

St. Leo the Great Parish

January 2019 Newsletter



Great Things Happen

When Communities Work Together

After eight months of conversations, residents of five Beekman Avenue Corridor neighborhoods came together to decide their most important community priorities. Recognizing that there is power in numbers, neighbors of South Cumminsville, Millvale, English Woods, North Fairmount and South Fairmount have decided they are stronger together and want to tackle issues that are too big to fix on their own.

At the request of neighborhood leaders, Working in Neighborhoods (WIN) began listening sessions last January and sat down individually with over 100 residents from the neighborhoods to hear their concerns.

Residents told powerful stories of home values being so low that they can't get a loan to repair their houses. Others said they felt that police don't come when they are called unless there is a tragedy. Some talked about the dumping and trash that clogs streets, is dangerous, and creates eyesores. Still others worried about safety in parks and streets.

Mothers said they were worried about living in a food desert and the hardship of getting healthy food when there are no grocery stores nearby. They're grateful for the help available through St. Leo's food Pantry and healthy food they get there but would really like to have grocery store in the neighborhood.

Throughout October and November, residents from each neighborhood spent time knocking on doors and calling their neighbors to gather their concerns and tell them about this new coalition.

This work culminated in a historic meeting on December 6th with 50 residents present to vote for their neighborhood priorities. The three winners were: Housing, Lack of Investment, and Dumping & Trash.

A committee of residents will form around each of the three issues and meet in January to develop a strategy to achieve their goals. Each committee will conduct research and talk with experts to make their plans and will report back to the group at an assembly in April.

St. Leo's supports this endeavor, is excited to be a part of this initiative and is encouraging parishioners to get involved on the committees.

If you are a member of the Beekman Corridor community and would like to join a committee, contact Greer Aeschbury at 541-4109 ext. 101 or at gaeschbury@wincincy.org.



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 St. Maximilian Kolbe Knights of Columbus for delivering dozens and dozens of brand new coats for the children at St. Leo's.

Here's a thank you message from one of our refugee moms who was so happy to get the coats that she sent us photos of her boys in their new, warm, winter wear.

"Just want to thank for the people who helped us get these beautiful jackets that they brought along for us!"



Many, many thanks to Sr. Mary Cuddy and her congregation, Sisters of Divine Providence, and Hasbro, Inc., who provide many cases of age appropriate toys to provide a special Christmas for the children at St. Leo's.



Many, many thanks to the students, faculty and staff at Elder High School who donated boxes each filled with a complete Christmas dinner for folks in need.

iGracias! 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 . . .

On behalf of the entire staff and parish of St. Leo the Great, I offer to you and yours a happy, prosperous and blessed New Year. We believe that each New Year is another opportunity for encountering and embracing the grace and holiness of the God who has come to us in human form and shape to liberate us and to set us free from all that enslaves us.

So, in the words of the prophet Isaiah and the words on the scroll that Jesus opened and proclaimed to the people in the temple, may this year be one in which all people know that Jesus has come "to bring glad tidings to the poor, to announce a year of favor from the Lord, recovery of sight to the blind and to proclaim liberty to captives." As we are thinking about making resolutions for the New Year, let us also resolve to become more aware of just how Jesus has come to build his kingdom in our lives and can we also resolve to help him build this kingdom in the lives of others and in the entire world?

At the beginning of each New Year, especially in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the hearts of Catholic Christians turn to embracing and praying for the peace that only God can give. On the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, we have the option of using the Mass for Peace if we so choose. Isn't Mary the perfect model and example of one who has embraced the peace (Jesus Christ) that only God can give us? How can we be more open to welcoming Jesus into our lives and giving him a home in our hearts? In doing this, let us pray for the peace of his presence, of knowing his love for us, our love for him and our willingness to share his love in our homes, neighborhoods, and in a world still formed and shaped by wars and violence.

This month, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The Magi from the East represent all the people of the entire world coming to pay homage to their king. At St. Leo's we give thanks for the graced privileged of being a place where nations from the world are welcomed and can give God praise together. Together, here, God has come to announce a year of favor and to proclaim liberty to captives and glad tidings to the poor. Here, together, we embrace the peace that only God can bring. Here, together, we celebrate our one faith and a New Year filled with the presence of our loving God and king.

