

April 5, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

Holy Week: All of our services for this great week of prayer have been adjusted to account for the absence of an assembly in church and to follow safe distancing and cleansing procedures for the ministers and camera crew. For Palm Sunday there is no blessing, distribution and procession with palm branches. The gospel selection is the Passion of St. Matthew's Gospel. There are two major changes in Holy Thursday services. There will be no washing of feet and no procession at the end of Mass with the blessed Sacrament and likewise no adoration. Good Friday, there will be eleven petitions instead of ten. One has been added for the Pandemic. Also, the ministers who will reverence the cross are to do so without touching it. Easter Vigil, there will be no Easter Fire or procession with the Paschal Candle and the Sacraments of Initiation will not be celebrated.

With the Liturgy of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we are all invited to enter and participate in the Passion of Christ as it unfolds throughout Holy Week in the liturgies and rituals that we celebrate. This is especially true with the Three days that we call the Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. We encourage all of you to join us from the friendly and safe confines of your homes.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/RCC-St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati-103955481239196/>

This is the greatest week of prayer for the Church. Our liturgy throughout the year moves us to this week and climaxes in the three days of the Triduum and the celebration of Easter. "If we die with the Lord then we will truly rise with Him." here is no greater love than this than to lay down one's life for one's friends." his is what we believe, pray and live in this holiest of weeks.

As the church gathers all over the world to celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week as they have been given to us throughout the ages to be prayed, we grow together as the church, the Body of Christ, brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ. his holiest of weeks and the way that the Church of God is invited to pray sees itself as one with God, through Jesus and in their Spirit and one with each other in Christ.

As we enter into the prayer of Holy Week, can we do so with open hearts and with a genuine desire to let this greatest week of prayer in the church really change us? If the prayer of this week is about the continual formation of the whole church in the love and image of Christ then it, too, provides great formation for us, as St. Leo, to be formed into the Body of Christ, especially with our many and wonderful diversities. t is important for all of us to come together and pray this week of prayer.

For your reflection and prayer: William Arthur Ward, American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994, wrote: Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them. Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life. Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light. Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God. Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify. Fast from discontent; Feast on patience. Fast from anger; Feast on patience. Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism. Fast from worry; Feast on Divine order. Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation. Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives. Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer. Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance. Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness. Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others. Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth. Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope. Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift. Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm. Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire. Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity. Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens.

May our fasting lead us to the great love of Holy Week and the incredible glory of Easter!

Please check our web page or call the parish office for the times of the live streaming of our services. **Holy Thursday is still at 7pm but Good Friday may be moved to 2 or 3pm and the Easter Vigil may start earlier than 8:45pm.** I will announce the

final schedule next Sunday and the times on our web page will be corrected.

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 1.

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.

CRS Rice Bowl Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different countries each year. 25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.