please email them to strosecrockett@comcast.net or just scan this QR code and upload your photos!



As Bishop Barber said:

"May St. Patrick's exist for another 125 years as the "domus Dei et porta coeli." The House of God, and the Gate of Heaven.

Save the Date

Sunday, November 19th, St. Rose of Lima will be having its Christmas Boutique! More details to come!



Christmas Boutique