



# St. Leo the Great Parish June 2019 Newsletter

## Pastor's Ponderings . . .

June 16, 1979 I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It has been forty years! I remember a part of the ordination ceremony like it was yesterday. Although I was hardly fully aware of what it all meant, it had significant importance for me then and it still does today. In preparation for Archbishop (Cardinal) Bernardin to impose his hands on me and anoint me with the sacred chrism, I and my classmates (there were nine of us) were invited to prostrate ourselves on the floor of the cathedral sanctuary while every one present (the cathedral was full) stood and sang the Litany of Saints. Reflecting on this in these forty years, the significance of this part of the ritual is becoming clearer to me.

It was a moment of surrender for me and an invitation to a way of life of learning how to lay down my life so that others can have life. It was an invitation to a life of service that I heard from the singing of the saints in heaven and the saints in the church pews. It was a loving gentle reminder that Jesus came "to serve and not to be served." I shivered and my whole body shook as I was stretched out, face down on the cathedral floor in front of the Archbishop and hundreds and hundreds of people. Secular feelings of humiliation, unworthiness, doubt, and great fear of the unknown and worry with unreadiness were being overcome with sacred feelings of humility, mercy, forgiveness, faith, hope, trust and an incredibly deep love and union for and with the God of love and the God of our salvation.

My former life and future life were passing before my eyes and being surrendered and exchanged one for the other. My life was changing truly as I was most familiar with it and little was I aware of how it would continue to change in ways beyond my imagining. After we stood up, I remember feeling lighter as if a heavy burden had been lifted from me. I couldn't name it clearly then, but I was still shaking and not from fear and worry. Now, I can say I was shaking gently from a strength from something healthy and new and from an excitement and joy of being loved, accepted and chosen in my unholiness for a most holy purpose.

Reliving this in my prayer, I am often reminded to let the Lord wash my feet so I can wash others' feet. I am asked to keep believing and trusting that there will never be surrendering without receiving, human weakness without divine grace and strength, falling without getting up again and again. I need the Lord to remind me to let him do the exalting and the raising up and to get out of God's way and let God be God and to forever rejoice and be glad because living the Paschal Mystery with the Lord and God's people will always lead to resurrection.

Therefore, I am so ever grateful to all of you. I celebrate you and give thanks to God for all of you. You show me every day that God is good all the time and all the time God is good. You feed me at your tables, and you invite me to humble service. You ask me to join your families at very important times in your life: birth, marriage, sickness, celebrations of life and celebrations of death. You are patient with me, and you forgive me, and you challenge me. You are the growing explanation and significance of my ordination experience. As I like to say jokingly, all of you have kept

me working for forty years!!! For many reasons, I am forever grateful to you. I wouldn't want it any other way and God has brought us all together to live as the Body of Christ and to preach his Gospel of forgiveness, mercy and unconditional love.



I am so grateful to my family for their love and support and their prayers and I am grateful for all my assignments in these forty years. My family, parishioners, pastors, friends, staffs and priests whom I have had the pleasure of ministering to and with, and who have also ministered to me, continue to show me that an abundance of God's life always comes from a surrender of self. I am particularly grateful to the good people of Corpus Christi and Saint Agnes in Dayton, for instilling in me a great love for city and inner-city ministry, for showing me how to welcome the stranger and how there is unity in diversity. My fifteen years in Dayton have prepared me well for my present assignment, at St. Leo the Great where the parish is growing and being rebuilt around immigrants from Guatemala, Central America and refugees from Burundi and the Congo, Africa. Thanks to everyone for being the joy of my priesthood and for giving me the joy of the Gospel. May the peace and love of the risen Lord be with you always. With much gratitude to God, you will remain in my heart, love and prayers.

— Fr. Jim



*Congratulations*

*to Fr. Jim on his*

*40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*of Ordination to the Priesthood*

*All are welcome to celebrate with Fr. Jim*

*at 10:30 am Mass.*

*June 16, 2019.*

*Reception to follow in Centennial Hall.*



# 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 June  
Sunrise Treatment Center



Many, many thanks to the donor who provided the Ryobi leaf blower listed on our Wish List. Our campus will be looking really great!



Many, many thanks to our many donors who provide financial assistance as well as non-perishable food items, household cleanliness and personal hygiene items for our food pantry. We are all deeply grateful for your bountiful generosity.



Many, many thanks to all of you who, donated to the Hunger Walk, walked at the Hunger Walk, and/or provided sponsorships for our students to participate in the Hunger Walk. We are deeply grateful for your support.



Many, many thanks to the donors who provided funds to purchase a secure-cloud based data management system that will make us more efficient and better able to communicate with all of our constituents.



Many, many thanks to the donor who provided the 22 Gallon Recycling Boxes listed in our Wish List. Thanks for helping St. Leo's make every effort to be environmentally responsible.

## ¡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!

# Welcome Deacon Ben!



Good Morning. Today is a very special day for me. Many things have come together for me on this Sunday, including the readings for today's Mass. First of all, today is Divine Mercy Sunday. I am in need of mercy. The Gospel today is about doubt. I have experienced doubt. And third, my journey from Kenya to priesthood has taken another step this weekend, as I am now a deacon and am joined here with so many of my friends who have helped me to this point. To Fr. Schutte and the staff and parishioners at St. Leo, to my Elizabeth

Seton parish friends, and to my American sponsor – I am grateful to all of you for your support on my journey. My thoughts, on my first day as a Deacon, also take me back to my family and home in Africa. Like many of you in this parish, I have traveled a long way and on that journey, experienced doubts and insecurities, just like Thomas. In today's Gospel, Thomas is having a hard time believing that Jesus actually rose from the dead. He is not even able to believe his fellow disciples who told him that their master, Jesus, has appeared to them. He speaks up and says . . . “unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Jesus' resurrection was more than Thomas's human mind could handle. Thomas was stuck with many doubts and questions about what had happened.

Maybe some of us can relate to the story of doubting Thomas, as many of us have also journeyed from other countries where we struggled with so many doubts, fears, and insecurities. I have been there too. In my teenage years in Kenya, I doubted my own faith in Jesus. I questioned some of our beliefs and practices. I silently separated myself from my Catholic faith for almost five years, because of my doubts. I wanted Jesus to personally prove himself to me; to prove that he exists so that I could see him and believe in him. There was a day, many years ago, when a Muslim friend of

mine, after he had slept, told me that he had a vision of Jesus, standing in the room we were sharing, just as Jesus had stood before Thomas. After that experience, I made a visit to a nearby Catholic Church where I met Christians who reached out to me – who tried to answer my questions and offer reassurance with the doubts I had regarding my faith. When I arrived in the U.S., I found parishioners who showed me great love and kindness and demonstrated such a caring and giving spirit, just as I had imagined Jesus. With this example, I believe that I was given the grace and call to become a witness to Christ myself. I began to consider the priesthood so that I could share Christ's life and witness to others, that he is alive and is risen.

In today's Gospel reading, I think it is important to note what Jesus didn't say to Thomas in the face of his doubts. Jesus did not scold him. He didn't shame him for his lack of faith or lack of courage. Jesus just gave him the evidence he needed. He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!” Immediately, “Doubting Thomas” became “Believing Thomas.” The story of doubting Thomas tells us that we all have the opportunity to encounter the risen Jesus – we can see him and know his presence in our moments of doubt or question. He is as near to us as Bread and Wine. (The Bread and Wine become Jesus' Body and Blood, which we consume, and how can Jesus get any closer than that)

He is as near to us as those who show mercy. He is as close to us as those who give their lives away to the poor and those in need. It is just a matter of seeing.

Today, on this Divine Mercy Sunday, Thomas is one of us, imperfect and in need of mercy. Christ was merciful and compassionate to him. We are invited to touch the wounds of Christ, to overcome our doubts, to move beyond our brokenness, and to see Christ in the wounds of one another. During this Easter season, the gospel encourages us to testify, in word and example, that Jesus is indeed among us, and that He is risen. We ask Christ today and always to heal us and breathe his mercy into our doubts, as we reach out to others who are in need of God's healing and mercy.

(Seminarian, Ben Lotianga was ordained a Deacon by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr on Saturday, April 27, 2019 and delivered his first homily as a Deacon at St. Leo's.)

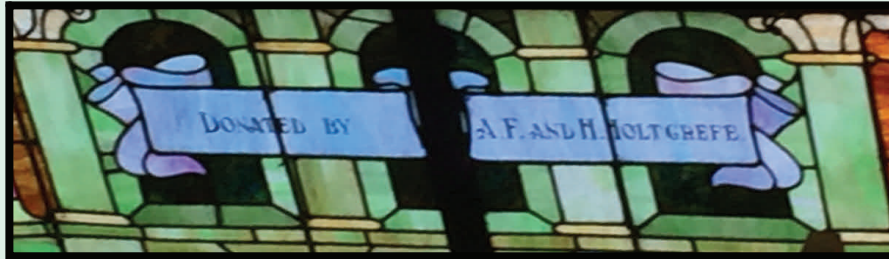
**St. Leo's Prayer Wall** is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the 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>.

