

## March 20, 2022

## From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In the news, we are constantly learning of terrible tragedies throughout the world with big losses of life: the crash of a jetliner, a hurricane, an earthquake. These tragedies remind us of the ones mentioned in this weekend's gospel. Galileans slaughtered by Pilate and eighteen people killed by a falling tower. And like the people of our Lord's Day, maybe we are tempted to feel that victims of such sudden, unexpected tragedies are receiving just punishment for their sins.

But Jesus warns us, as he does frequently in the gospels, that it is not ours to judge other people and their guilt in the sight of God. No one but God really knows what is in the human heart. Rather than judge the victims of tragedies, we should turn their experience to our own profit by allowing the tragedy to remind us that we must face the eternal death of damnation unless we are truly repentant.

These days, fire and brimstone homilies or sermons are not popular, if ever they are really popular. No one likes to sit in church and hear dire predictions of eternal damnation hurled at his or her head by a pulpit-pounding preacher. After all, the people in church are there because they are trying to be good and want to please God. The people in church are not pagans or atheist or profligates. In comparison with many people, those present in church are living saints. Why should they hear about repentance?

The point is that we cannot afford to be complacent. Complacency leads to pride, and as someone has said, "Pride comes before the fall." St. Paul points out that God showed great favor toward his people in the exodus, and in the desert, he fed them miraculously. They knew they had been chosen by God. Nevertheless, in the desert they failed God. And that failure did not happen all of a sudden. They lulled themselves into a spirit of complacency in which they feel that all was in good order in their lives, that God would take care of them no matter what they did or did not do. They believed themselves, therefore, to be superior to other people, and from that dizzy height of pride, they fell into deep disfavor with God, who punished them severely.

We are the new chosen people. We have passed through a new exodus in our baptism. In the desert of this world we are fed with the body and blood of Christ. We are believers. We too cannot afford to be complacent. It is true that God is patient with us and



will give us many opportunities to improve ourselves. That is the meaning of the parable of the fig tree in this weekend's gospel. But notice that also Jesus warns that if the tree does not bear fruit in good time, then it will be cut down. We do not know how much

longer God will give to each one of us, but God does give us this season of Lent as a grace to be repentant.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	March 22	11:00AM
Marvin Edwardes		Olivia
Wed.	March 23	11:00AM
Christina Quiapo		Mom & Dad
Thur.	March 24	11:00AM
Mary Pagni†		Lena McCrossen
		& Lisa Ruggeri
<u>Fri.                                    </u>	March 25	11:00AM
Shirley Antonio †		Ed & Mae
Sat.	March 26	4:30PM
Ray Austria †		Olivia & Marvin
Sun.	March 27	9:00AM
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa		11:00AM

People of the Parish

Stations of the Cross are Friday after the 11:00AM Mass, approximately 11:30.



### Sunday Collection - March 13th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$2550
Bishop's Appeal	\$704
St. Patrick Mission	\$342
Bishop's Appeal	\$55

#### Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



# Lenten Word Search

G	Υ	Р	R	E	Р	Α	R	E	F	E	S	V	E
R	Κ	S	F	E	С	I	F	I	R	С	Α	S	F
I	D	С	S	Ι	Н	0	L	Υ	W	Ε	Ε	Κ	G
С	Υ	N	N	Ε	Р	U	R	Р	L	Ε	S	Т	0
С	Р	Р	S	Ι	N	Т	Ε	S	N	N	S	N	0
Р	Ε	N	Α	N	С	Е	Ε	0	0	F	F	R	D
N	R	L	Р	0	I	Н	V	I	N	I	Ε	R	F
0	F	L	G	R	S	I	Т	I	I	S	G	Ι	R
Ε	0	F	S	Α	Α	Α	R	G	G	Н	I	0	I
R	U	С	Н	I	Т	Υ	Ε	Υ	I	R	R	G	D
Ε	G	T	I	S	S	I	Ε	R	R	٧	0	N	Α
С	R	0	S	S	D	S	G	R	I	Α	I	F	Υ
Α	Н	S	Ε	Α	S	0	N	R	R	Ε	С	N	S
G	N	Ι	Т	S	Α	F	F	0	R	T	Y	S	G

### Parish Council

Reminder, parish council meeting next Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm in the hall.



# Special Second Collection

Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's Love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at <a href="https://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief">www.usccb.org/catholic-relief</a>.

ASHES PENANCE GOOD FRIDAY GIVING CROSS FORTY **PREPARE** HOLY WEEK FORGIVENESS FISH **PRAYER** PURPLE SACRIFICE SEASON **FASTING** STATIONS