

November 4, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

Memorial of St. Leo the Great: The memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church was Friday, November 10. It has been our custom not only to claim this day as our parish feast day but also to remember the founding of this parish. Our parish was founded in the month of November in 1886, this is our 131st year. We were founded by German immigrants and today, we like to say, that we are being renewed and reshaped still by immigrants but from other countries.



One of the many acts of God, with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, is to welcome the stranger. Isn't it great that from the moment of its founding until the present, St. Leo has been a place where God has been welcoming the stranger and bringing forth new life? Let us give thanks for God's goodness to us through the years and celebrate the new life that we have in the Lord and in the faith that we are so blessed to share with each other.

Something about our Patron Saint: St. Leo was born in Rome in the fifth century. He died in 461. It is ironic that the life of our parish is centered in welcoming the stranger when as Pope, St. Leo spent much of his time keeping the stranger out of Rome! There was much turmoil during his time as pope. Invasions by barbarians were frequent and St. Leo was known for protecting Rome from being ravaged by these invasions. Once, St. Leo was even able to divert Attila the Hun from attacking Rome. He was also very good at defending the faith against numerous heresies and offering the new life of faith pastorally to others. Let us ask St. Leo to intercede to God for us with protection for the evils that still attack and plague our church, neighborhood and world. Let us ask him to intercede to God for us with growth, dependence and faithfulness to God's will and way of love.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: On November 18, the universal church will recognize the World Day of the Poor, the same weekend as our annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the national, anti-poverty campaign of the U.S. Bishops. CCHD has been an immeasurable blessing for thousands in our Archdiocese over the years. Just this past year, the agencies funded by CCHD have empowered more than 2,500 low-income people to break the cycle of poverty through such feats as finding jobs, responsibly reentering society after prison, educating youth, and securing decent housing and public services for their communities. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr appeals to the faithful this year: "Through the grants we make to well-vetted organizations, CCHD uniquely empowers those in poverty to identify their own needs and to become their own agents of positive change." Please prayerfully and generously consider how you will give on Collection Weekend, November 17 -18. Your dollars are making real change! Visit www.usccb.org/cchd to learn more. Also check out the Archdiocesan CCHD website for more local information: www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction.

Mass on Thanksgiving Day is 10am and immediately after in our church hall, there will be a Thanksgiving Dinner for the whole parish. Our friends from St. Susanna Parish in Mason, Ohio are preparing 25 turkeys with all the side dishes and trimmings. Please plan to join us for Mass in Thanksgiving for God's goodness and generosity. Even if you have plans for thanksgiving, come for Mass and just stop by afterwards for a light snack and especially if you are looking for a place to go for thanksgiving, this is your home and the place to be. We have so much to be thankful for and one blessing is to pray together, share some food and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to St. Susanna for their wonderful generosity and kindness.