

St. Leo the Great

February 2019 Newsletter



Spreading the Good News of God's Love . . .

. . . in our parish . . .



Pedro Bernardo, who serves as head of the Hispanic charismatic group at St. Leo is one of 16 graduates of the first Archdiocesan Latino catechetical certification program *Camino Con Cristo*, a 2 ½ year on-line course of studies to prepare participants for parish ministry.

According to Dina Beach of the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, who coordinates the program,

Camino Con Cristo forms and empowers leaders to pursue outreach, evangelization, discipleship, catechesis, and many other roles in the parish.

"They are people who deeply love their faith," she said. As catechists they can share it in their parishes and neighborhoods, with family and friends and help integrate the Hispanic community with the larger parish.

St. Leo has been blessed by the growing sense of family among the Hispanics, Anglos, African American, and African members of the parish, especially at Mass.

As Father Jim says, "If we can pray Eucharist together we can do anything together."

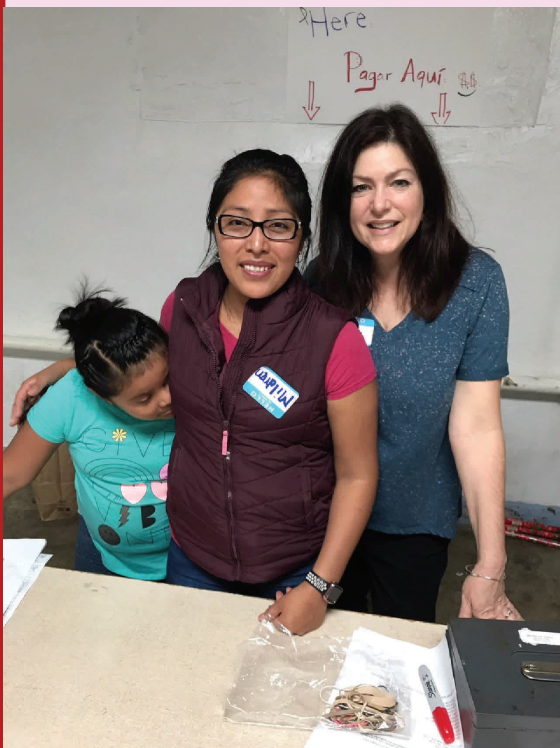
. . . in our neighborhood . . .

St. Leo the Great Parish hosts a Toy & Clothing Sale each year that offers families of limited means the great dignity and opportunity to Christmas shop for their families. New and gently used toys, clothing and some small household items are made available at affordable prices.

The parish does not consider this project to be a fund raiser for the parish, but as a ministry for the residents of our neighborhood. Any funds received from the sale are deposited in our ministry account to be given back to the neighborhood.

For some time, this project has relied heavily on volunteers outside of St. Leo's parish to organize and man the sale. We are proud to report that this year, many of our own parish members took leadership roles in organizing, and running the sale.

Continued on page 4 . . .



Because of You . . .

St. Leo's struggle and its gift is its poverty. In order to continue and expand its mission and ministry to the community and our immigrant and refugee parishioners we need to reach out to others to help us through prayer, finances, and service. Through God's grace it becomes mutual blessing.

And so we thank you ...



Many, many thanks to the Klocke Family for donating a wireless doorbell and one of our lightweight folding tables. We can't wait to put them to good use!



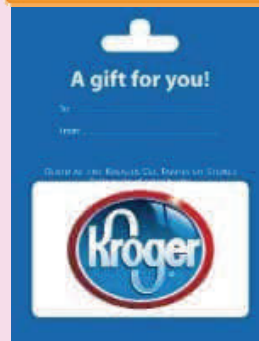
Many, many thanks to Childhood Food Solutions who shared cases and cases of fresh oranges with St. Leo's Food Pantry. Our guests were thrilled!



Many, many thanks to all of the donors who have contributed cash to purchase items on our wish list. All of us at St. Leo's are deeply grateful!



Many, many thanks to the Society of St. Vincent DePaul, who donated 250 blankets. Lots of folks will be warm and cozy this winter!



Many, many thanks to all of you who sent us an abundance of gift cards. You can be certain that they will be put to good use throughout the year!

¡Gracias! Murakoze! Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for your continued and generous support. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you and your loved ones in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time. May our gracious God fill you with every blessing!

Pastor's Ponderings . . .