# There's A Lot Going On At St. Leo's And You're Invited!



**You Are Invited to Attend a Blessing of St. Leo's Stained Glass Windows  
after 10:30 am Mass  
Sunday, June 9, 2019.**

A reception and light refreshments will follow in Centennial Hall.

**Thank you again and again! Many, many thanks** to all of you who supported our Stained Glass Window Appeal. **We simply can't thank you enough!** Due to your overwhelming generosity, we are thrilled to announce that the repair project has been completed. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Casey Betz at 513-921-1044 ext. 30.

## CINCINNATI GUATEMALAN FILM FESTIVAL

Hosted at St. Leo's

### Friday, June 14, 2019

- 1-4:00 pm Workshops
- 6-7:00 pm Reception, Food by the bites
- 7:00 pm Voice of A Mountain, by Erik Nj Allen,  
film screening and special artist talk

### Saturday, June 15, 2019

- 12:00 pm Cafe opens
- 1-4:00 pm Workshops
- 6:00 pm 500 Years,  
film screening and discussion worksheet

The discount code for the single day tickets is: **STLEOG40th**

**Weekend Pass** [https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/NTY0NzU=](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NTY0NzU=)

**Friday Pass** <https://www.cincinnatiatfilm.org/friday-tickets-cincy-guatemalan-film-fest.html>

**Saturday Pass** <https://www.cincinnatiatfilm.org/saturday-tickets-cincy-guatemalan-film-fest.html>

For questions go to [info@cincinnatiatfilmsociety.org](mailto:info@cincinnatiatfilmsociety.org)

 CINCINNATI  
FILM SOCIETY  
(CELEBRATING 40 YEARS)

## You Are Invited to Join Us for St. Leo's **CULTURE FEST**

Saturday, July 6, 2019

1:00 - 9:30 pm

6:00 pm Mass

Featuring Music, Munchies, Merriment,  
and Much More!

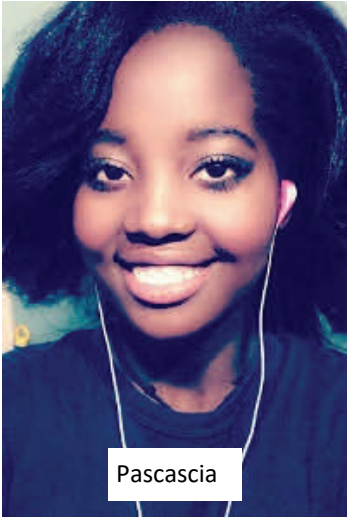
Music Provided By Musicians from St. Leo and  
others.

Featuring a variety of Guatemalan, Mexican and  
Salvadorian cuisines.

Be daring and try the Fruta with the special  
seasoning! It's delicious and refreshing.

OUR FESTIVAL ISN'T ABOUT MAKING MONEY FOR THE PARISH. IT IS MAINLY ABOUT BRINGING OUR FAITH AND A SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD INTO OUR PARKING LOT AND THEN ONTO THE STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOOD. IT IS ABOUT INVITING OTHERS TO COME AND GIVE THANKS WITH US AS WE SHARE OUR CULTURES WITH THEM.

# Congratulations Graduates . . .



Pascascia



Arnold

Graduating from high school are Pascascia Irakoze, from Mercy-McAuley who will begin studies to become a doctor at Xavier University; and Arnold Bernardo, graduating from DePaul Cristo high school who will continue his studies at Miami University's regional campus.

Going to De Paul Cristo Rey high school are Stanislaus Masumbuko and Belice Niyukuri, graduating from St. Boniface and Dandy Bernardo, from Resurrection school. Irving Velasquez and Juan Velasquez, both graduating from St. Lawrence school will attend Elder high school. Attending St. Xavier high school will be Eric Danilson who graduated from Holy Family school. Yessica Bernaldino graduated from Roberts academy and will attend Gilbert A. Dater High School.



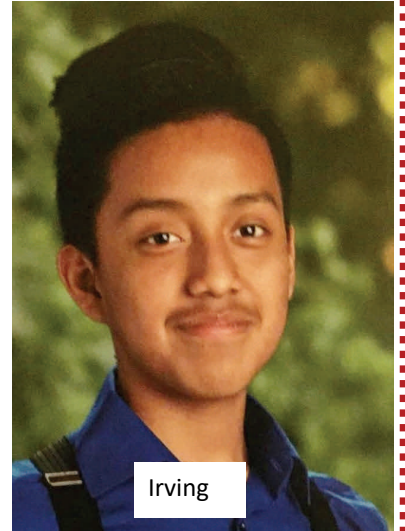
Stanislaus



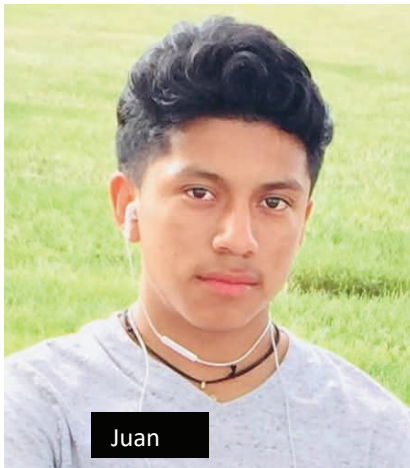
Belice



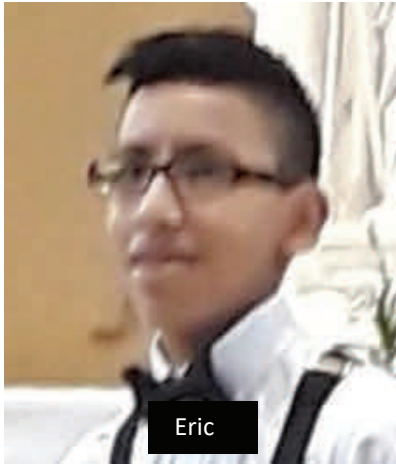
Dandy



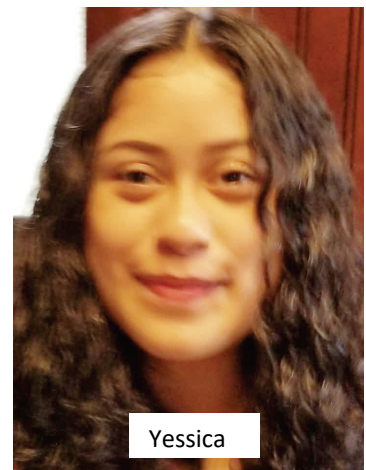
Irving



Juan



Eric



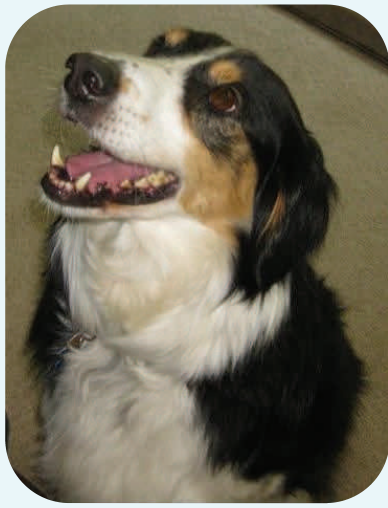
Yessica



# Congratulations!



## Clancy's Clichés



Just think. This day of your life will never come again. You will never see the exact same sunrise or sunset. You will never see the flowers blooming the same way or the leaves and limbs reaching out from the exact spot they are right now. You will never look at the same face of a person, as it changes ever so slightly from moment to moment, just like your own face changes.

We have Thomas Merton to thank for that saying which so clearly reminds us how precious each moment is. There's another saying about living each day as if it's your last one on earth. I think it's much better to think about living each day as if it's your first day in this magnificent world. Rediscover the joy in the smell of breakfast cooking, of looking in the mirror and laughing at your morning "hairdo", of hearing a child giggle or the laughter of coworkers. Even if you reread this article, it won't be the same as when you read it the first time through.

With summer, there's a feeling of freedom and discovery. Trips are planned and extra time is spent relaxing at the pool, golfing, and doing other activities. The dog days of summer lull us into new patterns of living. Routine is fine. And, yet, how about savoring the uniqueness of each moment as if you're experiencing it for only the one single time that it is?

Things are never "the same". And how wonderful is that? Quite a boring world if everything was always the same.

Just think.

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



## Clancy's Cackles

What did the sun say when it was  
"Pleased to heat you."

What washes up on very small beaches?  
Microwaves!

What did the bread do on vacation?  
It loafed around!

Why don't mummies go on summer vacation?  
They're afraid to relax and unwind!



## 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 & Babies: 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!

**April Winners:** Dave Kaiser, J. Scharff, Mary Himmelman and Mike Irwin

**Thank You Again!**

## WISH LIST

**Our Youth Minister is requesting** gift cards from Kroger, Michaels, Oriental Trading Company and Dominos to purchase materials and food for our summer program.

**Extension Pointer for ESL class**

**Aisle Markers** (like banks, TSA, etc) for Community Space:  
**Plastic crown control stations, \$325.19** [https://www.homedepot.com/p/Tatco-Plastic-Stanchion-6-Piece-Box-TCO12000/206322917?MERCH=REC-\\_PIPHorizontal1\\_rr\\_-206322913\\_-206322917\\_-N](https://www.homedepot.com/p/Tatco-Plastic-Stanchion-6-Piece-Box-TCO12000/206322917?MERCH=REC-_PIPHorizontal1_rr_-206322913_-206322917_-N)

**Plastic chains for stations, \$75.60** [https://www.homedepot.com/p/Tatco-Plastic-Chain-for-Stanchions-TCO12400/206322868?MERCH=REC-\\_PIPHorizontal1\\_rr\\_-206322913\\_-206322868\\_-N](https://www.homedepot.com/p/Tatco-Plastic-Chain-for-Stanchions-TCO12400/206322868?MERCH=REC-_PIPHorizontal1_rr_-206322913_-206322868_-N)

**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!**

**Thank you for your support!**

## 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/>



Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry  
Monthly Overhead Sponsor for June  
**Sunrise Treatment Center**

**In March the Food Pantry served 651 individuals, in 254 households, including 249 children and 83 seniors.**

**Needs for June:**

Canned: tuna, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, salmon, chicken, spinach, pineapple  
Vinegar, salad dressing, ketchup  
Deodorant, shaving cream, tissues, dish soap  
Zip-loc bags - sandwich & gallon size  
Fold-over sandwich bags (less expensive than Zip-locs) quart

**Summer Volunteers Needed!**

**June 19, 21 & 24**

**July 1, 19, 22, 24, & 26**

**August 9, 16, & 30**

**Are you a People Person? Retired?  
Looking for something worthy to do?  
Need a little excitement in your life?  
Looking for a new challenge?**

**Do you have a spouse/partner/friend that you would like to share the job with? That's fine too!**

**Part-time Volunteer Opportunity  
at St. Leo Food Pantry**

St. Leo Food Pantry is seeking a VOLUNTEER assistant administrator, 9-12 hours/week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, to manage inventory control and onsite volunteer communications. Now that our procedures are well established and skillfully run, we need someone to help oversee and maintain operations. If you (and a teammate) are interested, please contact Stephanie Sepate, Pantry Administrator, at 513-921-1044 ext. 30

**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 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 organization's members would be welcome to volunteer by working in the pantry serving our clients.

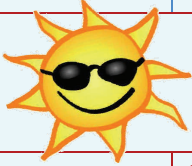
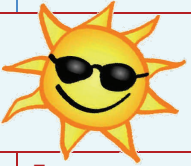




If interested, please contact Casey Betz at 513-921-1044 x 30, [cbetzstleo@aol.com](mailto:cbetzstleo@aol.com), or mail to: Casey Betz, St. Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

**ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH**  
 2573 St. Leo Place at Baltimore Avenue  
 Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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 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>	
		<b>JUNE</b>					
2 Mass: 10:30am	3 Food Pantry Open	4 	5 Food Pantry Open	6 7:00pm MASS	7 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	8 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon	
9 Mass: 10:30am Blessing of Stained Glass Windows	10 Food Pantry Open	11 	12 Food Pantry Open	13 7:00pm MASS	14 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Guatemalan Film Festival	15 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon Guatemalan Film Festival	
16 Mass: 10:30am Father's Day Fr. Jim's 40th Anniversary of Ordination	17 Food Pantry Open	18 	19 Food Pantry Open	20 7:00pm MASS	21 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	22 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon	
23/30 Mass: 10:30am	24 Food Pantry Open	25 	26 Food Pantry Open	27 7:00pm MASS	28 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	29 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon	