

St. Leo the Great Parish

July 2019 Newsletter



Congratulations

*to Fr. Jim on his
40th Anniversary of
Ordination to the Priesthood
It was truly a joyful celebration!*



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 donors who provided funding, equipment and electric services to install air conditioning in St. Leo's Centennial Hall. This will allow us to use the hall throughout the year, even during the hot summer months. We are all deeply grateful!

THANK YOU

**Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor
for July
In Loving Memory of Joan Belak**



Many, many thanks to all of the donors who sponsored St. Leo's Youth to walk on behalf of St. Leo's Food Pantry at the 2019 FreeStore FoodBank Hunger Walk! Everyone had a wonderful time!



Many, many thanks to the donor who provided the plastic stations and chains for use at the Food Pantry and community Service Space. These will make it easier to direct folks when we have more than one activity happening in the building.

¡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 . . .

Another Fourth of July is here. It is a great time to get together, in a truly American way, for a good old fashion summer cookout. I heard this phrase used recently to advertise an event but on this national holiday and as we celebrate our country's independence, we can describe our cookouts as "Grills Gone Wild!!"

I hope and pray that however you celebrate this great holiday, it will be a time of great fun, enjoyment and relaxation for you, your friends and your families. In addition to the Grill Master in your family working magic on all the hotdogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, ribs, corn on the cob, and "veggies" what other great American past times, events or games do you enjoy on this day in celebration of our country's freedom? Have fun. Have lots of fun.

Let's pray for our country, our government, all political leaders and all in the military who are working and fighting to preserve and protect the many freedoms upon which our country has been established. Let's pray for a deeper respect and appreciation for these freedoms and better stewardship of them.

Let's especially be thankful for the freedom of religion and the importance of faith in our lives. As Christians, we know that our true freedom rests in our relationship with our Lord and being united in God's unique way of loving and forgiving us and our ability to share this love and forgiveness with others. At this time when it seems that religious freedom is being challenged on many levels, let's pray for religious liberty for all people.

Let's pray for peace in our hearts, homes and throughout the world. Let's pray for the privilege to pass through and enter other countries freely and visit our country and other countries freely. Let's pray for an end to violence, hatred, prejudice, terrorism and anything that disrespects life and hinders the freedom that all life on all levels deserves. Let's pray for all those who are studying and preparing to become American citizens, especially our parishioners from St. Leo. Let's pray for all those who are in the

military services. Let us pray to always walk the higher road and to exercise charity that sets our hearts free.

Let us keep praying for a path to citizenship for immigrants and refugees who really want to be here, who love this country and who want to live here and raise a family here and who will contribute to, enjoy and respect the freedoms that only this country can provide. Let us pray for unity in diversity that immigrants and refugees can provide and who make-up the back bone of our country.

Once, we asked our parish staff, parishioners, volunteers and clients whom we serve in our food pantry to answer this question: "What meaning do the freedoms of our country have for you? For me, the freedoms that our country gives to us have to be connected and flow from the freedom to love and be loved by God. In this way we can reach the deepest and fullest possible level of freedom that each of our country's freedoms offers us. For example, with "freedom of speech" how much freer are we when we speak charitably or when we lovingly confront or when we tell the truth? Maybe another way to say it is, "How does telling the truth enhance our right to speak freely? Could speaking charitably always be included in one's freedom to speak? What difference does it make when we learn to confront lovingly?"

As we celebrate our country's independence, let us keep celebrating the Lord's freedom for us over sin and death. Now this is the epitome of freedom! Happy Fourth of July, everyone!

—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>.

In the Good Old Summertime . . .

It's a summer of fun and spiritual growth for St. Leo youth. Wednesday summer fun days will include such activities as stone painting, dance and soccer skills, service projects, cooking and sewing classes, and pottery making and painting. Some of the older teens will have an opportunity to share their skills as they lead summer activities.

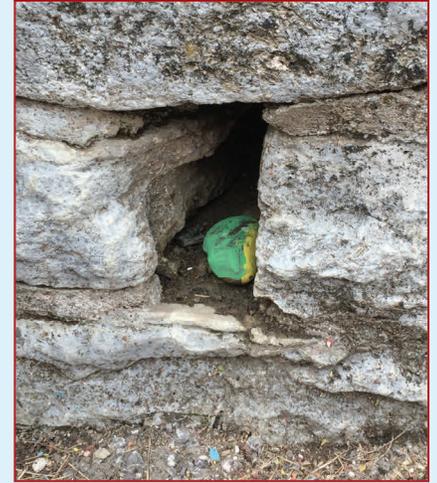
There will be field trips to Kings Island, the Zoo, and Winton Woods Kids' Outdoor Expo. An excursion to Western Bowl for an afternoon of bowling will wrap up the summer program.

Some of the youth group teens will be taking an online leadership course and attending a five-day ABIDE retreat that aims to form and commission high school youth to root their lives in Christ through the church and share the joy they experience with others; There will be Vacation Bible School at the end of July and some of the teens will also be helping younger children prepare for First Communion.



Congratulations....

Elidia Campos graduated from Dater High School and has plans to attend college in the future.



St. Leo's Youth decorated small stones with colorful paint and hid them around the campus as little surprises for anyone and everyone to enjoy!



The girls had a great time learning their ballet steps wearing the tutus that they made for themselves. Cincinnati Ballet Company, here they come!



After practicing their soccer skills the boys broke into two teams and tested what they learned in a competitive game with each other. Lookout FCC!



Many, many thanks to the children's youth choir for the beautiful anthem that they sang in four languages (English, Spanish, Kirundi and Swahili) during Mass for the great Feast of Pentecost.



St. Leo's Youth were thrilled to be able to participate in the FreeStore Foodbank Hunger Walk.



From Many, We are One...

I've been present when many of our refugee parishioners have become US citizens. It's an exciting day and I'm always impressed by their commitment to learn and become active citizens in their communities. I remember the look of pride on the faces of some of our older parishioners when I took them to vote for the first time and how they smiled as they received their "I voted" stickers. They had fled their native lands and family, friends, and possessions due to war and violence and were grateful to have an opportunity to contribute to their new home land.

Like my grandparents who came through Ellis Island more than 100 years ago and were welcomed by the words on the Statue of Liberty, they came not speaking the language, with few marketable skills and fewer possessions. What they, like millions of immigrants before them did bring was a willingness to learn and work hard, a desire for a better life for their children, and love of faith and family.

Survival was the primary focus for our refugee families. In the midst of war education was often interrupted. One mom told me that both her parents were killed in the war in Congo and her neighbor took her in. Though her neighbor's children were sent to school that wasn't an option for her. Both she and her husband cannot read or write in their native tongue and are slowly learning English. They know the value of education and impress that on their children. Housing was often make-do in refugee camps. One young man related how he helped his father build a house made of sticks. Work was primarily manual labor and dad's hands are calloused from years of toil. Their future in the camps was bleak with likelihood of disease and early death, often not enough food, erratic schooling, medical and pastoral care and always the threat of war and little chance of peace. The opportunity to immigrate to a safer place was truly seen as a gift from God.

At St. Leo's we have had the wonderful privilege of welcoming them to our parish family, helping as any family would, and cheering them on as they get steady jobs, save money, buy homes, become citizens and watch their children complete high school, and some go on to college. Though they come from Africa and Latin America they share the same faith and dreams and work hard to achieve them, trusting always that God will be their guide.

Unfortunately, like the Irish, Italian, Polish, and German immigrants before them, these new immigrants are often feared, face prejudice, are taken advantage, sworn at and sometimes even told to "go back where you came from."

I am blessed to live in a neighborhood which is increasingly becoming more and more diverse. We choose to celebrate and not be afraid of people who don't look like, talk like, pray like, or share the same backgrounds as we do. Instead of focusing on the differences, a group of neighbors decided to pay attention to the things we share in common. And that approach has caught on. This has led to more collaboration between community groups and churches, renewal of the business district, and many opportunities for neighbors to get together have fun, and get to know each other---and even pray together and celebrate



our diversity at an annual culture fest.

This year our community has been challenged to "prepare to get uncomfortable" and to do the things necessary to make our neighborhood a more welcoming place for ALL the people who live here. This means being willing to honestly face the unspoken things that often get in the way of deepening relationships, like talking openly about racism and how we need to change. Shortly after Easter, there was discussion of what needs to be resurrected in ourselves and in our neighborhoods. In June we talked about immigration.

Going out of our comfort zones and stretching ourselves is hard work but the fruits more than compensate for the effort. It is like St. Paul said "we are many parts but we are all one body." The motto of our country says the same: "*e pluribus unum*"—from many we are one.

Let us celebrate and give thanks for the wonder of God's great diversity and look for ways to welcome into our lives and get to know the refugees and immigrants in our midst. —Angela Anno

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 Frutá with the special
seasoning! It's delicious and refreshing.

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

Clancy's Clichés



Driving on a long road, the GPS suddenly went out. No reception. It's strange not having some voice telling you what to do and having to go forward without an original plan. With nobody on the road in front of me, behind me, or anywhere, a fork in the road came up. Uh-oh.

We are so used to having other people influence us – for the good or the bad – and not really having to think for ourselves. There's nothing wrong with inspiration, but original ideas seem to be lacking lately. Are we comfortable with the uncertainty or inconvenience of trusting our own inner GPS? How can we prepare our heart for the day or situation upon us? Where do we look to for guidance, for information, for answers to choices to be made?

Google it! In this case, though, God is our Google. Message God asking for guidance throughout the day and share your joy and gratitude. Send a quick mental text in the form of prayer saying "THX" or "LOL". Our gadgets can be very useful tools in the material world, but not all information in the digital world is the truth. As humans, we must remember that we are spiritual beings and must GPS our way through interactions with people on a more personal level. Google God's guidance asking for good "connections" to our world encounters and relationships. Ask what is fair and just. Ask for a "reset" when things aren't working so well. Sometimes the connection may be slow, but you'll always get a result. This particular GPS will always have perfect reception!

And, BTW, the "e" in God's email stands for Eternal...and the wireless is free!

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



Clancy's Cackles

What animal is best at hitting a ball? **A bat.**



What race is never run? **A swimming race.**



Why can't Cinderella play soccer?

Because she's always running away from the ball.



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!

May Winners: Wes Vance, Katrina Skeen, Chuck Toelke, Pat Schuittker, and Nancy O'Keefe (twice)

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.

Apollo Extendible Pocket-Size Presentation Pointer (18001), \$7.99, Item #: 723635 | Model #: 18001
https://www.staples.com/apollo-extendible-pocket-size-presentation-pointer-18001/product_723635

2 or 3 Unger 36 in. Nifty Nabber Trash Picker Grabbers, \$19.97: <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Unger-36-in-Nifty-Nabber-Trash-Picker-Grabber-92134/100353536>

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 July
In Loving Memory of Joan Belak

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

Needs for July:

Canned: salmon, chicken, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, pineapple
Vinegar, salad dressing, ketchup
Deodorant, shaving cream

Summer Volunteers Needed!

12:00 Noon—4:00 pm

July 1, 19, 22, 24, & 26

August 9, 16, & 30

Call Stephanie at 513-921-1044 ext. 20

**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. 20

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, 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 CLOSED	4 Independence Day Office Closed No Mass 	5 Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED AA Meeting 7:30pm	6 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon Culture Fest 1-9:00pm
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 Mass: 10:30am	15 Food Pantry Open	16 	17 Food Pantry Open	18 7:00pm MASS	19 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	20 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
21 Mass: 10:30am	22 Food Pantry Open	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	29 Food Pantry Open	30 	31 Food Pantry Open	 <i>July</i> 		