The following was sent to me in an e-mail. I found it thought provoking and credible:

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
you can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
for U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.

It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand,
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
that I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
he'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

This message is really timely for us when considering our liturgical calendar. We have celebrated the Christmas Season and the incarnation of our Lord and Savior and that Jesus was truly born for us all. On March 6, Ash Wednesday, the Season of Lent begins, and we will be invited to believe that if we die with the Lord, we will also rise with Him. And in these days of Ordinary Time, from the Gospel of Luke, we hear a gospel of inclusion and redemption for all

people. This is God's plan of salvation that has our names on it and invites us to conversion, faith and witness.

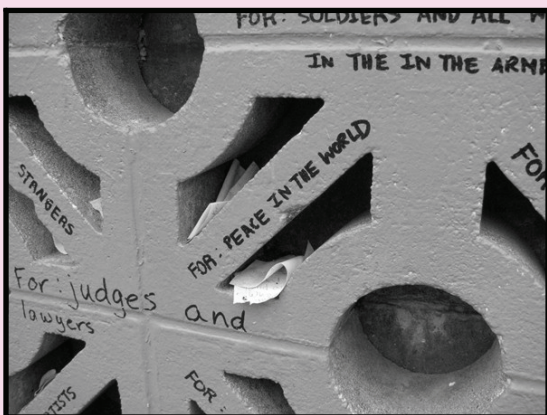


The Christmas season has already stated it clearly. The Lord has taken on our nature in order that we may take on His nature. The Lenten season shows us that there is "no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." We are taught what it means to live with Jesus now and forever. We learn how to lay down our lives so that others can live and to love all others as God loves us. In Ordinary Time we come to believe that God's incredible love that dwells in us is available in every time and place and people. God's incredible, saving and redeeming love is what makes our lives and relationships holy. Because of God's love for us and our willingness to share it with others makes the Ordinary Extraordinary.

Let us pray that all people, groups, nations, churches, governments, cities, neighborhoods and families may discover deeper revelations of God's saving love and grace this year and be as generous as sharing it and witnessing to it as the Lord is in giving it to us. Yes, there is a U and even a We in Jesus. Thanks be to God!



St. Leo's Prayer Wall is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, as well as peacemakers and saints who have inspired us through the ages.



The Wall is a place for staff and volunteers, youth groups, community meetings, and for individuals who pass through our parking lot on the way to work, school, etc., to pray, reflect and pause. We invite you to share in this special way of prayer, joy, and thanksgiving. Praise God!

God cares about every need in your life and knows what you need even before you ask Him for help. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time.

All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence. **Send your prayer request to:** Saint Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225. You can also submit your prayer request online at: <http://saint-leo/WorksofMercy/PrayerWallMinistry.aspx>.

Spreading the Good News of God's Love to the ends of the earth . . .

. . . Continued from front page



Parishioner Jon Trauth has been carrying the message of St. Leo's work with refugees to the ends of the earth. An adjunct professor of social work at Miami University he joined other teachers from the school at two international conferences. In July they were in Rome presenting at a conference on "Working on Threshold Concepts in the Helping Professions." In early January they presented at an international conference on counseling and psychotherapy in Bangalore, India. Here they talked about refugee resettlement and "Threshold Concepts for Teaching Students.

Prominent in each of these conferences were findings from his work on horticultural therapy with the Burundian refugees which led to his doctoral dissertation evaluating St. Leo's refugee ministry.

Jon first came to St. Leo's to complete an internship for a graduate theology degree at Xavier. He had always loved gardening and began working alongside Burundian refugees who had been farmers in their home country. They liked showing him farming methods they had used in Africa and though they didn't speak the same language they developed friendship tilling the soil together.

He observed that gardening gave the refugees a chance to do something familiar and seemed to ease their transition to a new country. This experience led to his focus on horticultural therapy and its impact on refugees.

Whether in Italy or India, he found that people were interested in ways to understand and aid refugees which fits in with St. Leo's commitment to live out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy—in this case "welcoming the stranger."



St. Leo's Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Catholic Community, grounded in Eucharistic prayer, celebrating our diversity and sharing God's love through ministries of serving and being present in our urban neighborhoods, while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

St. Leo's Mission Statement Prayer

Lord God, in your infinite wisdom and love, you are inviting us to be a welcoming Catholic Community, grounded in Eucharistic prayer, celebrating our diversity, and sharing your love through ministries of serving and being present in our neighborhoods while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Help us to accept your invitation to be church, and to generously live together this mission statement. Teach us your works of mercy and unite us as your people, who serve our urban neighborhoods with your presence and grace. Let your works of mercy be common, holy ways for celebrating our diversity, and for leaving the Eucharistic table, heeding your command to "Go in peace glorifying the Lord with your life."

