

December 4, 2022

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

This week, as we light a second purple candle on our Advent wreath, we ponder a life-affirming theme to prepare for the birth of the Christ child: Peace... Ah, what a lovely word, and the strength of its meaning has been sought throughout time and throughout the world. And in these troubled times and through the complexities of life all of us experience in one way or another, to be at peace is an aspiration many believe is far off and unattainable.

The Hebrew word for peace is *shalom*, which is employed hundreds of times in the Bible, and with many interpretations offered by religious scholars apart from the English translation of "a lack of war or conflict." In these analyses, peace (*shalom*) is a more far-reaching expression to encompass wholeness and well-being, a part of God's original creation, before mankind was tarnished by original sin. God promised in his covenant of peace (Ezekiel 34: 24-25a) to restore this sense of well-being by sending a Savior, "the Prince of Peace." And through our faith, we must take refuge in Jesus' words: "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you." (John 14: 27) Thus, with new understanding, instead of looking outside of ourselves for calmness and tranquility, we must look inward and examine our souls, our lives, to find *shalom*. Peace cannot be found by comforts of this world but is surely realized in the promise of Jesus Christ. As St. Bruno, founder of the Carthusian Order, said, "While the world changes, the cross stands firm."

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, and we hear the prophetic voice of John the Baptist whose words continue to resound in our lives today. Each individual must "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," and work fervently in the Holy Spirit to find peace of heart until He comes again.

How urgent and timely is this call at both the personal and social level! God wants to come and dwell with the people of every time and place, and he calls them to co-operate with him in the work of salvation. But how? Today's liturgy gives us the answer: we must "straighten" injustices, "fill" the void with goodness, mercy, respect and understanding, "bring low" pride, barriers and violence, and "make smooth" all that prevents people from living a free and dignified life. Only in this way can we prepare to celebrate Christmas in an authentic way—Saint Pope John Paul II

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

Yours in Christ,
Father Rudy

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can **read Fr. Rudy's letter** at:

www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromthePastor'sDesk

"During this Advent Season, let us ask the Lord to help us keep the lamp of faith alit in our lives, to be prepared to receive him, and that he fills us with peace and joy." ~ Pope Francis

Upcoming Dates to Mark on your Calendar:

December 3rd and 4th - Toy and Clothing Sale

December 18th - Festival of Lights – FAMILY NIGHT, please see Judie on how to sign up or use this link <https://forms.gle/28xtZfcu1shwwxE8A>



ITEMS NEEDED: The food Pantry has an urgent need for larger diapers size 5 and 6. Don't forget the Food Pantry is in dire need of items

we hope you can help! You can see our latest request on our [Amazon Wish List](#) Link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share. **Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

We would love to receive gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider [Meijer](#), [Walmart](#), [Staples](#), [Amazon](#), [Kroger](#), or [Home Depot](#) when donating. You can see our latest needs on our [Amazon Wish List Link](#) - https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3TZJLXNPGPQM?ref_=wl_share. **Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

Volunteers Needed- St. Leo's Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help serve our Community. The Food Pantry is open M-W-F from 1:00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. and we ask volunteers to arrive around noon to help set-up. If you are interested in volunteering please call 513.921.1044.

JOIN US FOR A PILGRIMAGE TO FOUR RELIGIOUS SITES IN

EUROPE- June 6-16, 2023 travel from the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat and the cave at Manresa, to the grotto at Lourdes where St. Bernadette met "the Immaculate Conception," to Lisieux to celebrate the centennial anniversary of St. Therese's beatification, to Tours, home of St. Martin. Please call and schedule an information meeting to answer your questions, contact Greg Niehaus at 513.541.5560.

Congratulations to the 4 Grand Winners for weeks 10-14:

Week 10: 42- Donna Murray, 123- Kathy Held, 369- Mark McGovern

Week 11: 89- Delores Wedig, 291-Laura Caldwell, 527-Christine Keller

Week 12: 111- Sam Lenarsich, 438-Janet Nienaber, 447- Jim Hamer

Week 13: 219-Chuck Kowzan, 225- Paige Klocke, 334- Lois Glacken

Week 14: 67- Larry Jessup, 210-Samuel Lenatsich, 239- Nancy Ransbottom

Toy and Clothing Drive This WEEKEND

Mark, your calendars for December 4th! From 1:00 p.m. -4:00pm in Centennial Hall! This is meant to be adult shopping only, please try and leave your children at home.