

LOVE is patient,

love is kind,

It does not envy,

it does not boast,

it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others,

it is not self-seeking,

it is not easily angered,

it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil

but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects,

always trusts,

always hopes,

always perseveres.

Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



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 ...

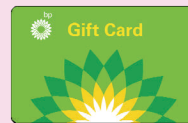


Many, many thanks to Mary Magdalen House for their bountiful gift of dozens of new and gently used ladies' running shoes. St. Leo's women and girls are thrilled!



Many, many thanks to Archdiocese of Cincinnati Human Resources Department, The Cincinnati Donauschwaben Society Ladies Auxiliary, Good Samaritan Endoscopy & Outpatient Dept., St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, St. Thomas More Parish, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish and the dozens of individuals who contributed so many new and gently used items who made our annual Toy & Clothing Sale a great success!

Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor for February In Loving Memory of Jack & Ann Ellis



Many, many thanks to the donor who provided BP, Shell, and Uber gift cards. We can't begin to tell you helpful these cards are in carrying out our ministries here at St. Leo's.



Many, many thanks to The Sisters of Divine Providence who donated dozens of toys, for children between the ages of 6 mos. to 12+ years. The toys were distributed at St. Leo's parish Epiphany Children's Party. St. Leo's children and their parents all enjoyed a wonderful celebration and are deeply grateful!

¡GRACIAS! 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 . . .

Two weeks before Christmas
not the same in the house.
My dog Clancy was Quiet,
like a church mouse.

Suddenly he was different
no visits to my bed.
He could barely move
Only to raise his head.

His eyes were empty.
He became so thin.
The rug by the door
was his only Inn.

No eating and smiling
and playing with Jake.
Not a bark or a whimper
could he make.

The words from the vet
were ever so true.
This for me was
very sad news.

He was thirteen years old.
I rescued him at six.
I had him for seven
when he became so sick.

Cancer in his bones
would steal away his life.
And it cuts me so hard
like a very sharp knife.

But I believe his home
is now in heaven.
It is his reward.
He was a great companion.

So, thank you Clancy
you are a gentle friend.
You chased fear
from all the children.

You came to me fast
when I screamed at the "Reds"
just to be sure
I wasn't dead!

Quickly on your back
for a pat on your tummy
or on your feet
for a treat so yummy.

Jake and I miss you
as well as the parish.
So many memories
You gave us to cherish.

You blessed us all
with a love so true.
Now I have
this wish for you.

Live on my friend
with memories the best.
In the arms of God,
eternally rest.

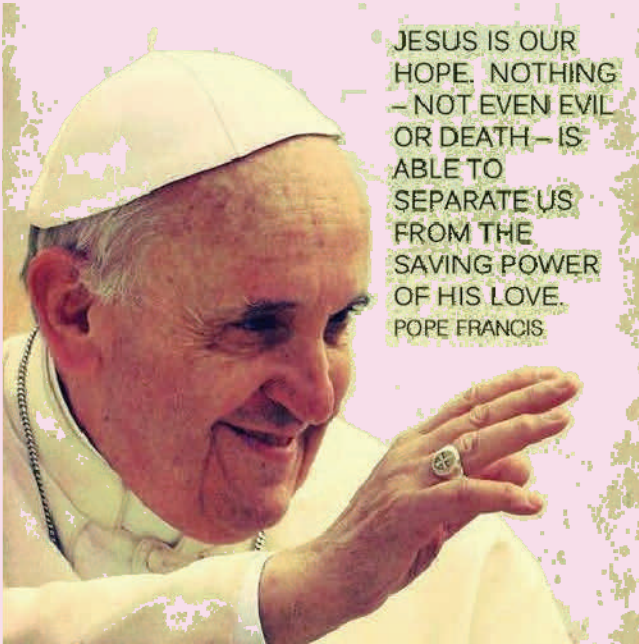
St. Leo's Prayer Wall is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, 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>.

VALENTINES FROM POPE FRANCIS—MUSINGS ON LOVE



JESUS IS OUR HOPE. NOTHING – NOT EVEN EVIL OR DEATH – IS ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE SAVING POWER OF HIS LOVE.
POPE FRANCIS

“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.”

“The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil.”

“Small gestures of love, of tenderness, of care, make people feel that the Lord is with us. This is how the door of mercy opens.”

“God wants us all to see one another as brothers and to live as such, forming a great human family that is harmonious in its diversity.”

“The love of God is not generic. God looks with love upon every man and woman, calling them by name.”

“All are called to love and cherish family life, for families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity.”

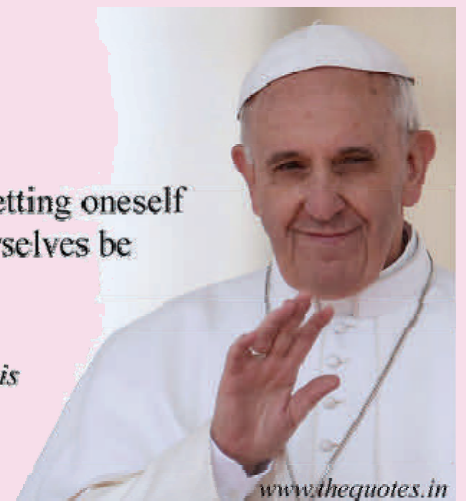
“If our hearts and actions are inspired by charity, by divine love, then our communication will be touched by God’s own power.”

“Love is the only light which can constantly illuminate a world grown dim.”

“To change the world we must be good to those who cannot repay us.”

True love is both loving and letting oneself be loved. It is harder to let ourselves be loved than it is to love.

Pope Francis



WHO SAID LOVE WAS EASY...

"I give you a new commandment--Love one another as I have loved you." Jesus' directive to his friends as he neared the end of his life seems simple enough but as anyone can tell you—love is very hard work!



I remember cradling my newborn son, nuzzling his tiny head, exhilarating in his sweet baby smell and being filled with a love I had never known before. I was sure that nothing could ever diminish those feelings. Several sleepless nights, cries I didn't know how to respond to, smelly diapers, and mess upon mess in my house had me asking myself, "What have you gotten yourself into?" Suddenly my life was no longer my own. Things had changed dramatically and though it called on strengths I didn't know I possessed I somehow found myself growing and my heart expanding to embrace my new life. It's not to say that I was the happy perfect mom from that day forward. There were still many times when I got frustrated, angry, afraid, and felt overwhelmed and powerless, but I was in it for the long haul with its ups and downs and lots and lots of prayer for guidance and strength. Love is hard work.

Love is even hard for little people. My six-year-old twin grandsons are very close but after an argument one of them told me, "it takes a while for the love to fill back up,"--wise insight for one so young.

