

ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER



To my friends of St. Leo Parish, all our partners and neighbors,

It is difficult to believe what has happened to this tall African in the last five years! As you'll remember, I was born and raised in a remote area of Turkana, Kenya, the son of a widowed mother and two younger siblings. My mother and brother are members of an evangelical church. I am the only educated person in my family, and this was made possible through the support of friends and missionaries.

Years before coming to the United States, I first began to discern my calling to the priesthood when I was 21 years old. I was attracted to the Catholic faith and the priesthood by the lives of those Catholic missionaries who evangelized and served my Kenyan community. Their ministries, the witness of their simple living, and their prayer life called me to pursue the priesthood. It is such a witness of faith and Christian charity that attracted me to St. Leo's parish during my first visit to the US.

I enjoy St. Leo's liturgical celebrations and creative blend of English, African, and Spanish spiritual music, something the wider parish community seems to enjoy. Your music and worship is pure but vibrant and inviting. Many of you parishioners take the Catholic faith with a seriousness, devoutness, reverence, and respect it deserves. Even though you are from different cultures, you practice the Catholic faith together. Above all, you do things together and respect each other's differences. Despite your hardships and challenges, you consistently come to the Church

with more enthusiasm and willingness to help. I am also inspired by your sister parish, Our Lady of the Visitation (OLV), and dedicated staff and parishioners. St. Leo's partnership with OLV reinforces the idea that we are all catholic, universal, the Body of Christ and with gifts to offer the other despite our uniqueness or differences. By sharing in the gifts of others' cultures, I think we are trying our best to love God and others, to evangelize, and to practice Christian solidarity/charity. As a result of doing this, we reap the benefits of coming into contact with the poor, "the other," and a rich culture different from our own. What a faith and inspiration! I hope to take this experience of Christian discipleship and solidarity with me wherever I am assigned to serve as a priest.

I have many mentors, including my Kenyan family, my host family, and especially the community and staff at St. Leo parish. I have also been blessed to become friends with some fine priests in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati who have helped guide me over these five years. One of those mentors is Fr. Jim Schutte, our pastor and my companion along the journey. I have been especially blessed and inspired by the faith of the entire community of St. Leo's with whom I have been privileged to work and share my faith. I believe a priest can both minister to and learn from the congregation.

I do not know where I will be posted as a priest, but I hope to be a priest who reflects the joy and hope of Christ through my actions. I believe a joyful attitude, optimism, and sense of humor are good starting points for a priest. They can lead to humility and a willingness to admit that I do not have all the answers, but I will look for them and ask for help if needed. Such understanding requires a commitment to daily prayer and the guidance of a wise spiritual director to help me continue to grow in knowing who I am as a person, putting all that I do in balance, and recognizing challenges that come my way. I also look forward to meeting and serving the people entrusted to my care — to celebrate, learn from, and walk with them, supported by the Sacraments and ministries.

I want to thank the faithful of the St. Leo Community for their support. I am also grateful to St. Leo's partner and sister parish, Our Lady of the Visitation, for supporting me and welcoming me. All in all, I am grateful to all of you who have led me to this place of ordination — those who encouraged and inspired me. Let us continue to keep hope alive, have a strong faith, and support and pray for one another in these unique and challenging times.

With gratitude and prayers, Deacon Benson Lotiang'a

Due to the currant 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.

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 thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor for May

Anonymous

Thank you all so very much for your thoughtful donations given during this time of the Covid-19 corona virus, to support St. Leo the Great Parish and Food Pantry. Your caring assistance makes an immense and wonderful impact on many people's lives through our food pantry, neighborhood garden project, English as Second Language Classes, our Wednesday evening tutoring program, our doorbell and phone ministries serving neighborhood people seeking support and a listening ear. All of us at St. Leo's are deeply grateful.

Your gifts so selflessly given provide the immeasurable gift of dignity for our guests. **Truly gifts of indescribable value!**

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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Jai

Rev. James R. Schutte

Pastor



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!





Hunger Walk is going VIRTUAL this year! Stay tuned for more information regarding our scheduled Virtual Hunger Walk on Memorial Day, May 25.

Your virtual registration or virtual donation will help support

the St. Leo Food Pantry.

Your support of the Hunger Walk on our behalf is

VERY important to our continued operation.

To make your virtual registration or virtual donation go to:

http://fsfb.convio.net/site/TR? pg=team&fr id=1430&team id=11540

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

The St. Leo Food Pantry depends on your support. Although all checks are made payable to Freestore Foodbank, ALL money designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account.

This is our "money in the bank." When we make purchases at FSFB it is deducted from our account. In addition to food items, funds may be used for shared maintenance fees, refrigeration & freezer capacity, rent/utilities, technology upgrades in support of food distribution, truck purchase or maintenance.

Due to your generosity last year and some very frugal spending, we currently have a balance in our account for 2020.

Our goal this year is to have enough money at the FreeStore FoodBank to last us until the 2021 Hunger Walk!

We Are Deeply Grateful for Your Support!



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

As a new month begins, we are still celebrating Easter waiting more. Don't cling to see if the "Stay at Home" Policy will be relaxed or extended. So, to the hatred that I want to share with all of you my Easter Homily. If I were to give it resides a title, I would call it, "Easter is here to stay!"

We were told that we cannot celebrate Easter this year! In one sense this is true because we cannot celebrate it in a normal way or in the way that we are used to celebrating it for years – in church with the family of God and the community of believers. But Easter is here and not even a pandemic can change that reality.

the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. A "new normal" the Promised Kingdom where you rejoice with those who rejoice was given to them and in their astonishment, fear and disbelief, and weep with those who weep and suffer with those who suffer. they had to learn it, accept it, believe it and share it.

So, too, every year when Easter comes and especially this year, when we are behind closed doors, and the fear of dying and death surrounds us, Easter challenges us to learning, keep understanding, and witnessing to what it means to be an Easter people, what it means to be the children of God. We must celebrate it and keep celebrating it always as best as we are able.

The first Easter met the disciples with astonishment and fear. From the angelic messenger at the tomb and Jesus himself to the women, the message was not to be afraid because there is a "new to this world. The risen Christ wants to free them from their our song now and forever. Amen. Alleluia!! Alleluia!! Alleluia!! slavery. He wants them to let go and live in the reality of Easter and it is Easter life and the life of the resurrection that claims them now for all eternity.

promised kingdom that God describes. Don't cling to the pressures is risen just like he said. Happy Easter everyone! of achievement and the stress of success, work for the promised kingdom where kindness and humility and gentleness count for

deep within, work for promised the kingdom where there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free,

male nor female. Don't cling to the mentality that winner takes all With the first Easter, the apostles had to learn and understand or what's in it for me or charity is only when it feels good, work for Don't cling to the necessity of violence, work for

> the promised kingdom where strength comes to those who are weak and security, power, trust, hope, mercy, forgiveness, justice and peace come from God alone through God's Son who rose from the dead and in their Spirit.

Easter is here to stay. Death no longer has the final word over us. We must live in this world, but we are of another world. We can no longer experience dying and death without hearing, "Alleluia, Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia, Jesus Christ is risen! Share the victory! Share the Victory!

We can leave our Good Friday world and celebrate and normal." Day after day, they were confronted with the world of live in the reality of Easter in any time, situation and place. Indeed, Good Friday. In their humanness, it was only right for them to cling we must. We are God's children, saved and redeemed. Alleluia is

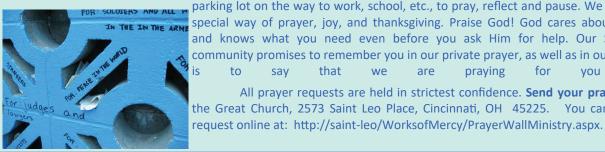
Whether we can gather again in public or if we must stay in our homes, Easter is always here for us. We must keep learning, understanding, witnessing and celebrating what it means to be an Don't cling to the world as you want it to be, work for the Easter people and find ways to do it. Do not be afraid, Jesus Christ

~~ Fr. Jim

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 IN THE IN THE ARME 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

> say that we are praying for vou 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























IT USED TO BE . . .

It used to be that we gathered as a parish family each Sunday to pray with each other, to sing, to hug each other at the sign of peace, to feast on the Eucharist, and linger after Mass to catch up with each other. It used to be that our children danced down the center aisle on the way to children's liturgy and came back later with big smiles on their faces showing off what they had made. It used to be that there were classes for those entering the church and children being baptized and preparing for First Communion and Confirmation. It used to be children came for tutoring on Wednesday afternoons and Guatemalan bands practiced in the evenings. It used to be there was Mass on Thursdays and Saturdays followed by prayer. It used to be that children were in school, people went to work, got paid, congregated at each others' homes, went to restaurants, concerts, and sporting events.

It used to be...

Now we still gather as a family each Sunday, but we're in our own homes and Mass is live-streamed. We can still sing and pray, but there's a overwhelming hunger for Eucharist that nothing else can satisfy. We aren't able to see our beautiful children and hear the music of their laughter. We can't hug each other. We find ways to stay connected, but it's not the same. While there's a new awareness of what is most important, a growing stream of kindness and governments working together, there's also the isolation of social distancing, the daily news conferences reporting new cases and deaths, growing fear and loneliness, the everpresent cloud of pandemic hanging over us, and worry that this new normal that we're living may go on forever and we'll never recapture what used to be. Being physically cut off from each other makes it so much harder.

By faith we know and believe that God is with us, that coronavirus will not have the last word, that there will be resurrection and new life ahead, but it feels like no people have experienced anything like this before. Certainly in my 78 years of life I have not.

We're in a place of lament, something our forebears in faith knew very well. In fact many of the psalms and a complete book of the Bible reflect on this very experience. See if you can find any similarities to what you might be feeling in this small sample of readings.



Psalm 13

How long, LORD? Will you utterly forget me?
How long will you hide your face from me?
3How long must I carry sorrow in my soul,
grief in my heart day after day?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
But I trust in your mercy.
Grant my heart joy in your salvation,
I will sing to the LORD,
for he has dealt bountifully with me!

Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat weeping
when we remembered Zion.
On the poplars in its midst
we hung up our harps.
For there our captors asked us
for the words of a song;
Our tormentors, for joy:
"Sing for us a song of Zion!"
But how could we sing a song of the LORD
in a foreign land?

Book of Lamentations

How solitary sits the city, once filled with people. She who was great among the nations is now like a widow. Once a princess among the provinces, now a toiling slave. The roads to Zion mourn. empty of pilgrims to her feasts. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, Her young women grieve; her lot is bitter. Jerusalem remembers in days of wretched homelessness, All the precious things she once had in days gone by. (Chapter 1:1, 4, 7, 16)

How far from me is anyone to comfort,
anyone to restore my life.
Remembering it over and over,
my soul is downcast.
But this I will call to mind;
therefore I will hope:
The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted,
his compassion is not spent;
They are renewed each morning—
great is your faithfulness!
The LORD is my portion, I tell myself,
therefore I will hope in him. Chapter 3: 20-24)

It's uncharted territory for us, but we're in this together and Jesus is with us. The waves may be rocking the boat, but Jesus is not asleep. We are safe. We will get through this though daily life may be different. And some day—though it's hard to imagine now—we may be looking back at this time with gratitude as a period of great grace.

Jake's Jabbers



There we were. Life seemed a rendition of the Saturday morning cartoon Roadrunner vs. Wile E.

Coyote. Neither of them ever stops. Ceaseless noise, beep-beeps, meep-meeps, running hither and thither, nights and days are interchangeable let alone days, weeks and months.

And then here we are. "Screech!" as the Roadrunner would infer. It's like someone hit the "Hold" button on Life; deserted streets, empty restaurants, quiet cities, and a sense of weightlessness to our days. The new days of the week have been renamed thisday, thatday, otherday, someday, nextday, yesterday, and today! We used to tally our time by days, weeks, months, and years. Now we're surprised it's only been 10 minutes since we last checked the time.

And then there we are. Here it comes! The "Play" button will be pressed. Will it be the same old rerun of the Roadrunner cartoon? Perhaps our time on "hold" has given us a chance to "Marie Kondo" our lives and clear out the unnecessary clutter, ie, keeping only those things that speak to the heart, and discard items that no longer spark joy. As we resume the new version of our old patterns, consider what you might put back into your life versus what makes our lives richer. Phasing in different aspects of "regular" life might be better than converging on a beach like folks did in mid-April after an order was lifted.

This is the huge once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. What has become important in those days of seclusion? Or rather, what was really unimportant that may have been weighing your life down? I betcha it made ya look into your hearts a bit more. A clean slate awaits. Meep, Meep!

Jake's Coronavirus Reflections

Humans have developed a few dog-like habits: They roam the house all day looking for food and are told "no" if they get too close to strangers.

Everyone now understands why dogs think going for a car ride is SOOOOOO exciting!

After experiencing "stay-at-home" with humans, emotional support dogs realize, eh, this isn't for me.

Now humans understand why dogs get excited looking out the window and why they chew on furniture.

Dog as are asking: Why are all the humans wearing muzzles?



Didn't humans realize before, the importance of licking their paws and keeping their hands clean?

What else is there to look forward to every day but playtime and walks?



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.

New Rules at the Food Pantry

Due to the corona virus 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.

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 & Babes: 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!

March Winners: June Gilliland, Dolores Ritchie

Thank You Again!

WISH LIST

Interactive SmartBoard (\$?????) & Projector (\$1,900) for Religious Formation Classes (we're still researching what's best so if you're knowledgeable, please call 513-921-

New Storm Doors for the Rectory Building (front & backapprox \$1,475)

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 Unline 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:

htts://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 May Anonymous

In March the Food Pantry served 744 individuals, in 282 households, including 262 children and 101 seniors.

NEEDS FOR MAY

Cereal

Canned: salmon, tuna, chicken, hams, pineapple, carrots, spinach

Vinegar, salad dressing, mustard, small cooking oil, salsa, Jiffy corn muffin mix, quick-cake mixes, sugar (boxed rather than bagged), spices (small-sized salt, pepper, cinnamon, garlic powder)

Shampoo, dish soap, Clorox wipes, razors, deodorant, paper towels, laundry detergent

Diapers: size 4

Brown paper grocery bags

Support St. Leo Food Pantry by supporting the 2020 VIRTUAL Hunger Walk and 5K Run!

To JOIN OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM look for the Hunger Walk link at: www.saint-leo.org or cincinnatihungerwalk.org

Be sure to designate St. Leo Food Pantry as your preferred recipient! Your support of the Hunger Walk on behalf of the St. Leo Food Pantry is VERY important to our continued operation. ALL money designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. This is our "money in the bank." When we make purchases at FSFB it is deducted from our account. 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!

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 organiza-tion'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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		3			1 Food Pantry Open;	2 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
3 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.co m/RCC-St-Leo- Church-Cincinnati	4 Food Pantry Open	5	6 Food Pantry Open	7 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	8 Food Pantry Open;	9 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
10 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.co m/RCC-St-Leo- Church-Cincinnati	11 Food Pantry Open	12	13 Food Pantry Open	14 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	15 Food Pantry Open;	16 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
17 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.co m/RCC-St-Leo- Church-Cincinnati	18 Food Pantry Open	19	20 Food Pantry Open m	7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	22 Food Pantry Open;	23 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
24/31 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.co m/RCC-St-Leo- Church-Cincinnati	25 MEMORIAL DAY Virtual Hunger Walk Office Closed Food Pantry CLOSED	26	27 Food Pantry Open	7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	29 Food Pantry Open;	30 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati