

Come Hope and Dream with Us...



God had promised Abraham that his descendents would number more than all the stars in the sky. Yet here he was an old man with an infertile wife. Still he continued to hope.

The Israelites who had been enslaved by the Egyptians and had been wandering in the desert for more than a generation often got discouraged but held on to the hope that God would someday bring them to the promised land.

Fifteen years ago St. Leo's, which had been a bustling parish for most of its first 100 years was experiencing a decrease in attendance and the possibility of closing was very real. Yet there were small signs that God still had a mission for the church.

*"He builds and He rebuilds.
And that is precisely the reason of our hope."*

– Pope Francis

Like those Old Testament heroes we chose to hope and dream and wait for God's plan and God's timing. And we see it unfolding. With our influx of parishioners and deepening worship together we too are coming into our own promised land and new opportunities are on the horizon. And we dream our own dreams about what God is doing in and with us.

- Liturgy further reflects and celebrates the faith life, music, and prayer styles of our diverse communities praying together
- The growing sense of family among parishioners deepens
- Small faith sharing and action groups are a regular part of parish life
- Staff reflects the cultural diversity of the parish
- St. Leo partners with a greater number of parishes and increases collaboration and sharing of gifts with them
- On-going collaboration with the community results in an increase of affordable housing in the area, as well as opportunities for GED and job training
- The parish becomes a site for urban ministry training
- A vibrant youth and young adult group that offers regional activities for west side parishes
- More space becomes available to provide for increasing ministry

What are your dreams for us? We'd like to hear what you think. Email us at cbetzstleo@aol.com

Dreams

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams go

Life is a barren field

Covered with snow.

– Langston Hughes

St. Leo's Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Catholic Community, grounded in Eucharistic prayer, celebrating our diversity and sharing God's love through ministries of serving and being present in our urban neighborhoods, while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.