

St. Leo the Great

March 2019 Newsletter



Listening, Being With and Witnessing to Youth . . .

St. Leo's Youth Ministry program under the direction of Judie Kuhlman meets youth where they are and invites them to stretch and grow in their faith and deepen their relationship with God.

For the pre-school and primary children weekly Children's Liturgy of the Word introduces children to the Sunday gospel and reinforces its theme with prayer, song, and crafts to help them remember what they learned.

Middle and high school groups help youth understand more about their faith and deal with issues of their daily lives from a faith perspective.

Recent youth group activities included a discussion about social media, a deeper explanation of the Eucharist, the meaning and practice of chastity, as well as respect for the elderly, visiting residents at Mercy West Park Nursing home with youth from St. Leo's partner parish Our Lady of Visitation. Youth also had an opportunity to discuss and paint their dreams for the future with Art for All People ministry.

St. Leo candidates took part in a Confirmation retreat at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish. Some of the high school boys participated in the two day Our Lady of Visitation retreat and all teens are encouraged to take part in St. Leo youth group retreat March 29 and 30.

As reflected by these programs youth ministry requires a holistic approach. As Pope Francis describes it, "Much more than the promotion of a series of activities *for* young people, this ministry consists in walking *with* them, accompanying them personally in the complex and at times difficult contexts in which they are immersed. Youth ministry is called to gather the questions of young people of today and, from them, to initiate a true and honest dialogue to bring Christ into their lives."

Photos continued on page 4 . . .

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
John and Colleen Gerke**

Many, many thanks to those of you who use your Kroger Community Rewards to support the St. Leo Food Pantry. From November 2, 2018 through January 31, 2019, 31 households provided \$144.82 total donations. We can't thank you enough! If you haven't already, you too can help us out. Go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> Sign in using your email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, click on "forgot password" and a link will be sent to your email. Click on the orange "Enroll Now" button. Enter our number **KC265** under "Find your Organization" and click Search. Select St. Leo the Great Church by clicking on the circle to the left of our name. Save changes.



Many, many thanks to St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish for sponsoring St. Leo's Youth to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Our students were deeply grateful for the amazing learning experience.



Many, many thanks to the parishes who have provided outfits for St. Leo's young students preparing for their First Communion.



Yonathon Tewlde founder of An Immigrant's Dream non profit gave funds to parishioner Charlotte Niyonkuru junior at UC working with refugees in Germany as part of her semester abroad. And helped pay for Art for All Peoples program for our youth group. Son of Eritrean immigrants he started AID to help immigrants and refugees realize their dreams .

¡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 . . .

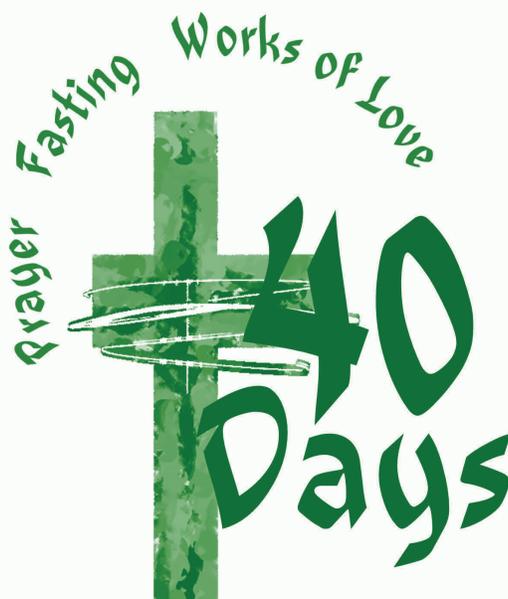
With the mark of an ashen cross and the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," the holy season of Lent begins, Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

There is a story of a little boy who was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure just go straight down this street a couple of blocks and turn to your right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I am the new pastor in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Awww, come on... You don't even know the way to the Post Office."

Lent is a time for finding the way to heaven that the Lord has made for us. We renew and recommit to this way by turning away from the sin in our lives and adhering more faithfully to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a time to walk the spiritual journey through this world to the next one seriously. It is a time for recommitting and committing more deeply to the life of our baptism and for acknowledging Jesus as our only way to heaven and to salvation. It is a time to prepare others for the Sacrament of Baptism and for walking closely together on the trail of salvation.

