

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, March 9** – 6:00pm Mass;  
 Mass Intention for the People of the Parish;  
 Readings: Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32

**Sunday, March 10** – 10:30am Mass;  
 Mass Intention for Joseph Bresnahan;  
 Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

**Monday, March 11** – No Service.  
 Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

**Tuesday, March 12** – No Service  
 Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

**Wednesday, March 13** – No Service  
 Readings: John 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

**Thursday, March 14** – 7:00pm Mass;  
 Mass Intention for Francis Massarella  
 Readings: Esther 4:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

**Friday, March 15** – No Service; **7:00pm Way of the Cross**  
 Readings: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

**Saturday, March 16** – 6:00pm Mass;  
 Mass Intention for the People of the Parish;  
 Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

**Sunday, March 17** – 10:30am Mass;  
 Mass Intention for Barbara Schmidt;  
 Readings: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18;  
 Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28-30

**MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH 10**

*Lectors* – Mawo, Yvone  
*Distributors* – Larry, Antonia, Carlos M., Rosaria B., Ivy  
*Servers* – Stan, Christopher, Joseph

**MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH 17**

*Lectors* – Tom M., Albert  
*Distributors* – Mark, Epiphanie, Berlamino, Berta, Kate  
*Servers* – Mawo, Paloma, Estrella

**ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY**

**Serving Hours: Mon., Wed. and Fri. 1:00-3:30pm**  
**Pantry Requirements:** Serving North Fairmount, English Woods, Roll Hill Apts., and Millvale once every 30 days. See website: [www.saint-leo.org](http://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.**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES FREE!**

Saturdays, 10:00 – Noon

**COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS**

North Fairmount Community Center/Referral Services:  
 Linda Klems: 513-921-5842, Housing: 513-921-5889  
 Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500  
 GED Referral: Roll Hill: 513-542-8333x5  
 Literary Network: 513-621-7323

**ANGELS' ARMS STORE**, 1882 Baltimore Ave. Accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Open Mon-Wed-Fri 9-3:00 and Tues-Thurs. 10-3:00. All Items Free! Call Linda Klems at 623-9897.

**VISIT US!** **St. Leo's website:** [www.Saint-Leo.org](http://www.Saint-Leo.org)

**Facebook:** St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

**St. Leo's YouTube Channel:** [StLeotheGreatParish](http://StLeotheGreatParish)



**YOUR GIFT TO ST. LEO IS MOST APPRECIATED!**

Collection for March 3: \$1,957.50

Thank you for generously supporting your parish!

**EASY ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE:**

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

**SHOP AT AMAZON SMILE AND SUPPORT ST. LEO:**

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

**SHOP AT KROGER'S AND SUPPORT ST. LEO:**

<https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> Enter St. Leo's #KC265 or search for St. Leo the Great Church.

**Make a long lasting difference! Leave a Legacy by remembering St. Leo the Great Church in your Will. For more information contact Casey Betz at 513-921-1044 ext. 30.**

**PRAY FOR OUR PARISH PARTNERS**

In deepest gratitude for their most generous contributions of time, talent and treasure to St. Leo's, this week please keep in prayer Mercy West Park.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED**

Please keep in your prayers all those listed in our Parish Petition/Special Prayer Books. Please call the Parish Office if you are hospitalized and wish to be visited. Hospitals no longer share that information.

**VOCATION VIEW**

What tempts us away from the reign of God? Try this week to live as an example for the young people in your life. Let them see the rewards of living by the Good Spirit. Encourage them in their discernment with your prayers and support.

**LET US PRAY**

Jesus, help me to share in your mission to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed.

**Important Dates to Remember**

- March 10** Middle School Youth Meeting
- March 17** High School Youth Meeting
- March 19** The Light Is On For You, 7-9:00pm
- March 24** Middle School Youth Field Trip
- Fridays of Lent** Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm

Bulletin information is always welcome! Articles must be in the office by 10am the Monday prior to publication, provided there is still Room. Please call Casey at 921-1044X30 or email to [cbetzstleo@aol.com](mailto:cbetzstleo@aol.com)

To receive the parish weekly bulletin by e-mail, go to [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com) and search St. Leo in Cincinnati, OH. Under bulletin, click on sign-up for e-mail notification. Enter your user name and e-mail address.

**Sign up to receive St. Leo's Monthly Newsletter:** call the office at 513-921-1044, email your name and address to: [cbetzstleo@aol.com](mailto:cbetzstleo@aol.com) or sign up online at: <http://saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoMonthlyNewsletter.aspx>

# First Sunday in Lent – March 10, 2019

## From Fr. Jim . . .

**Lenten Reflection:** I have a piece of art by a Mexican artist who makes sculptures out of clay and then paints them with bright colors—yellow, orange, blue, red, purple, green. All of the sculptures he calls “The Tree of Life.” Many of these sculptures have secular themes and many have biblical themes that image the Tree of life in the Garden of Eden and tell the story of creation and salvation.

The piece that I have, as it keeps its shape of a tree, tells the story of Noah’s ark. In the midst of all the beautiful flowers, fruit and abundant life, animals are safely on the ark enjoying the life of salvation and there are animals climbing up the side of the ark to get into the boat of life and salvation. It’s as if the life in the Garden of Eden is being restored for all creatures and things are returning to the way they were at the beginning of creation.

Jesus suffered, died and rose for all of us that we might know the salvation of God and join with all creation in being restored to a fullness of life with God. We are in the boat of salvation. God wants and desires for us through Jesus and with their Spirit to live in union with the life of God now and forever.

The forty days of Lent can be like a retreat for the whole church where the people of God examine this reality and grow together more deeply in understanding and appreciating the life, love and salvation that God so generously shares with us. As we understand and accept this reality, Lent becomes a time when we strive to live more closely in union with what we believe and with the life we know God is giving us.

God has given us a promise that God will never push us out of the boat and that we always have a place in it no matter what. When we feel otherwise, more than likely, the attractions of the world and selfishness have lured us back into the troubled waters of sin and death or we are blinded to see the place that God has prepared for us or deaf to God’s call to take our rightful place.

Lent, then, is a wonderful opportunity for us to repent and to seek God’s forgiveness and mercy, to turn away from sin and remain as faithful to the Gospel as we possibly can. It is a time for us to walk with catechumens and candidates for full communion with the church and to examine our lives and our faith journey together with the Lenten Gospels. It is a time for prayer, fasting and giving alms (works of mercy and charity). We do all of this not to earn our place back onto the boat of salvation or to convince God to keep us on the boat but solely as a response to being saved and to being in union with the life of God. Quite frankly, this is what is expected of us as branches on the Tree of God’s Life. We pray, fast, forgive, and live in charity with one another because God has truly saved us from sin and death.

So, what do we want to do this Lent in order to celebrate our place on the Tree of God’s life? How will living with God’s forgiveness and mercy, prayer and the rituals of the church, fasting and giving alms help us to do this? The boat is sailing. Praise God that there is a place for us.

“**The Light Is On for You**” is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to invite all Catholics, especially those Catholics who have not received this sacrament for a long time, to experience the love and mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati every parish will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation by offering private confessions on Tues., Mar. 19, 2019, 7–9:00pm. Every parish will open their doors for you.

Many, many thanks to our Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for March John and Colleen Gerke



Confirmation Meeting: April 7



### YOUTH PROGRAM

March 10: Middle School  
March 17: High School



### Stations of the Cross:

7:00pm, all Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday.

**Volunteer Needed! Help keep St. Leo’s church and rectory neat and tidy!** 3-4 hours a week vacuuming and dusting the offices and meeting spaces, and cleaning the restrooms and kitchen. If you would like to help out, please call 513-921-1044 ext. 20.



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

**St. Leo Food Pantry will be CLOSED for inclement weather** when Cincinnati Public Schools are closed.

**LENTEN REMINDERS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE** Ash Wednesday, March 6 and Good Friday, April 19, are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97, 1252). “Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind.” (Constitution on the Liturgy, No. 110)

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. To paraphrase Pope John Paul II: the obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

Love to play bingo? If so, St. Clement Parish/School invites you to attend their next Super Bingo scheduled for Saturday, March 30th. There will be \$6,000 in total bingo pay-out along with thousands more given away in instants, split-the-pot, raffles, and door prizes. Cafeteria doors open at 10:00 a.m. and games begin at 1 p.m. Location: 4534 Vine Street, St. Bernard. All profits to benefit the students. Hope to see you there!

“Sometimes we may feel we are alone in facing difficulties. But, even if He doesn’t intervene immediately, the Lord walks by our side and, if we keep going forward, He will open up a new path.”

- Pope Francis

