

November 29, 2020

From Fr. Jim . . .

Keeping Advent: Advent is a time of beginning and endings. It embraces the end of the world's civil calendar and the beginning of the church's sacred cycle. Nature's changes and the emergence of winter, the passing of the old year, the end of ordinary time through which we read Matthew's Gospel. However, a new gospel is opened. This year we will be reading from Mark. Each week we light another candle on the Advent wreath. "Watching" and "waiting" is balanced by "rejoice" and "fulfillment" as the community moves into winter's darkness with a clear orientation toward the light which is Jesus Christ and in whom all things can be made new.

At this time of the year, more than any other, we need to see society not as a world that is lost but as the world God refused to be lost; (not as a people condemned but a people beholding of God's dwelling place of merciful, saving, redeeming love. Advent is about longing and desire – not for material gifts – though that may be the reality for many- but longing and desire for the full realization of God's kingdom. With the first Christians, we long and wait for that day to come and we live in such a way that will build the kingdom of God on earth as we wait for the kingdom to be fully realized in heaven. We live not as a people who are lost but as a people whom God has refused to be lost. (We live not in darkness, despair and without hope but in light, forgiveness, and abundance of grace.

The official explanation of the season defines the spirit that should mark the life of each believer and of every believing community as "devout and joyful expectation." We can expect that Christ's first coming and presence has changed and challenged the darkness of sin and death and makes clear God's intention to refuse to allow the world to be lost. We can expect Christ's second coming to bring life to fullness and make the victory over sin and death complete. As believers, we wait devoutly and joyfully for signs of God's presence among us in Word and Sacrament, inviting us to become one with the reign of Christ's love. Advent asks us to wait and hope with devotion and joy as we await his return in glory. The waiting that we do has a two-fold nature: "waiting in memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh," and the waiting supplication for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and "universal Judge." (From the Directory of Popular Piety and the Liturgy.)

A Reflection: What if the Season of Advent were commercialized in our stores just like the Season of Christmas? What would it look like? If the stores, radio and television stations were to sell Advent like they do Christmas, what would they sell? What special Advent songs would you hear on the radio? What special programs would air on TV? Who would you interview for Advent? What acts of devout and joyful expectation for being freed from the power of sin and death and for believing that one day you will be completely free from its power, sells you on the Season of Advent this year? How is and will God show you that you are someone who he refuses to be lost? How does the season of Advent speak to pandemic sickness and racial tensions and injustices that we experience today? How can we bring the Good News to others? Do participating in any of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy reveal how Christ has come, is come and will come again? Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Be sure to remember St. Leo's on GIVING
TUESDAY, December 1, 2020 at:
<https://www.givecentral.org/location/1166/event/26861>



St. Leo's is in need of an 18-Volt ONE Lithium-Ion Cordless Impact Driver Kit with catteries, Charger and Bag. Two area rugs, one 9x12, and 8x10. We are also in need of Amazon Gift Cards. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.

All events, classes, and meetings at St. Leo's are canceled until further notice.

Sunday Mass: 10:30am, limited seating available, or join Fr. Jim as he livestreams Sunday Mass at 10:30am at:

RCC St. Leo Church Cincinnati:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH_BOX

Mass Times: Wednesday-11:30am, Thursday-7:00pm, Saturday-6:00pm, Sunday-10:30 am

You are invited to visit St. Leo Church to pray in the sanctuary, or to use the computers in Centennial Hall by appointment only. Fr. Jim is happy to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only. Please call the office, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00am and 1:30pm to make your appointment.

You can read the Sunday bulletin at:

www.saintleo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can read Fr. Jim's letter at:

www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim

You can make your Sunday Offering at:

www.saint-leo.org/DonateNow or, you can drop off your Sunday Offering in the slot in the back door of the rectory, or you can mail your Sunday Offering to: St. Leo the Great Church 2573 St. Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225

For more information: visit our website at: www.saint-leo.org

Or visit our Facebook page at: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church.

St. Leo's Annual Toy and Clothing Sale

Mark your calendars for December 6th! Help make Christmas Memories for those in need. Our annual Toy and Clothing Sale is Sunday December 6th from 2:00 p.m. -5:00pm in Centennial Hall. Looking to help with the Toy and Clothing Drive check out our wish list on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/28HAJQIBAM03E?ref_wl_share. Also, donations of new and gently used toys and infant clothing are needed and will be gladly accepted. Any items you would like to donate can be turned in at St. Leo's Parish office December 1st – 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or on Saturday December 5th from 10:00a.m. – noon. Volunteers are needed and most appreciated to accept items and help with set up on Saturday December 5th, 10:00am until noon. We could also use help on the day of the sale, Sunday December 6th, help to set-up, move product and clean-up will help make the sale more successful and easier for all involved. If you would like to volunteer on either day please email Judie Kuhlman at judiekuhlman@gmail.com