

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

Easter is coming and we continue to celebrate it in our liturgies for fifty days. All of us at St. Leo the Great Parish wish you Feliz Pascua, Pasti Conziza, Happy Easter! We hope and pray that you will thoroughly enjoy and delight in the fifty days of celebrating Easter that conclude with the grand celebration of Pentecost. We pray that you will be blessed with new and abundant life of God's presence in your life, rejoicing as you live your faith, renewed by the promises of your baptism, singing Alleluia, and practicing resurrection.

Thank you for the hope you will live and bring to others by living more freely away from sin and death in our world.

Celebrate the Lord's victory over death by loving unconditionally and helping raise others up over the weaknesses of the human condition. Show your family and the whole world that life, eternal life has the final say now and forever. As signs of Spring break out in abundance during this month and remind us that "unless a seed falls to the earth and dies it will not produce much fruit," join with all creation in praising and thanking God for the gift of resurrection and new life.

This Easter Season, St. Leo's rejoices for the gift of conversion and faith. At the Easter Vigil, one adult will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. On Sunday May 1, 8 children will make their First Communion. On June 5, the Feast of Pentecost, 29 adults and children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and some need The Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. We continue to pray for all our catechumens and candidates in our Family of Parishes – St. Boniface, St. Joseph, St. Theresa, Little Flower, and Holy Family. Welcome! Welcome! "The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! New life in Christ is abundant again at St. Leo's in so many ways and on so many levels. Please share our joy and rejoice with us.

FATHER JIM'S RETIREMENT PARTY SAVE THE DATE

As many of you know, Father Jim will be retiring from his position as pastor on July 1st, of this year. We would like to celebrate his many years of service and dedication with a Celebration Mass and Open House reception.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday June 12th for 11:00 a.m. mass at St. Boniface with a reception to follow.

But before we come to Easter, we must finish Lent and pass-through Holy Week, the holiest of weeks in the Church's liturgical calendar. Through the Church's ritual, we share in and celebrate the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. May we truly be blessed and



discover how marvelously, wondrously, generously, freely, and abundantly loved are we. May we become freer to love God and others with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. May we learn how to wash everyone's feet, love our enemies, bless those who curse us and pray for those who hurt us. May we accept the Lord's forgiveness and live with his mercy and compassion and become more a forgiving, loving family of God. May we be unhindered and healed from our fears, worries, ailments, problems, preoccupations, limits, and conditions. May we come to hope, know, and believe that we who die with the Lord will always rise with him.



Thank you so much for your prayers and support for all of us here at St. Leo the Great. We have been the beneficiaries of the fruits of your Lenten prayer, fasting and works of charity. In so many ways, you have helped us experience the new life of the Lord's resurrection and you have shown us that life gets the final say for anyone who believes. Please know that as we praise God with Alleluias, music and dancing we are also thanking God for you and your goodness. May the Lord fill you with an abundance of Easter joy and blessings. Thank you for helping us build God's kingdom and for being God's church with us.

