

St. Leo the Great Parish
April 2019 Newsletter



Alleluia!

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 March

Paul and Therese Rieger



Many, many thanks to the Kroger's in Dent for providing 6 grocery bascarts for the Food Pantry. It sure makes shopping at the food pantry a whole lot easier!



Many, many thanks to Eileen Janis for the supply of beautiful handcrafted Baptism bibs sized for both infants and toddlers. Our families are thrilled to receive the lovely sacramental mementos.



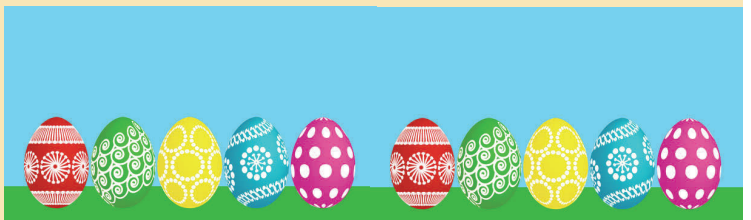
Many, many thanks to everyone at St. Ignatius Parish for their Cart Sunday outreach collection of a huge supply of personal hygiene and non-perishable food items. We are all deeply grateful for your bountiful generosity.



Many, many thanks also, to Eileen for the supply of seed packets for our community garden. Fr. Jim can hardly wait to get started in the garden again this year!



Many, many thanks to the donor answered our Wish List and provided a wall-mounted Defibrillator for the Food Pantry. Truly a life-saving gift!



¡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 . . .

This is the month that Easter begins and we continue to celebrate it in our liturgies for fifty days. All of us at St. Leo the Great Parish wish you Feliz Pascua, Pasti Conziza, Happy Easter! We hope and pray that you will thoroughly enjoy and delight in the fifty days of celebrating Easter that conclude with the grand celebration of Pentecost. We pray that you will be blessed with new and abundant life of God's presence in your life, rejoicing as you live your faith, renewed by the promises of your baptism, singing Alleluia and practicing resurrection. Thank you for the hope you will live and bring to others by living more freely away from sin and death in our world. Celebrate the Lord's victory over death by loving unconditionally and helping raise others up over the weaknesses of the human condition. Show your family and the whole world that life, eternal life has the final say now and forever. As signs of Spring break out in abundance during this month and remind us that "unless a seed falls to the earth and dies it will not produce much fruit," join with all creation in praising and thanking God for the gift of resurrection and new life.

This Easter Season, St. Leo's rejoices for the gift of conversion and faith. At the Easter Vigil, a young adult will be baptized, and another baptized Christian adult will be received fully into the faith. On the Third Sunday of Easter, 33 adults and children will be confirmed. We are joining with other parishes in our Deanery to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the cathedral this year. "The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! New life in Christ is abundant again at St. Leo's in so many ways and on so many levels. Please share our joy and rejoice with us.

But before we come to Easter, we must finish Lent and pass through Holy Week, the holiest of weeks in the Church's liturgical calendar. Through the Church's ritual, we share in and celebrate the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. May we truly be blessed

and discover how marvelously, wondrously, generously, freely and abundantly loved are we. May we become freer to love God and others

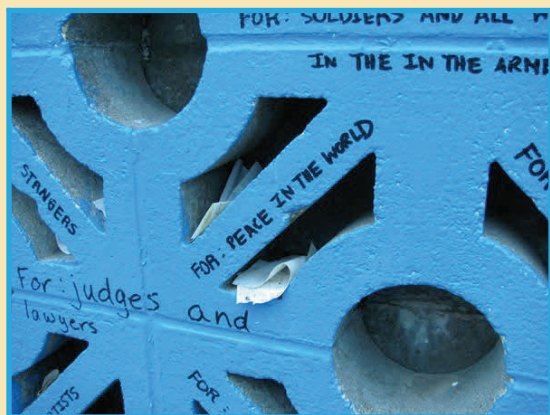
with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. May we learn how to wash everyone's feet, love our enemies, bless those who curse us and pray for those who hurt us. May we accept the Lord's forgiveness and live with his mercy and compassion and become more a forgiving, loving family of God. May we be unhindered and healed from our fears, worries, ailments, problems, preoccupations, limits, and conditions. May we come to hope, know and believe that we who die with the Lord will always rise with him.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for all of us here at St. Leo the Great. We have been the beneficiaries of the fruits of your Lenten prayer, fasting and works of charity. In so many ways, you have helped us experience the new life of the Lord's resurrection and you have shown us that life gets the final say for anyone who believes. Please know that as we praise God with Alleluias, music and dancing we are also thanking God for you and your goodness. May the Lord fill you with an abundance of Easter joy and blessings. Thank you for helping us build God's kingdom and for being God's church with us.

—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>.



Pope Francis celebrates the Easter Mass, in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, April 16, 2017. (Credit: AP Photo/Andrew Medichini.)

do these things happen, so many tragedies: illnesses, human trafficking, human exploitation, wars, destruction, mutilations, vengeance, hatred?" "Where is the Lord?" he asked aloud.

Francis then shared that on Saturday he'd phoned a young man, an engineer with a "serious illness," and the pope told him "there are no explanations for what's happening to you. Look at Jesus crucified, God has done this with his son. There's no other explanation." To this, the pontiff said, the man answered: "Yes, but he [God] asked his Son and the Son said yes. He didn't ask me if I wanted this. "And this moves us. Not one of us is asked, 'Are you happy with what's happening in the World? Are you willing to carry this cross?'" he said. "Today the Church continues to say, stop, Jesus is risen."

Easter 2017

ROME- In vintage Pope Francis style, the pontiff broke with tradition and delivered an off-the-cuff homily for Easter Sunday, one of the very few improvised speeches in such a solemn setting from a pope who's used to putting his prepared remarks aside to speak from the heart on more informal occasions.

"Jesus has risen from the dead," Francis said. "And this is not a fantasy. It's not a celebration with many flowers [pointing at the arrangements surrounding him]. This is beautiful, but [the resurrection] is more."

"It is the mystery of the throw-away stone, that ends up being the cornerstone of our existence. Christ has risen from the dead. In this throwaway culture, where that which is not useful takes the path of the use-and-throw, where that which is not useful is discarded, that stone that was discarded is the fountain of life," he said.

And even "us, little pebbles," who've been thrown in an earth full of "suffering, tragedy," with faith in the risen Christ, "have a reason for being, amidst so much calamity. A sense to look beyond: There is not a wall, but a horizon. There's life, joy, in there is the cross with this ambivalence."

The pope began his remarks saying that the Church, facing "our distrust, [and] closed and fearful hearts," continues to say, "calm down, the Lord has risen." But, he continued, if he has come back from the dead, "how

"You, little pebble, have a reason in life. Because you're a pebble holding on to the cornerstone, that stone that evilness of sin has discarded," Francis said in his homily. "What does the Church say amidst so much tragedy: the stone that was discarded wasn't ... From within the heart [the Church says] Jesus is risen!"

Closing his homily, Francis called upon those present to think about the every-day problems of life, illnesses, wars, human tragedies and say, "with a humble voice, without flowers, alone, to God who's in front of us: 'I don't know how this is going, but I'm sure that Christ has risen.'"



Pope Francis waves prior to delivering his Urbi et Orbi (to the city and to the world) message, from the main balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Sunday, April 16, 2017. (Credit: AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia.)

He's Alive!!

There's a painting in the back of St. Leo's church of Jesus breaking bread with the disciples he revealed himself to as they walked together on the road to Emmaus. The artist, the late Father Jim Hasse, SJ used parishioners as models, a reminder that Jesus is always present, among, in, and with us as we journey through life.

Enter that scene if you will, and imagine what it would have been like if you were one of those disciples. You are sad and depressed and sharing your grief and dashed hopes with your friends. How could this have happened? Jesus was a prophet, a healer, a good friend. He came into our homes. We shared meals. He laughed and wept with us. He changed our lives. Things were going to get better. We thought he was the Messiah and would save Israel. Now all of that has changed.

As we are talking a stranger walks up joins us and asks us about our conversation. Where has he been?? How can he not know what had happened? Everyone is talking about it.

"Are you the only one in Israel who doesn't know what's been going on," we ask and then begin to pour out our sense of loss and hopelessness. Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people was handed over to a sentence of death and crucified by our chief priests and rulers. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

"It's over. Jesus is dead. Even the body is gone. There's nothing to hope for. Can you see now why we are upset?" And in the face of our grief, the stranger gently confronts us and says, "You really don't get it. Look at the Scriptures. From as early as Moses the

prophets told us that the Messiah had to die. Jesus' death isn't a surprise. And it's not the end."

Who is this guy we wonder and how can he possibly say it's not the end. Doesn't he understand how broken-hearted we are? Maybe if we spend more time with him he'll get it, but he says he was going to another place. "Come on," we say, "just a little bit longer. Have dinner with us. It's getting late and darkness is descending." Reluctantly, it seems to us, he agrees. The meal's before us now and as we eat something is starting to feel very familiar. We look up and notice he is taking bread and blessing it. Didn't Jesus do that the last time we were together at Passover? It can't be or maybe, just maybe it is Jesus. That would be too good to be true. He looks at us. His eyes are filled with love. It's him! It really is Jesus!! Joy is swelling in our hearts. It really isn't over. Jesus is alive. "Stay with us," we plead but he disappears from our sight into the darkness. Still we know he is still with us and always will be.



This news is too good to just keep to ourselves—we have seen Jesus. We recognized him in the breaking of the bread. We run back and tell the others.

Imagining got us into a sense of what it was like for those early disciples then, but Jesus is also walking with us and revealing himself to us through the Eucharist where God reminds us that God's love for us is so intense that God wants to feed us and become part of our very bodies through the bread and wine. That's a mind-blowing reality. God also is present with us and nourishes us in and through the body of our faith community as we gather to pray and work together. God is with and in us every moment of every day continuing to feed and surprise us in unexpected people and events.

He's alive and so are we alive in him—Alleluia!!

—Angela Anno

"We Christians believe and know that Christ's resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint."

—Pope Francis



Clancy's Clichés

In the movie, "Guardians of the Galaxy", a character named Groot seems a strange and incapable character who seemingly has no major contributions to share. Communication is unsure with Groot, as, the only response he gives is "I am Groot" or just "Groot". With nuanced inflections from Groot, and reading between his grunts, friends eventually learn to understand him albeit his limited vocabulary. Sometimes he didn't make any sense at all. He was just there. But always there. Just hanging around.



As time goes on and when the going gets rough, he reaches around his family of friends and protects them with the strength and protecting factors of his body. You see, Groot is a huge tree with incredible stretching limbs and branches. He gave all of his being to save his friends, knowing the love they shared gave him the courage to do so, and knowing that was the only way to salvation.

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage" as Lao Tzu penned. Yes. Deep abiding love and grace does give us the strength to reach beyond what we thought possible and handle whatever lies in our path.

The movie reminds me of another story that may ring a bell. Somebody who's not quite understood by everyone yet occasionally gets a message through? Someone who wraps their outreaching arms around us constantly with a deep love? Someone who knows and suffers the one means to provide salvation to all? Yea, you got it. *That's* the story! And the joy in both of these narratives? A little seedling is planted. A new life. A new hope.

Happy Easter!



Clancy's Cackles

What did the egg say when he burped?

Egg-scuse me!



How does a rabbit stay cool in summer?

With central hare conditioning!



What has a yolk and plays heavenly music?

A harp-boiled egg!



What kinds of stories do rabbits like best?

Stories with hoppy endings!

Rabbit

What do you get if you cross a frog with a rabbit?

A bunny ribbit!



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 Carl & 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.**

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED:
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon—4:00pm
To volunteer, or for more info, call 513-921-1044x30.

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!

February Winners: Donna Withers (2X, different numbers), Dave Henkenbern, Barb Peter, Thos. Nienaber, Elaine M. Janis and Joyce Babel.



Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor

for April

Paul and Therese Rieger

WISH LIST

\$1,000.00 to cover the cost of setting up a secure cloud-based **data management system** that would allow St. Leo's to send email messages to parishioners, volunteers and donors as needed.

Our Youth Minister is requesting **gifts cards from Kroger, Michaels, Oriental Trading Company and Dominos** to purchase materials and food for the senior high retreat.

Recycling Bins for Centennial Hall

22 Gal. Recycling Box with Square Paper Slot Recycling Top \$39.53 <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Enviro-World-22-Gal-RecyclingBox-withSquare-Paper-Slot-Recycling-Top-EWC-215/205397492>

18" x 25" microwave cart

Sun-Joe Pressure Washer, 1450 PSI, \$90.97 at Lowe's

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/>

In February the Food Pantry served 714 individuals, in 281 households, including 275 children and 98 seniors.

Needs for March:

- Canned Tuna always appreciated
- Other Canned: vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, salmon, chicken, ham (for Easter), spinach, pineapple
- Vinegar, salad dressing, ketchup
- Deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, baby-wipes (adults use them, too), tissues, Clorox wipes, dish soap
- Egg noodles, 1-lb bag rice
- Vinyl gloves - size med & large
- Zip-loc bags - sandwich & gallon size
- Fold-over sandwich bags (less expensive than Zip-locs)

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 your help.

Call 513-921-1044x30.

St. LEO FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY OVERHEAD SPONSORSHIP

Beginning February 2019, St. Leo Food Pantry will be responsible to cover all of the costs of the food pantry building. We are seeking individuals and organizations that would be willing to "Sponsor" one month of our operating costs.

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 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S.POSTAGE
 PAID
 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>
	1 Food Pantry Open	2	3 Food Pantry Open	4 7:00pm MASS	5 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Stations of the Cross	6 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
7 Mass: 10:30am	8 Food Pantry Open	9	10 Food Pantry Open	11 7:00pm MASS	12 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	13 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
14 Palm Sunday Mass: 10:30am	15 Food Pantry Open	16  HOLY WEEK	17 Food Pantry Open	18 Holy Thursday 7:00pm MASS	19 Good Friday Food Pantry Closed; AA Meeting 7:30pm	20 Easter Vigil English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
21 Easter Sunday Mass: 10:30am 	22 Food Pantry Closed	23	24 Food Pantry Open	25 7:00pm MASS	26 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	27 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
28 Mass: 10:30am Parish Council	29 Food Pantry Open	30	 <i>April</i> 			