This year, we have a total of 33 adults and children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation sometime during the Easter season. We will be joining with all the parishes in the Cathedral Deanery to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Binzer at the cathedral. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15) We will take our Lenten journey together as we allow Jesus to be our way, truth and life to the Father. We pray with them and support them as they prepare to receive these Sacraments and as all of us learn to live with God's presence of grace.

Lent is a time to admit that we don't always know the way, on our own and we turn to Jesus to show us the way. It is a time to admit that we often get sidetracked or tempted into detours and so we seek the Lord's forgiveness and mercy and begin walking a straighter path with the Lord as our guide. It is a time through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to enter deeply into the paschal mystery of dying to self so that others may truly live. It is a time to acknowledge that dying leads to eternal life because the Lord suffered and died for us so that we might share with him the joy and glory of an everlasting kingdom. It is a time to feast on the mercy of God as food and nourishment for the sacrifice of self and the carrying of the cross that is of utmost importance as we learn to walk in the footsteps of Christ to a life where pain and suffering are no longer.



So, what do we want to do, as individuals and as a parish for Lent in the ways of prayer, fasting and almsgiving? Remember, whatever we decide to do, it should be leading us in the way of heaven and witness to others that all of us are heaven bound. It's time for all of us to grab our walking sticks, put on our hiking boots, take the Lord's hand and

keep walking with our eyes fixed on heaven, joyful that our lives are full of grace. Happy Lent, Everyone!

—Father 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>.

Art For All People was delighted to partner with An Immigrants Dream and St. Leo's parish in bringing the arts to refugee children. Art is the universal language that bonds us together.



It's Grace . . .

When I was working in a chemical dependency treatment center years ago a young man shared his shame at never measuring up to what he believed his father expected of him. "If I could only please him," he said, "then he would love me." I asked if he believed that on the day he was born his dad cradled him in his arms and said, "Son, if you do.....then I'll love you?" The young man recognized the absurdity of my question and nodded as I said, "Love is a gift. It can't be earned."

One of my favorite spiritual authors, Brennan Manning captured this in his final book, "All Is Grace" which chronicles his descents into alcoholism, his failures as a priest, and follower of Jesus. In both his successes and lapses, he recognized that God loved him as he was and that love enabled him to change and love in return.

Despite all the times in Scripture that Jesus and the prophets tell us that love is freely given and that it's not about what we do we still have a tendency to want to perform so that God will find us pleasing and love us.. We know in our spirits that this is a lie but our minds have a lot of catching up to do. This is especially true for some of us during Lent when we tend to multiply our prayers and sacrifices. If these are combined with change of heart and growing awareness of God's abundant love for us they are beneficial, but externals alone do little.

I challenge you to sit for a moment with Hosea 6:6: *For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.* Uncomfortable isn't it for those doers among us (myself included)? It seems too simple and paradoxically, that's why it is so hard.

The goal of this focused time of Lenten awareness, it seems to me, is to more deeply awaken us to God's love for us and to let this love overflow in the way we love others. As the first letter of John reminds us, *"We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. We love, because He first loved us (1 John 4:16, 19)*

God continues to invite us into an ever deepening relationship. "Come back to me with all your heart. Don't let fear keep us apart...Long have I waited for your coming home to me and

living deeply our new love"—these are the words of one of my favorite Lenten songs. And I believe that is how God interacts with us.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you--plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me." (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

God is a persistent lover who keeps luring us into deeper and deeper relationship .And this allure continues every day of our lives.

My one grandson was explaining that he loved me" so much" (arms outstretched) but "I'll love you more when I get older." His twin brother told his mom recently that he'd have to have "arms as long as Professor Gadget's" to wrap around his mother to show her how much he loves her. Even at the age of 5 they seem to understand that love continues to deepen and grow as long as we live.

