



ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



BECOMING AN EVEN MORE AMAZING PARISH. . .

There's something special about St. Leo's. Visitors remark about its welcoming spirit, the sense of unity among diverse populations, and the way the various cultures and languages come together in word and song. For parishioners it truly feels like "family" and "home."

Getting to this place wasn't easy. It required a lot of openness, work—and prayer. As Father Jim said "If we can learn to pray Eucharist together, we can do anything together." We're seeing the fruits of this in ongoing growth and involvement in parish life.

To further deepen the faith life and ministries of St. Leo's five staff members took part in a three-day *Amazing Parish* conference last May which focuses on providing tools and on-going support to help parishes move from maintenance mode to mission communities that are truly alive. The program works with a parish leadership team (PLT) which currently includes staff members who attended the conference: Father Jim Schutte, pastor; Stephanie Sepate, business manager; Casey Betz, development director; Angela Anno, pastoral associate; and Judie Kuhlman, youth minister. Members may be added to or leave the leadership team as the program continues.

The three building blocks of an amazing parish were identified as a culture of prayer, a culture of healthy teamwork, and a culture of active discipleship with prayer being primary.

The strong focus on being grounded in prayer was a natural fit for St. Leo's and leadership team members spent several months after the conference meeting weekly for prayer and team building to develop a firm foundation before beginning to work on any specific plans or programming. They continue to meet for prayer about an hour each week.

With the support of the *Amazing Parish* facilitator assigned to St. Leo's the parish leadership team developed a plan for making sure that whatever we do flows from our identity and mission. This is done by considering the answers to these five questions:

1. Why do we exist? (core purpose) The Lord has called us to receive and share the good news with all of God's people.
2. How do we behave? (Core values)
 - We are family—brothers and sisters in the Lord
 - It is our privilege to serve the kingdom
 - We embrace the cross with joy—"Pick up your cross and follow me."
3. What do we do? (Business definition) We are a welcoming Eucharistic community living out our mission through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy
4. How will we succeed? (Strategic Anchors): We know we will succeed when every decision we make passes through these filters:
 - Invest and value collaborating partners/relationships—will this further our relationship with helpful partnerships?
 - A welcoming and diverse environment—will this further our welcoming of diversity?
 - Pioneer leaders for diversity—will this be an example of leadership in operating a diverse parish?

5. What is most important right now? (Thematic Goal) Build up structure and support through being clear about how any proposal would help us bring more laborers to the vineyard.

With this in mind the team defined and took responsibility for implementing these objectives:

- Assess and deepen helpful relationships—Casey
- Empower laborers to serve—Judie and Angela
- Communicate clearly to community and parish council—Father Jim
- Begin to establish structures for success—Stephanie

St. Leo's will continue to work with *Amazing Parish* as it looks to planning for the future.

What You'll Be Seeing

- Basic summary of our involvement with *Amazing Parish* in the latest pastoral council meeting summary.
- Updated mission statement on front of bulletin.
- Mission statement in multiple languages.
- Articles in bulletin and newsletter.

How It Works—An Example

Su Casa offered a health fair at St. Leo in March, 2020. In determining whether or not to do it, the offer was filtered through the strategic anchors:

Will it further our relationship with helpful partnerships? It would be open to the community and would utilize volunteers from University of Cincinnati. **Yes**

Would this further our welcoming diversity? The event would be open not only to Hispanics but also refugees and neighborhood people. **Yes**

Would this be an example of leadership in operating a diverse parish? Instead of restricting the health fair only to Hispanics it would be open to the neighborhood which includes African American, Anglo, and refugees. **Yes**

As a result of this process, the health fair is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2020, from 11 am to 3 pm.

What You Can Do

- Keep this process in your prayers.
- Ask questions of parish leadership team.
- Get more involved in parish ministries.
- Check out the webpage amazingparish.org.

Health Day at St. Leo's

2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Sponsored by Su Casa Hispanic Center

Thursday, March 5, 2020

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

All services are free and open to the public.

UC Health Mammography Mobile screening services for insured women age 40 and up. To register, call 513-672-3731.

The Healthcare Connection will assist individuals and families in signing up for the health insurance that is right for them, whether it be Medicaid or private plan.

Breastfeeding consultation.

Free produce and P&G Cleaning Products and much more.

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 all of the generous donors who continue to provide food, hygiene products and household cleanliness items to support the St. Leo Food Pantry. The many guests we serve are deeply grateful!

Many thanks to our
Monthly Overhead Sponsor
for March

Generous Kind Donor



Many, many thanks to the donor who provided a flat screen TV, multi disc player and receiver for use in our upstairs classroom. It's a useful tool for our teachers preparing our students for First Communion and Confirmation, as well as our English As a Second Language students.



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 . . .

With the mark of an ashen cross and the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," the holy season of Lent began, Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

There is a story of a little boy who was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure just go straight down this street a couple of blocks and turn to your right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I am the new pastor in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Awww, come on...You don't even know the way to the Post Office."

Lent is a time for finding the way to heaven that the Lord has made for us. We renew and recommit to this way by turning

away from the sin in our lives and adhering more faithfully to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a time to walk the spiritual journey

through this world to the next one seriously. It is a time for recommitting and committing more deeply to the life of our baptism and for acknowledging Jesus as our only way to heaven and to salvation. It is a time to prepare others for the Sacrament of Baptism and for walking closely together on the trail of salvation.

This year, we are celebrating the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We have 13 catechumens who will be baptized and fully initiated with the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. We also have 2 candidates who have been baptized in other faiths and will complete their initiation into the Catholic Church with the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist also at the Easter Vigil. We also have three children who will be baptized and fully initiated with the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation sometime during the Easter season. Also, there are infants who will be baptized during the Easter season and there is a group of 40 Catholics who have been baptized Catholic and in need of First Communion and Confirmation some time during the Easter season. "As for me and my household, we will serve the

Lord." (Joshua 24:15) We will take our Lenten journey together as we allow Jesus to be our way, truth and life to the Father. We pray with them and support them as they prepare to receive these Sacraments and as all of us learn to live with God's presence of grace. This is our first group of candidates and catechumens in many, many years. Please pray with us and share our joy!



Lent is a time to admit that we don't always know the

**"During this Lent,
let us all ask the Lord:
Make our hearts like yours."**

-Pope Francis



way, on our own and we turn to Jesus to show us the way. It is a time to admit that we often get sidetracked or tempted into detours and so we seek

the Lord's forgiveness and mercy and begin walking a straighter path with the Lord as our guide. It is a time through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to enter deeply into the paschal mystery of dying to self so that others may truly live. It is a time to acknowledge that dying leads to eternal life because the Lord suffered and died for us so that we might share with him the joy and glory of an everlasting kingdom. It is a time to feast on the mercy of God as food and nourishment for the sacrifice of self and the carrying of the cross that is of utmost importance as we learn to walk in the footsteps of Christ to a life where pain and suffering are no longer.

So, what do we want to do, as individuals and as a parish for Lent in the ways of prayer, fasting and almsgiving? Remember, whatever we decide to do, it should be leading us in the way of heaven and witness to others that all of us are heaven bound. It's time for all of us to grab our walking sticks, put on our hiking boots, take the Lord's hand and keep walking with our eyes fixed on heaven, joyful that our lives are full of grace. Happy Lent, Everyone!

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>.

OUR YOUTH ARE GROWING IN FAITH AND SERVICE



WHAT LIES BENEATH . . .

Even though I have pictures of my garden from previous years, I am always surprised by the variety of flowers that seem to magically pop up in the spring. In winter when the ground is hard, strewn with decaying leaves and tangled branches it is difficult to remember that not too long before it was alive with brilliant reds, yellows, purples, and blues and scented with the sweet aroma of lilacs. And yet, as the ground begins to thaw, my garden always wakes up and comes back in splendor.

How does that happen? What goes on underground that brings about this rebirth? Those questions come to my mind each Lent as we are invited to go underground and let go of what is seen and spend more time in that inner space where we meet God.

If you're like me, you start Lent with great intentions and plans to deepen your relationship with God, but these often end up like New Year's resolutions that get dropped by mid-January. I'm hoping that this year can be different—that I can be more patient than I was as a child planting seeds deep in the soil in a flower pot and expecting blooms the next day.

As I'm getting older I'm realizing that just like the unseen workings beneath the dirt that go on in the gray winter days are probably the most important ones in the life of a flower the seemingly unproductive time of silence and contemplation also is likely the most important time for one's spirit.

How to get to what lies beneath beyond my day-to-day relationships and activities and the ever-present draw of my cell phone and the daily news, I'm learning, is not a problem to be solved but an invitation to be answered. To be honest, I'd rather work out the answer to a problem than say "Yes" to an unknown territory where God is in control and I'm not. I like control, knowing what's going to happen and planning ahead. Yet I find that the invitation is both enticing and scary at the same time.

I remember that my Dad embarked on a journey like this one Lent guided by the writings of Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and mystic who answered the call to solitude and in his cloister found God revealing God's self and the beauties, wounds, and cries of the world.

This Lent, I'm thinking about following my Dad's example and letting Merton's *Thoughts in Solitude* be my guide to the places deep down inside where I can just "be" with God. More than 50 years after his death, I find Merton a trustworthy guide.

Even sensing the invitation he says, tells us that we are already there "The only thing to seek in contemplative prayer is God; and we seek Him successfully when we realize that we cannot find Him unless He shows Himself to us, and yet at the same time that He

would not have inspired us to seek Him unless we had already found Him. And it is a real and personal encounter. Hard as it is to convey in human language, there is a very real and recognizable (but almost entirely indefinable) Presence of God, in which we confront Him in prayer knowing Him by Whom we are known, aware of Him Who is aware of us, loving Him by Whom we know ourselves to be loved. Present to ourselves in the fullness of our own personality, we are present to Him Who is infinite in His Being, His Otherness, His Self-hood. It is not a vision face to face, but a certain presence self to Self in which, with the reverent attention of our Whole being, we know Him in Whom all things have being"

And that presence can be with us even when we are in the midst of our busy days.

"As soon as man is fully disposed to be alone with God, he is alone with God no matter where he may be—in the country, in the monastery, in the woods or in the city. As the lightning flashes from east to west, illuminating the whole horizon and striking where it pleases... the infinite liberty of God flashes in the depths of that man's soul, and is illumined. At that moment he sees though he seems to be in the middle of his journey, he has already arrived at the end. For the life of grace on earth is the beginning

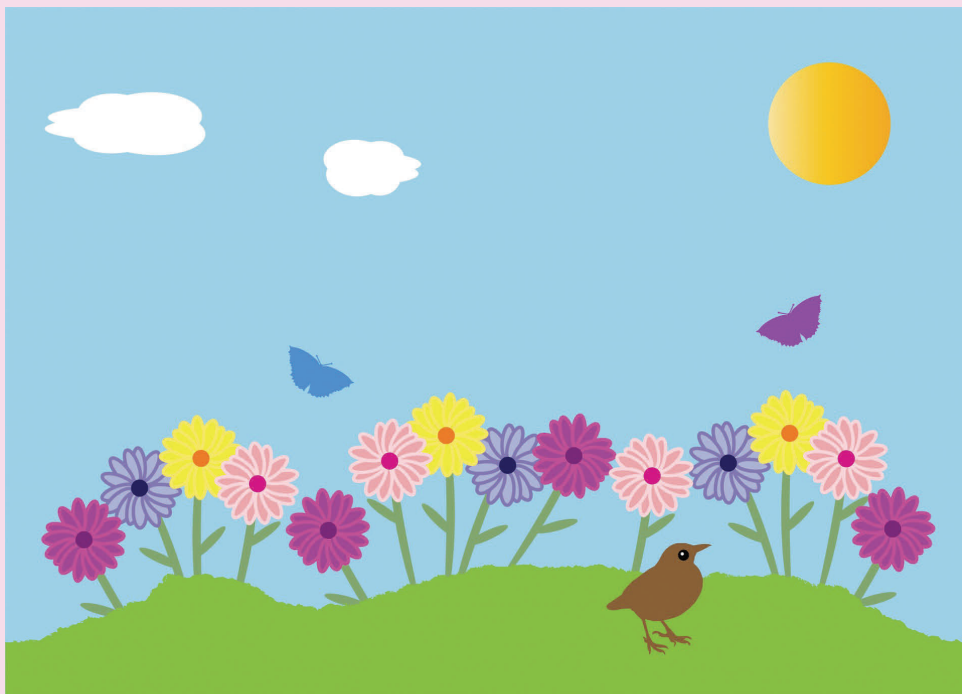
of the life of glory. Although he is a traveler in time, he has opened his eyes, for a moment, in eternity."

Many times along this journey when life feels overwhelming and confusing and I find it hard to know the next right step to take, I find myself identifying with this well-known prayer from Merton:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

And so, this Lent I hope to be patient and trust that my willingness to journey into the soil of my soul and rely on God's grace at work tending the process of growth and letting go within me will result in the sweetness of God's new Easter life.

~~ Angela Anno



Jake's Jabbers



While visiting one day, a visitor commented on the frantic activity pervading the offices. Well, sometimes it's just like that. Yet, out of the chaotic hustle and bustle came calm and peaceful resolutions from the energy we all put into what we had to do.

Y' know, most dogs know a storm is coming before humans. That distant thunder actually creates so much turbulence and vibration that it cleanses the electric forces and clears the air. Think of those March winds and soon-to-be-April showers that leave the air smelling clean and crisp, and the light so vivid everything seems to glow. There's a hopefulness permeating life. It reminds me of how in the Wizard of Oz the scenes went from black-and-white to color after Dorothy landed in Oz after the tornado. Her turbulent journey and eventual encounters along the yellow-brick-road led her "back home", with many gifts of friendship, compassion, hope and love acquired on the way.

Yes, chaos is pretty fantastic.

Which brings me to Spring Cleaning. We all know the routine: tear through the closets, drawers, garages, and stacks of papers before the real cleaning can take place. And what of our Physical and Spiritual cleansing? Do we remember to use airplane mode to avoid so much magnetic energy from our cell phones? When was the last time we took digital breaks or FaceBreaks from all the constant internet intrusions, beeps, and sounds? That would shock our systems! Do we take time in Prayer and Meditation? Do we stop to let the peace and calm reach our soul and be Love to one another? To be grateful? To forgive? To listen to our own breaths? To hope and dream?

Don't mind the chaos in the Spring Cleaning of Life. Somewhere over the rainbow troubles melt like lemon-drops, bluebirds fly, and dreams that we dare to dream really do come true.

Jake's Jokes

What did the cloud say to the lightning bolt?
You're shocking!



Which flower is able to talk?
The tulip - because it has two-lips!



Do ya know what happened when I swallowed a firefly?
I barked with delight!



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.**

To volunteer, or for more info, call 513-921-1044x30.


Snow NEWS!



Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations:

WCPO-Channel 9, WKRC Channel 12,
WXIX-Channel 19

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. 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 513-623-9897.

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!

January Winners: Kay Falcone, Larry Babel, Evelyn Robison

Thank You Again!

WISH LIST

It's been a bit chilly in Fr. Jim's office! Help keep Fr. Jim warm and cut our heating bill at the same time! **\$1,400.00 would cover the cost of 2 vinyl double-hung replacement windows and frames**, insulated and sealed.

Food Pantry Upright Freezer - 20 or 21.3 cu. ft. w/self-defrost & alarm (\$850-\$1000)

Youth Group/Centennial Hall Freezer - Chest style - 19.8 cu. ft. (\$600-\$850-depending on delivery)

Interactive SmartBoard & Projector for Religious Formation Classes (we're still checking out what's best on this)

Gas Cards for our 3 vans

Uber Gift Cards to assist St. Leo's parishioners who have no means of transportation to get to appointments.

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!

iGRACIAS! MURAKOZE! THANK YOU!

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 St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for March Generous Kind Donor

In January the Food Pantry served 537 individuals, in 201 households, including 193 children and 85 seniors.

NEEDS FOR MARCH:

Cereal; Boxed dinner accompaniments like Rice-a-Roni, scalloped potatoes, etc.

Canned: salmon, tuna, chicken, hams, pineapple, carrots, spinach
Vinegar, salad dressing, mustard, small cooking oil, tomato paste, salsa, Jiffy corn muffin mix, quick-cake mixes, sugar (boxed rather than bagged), spices (small-sized salt, pepper, cinnamon, garlic powder)
Shampoo, deodorant, razors, wet-wipes, Clorox Wipes, dish soap, tissues, paper towels

Diapers: size 1, 2, 4

Brown paper grocery bags

Friday Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in helping out a few hours a day, a week, or a month, please contact Stephanie Sepate at 513-921-1044 or email FoodPantry@saint-leo.org for more information, or to sign up! Invite a friend or two to join you! The more the merrier!

ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY OVERHEAD SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

We are seek-ing individuals and organizations that would be willing to "Sponsor" one month of our operating costs of \$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.
 U.S.POSTAGE
 PAID
 Cincinnati, Ohio
 Permit No. 3402



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 Mass: 10:30am	2 Food Pantry Open	3 	4 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:30-7:00pm	5 7:00pm MASS Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass	6 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm	7 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
8 Mass: 10:30am	9 Food Pantry Open	10 	11 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:30-7:00pm	12 7:00pm MASS	13 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm	14 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
15 Mass: 10:30am	16 Food Pantry Open	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:30-7:00pm	19 7:00pm MASS First Day of Spring	20 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm	21 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
22 Mass: 10:30am	23 Food Pantry Open President's Day	24 The Light Is On For You 7:00-9:00pm 	25 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:30-7:00pm	26 7:00pm MASS	27 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm	28 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
29 Mass: 10:30am	30 Food Pantry Open	31 		<i>March</i>		