With our prayer and worship and by living together the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, we hear and see the works of the Christ who is ever so present among us. Although we do these things to prepare for the Lord's second coming, we also do these things to celebrate Christmas every day of the year and to acknowledge



that our salvation has come, is come and will come again. We continue to build the kingdom that God has already started and handed onto us as we actively wait for God to come back and complete what Jesus started and what the church continues to do in His name.

We are so blessed by everyone (parishioner, partner, visitor) sharing their time, talent and treasure to build God's kingdom, to prepare the way for the Lord's return and to celebrate his presence among us now. God is always present in our love for one another. This new year, let us continue to hold each other in deep prayer and together let us pray for the peace that only God brings to our minds, hearts and homes as well as to the many troubles of our world. Let us work for peace and justice for all and for the respect and dignity that life on all levels deserves. Let us keep welcoming the infant in the womb, immigrants, refugees, and the elderly. May violence, harassment, bullying, and terrorism of every kind cease. It is a new year and it is time to once again announce a year of favor from the Lord and pray and work for the newness of God's reign to take deeper root in our lives, all people, nations and the world.

Thanks for building the kingdom of God. Thanks for all that you do to help make our joy complete and to help us live freely for the Lord and each other. Please come and celebrate with us anytime, won't you? Please know that you are always welcome and bring someone with you. Come all ye faithful, come. Come learn, celebrate and live the faith with us. With our lives, let us always sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come to save us!"

— Fr. Jim



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>.

Continuing the Christmas Spirit . . .



Members of the Westwood United Methodist Congregation surprised the staff at St. Leo's when they stopped by to pray with us at the Prayer Wall. Great things happen when communities pray together! St. Leo's staff sure did enjoy the sweet treats that they brought along for us!



Many, many thanks to the thoughtful folks who delivered an abundance of stuffed animals donated by King's Island. There were so many stuffies that St. Leo's was able to share them with several schools in the North Fairmount neighborhood, including the Amicus Childhood Learning Center, Roll Hill Academy and Roll Hill Pre-School, and the Leap Academy.

We simply can't thank the many donors enough for the gifts, food and special holiday donations to support the various St. Leo's Christmas Outreach Programs:

St. Andrew Church, Milford
St. Columban, Loveland
St. Dominic Church
St. Ignatius Church
St. Jude Church
St. Nicholas Church, Sunman, IN
St. Simon Church
St. Thomas More Church
St. Xavier Church
Our Lady of the Visitation Parish
Our Lady of Visitation Students
Church of the Nativity
Elder High School

LaSalle High School
Moeller High School
St. Xavier High School
Cincinnati Urban Promise
North Fairmount Community Center
Regnum Christi
Secular Franciscans of
St. Anthony Friary
St. James-White Oak Seniors
Seniors of Western Hills
Retirement Village
Whole Foods
Numerous Individuals and Families

Wake Up! There's Work To Be Done!

For a month that often finds us hunkered down due to snow and ice January memorials call us to shake off our lethargy and get involved.

The anniversary of the Roe v Wade Supreme court's decision on abortion in 1973 underscores the need to protect human life beginning in the womb. That ruling had a deep impact on me since I was pregnant that year with my oldest child and feeling him moving and alive within me underscored the preciousness of life.

Though I never have had the opportunity to go to the March for Life in Washington D C marking the anniversary of that Supreme Court decision several of our youth group members went last year and were deeply moved by the experience. When sharing its impact they also talked about how speakers and events expanded their understanding of what it means to be pro life to also include such issues as, poverty, health care, immigration, care of the environment, and racism.

That brings me to the second January event that challenges me to act—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As much as we may think things have progressed since his death and the passing of the Civil Rights act, racism continues to survive and in some ways is becoming more overt today with an additional focus on immigrants and refugees who often speak other languages and have different cultures and life experiences from ours.