With those whom you entrust to our care and among ourselves, may we see you when you are hungry and thirsty, and recognize you when you are naked or a stranger, or sick or in prison, and then welcome you, feed you, clothe you and visit you. With those whom you entrust to our care and among ourselves, bless us with your works of comforting, consoling, forgiving and patiently forbearing; We ask this always through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

Love One Another as I Have Loved You

When we would go out to eat and the server seemed distracted, inattentive, rushed, and sometimes even incompetent, my husband, Jim, would consciously leave a larger than expected tip. When I questioned his decision, he told me that he sensed that she was having a hard day and could use some unexpected kindness. I have to admit that at the time I was more perplexed—and even angry—at his generosity. Twenty one years after his death I remember occasions like this fondly and have a better understanding of his tendency to see and affirm people.

As a recovering alcoholic, he recognized that his drinking had often covered his own anger and hurt and caused deep pain for family, friends, and coworkers. In the safety of his 12-step groups he began to reach out and receive support and acceptance from others who saw his goodness and potential despite the mess he had made of his life. As he began to heal and work the 12 steps he began to focus on the good in others—and in himself.

A familiar AA maxim is that “Hurt people hurt people.” Jim had lived that and so he could sense when people’s negative behavior came from hurt places inside them. And as he had been given grace and healing in recovery, he freely gave that to others.

I think that may be part of what Jesus is asking us when he tells us to love others as he has loved us. That kind of love is accepting, kind, gentle, and sees past the rough exterior to fragile one inside. It is sacrificial and forgiving and constant. It never fails.

One of my favorite saints is Peter whose love of Jesus consumed his whole being. “Don’t just wash my feet, wash all of me...I’ll die with you,” he protests. Yet when faced with that possibility, the scared child took over. “I don’t know the man!” he told the servant—not once but three times. Days after the crucifixion and resurrection, he was out fishing and Jesus was preparing breakfast on the beach. Peter recognized him on the shore and plunged into the water and ran toward him. “Do you love me?” Jesus asked Peter three times. And Peter responded each time “You know I love you.” Jesus then entrusted him with care of his church—“Feed my lambs; feed my sheep.” Reconciliation had taken place. And the same Peter who denied Jesus proclaimed him to thousands on Pentecost. That’s the power of love.

Our wounded world is in dire need of this kind of love. We have become divided, angry, fearful of others and protective of

what we claim as “ours.” We wear masks and rarely act as the brothers and sisters of our loving God that we are called to be. But God still looks at us the way Jesus looked at Peter. “I still love you,” God whispers in our spirits. “Don’t be afraid. Let me love you and share that love with others.” Masks come off, we are cradled in God’s love and from that place of safety we can reach out.

How is God entrusting us to heal the world? It’s a huge job but starts with small doable steps.

We can smile and say “Hi” to the person we usually might pass by. We may be surprised to see ourselves in her eyes and that encounter may bless both of our days.

Let’s say we’re in line at the grocery store. We waited our turn and didn’t push ahead. The man behind us had just a few items. We let him go ahead of us. We didn’t have to but somehow we felt God nudging us to do so and we responded and remembered how grateful we felt when someone did that for us.

We may have dressed differently, may have come from different backgrounds, may have been of different ages and races but at that moment we recognized that we were the same.

Though most of us hate to admit it sometimes we feel uneasy or even fearful around people who may not look, speak or act like us. We know we don’t want to be that way. In fact we may pride ourselves on being open compassionate and fair though we recognize at times that we are not. We could

try to push those feelings to the back of our minds and turn up the volume of our music. Or we could risk opening our hearts to learn more about those our fears have turned into monsters. We could try checking the internet and learning about their countries’ history, religions and cultures. What’s daily life like? What are their fears and struggles? What are their dreams for their children? We could ask God to show us how they are like us and to provide us with opportunities to get to know them on a personal basis. God answers these kinds of prayers. After all each person is God’s handiwork, flesh of God’s imagining. That makes us all brothers and sisters and just like any loving parent God wants his children to love and play well together.