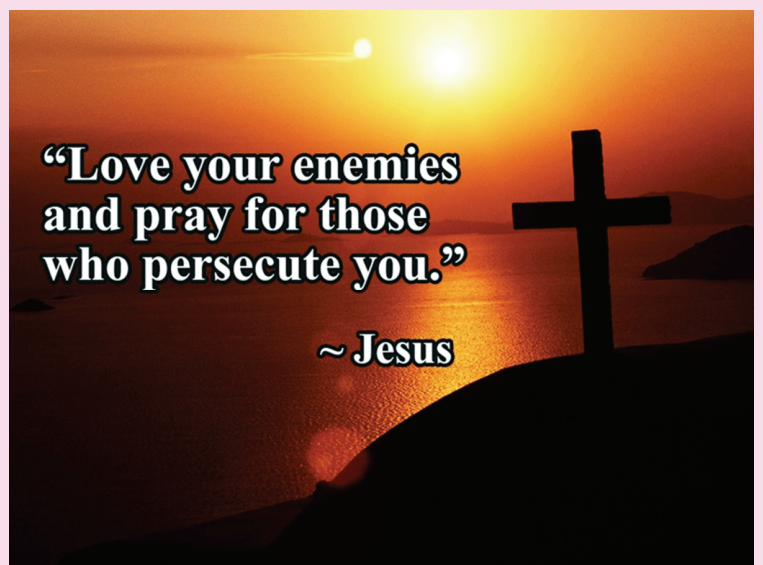
My seven-year-old grandson is a person with autism. Though he is verbal and intelligent he has had hard time learning in a traditional classroom and is uncomfortable with touch and many social interactions. He easily gets frustrated and sometimes acts out. I love him very much but I have to find new ways of interacting and expressing affection that work for him. Hugging for him means being next to him not arms around him. He's uncomfortable with kissing, and as any grandma, I like to smother my grandchildren with kisses. Loving him means being tuned into his needs and comfort. It's different from how I relate to my other grandchildren, but it's how he and I love each other. I know he appreciates it. When I was leaving after a recent visit the told me, "Grandma, I don't want you to leave. I love you." My heart melted. We really

were connecting!

When my husband was in his final bout with cancer much as I loved him life was very difficult and I often was frustrated and impatient, though that wasn't my intent. Disease, effects of radiation, and medication changed him from an energetic man with a quick sense of humor to someone growing ever more feeble with decreasing energy and an inability to taste and swallow food no matter how hard I tried to prepare something for him to eat. We both were upset.

I had chosen to stay home with him when he was sick—it was what I believed God wanted me to do—and seeing the one I loved decline and slip away was very difficult. There were occasional sparks of the old Jim, but too often I felt only the burden and the loss. I used to walk and pray each day and vent my frustrations with my situation to God. The message I heard was always the same: "Go home and love him." So I tried. As a result our final hours together were intimate, tender, and soaked in love. It wasn't what I had planned or hoped for but it was exactly what our love was meant to be.

"Love one another as I have loved you." It's hard enough with family and friends, but people that we don't like or that have hurt us—ones that we see as enemies. Surely God can't expect us to do that. And yet we are told: "Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you."



Loving one's enemies doesn't mean putting oneself back in a dangerous situation but it does mean letting go of the anger and resentment toward them that we often hold unspoken in our hearts. The Big Book of AA offers a suggestion that at first hearing sounds impossible: If you want to be free of resentment, pray for the person you resent. Pray not that God make them behave the way you want them to but instead that God give them every good thing you want for yourself. Do this every day for two weeks and you will find that your heart is softened—and both of you are free. It works. I know. I've done it.

The kind of love that Jesus modeled and calls us to is not lacy hearts, candy, flowers and fairy tale endings but fidelity and steadfastness, especially in the hard times. Not easy, but then nothing worthwhile ever is.

~ Angela Anno

Clancy's Cliché's



I'm writing these first few lines in the weeks before Christmas, as my outer body wearies and is way beyond repair... yet my young thinking and playful mind are still full of heart and soul. How does that happen? Alas, there comes a time when one must pass the torch to the next level, and say farewell to all ye, my faithful (and very complimentary) readers!

The best gift a teacher could ever have is for their student to be better than the teacher could ever be. Hence, I give you my baby brother, Jake, who will be finishing this month's column since I will be in another place, and continuing the great tradition in the St. Leo Newsletter. Drumrolls, please, for Jake. For me, I hear the canine choir of angels...



Dear Readers,

Testing. Testing. Hey there! This is Jake! Can you read me? Ten-Four, Labrador!

So, I'd like to start by saying how difficult it is to step into my big brother's paws in his absence. There is much grace and blessing in grieving. And there are many instances of grieving: for loved ones, for the unexpected passing of relatives, for changes in lifestyle, for job changes, moving to a different home or country, sickness, aging, and for so many other life-changing events. The process of grieving, with its myriad of emotions, is different for each and every one of us. We should never, ever, judge "when a person should be finished grieving" or "moving on".



While at the vet, a big ol' bump was noticed on my tail which had to be removed. That meant lopping off part of my tail and leaving me with a little wiggle of a thing. And I had to wear the cone of shame. Oy! Having poodle in me, I'm used to doing lots of tricks, but that cone was bumping the floor when I walked, making my head start to flip me over front-ways. Whiplash! Since my tail looks like a little bobcat's, they're calling me "Bob" now. What's a guy to do?

In all seriousness, it's a loss. A part of my body is gone, and I miss it. I don't feel "whole". I miss playing and sleeping with my brother. I miss his presence. All of this within a few weeks. I am different. Those around us are different. So remember, there is much understanding and compassion that comes with life-changing events. We evolve. We adapt. We change. It's the process. Appreciate life (and yourself), smile more, hug more, dance more, share the love, and keep on licking to keep on ticking.

Knock, knock Who's there? Ash. Ash who? Gesundheit!

What did the nut say when it got a cold? iɹəʌʃɹɛʃ

Where do most people eat on Leap Day? iHɔɪ



(Editor's Note: Clancy and Jake were good buddies. Although, in many ways, they were different from each other in personality and temperament, exact opposites, they were perfect for each other. They got along great and often were the balance in each other's lives. They made true the meaning of the phrase opposites attract. They taught each other many things. Clancy introduced Jake to his ghost writer for this column to take his place and to allow this column to continue to be the most popular and most read column in the Newsletter. You will notice Jake's quick wit and appreciate his insightful eye and at the same time remember fondly his good buddy Clancy. Enjoy!)

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!

December Winners: Donna Withers, Steve & Denise Riley, Mike Wolfer, Dolores Ritchie, Rosemary French

Thank You Again!



Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for February

In Loving Memory of Jack and Ann Ellis

WISH LIST

The Catholic Youth Bible: 10 copies at \$29.95 ea.
To remain at St. Leo's For classes held at St. Leo's
<https://www.smp.org/search/?s=products&q=Catholic+Youth+Bible&x=10&y=12>

Costumes for our Youth Ministry: Christmas, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, Easter, soldiers, apostles, women, All Souls Day saints, etc.

Snow Removal Assistance Needed. We really need someone willing to help out with snow removal before events on weekends. Call Stephanie at 513-921-1044

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!

¡GRACIAS! 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/>



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

Needs for February:

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

Canned: salmon, tuna, chicken, hams, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, other fun soups, pineapple, carrots, spinach Vinegar, Salad dressing, Small cooking oil, Tomato paste, Salsa Shampoo, deodorant, men's razors, wet-wipes, Clorox Wipes, dish soap, tissues, paper towels

Diapers: size 1, 2, 5

Brown paper grocery bags

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Monday, Wednesdays & especially Fridays Noon-4:00pm

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

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 Cincinnati, Ohio
 Permit No. 3402

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|-------------------|--|--|
|  FEBRUARY  | | | | | | 1 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon |
| 2 Mass: 10:30am Teen Bible Study First Communion Class | 3 Food Pantry Open | 4  | 5 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm | 6 7:00pm MASS | 7 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm | 8 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon |
| 9 Mass 10:30am Teen Bible Study First Communion Class ass: 10:30am | 10 Food Pantry Open | 11  | 12 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm | 13 7:00pm MASS | 14 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Teen High School Retreat Happy Valentine's Day  | 15 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon Teen High School Retreat |
| 16 Mass: 10:30am Teen High School Retreat First Communion Class | 17 President's Day Food Pantry Open Office Closed | 18  | 19 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm | 20 7:00pm MASS | 21 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm | 22 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon |
| 23 Mass: 10:30am Teen Bible Study First Communion Class | 24 Food Pantry Open | 25  | 26 Food Pantry Open Homework Help/ Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm Ash Wednesday | 27 7:00pm MASS | 28 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm | 29 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon |