

April 26, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

“Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known in the breaking of the bread.” (Luke 24:35)

This Sunday’s Gospel tells the story of the two disciples, on the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem, encountering the risen Lord. Jesus asks the two disciples the subject of their conversation and they tell the Lord about what just happened to Jesus of Nazareth and that he was sentenced to death and crucified. They also said that some women from their group went to the tomb and reported that they did not see Jesus and they heard that Jesus was alive. Then the Lord explains to the disciples the necessity of his sufferings in order to enter his glory. The Lord explained to them the meaning of all the Scriptures. They invited Jesus to stay with them. Jesus takes bread. He blesses it and breaks it and gives it to them. Then they recognize the person with whom they were sharing bread was Jesus, risen and alive. The two disciples return to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples and apostles.

Please allow me to share with you some of what has taken place to and from the road to St. Leo this past week, and how the risen Lord continues to be present in the breaking of the bread and in the breaking of the people, the Body of Christ in service to the Body of Christ:

- With a firm belief that our food pantry, for the people we serve, is as important and essential as is any major food store or supermarket, our food pantry remains open with the good will and the sacrifice of our volunteers who want to feed people who otherwise would not be fed. We follow all the necessary safety precautions as best as we are able and we remove our masks, just for a moment, before we open the doors to serve our clients, to receive the Lord in a communion service, to pray for our clients, and to ask for God’s help to do his work and ministry. In the wounds, hunger, respect, cooperation, patience, and appreciation of the clients and in the selfless service and radical hospitality that welcomes them, again the risen Lord is recognized in the breaking of the bread.
- A distraught client of the food pantry who is upset and despairing because of the pandemic breaks down in tears overwhelmed with stress and fear. As she tries to register, one of our volunteers starts talking with her. They discover that they are neighbors and the lady has seen our volunteer praying with the volunteer’s children and the lady’s children often play with the volunteer’s children and now it seems that all the children will be playing and praying together soon. The lady asked the volunteer to pray with her that day and they did and so her heart, soul and body were fed and comforted. And again, they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.
- People know about and believe in the genuine ministry and mission of the parish and especially at this time when it is very difficult for some of our parishioners to support the parish and to even find a way to make a contribution, others want to help us. Some have shared their tax return money or the subsidy and relief money they received from our government. A seventh grader sent me an envelope with cash inside. In pencil, on the front of the envelope, he wrote: “I got my first lawn mowing job!” With generosity, self-sacrifice, kindness, charity and thoughtfulness, the risen Christ is recognized in the breaking of the bread.

Although we do not know when we can gather around the eucharistic table in person again, for certain, one day we will. In the meantime, thanks for your works of mercy and bringing the Lord’s table to so many. With the sharing of your faith and life, thank you for giving others hope that Christ is truly risen.

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.** 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.

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

Hunger Walk is going VIRTUAL this year! 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

or, cincinnatihungerwalk.org. Be sure to look for St. Leo Church Pantry

or, make your check payable to: Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk. Be sure to designate St. Leo Church Pantry as your recipient. Mail to: Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk, 1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202. **Your support is VERY important!** ALL 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!