When I was growing upon the West side of Cincinnati, almost everyone in my neighborhood was Catholic. There was very little diversity. It wasn't until I was freshman in high school that I had any interactions with people whose skin color wasn't the same as mine. I am ashamed to admit that I had stereotyped and feared African Americans. And here I was a scared little freshman with one sitting in front and another sitting behind me in homeroom. When I talked to my dad about my feelings he wisely advised me to work at getting to know these students. As I followed his advice I learned that we were very much alike as we shared worries about school, love of family, and the same faith. However I also learned that they faced more obstacles and misunderstandings than I could ever imagine—just based on the color of their skin. I remembered when our class had won a boat ride to Coney Island. We were excited to go but that excitement waned when we learned that our African American friends and classmates weren't welcome at the amusement park. We chose not to go. I learned that an African American friend had a

relative who was a high ranking FIB official who was transferred to Cincinnati but wasn't able to find housing in many neighborhoods in the city because of his race. It simply wasn't fair. These experiences and learning about Catholic social teaching gave me courage to get involved in the civil rights movement.

My spirit weeps when people demonize and fear people who at first seem different from them. Getting to know more about them as I did as a high school freshman breaks down barriers, helps us see similarities, and often leads to friendship—or at least greater understanding. For me this has been a great blessing. I have come to know that we are all God's children and each one brings a unique gift. I think we all are poorer without these gifts.

January continues to invite us to expand our view of the importance of working with others who at first seem different from us in the week of prayer for Christian unity. When I was young we were so focused on our Catholic identity that we weren't friends with our non-Catholic neighbors and certainly didn't ever consider entering their churches. I remember feeling uneasy as a young adult after Vatican II when I was invited to speak to a youth group at a neighboring Presbyterian church. I had never been inside a non-Catholic church before and I felt a pang of guilt as I walked in the door. That quickly dissipated as I began to meet with them and once again found how similar we were. I've since been in many different churches and temples and have learned how much we are alike and need each other. In communities like the one where St. Leo is located the churches are small and need to come together in order to accomplish things. Our need for each other has become a true blessing. I believe God smiles on these common efforts and works powerfully in and through us when we work together.

The final celebration of the month is Catholic schools week where we take time to acknowledge the great work these schools are doing in educating and deepening the faith of our children and we are invited to visit and get a first-hand look at the opportunities they offer and the dedication of the faculty and staff. Hopefully we'll find ways we can volunteer or support them

So wake up and buckle your seat belts! We've got a lot of work to do!

—Angela Anno



**NONE OF US CAN THINK
WE ARE EXEMPT
FROM CONCERNS FOR THE
POOR AND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.
POPE FRANCIS**



CLANCY'S CLICHÉ'S



If you've read any January Newsletters, you know there's always a New Word for the New Year. Drumroll, please 2019's word is **INTENTION**, because when one sets their intention, it usually makes things happen, and is *about* things that happen. Some folks might say it's about being in the moment. So go for it! Be intent on a conversation, or eating, or, even napping!

From the moment we open our eyes in the morning, consider what direction your dreams and vision might take you and move toward those intentions. Our lives are full of multi-tasking or juggling a myriad of things. Yup, robotic routines are necessary, yet it's about balancing those activities with intentional and focused tasks, sprinkled with objectives and direction - even if it's just *once* a day.

A good phrase to say is, "I am aware that...." (Fill in the blank, i.e., this doggie biscuit tastes great...this lawn is so comfy...there is an aroma of something not quite to my liking...). And this isn't only for one's own actions. It also means respecting the intentions of others. Say it again: "I am aware that...." (i.e., Jake wants to play and I'll let him jump over me...someone didn't get much sleep last night...)

Being mindful of intention gives purpose, stretches our sphere of comfort, helps design our day, gives us cause to paws or go full steam ahead, and brings our hearts hope. **Intention**. Now, doesn't that make things more special?

Oops...New Year's Resolutions, someone's asking? Well, OK then. Just spread some **P's** (peace-get it?) and Joy in the New Year:

Positive thoughts - who likes anything negative, anyway, eh?

Pray - communication always opens doors

Peace - feel it and live it

Presence - and presents help, too

Parallel - feel you're at someone's side spiritually, especially if they're out in the doghouse

Please - and thank you's

Pleasant - disposition, days, surroundings...put this word in front of any and everything

Pearl - even in the depths of our oceans, we can be like oysters and choose to grow a beautiful thing

Procrastinate - only in an emergency (yet, methinks it's very useful on occasion)

Purpose - ahhh...we're back to the definition of our word for 2019!

Promises - aka more New Year's resolutions:

Stop drinking soft drinks, they're soda pressing.

Change my password to something other than "password".

No howling every time I see or hear a dog on TV.

Stop repeating myself again, and again, and again, and again.

Taking longer naps for my health (it also makes my workday shorter).

No chewing red crayons or pens, because my master will think that I am hemorrhaging.

Spread the Good Chews!

(My jokes and puns may be cheesy but I still think they're pretty Gouda.)



HAPPY GNU YEAR!



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

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 Klems: 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!

November Winners: LuAnn Beiderbeck, V.R. Schneller, Pat Kichler, Elaine M. Janis, Laura Caldwell, Cheryl Roy, Tony Holman, Lon Doll and Carlene Staud Tibbs.

WISH LIST

Wireless Doorbell w/Flashing Light for Centennial Hall - \$30-\$50

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

Tires for Food Pantry Van - \$600.00

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

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

6 8ftx30in lightweight folding tables (\$80) each https://www.samsclub.com/sams/lifetime-8-stack-stacking-table-8/prod20051460.ip?xid=plp_product_1_3

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

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/>



Pantry Press

In November the Food Pantry served 730 individuals, in 272 households, including 291 children and 94 seniors.

Needs for January:

Especially needed: Canned Tuna, 1-lb bags rice

Canned: baked beans, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, salmon, chicken, mixed veggies, spinach, pineapple, mixed fruit

Spices (onion powder, garlic powder, mustard powder, etc.,) Parmesan cheese shake, Vinegar, cooking oil

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

Spaghetti, egg noodles

BAGGIES - quart size, gallon size

Diapers: All Sizes

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.

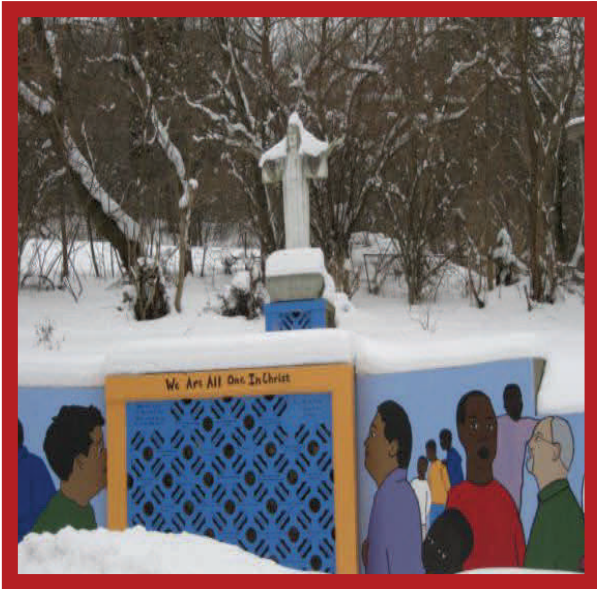
ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH

2573 St. Leo Place at Baltimore Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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>
JANUARY		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Food Pantry Open	3 7:00pm MASS	4 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	5 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
6 Mass: 10:30am Confirmation Class Teen Mass	7 Food Pantry Open	8 	9 Food Pantry Open	10 7:00pm MASS	11 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	12 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
13 Mass: 10:30am All Youth Meeting	14 Food Pantry Open	15 	16 Food Pantry Open	17 7:00pm MASS	18 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	19 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
20 Mass: 10:30am Confirmation Class Parish Council	21 Food Pantry Closed Martin Luther King Holiday/Office Closed	22 	23 Food Pantry Open	24 7:00pm MASS	25 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	26 Mass in Spanish 6pm;; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
27 Mass: 10:30am Youth Middle School Meeting	28 Food Pantry Open	29 	30 Food Pantry Open	31 7:00pm MASS	2019	