Then let us strive to love one another as God has loved us. I’m guessing that would put a broad smile on God’s face and a twinkle in God’s eyes.

— Angela Anno

*Love one another
as I have loved you.*



“When we perform the corporal works of mercy - specifically welcoming the stranger in the form migrants and refugees - we are welcoming Christ in them, and helping to restore their full dignity as humans.”

— Pope Francis

Clancy's Cliché's



Is everyone still sticking with that New Year's resolution to exercise? Well, here are a couple more exercises for you. Try to build up to several reps a day!

Place both hands over your heart. Breathe in deeply - all the way down to your gut. Way, way down. Hold for about 3 counts. Breathe out until you just can't push any more air out of you! As you breathe, feel your heart opening; envision love, light and peace sprinkling all over you. As you continue breathing in and out, feel it sprinkling over not only you, but everyone and everything in this world. Do this at least once a day. More a day is better! Pretty soon, there will be love, light and peace sprinkled all over the world because we are each, then, spreading the little sprinkles of goodness and love.

As you go out into that busy day, recall what Mother Teresa said: "If you judge people, you don't have time to love them." Seems simple. Yet, in our self-absorbed world of cell phones, technology, and other diversions, we forget that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and are quick to pass judgment on others. We are all human souls. We seldom know what roads people have traveled. Why have they stepped into our own circle of life - even if it's for a brief second?

Exercise those vocal cords with chords and choruses. Express your appreciation with words and actions full of loving kindness. Love is also such a powerful source of healing. As James Taylor sings, "Shower the people you love with love, show them the way that you feel. Things are gonna be much better if you only will." This is such an important strengthening exercise so make sure to do several sets a day. Express those loving thoughts and deeds, circulating the love with family, friends, and strangers. It's heart-healthy!

Finally, always remember it begins with you loving You. Appreciate and forgive You. Love yourself, for You are love.

Hogs and Quiches! - Clancy



Erupting With Laughter

Knock, knock. Who's there? Luke. Luke who?

Luke who got a Valentine!



What do you call an attractive volcano? Lava-ble!

What did one volcano say to the other volcano? Lava you!



St. Leo Parish and Community Contact Information



Pastor: Rev. James R. Schutte

Address: 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Phone: 513-921-1044

Fax: 513-921-8048

E-Mail: stleocinti@aol.com **Website:** www.saint-leo.org

Facebook: St. Leo The Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish

Worship Schedule: Saturday 6:00pm Mass in Spanish; Sunday Mass: 10:30am; Weekday Mass: Thursday 7:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: First Thursday following 7:00pm Mass.



FOOD PANTRY: At the corner of Carll & Baltimore

Serving Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Pantry Requirements: Serving North Fairmount, English Woods, Roll Hill Apts., and Millvale once every 30 days.

See website: www.saint-leo.org or call (513-921-1044) to see if your street is covered. To meet St. Leo's Acts of Mercy pantry donor guidelines, current proof of residence (Duke or telephone bill), photo ID & Social Security Cards for all members of household must be presented at each visit. **Plan ahead: Children must be supervised while at our Food Pantry.**

Volunteer Needed

3-4 hours each week to do light housekeeping at the rectory, including cleaning the restrooms and kitchen, vacuuming and dusting the offices and meeting spaces. If you are interested, please call 513-921-1044.

Snow NEWS!

Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations: WCPO-Channel 9, WKRC Channel 12, WXIX-Channel 19 and Facebook at StLeoTheGreatParish.



ESL ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

We welcome all wishing to learn English. **FREE!** Saturday 10:00-Noon.



COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/

Referral Services: Linda Klem: 513-921-5842

Housing: 513-921-5889, Healthy Moms & Babies: 513-591-5600

Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500

Literacy Network: 513-621-7323

ANGELS' ARMS STORE, 1882 Baltimore Ave. Both accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Open 9:00-4:00pm. Monday-Friday. Call Linda Klems at 623-9897.

Visit Us!

St. Leo's website: www.Saint-Leo.org

Facebook: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel:

StLeoTheGreatParish



Enjoy the online edition with color photos!

Save the **www.saint-leo.org** site in your "favorites" list to visit often. Feel free to send corrections, updates, news and/or info to be included on the website to Casey Betz, Development Director, at cbetzstleo@aol.com. If you'd like to receive St. Leo's Newsletter, call 921-1044 and we'll add you (or anyone else you know) to the mailing list.

How You Can Help . . .



Treasure Chest

Treasure Chest Tickets are sold on a monthly basis at \$5.00 each.

- Winner based on Pick 3 played straight every day.
- Each \$100.00 prize will be sent in the mail.
- Get In On the Fun! To purchase Treasure Chest tickets, send \$5.00 per ticket by the first of the month to: St. Leo Treasure Chest, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225
- Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!

December Winners: Becky Lipp, Jane Lanzarotta, Shirley Whalen (twice, different numbers), Doug Wright, Joyce Babel, Ginger Heider and Myra Lauber

Thank You Again! To Bobbie Brockman who is selling over 80 tickets each month.

WISH LIST

Oversized galvanized gate for outside storage area - \$100-\$160

Baptism Bibs toddler size(about 30) & baby size (about 15)

Recycling Bins for Centennial Hall

20 lightweight stacking chairs <https://www.advantagechurchchairs.com/advantage-black-plastic-stack-chair-black-frame-adv-hdstk-blk/>

5 8ftx30in lightweight folding tables (\$80) each https://www.samsclub.com/sams/lifetime-8-stack-stacking-table-8/prod20051460.ip?xid+plp_product_1_3

22 Gal. Recycling Box with Square Paper Slot Recycling Top \$39.53 <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Enviro-World-22-Gal-RecyclingBox-withSquare-Paper-Slot-Recycling-Top-EWC-215/205397492>

18" x 25" microwave cart

Gift Cards for the continuing work and maintenance of the parish, and our Youth Group functions: **Home Depot, Staples, Hobby Lobby, Kroger, Oriental Trading Company Priceless!**

Cash to Cover Operating Expenses is Essential!

Easy Online Giving

Make a one-time donation, or set up a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual gift to be deducted from your banking account, or to charge your gift to your credit card:

Go to <http://saint-leo.org/DonateNow.aspx> And click on the Donate Now Button.



SHOP AMAZON SMILE, SUPPORT ST. LEO: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

SHOP KROGER'S AND SUPPORT ST. LEO: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> Enter St. Leo's #KC265 or search for St. Leo the Great Church.

iGive: Shop the sites you love and support St. Leo! Sounds easy? It is! Sign up at <http://www.igive.com/>



Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor
for February
Ellis Family

In December the Food Pantry served 573 individuals, in 201 households, including 235 children and 66 seniors.

Needs for February:

Especially needed: Canned Tuna

Canned: vegetarian vegetable soup, salmon, chicken, spinach, pineapple

Always nice are Spices

Deodorant, shaving cream, baby-wipes (adults use them, too), tissues & Clorox wipes

Egg noodles, 1-lb bag rice

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

"Many Hands Make Light Work!"

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 4/4:30 are typical volunteer hours, but if you happen to only have a couple of hours to share on those days, we certainly can use your help.

Call 513-921-1044x30.

St. LEO FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY OVERHEAD SPONSORSHIP

Beginning February 2019, St. Leo Food Pantry will be responsible to cover all of the costs of the food pantry building. We are seeking individuals and organizations that would be willing to "Sponsor" one month of our operating costs.

Rent	\$1,250.00
Phone/Internet	107.89
Gas & Electric	797.11
G.C. Water Works	104.65
Pest Control	35.35
Insurance	28.53
Total Monthly Overhead	\$2,323.53

Sponsor's name will be recognized in the food pantry foyer, on St. Leo's website, in St. Leo's monthly newsletter and in St. Leo's weekly Sunday bulletin during their month; and if interested, the organization's members would be welcome to volunteer by working in the pantry serving our clients.








If interested, please contact Casey Betz at 513-921-1044 x 30, cbetzstleo@aol.com, or mail to: Casey Betz, St. Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH
 2573 St. Leo Place at Baltimore Avenue
 Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
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<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<h1><i>February</i></h1>				
3 Mass: 10:30am	4 Food Pantry Open	5 	6 Food Pantry Open	7 7:00pm MASS	8 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	9 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
10 Mass: 10:30am	11 Food Pantry Open	12 	13 Food Pantry Open	14 7:00pm MASS Valentine's Day 	15 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	16 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
17 Mass: 10:30am	18 President's Day Food Pantry Closed Office Closed	19 	20 Food Pantry Open	21 7:00pm MASS	22 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	23 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
24 Mass: 10:30am	25 Food Pantry Open	26 	27 Food Pantry Open	28 7:00pm MASS	