Relationships with grandchildren, family, and friends take time to nurture. I think it's the same with God. Jesus gives us tips on how to do this: *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen... And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ...When you fast, do not look somber as the*

hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting." (Matthew 6:6, 16)

The main thing we have to do is show up—it's as simple as that—no spiritual boot camp—just the desire to be there. God does the rest. It's love gift from God to us. St. Paul reminds us: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast..."* (Ephesians 2: 9, 10)

God's love is gift—pure grace. There is no possible way we can earn it. So this Lent let's allow God to do the work. What we do might look the same, but I'm guessing that we'll experience a new freedom and peace and intimacy\ in the process. And we just might experience God cradling us like jubilant new parents and whispering, "I love you. I'm so in love with you."

— Angela Anno

*For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
DECLARES THE LORD
Plans for
Hope and a Future.
Jer. 29:11*



"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing."

—Pope Francis

Clancy's Clichés



March brings thoughts of "green!" Besides St. Patrick's Day green, fuzzy fringes of verde appear this month along with the tiny buds of leaves and flowers ready to escape their winter's confinement outside our windows. As we see a renewing earth after the long cold winter, nature provides an in-your-face reminder that it's a time of growth and preparation for the renewal of a beautiful carpet of glorious Spring. The rebirth outside makes our hearts warm and boisterous inside, too, making us anxious for our own escape from the cabin fever in our lives.

Just like the many different flowers, trees, teeny-tiny growing things, birds of every kind and little critters erupting all around us, we humans and canines are of every make and model and on different paths, yet with the same goal of growing and blossoming into the lives we are meant to live. The way you see it is not and should not be the way everyone else sees things. Nature nurtures the environment; we must nurture ourselves physically and spiritually.

In preparing for Lenten journeys this month, let the "green" thoughts filter through. Let the physical and spiritual environment embrace your journey with peace, harmony, balance, renewal, energy, self-confidence, and metamorphosis. And . . . keep your lives well-watered and fed!

~ Clancy



Clancy's Cackles



Knock, Knock!
 Who's there?
 Little old lady.
 Little old lady who?
 Wow, I didn't know you could yodel!

What bow can't be tied? **A rainbow!**



Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

Because he's always a little short!



What falls but never **The temperature!**



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.**

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.

Snow NEWS!

Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations:
 WCPO-Channel 9, WKRC Channel 12, WXIX-Channel 19
 and Facebook at StLeoTheGreatParish.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

ESL 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!

January Winners: Mike Lipp, Evelyn Robison, Shirley Whalen, Sr. Marion Boeddeker and Dorothy Rolfes.

Thank You Again!



Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor

for March

John and Colleen Gerke

In January the Food Pantry was closed three days but still served 658 individuals, in 250 households, including 245 children and 90 seniors.

Needs for March:

- Canned Tuna always appreciated
- Other Canned: chicken noodle soup, vegetarian vegetable soup, salmon, chicken, ham (for Easter), spinach, pineapple
- Vinegar, salad dressing
- Deodorant, shaving cream, baby-wipes (adults use them, too), tissues, Clorox wipes, dish soap
- Egg noodles, 1-lb bag rice

Special Request for the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of a wall-mounted Defibrillator and training on how to use it. We've had to make several 911 calls! The cost of a new one is **\$1,245.00**. If you could help, or if you know who to contact for a grant or of funding for such an item, we would really appreciate it! For more info call Stephanie at 513-921-1044.

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.

WISH LIST

Baptism Bibs toddler size(about 30) & baby size (about 15)

Wall-mounted Defibrillator—\$1,245.00

Recycling Bins for Centennial Hall

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

5 8ftx30in lightweight folding tables (\$80) each https://www.samsclub.com/sams/lifetime-8-stack-stacking-table-8/prod20051460.ip?xid+plp_product_1_3

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

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/>

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; AA Meeting 7:30pm	2 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
3 Mass: 10:30am	4 Food Pantry Open	5 	6 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Mass Food Pantry Open	7 7:00pm MASS	8 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	9 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
10 Mass: 10:30am Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 Food Pantry Open	12 	13 Food Pantry Open	14 7:00pm MASS	15 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	16 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
17 Mass: 10:30am St. Patrick's Day	18 Food Pantry Open	19 The Light Is On For You	20 Food Pantry Open	21 7:00pm MASS	22 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	23 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
24/31 Mass: 10:30am	25 Food Pantry Open	26 	27 Food Pantry Open	28 7:00pm MASS	29 Food Pantry Open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	30 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon