

St. Leo the Great Parish

December 2018 Newsletter





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 the good folks at St. John the Evangelist Parish for so generously providing 100 backpacks , each filled with a bible, hat and gloves, notebook, pens and markers, and snacks for our youth program. **Many, many thanks** also for the 40 "welcome bags," each filled with personal hygiene items to be given to our newest refugee and immigrant parishioners as they arrive at St. Leo's.



Many, many thanks to St. Joseph's Lady's Knitting Group and St. Vivian's Lady's Knitting Group for all of the beautiful hand-crafted hats and scarves. The children of the parish and the neighborhood will be warm, snuggly and stylish!



Many, many thanks to St. Susanna Parish for preparing 25 turkeys and all the fixings for the Thanksgiving Dinner served immediately following Mass at St. Leo's on Thanksgiving Day. It was delicious!



Many, many thanks to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and School for providing over 500 new and gently used coats of all sizes. Our parishioners and the neighborhood folks that we serve are sincerely grateful for your kindhearted gift of warmth.

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 . . .

This month begins with the Season of Advent and ends with the Season of Christmas. This month is filled with expectation, waiting, awareness, preparation and celebration, fulfillment, presence (and presents) joy, gratitude, new life and birth. Yes, all these feelings are true and real this time of the year. Many things like immigration, jobs, economy, and foreign diplomacy need solutions and reform. Threats of a nuclear strike and terrorism still exist. Natural disasters have wreaked havoc on many parts of our country and the world and we remember and celebrate that Christ has been born in our midst, in human form and shape. Christ came and is coming with the gift of salvation. How can we become more aware of his arrival and prepare for his coming? How can we welcome him more into our lives, families, policies, politics, work and relationships and dealings with all others? How can we be more welcoming of our Savior into our hearts and homes? Will we not impede him and allow him to continue to save us?

What does it mean to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives? What does it mean to prepare for his return at the end of time? What does it mean to celebrate his presence in our hearts and to rejoice at his coming into the world in human form and shape? What does it mean to live in the hope of his coming again at the end of time? These are the questions that this great month of December brings to all Christians for their reflection, prayer, thanksgiving and celebration.

These are the questions that Christians try to answer with planning, inviting, shopping, decorating, feasting, celebrating, giving, forgiving, praying, welcoming, sharing, trusting and loving. These actions are strikingly different from similar actions in a secular world because they are guided by an awareness of the sacred and the holy and a deep faith and appreciation for the gift

and birth of the savior and the divine into our lives. Christians engage in these actions with Christ at the center of their living and with a strong desire to share his presence with others and to gift one another as he has gifted each of us – with his presence. There is no better gift, especially at Christmas.



With Mary, the Mother of God, aware of God's merciful love ever present in God who has made his dwelling in and among us, we sing:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has

scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come! Come with your saving grace. Open our hearts to receive you and welcome you into every aspect of our lives now and always.

—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 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>.



Fall 2018

Dear Friend(s) of St. Leo,

Do you know where foreign mission meets home mission? It's right here at St. Leo's where we continue to carry out spiritual and corporal works of mercy on behalf of our refugee and migrant parishioners as well as the residents of our struggling neighborhood. We are all meant to have a home together and one day we will. God is bringing this about, but we also need to do our part to allow earthly reality to reflect our promised heavenly home.

St. Leo's continues to provide a spiritual home for our refugee, immigrant and neighborhood parishioners and we are truly becoming family. This is evident at the many Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations we've been celebrating where godparents and sponsors are often members of our extended parish family, across cultures and ethnicities! Without a doubt, we belong together, we are the church of God and brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Of course, just like a family whose expenses increase as the children grow older, (increasing appetites, clothing and shoe sizes, and housing and household needs) St. Leo's is experiencing similar kinds of increasing needs to care for our growing parish and neighborhood family.

We invite you to join us as we respond to Jesus' invitation to "inherit the kingdom" by helping us serve His brothers and sisters. We count on your financial support as much as we count on the support of our parishioners. Whether you are able to increase what you have been giving or remain consistent, or if this is the first time, we ask that you do so desiring to help us give thanks for all the good that the Lord is doing for us all.

May God bestow upon you and your family all His good grace and abundant blessings. Our St. Leo the Great parish family 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.

There are many opportunities to share in our ministries, either directly or indirectly. Be sure to check us out on Facebook and on our Web Page at www.saint-leo.org, and please spread the word about us to all of your family and friends. Again, thank you so very much for your generous support.

Sincerely in the Lord,



Fr. Jim Schutte, Pastor

Online giving now available at: <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=995>

Christmas 2018



Pope Francis said three simple attitudes can help prepare us to welcome Jesus Christ.

"Saint Paul invites us to prepare for the coming of the Lord by assuming three attitudes: constant joy, persevering prayer and continual thanksgiving," the Pope said. "Joy, prayer and gratitude are three attitudes that prepare us to live Christmas in an authentic way."

The Pope cited St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, "always be happy."

"That is to say, always remain in joy, even when things do not go according to our desires," Francis explained. "Anxieties, difficulties and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resounded, as the Gospel of today recalls."

John the Baptist's voice in the desert reveals that Christian joy rests on "the certainty that the desert is inhabited."

This is Jesus, who in the words of the Prophet Isaiah comes "to bring the good news to the poor, to bind the wounds of broken hearts, to proclaim the freedom of slaves, the release of prisoners, to promulgate the year of grace of the Lord."

Jesus' mission in the world consists of "liberation from personal and social sin and the slavery that it produces."

"He came to earth to give back to men the dignity and freedom of the children of God, which only He can give," said Pope Francis.

Unceasing prayer helps us enter into relationship with God, the source of true joy.

"The joy of the Christian comes from faith and from the encounter with Jesus Christ, the reason for our happiness," the Pope continued. "The more we are rooted in Christ, the more we find inner serenity, even in the midst of everyday contradictions."

The Christian who has met Jesus cannot be "a prophet of misfortune" but must be "a witness and a herald of joy," said Francis. This is "a joy to share with others; a contagious joy that makes life's journey less tiring."



St. Leo's Annual

Toy and Clothing Sale

Sunday, December 2, 2018

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Centennial Hall





As Advent comes and Christmas nears, I've been thinking. If I were God and I intended to become human. I would have liked at least a little bit of fanfare—maybe something like the teasers for upcoming movies, banners and balloons, a sky writer, or at least a massive bright flash of light coursing across the sky for all the world to see.

But my ways are so much different from God's who came to Elijah in a "tiny whispering sound" and to the world in cries of a small baby boy born in a smelly stable to poor parents, who were invisible to most of society and had to flee to a foreign land to seek refuge from a leader threatening the child's life.

With all the glitz and noise surrounding Christmas, I find it hard to enter into the quiet and expectancy of Advent that I suspect God is inviting us---becoming still in the wombs of our spirits to welcome Christ into our worlds.

For many of us it's a scary thought to even consider going to that place where we are known intimately by God, let go of control, and try to just be present in the seeming nothingness there. But that just might be the call of Advent.

How can we do this in the midst of shopping, wrapping, decorating, baking and parties? I remember when I was pregnant I would talk and sing to my unborn child while I was teaching a class, driving, or fixing dinner. That child was never out of my awareness. Lingering with some of the expectant and comforting readings from Isaiah that occur during Advent is one way I've found to keep me more in tune with the invitation to be more present even when things are swirling around me. Here's a sampling to get you started:



*They shall beat their swords
into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not
raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again.
O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD
(Isaiah 2:4-5)*

Expectant Waiting . . .

*Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion
shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.*

*The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand
on the adder's lair.*

*There shall be no harm or ruin
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled
with knowledge of the LORD,
as water covers the sea.
(Isaiah 11:6-9)*

*O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD
On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
(Isaiah 25: 6-7)*

*Thus says the Lord GOD:
But a very little while,
and Lebanon shall be changed
into an orchard,
and the orchard be regarded as a forest!
On that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book;
And out of gloom and darkness,
the eyes of the blind shall see.
The lowly will ever find joy in the LORD,
and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of
Israel (Isaiah 29:17-19)*

*Comfort, comfort my people says the Lord.
A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland
a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
The rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD
shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
(Isaiah 40: 1, 3-5)*

*I am the LORD, your God,
who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you,
"Fear not, I will help you."
(Isaiah 41:13)*

As things get even busier and Christmas approaches spending time with "O Antiphons," the Magnificat antiphons used at vespers the week before Christmas, can keep us connected to the meaning of the great feast we are about to celebrate:

December 17

*O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!*

December 18

*O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!*

December 19

*O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!*

December 20

*O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!*

December 21

*O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in
darkness and in the
shadow of death.*

December 22

*O King of all nations and keystone of the
Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from
the dust!*

December 23

*O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!*

May God lead you to what will enrich your Advent journeys. Come, let us join together to welcome God who lives and loves in us. O Come, O Come Emmanuel...



CLANCY'S CLICHÉ'S

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the hut,
Not a poochie was stirring,
not even a mutt.

The treats were all hidden under
desks with such care
in hopes that our master
would not see them there.

The staff were so tired
from work all around,
while puppies and cats dozed
with nary a sound.

Then out in the church was the sound of a ladder.
(We hoped Father Jim wasn't making that clatter.)
"Here Clancy, here Jakie, let's check out the church!
We don't want to leave your "dad" in a lurch!"

A silence of peace awaited our entrance
The Spirit of Christmas made all our hearts dance.
The holly, the ivy, the hay for a bed,
the feeling of love - no words need be said.

The beauty and delight through the eyes of Christmas
in hope that all peoples be always harmonious.
And a dose of the simple reminder of "Gift"
should stay everyday without going adrift.

So back through the hallway to catch some more
zzzzz's
with dreams to be full of tranquility.
final thought to pen with my paw for this year
Are wishes for a blessed Christmas, and Peace-filled New Year.

Howlin's hootn'; Growlin's not gooten! - Clancy



Clancy's Cackles



What type of car do elves drive? Toy-otasi

What kind of motorcycle does Santa ride? Holly-Davidson!



Why does everyone like Frosty the Snowman?
Because he's so cool!

Which reindeer likes
to clean up after everyone?
Cometi



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.**



Extra Volunteers Needed: December 14, 17, 19
Call 513-921-1044 If you can help out!

Volunteer Needed

3-4 hours each week to do light housekeeping at the rectory,
including cleaning the restrooms and kitchen, vacuuming and
dusting the offices and meeting spaces. If you are interested,
please call 513-921-1044.

ESL 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 Klem: 513-921-5842
Housing: 513-921-5889, Healthy Moms & Babies: 513-591-5600
Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500
Literary Network: 513-621-7323

ANGELS' ARMS STORE, 1882 Baltimore Ave. Both accepting
donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Open 9:00-
4:00pm. Monday-Friday. Call Linda Klems at 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 Pl., Cinti., OH 45225
- Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!

October Winners: Pat Schnittker, Elaine Janis, Kathleen Fahey, Ginger Heider, Jane Lanzerotta, Barbara Boehmer, Frank Butler, Bill Baker, Marilyn Toelke, Maureen Reis, and Sharon Heis



Pantry Press

In October the Food Pantry served 927 individuals, in 332 households, including 395 children and 82 seniors.

Needs for December:

Especially needed: Peanut Butter & Canned Tuna

Canned: baked beans, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, salmon, chicken, ham (especially for Christmas), mixed veggies, spinach, pineapple, mixed fruit

Spices (onion powder, garlic powder, mustard powder, etc.), Parmesan cheese shake, Vinegar, cooking oil

Deodorant, shaving cream, baby-wipes (adults use them, too), tissues & Clorox wipes

1-lb. bags of rice, Spaghetti, egg noodles

BAGGIES - quart size, gallon size

Diapers: size 1, 2, 3



WISH LIST

Wireless Doorbell w/Flashing Light for Centennial Hall - \$30-\$50

Toddler sized Baptism Bibs (about 20) and Baby sized Baptism Bibs (about 15)

Materials for Sacramental Prep (First Communion & Confirmation) 65 students x \$30.53ea. = \$1,984.45

6 8ftx30in lightweight folding tables https://www.samsclub.com/sams/lifetime-8-stack-stacking-table-8/prod20051460.ip?xid=plp_product_1_3

20 lightweight stacking chairs <https://www.advantagechurchchairs.com/advantage-black-plastic-stack-chair-black-frame-adv-hdstk-blk/>

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!

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/>



iGive.com

EXTRA FOOD PANTRY HELP NEEDED:

December 14, 17, 19

Call 513-921-1044 if you can help out!

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

"Many Hands Make Light Work!" Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 4/4:30 are typical volunteer hours, but if you happen to only have a couple of hours to share on those days, we certainly can use extra help. Call 513-921-1044x30.

St. LEO FOOD PANTRY

MONTHLY OVERHEAD SPONSORSHIP

Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio will no longer be able to support the St. Leo Food Pantry financially after this coming January. To offset the financial gap, we are seeking organizations that would be willing to "Sponsor" one month of our operating cost.

Rent	\$1,250.00
Phone/Internet	107.89
Gas & Electric	797.11
G.C. Water Works	104.65
Pest Control	35.35
Insurance	28.53
Total Monthly Overhead	\$2,323.53

Sponsor's name will be recognized in the food pantry foyer, on St. Leo's website, in the monthly newsletter and in the 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
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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>	
		<i>December 2018</i>					1 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
2 Mass: 10:30am 1st Sunday of Advent	3 Food Pantry Open	4 	5 Food Pantry Open	6 7:00pm MASS	7 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon	
9 Mass: 10:30am 2nd Sunday of Advent	10 Food Pantry Open	11 	12 Food Pantry Open	13 7:00pm MASS	14 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	15 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon	
16 Mass: 10:30am 3rd Sunday of Advent	17 Food Pantry Open	18 	19 Food Pantry Open	20 7:00pm MASS	21 Food Pantry Closed; AA Meeting 7:30pm	22 Mass in Spanish 6pm;; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon	
23 Mass: 10:30am 4th Sunday of Advent	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed Food Pantry Closed	25 Mass: 10:30 am Nativity of the Lord Office Closed	26 Food Pantry Closed	27 7:00pm MASS	28 Food Pantry Closed; AA Meeting 7:30pm	29 	
30 Mass: 10:30am Feast of the Holy Family	31 New Year's Eve Food Pantry Closed						