

April 19, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

There is an old and favorite story that I like to tell, and I am sure that many of you have heard me tell it before. It is especially good to tell during the Easter Season. Once there was a mother mouse and she was lining up her brood to take them out into the house through their mouse hole in the wall for the first time. As they go marching out, the house cat that appeared to be sleeping opens one eye and raises one paw. Immediately and instinctively the mother mouse sat back on her haunches and she BARKED it was louder than any dog could produce, and the cat went scurrying away. The mother mouse turns to her brood and says, "You see it pays to know a second language!" The mice continued their journey in safety.

When it comes to sin and death and journeying in this world to the next one it pays everyone to know well the language of the resurrection. In the readings for the Easter season, we hear the risen Christ teach the apostles, disciples and all creation how to speak this language. The risen Christ speaks this language when he offers the frightened apostles peace and tells them not to be afraid. He speaks it to Thomas when he tells him to touch his wounds and to know that he is risen and alive and to believe in him. He speaks it when he tells the disciples to "Receive the Holy Spirit" and to forgive sin. The language of the resurrection is truly spoken with the virtues of the Holy Spirit as these virtues permeate all of God's creation and fill the hearts of all the faithful. It pays us to know the Lord's language of the Resurrection because this language sent death scurrying away and it keeps death in its place, takes its sting away and diminishes its power over the world. It conquers death and offers eternal life. Jesus speaks this language and he, himself, is the language. It pays us all well to know the Risen Christ.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. God's mercy is the language of Lent and it speaks the language of the Resurrection incredibly well also. Psalm 118, today's responsorial psalm sums this up well. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His mercy endures forever." ...The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; Let us be glad and rejoice in it. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

And the one simple word that the Church uses that speaks strongly of the Lord's language of resurrection is ALLELUIA! We are truly a people of the Resurrection and Alleluia is our song. Let us join with all of God's creation and with all the saints around the heavenly kingdom and sing it loud and clear. Let us pray that we will learn the language of the resurrection better during these fifty days of Easter. As I have learned from trying to speak Spanish, if I don't use it and keep trying to speak it then I will lose it! Have fun practicing resurrection, speaking its language and rejoicing in the fullness of God's life and love for us all. It truly pays us all to know the risen Lord!

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/11540?pg=team&fr_id=1430)

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!

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 at: RCC St. Leo Church Cincinnati:
https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH_BOX



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.

Congratulations to Erik Bernardo Deleon and Jacques Hatungimana for making Second Honors for the 3rd quarter of the academic school year at St. Xavier High School.

Due to the current viral outbreak, please know that... **the Ordination of Benson Lotiang'a Lokidiriyo on May 16th 2020 at 11:00am** Will take place – **viewed via video feed only.**

www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org

Your prayers will be appreciated on this day.

Benson's Mass of Thanksgiving and Reception are postponed – new date to be determined.

If you wish to send best wishes or a gift for Benson's Ordination it may be mailed – care of: Ed Colina, 142 Palisades Poine #5, Cincinnati, OH 45238

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>.