

April 12, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

An Easter Greeting: Alleluia! The Lord is truly risen! His grace and peace be with you all. I extend to you the Lord's blessings for a very happy and holy Easter. May you see how dying with the Lord also means rising with him. May you come to see how resurrection has the final say in our lives and may Alleluia be the song that is always on our lips and in our hearts. Have fun in these Easter days. Learn to live life to the fullest even if we are still restricted and limited. Be thankful because grace abounds in Jesus Christ and there is always hope.

An Easter Reflection: As signs of spring become evident, we rejoice in the new and risen life the Lord gives to us all. We are greatly blessed to be children of the Resurrection. We rejoice, too, in the new life we are able to give each other in the Lord's name as the Body of Christ. We have been made anew in order to live as Christ's body. We are, indeed, happy and blessed. What's new with you after your Lenten journey and after doing works of penance, prayer, fasting and giving alms? How is this a Happy Easter? Can you see signs of resurrection and grace? In yourself? In others? In the world? Have the restrictions and limitations created by the pandemic helped you to see what really matters and is most important in life? Is less, really more? If so, how is your life filling up with the greater gifts? It really is Easter and alleluia is our song.

We pray so well: Holy week is the greatest week of prayer for the church. I thank everyone who contributed to the wonderful, deep and intense prayer of this past week. I thank our choir and musicians and the video crew. We had about ten people each time that we live-streamed into your home. I am so grateful that we didn't have to cancel completely. It is an honor and a privilege to pray Holy Week together. Thank you for watching and praying with us as best as you could. I really miss being with you around the Lord's table. I can't wait until we are back together again. In the meantime, let's keep praying for each other.

Welcome: One of the signs of Easter that I appreciate the most is the people who gather with us for our liturgies. Whether you worship with us each week, or you are a visitor, or you have returned from school, or you are here because it is Easter, a special welcome to everyone. We are happy and blessed that you can be here to celebrate this solemn and wonderful feast. It saddens me that we could not have our church doors open for you to welcome you but know that you are always a part of our prayer and our parish family, even if and especially if you couldn't make it home this year. Wherever you had to be and stay this year. We are always the Lord's family, united in prayer.

An Easter Hymn: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; Day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death. All the fair beauty of earth from the death of winter arising! Ev'ry good gift of the year now with its master returns. Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation. Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all. God the Almighty, the Lord, the ruler of earth and the heavens, Guard us from harm without; cleanse us from evil within. Jesus the health of the world, enlighten our minds, great Redeemer, Son of the Father supreme, only begotten of God. Spirit of life and of power, now flow in us, fount of our being, Light that enlightens us all, life that in all may abide. Praise to the giver of good! O Lover and Author of concord, pour out your balm on our days; order our ways in your peace.

Please keep praying for those who desire to receive the Easter Sacraments of Initiation. The plan, now, is to celebrate at the Vigil Mass of Pentecost, Saturday, May 30.

Happy Easter, everyone! Alleluia!!

Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for April: Jim and Barb Coffaro

All events, classes, and meetings at St. Leo's are canceled through May 3.

Join Fr. Jim as he livestreams Sunday Mass at 10:30am on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RCC-St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati-103955481239196/>

You are invited to visit St. Leo Church to pray in the sanctuary, or to use the computers in Centennial Hall by appointment only. Fr. Jim is happy to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only. Please call the office, Monday through

Friday, between the hours of 10:00am and 1:30pm to make your appointment.

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can **read Fr. Jim's letter** at:

www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim

You can **make your Sunday Offering** at: www.saint-leo.org/DonateNow

or, you can drop off your Sunday Offering in the slot in the back door of the rectory, or you can mail your Sunday offering to: St. Leo the Great Church 2573 St. Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

For more information: visit our website at: www.saint-leo.org or visit our Facebook page at: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church.

Food Pantry hours are Mon. Wed. and Fri. 1 to 3:30pm

Parish members are encouraged to visit the pantry if needed. New Rules at the Food Pantry

Special considerations have been implemented at the Food Pantry.

- Call 921-1044 each day to be certain the pantry is open.
- You will be expected to wait outside.
- NO CHILDREN ALLOWED IN THE PANTRY, unless they are in a carrier.

BRINGING THE FAITH HOME - With kids out of school and public Masses and religious education classes temporarily suspended, parents may feel cut off or overwhelmed with how to teach and share the beauty and joy of the Catholic faith. The Catholic Telegraph has identified 7 fun resources to help parents and children learn and live their faith at home. Find these at <https://bit.ly/CTFaithHome>.

INSPIRING PRODUCTS FROM THE CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH - Subscribe to **The Daily Divina**, a beautiful way to start each day focused on praying with God's word, and **The Ember**, a weekly email with relevant, local, and inspiring content that will keep you up to date on news that matters and help you connect your faith to daily life. Both are free and sent to your email inbox. Sign up at www.thecatholictelegraph.com/digital-subscriptions

Support St. Leo Food Pantry by supporting the 2020 Hunger Walk

JOIN OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM at

[fsfb.convio.net/site/TR/HungerWalk/HungerWalk2020?team_id=11540&pg=team&fr_id=1430](https://www.facebook.com/JoinOrDonateToOurTeam)

Your support is VERY important! ALL money (even shirt money) designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. This is our "money in the bank." Due to your generosity last year, we currently have a balance in our account. Our goal this year is to have enough money at the FreeStore FoodBank to last us until the 2021 Hunger Walk! With your help we can do it!

