



# ST. LEO THE GREAT

PARISH & SCHOOL

January 2, 2022

**Father James P. Schmitz**

Pastor

**Father James J. Vesely**

Retired

4940 Broadview Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109



## PARISH STAFF:

216.661.1006

**Father James Schmitz, Pastor**  
jschmitz@leothegreat.org

**Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan**  
pberigan@leothegreat.org  
jberigan@leothegreat.org

**Brenda Basalla, Business Manager**  
bbasalla@leothegreat.org

**Mickey Stitt, Music Director**  
mstitt@leothegreat.org

**Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician**  
mpiechowski@leothegreat.org

**Maureen Frydl, Social Media Manager**  
mfrydl@leothegreat.org

**Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator**  
missnadia@leothegreat.org

## RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday ~ 9:00AM—3:00PM

Saturday ~ Noon—5:30PM

Sunday ~ 9:00AM—12:30PM

## SCHOOL STAFF:

216.661.2120

**Denise Burns Principal & Preschool Director**  
dburns@leothegreat.org

**Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary**  
ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org

**Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education (DRE)**  
jderanek@leothegreat.org

## SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:00AM—3:00PM

[www.leothegreat.org](http://www.leothegreat.org)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKENDS

Saturday Vigil ~ 4:00PM

Sundays ~ 8:00AM and 11:00AM

### WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday ~ 8:30AM

Thursday - Communion Service ~ 8:30AM

### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

8:30AM and 7:00PM

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual confessions can be heard Saturdays from 3pm-3:30pm, Sundays from 10am-10:30am, or anytime by request or appointment.

## NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

New parishioners and those moving from the parish or changing addresses are asked to contact the Rectory Office.

## BAPTISMS

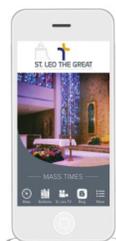
Parents desiring Baptism for their children are asked to contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Preparations and arrangements must be made at least 6 months in advance with a priest. Only then can a wedding date be confirmed.

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you are curious about becoming Catholic or have questions about the Catholic Faith, please call the Rectory.



## DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP!

Read the latest bulletin, Pastor's blog and find other useful information on your mobile device.

Instagram @leothegreatorg

Facebook—leothegreatorg

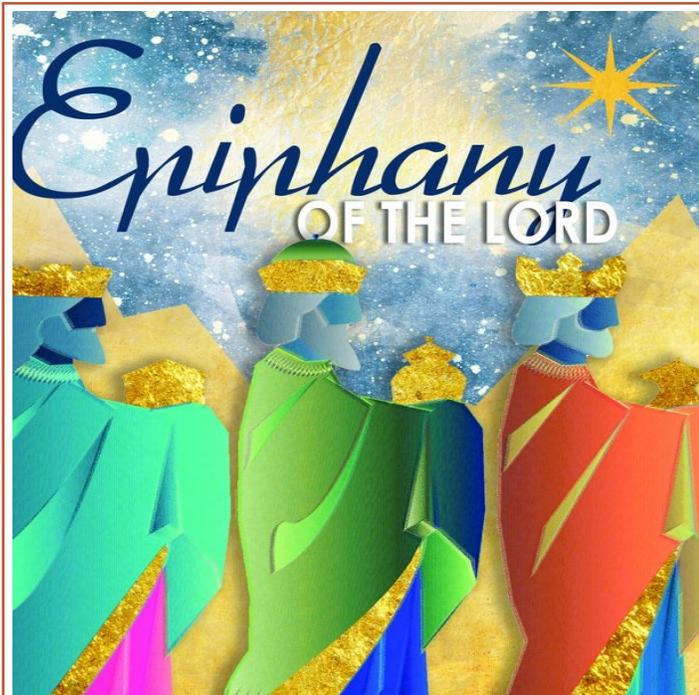
Twitter @leothegreatorg

## JANUARY 2, 2022 – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### ONLINE GIVING



Online Giving is available here at St. Leo the Great. Look for this icon on our website ([www.leothegreat.org](http://www.leothegreat.org)) to sign up. If you have any questions or need help, call the parish office at 216-661-1006.



### Catholic Charities

#### Help the Victims of Kentucky



If you'd like to donate to the victims of the recent tornado in Kentucky, please send them directly to Catholic Charities at <https://www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051>



### St. Vincent de Paul

Over the years the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization has given temporary assistance to families as emergencies occur. At times people find themselves unable to keep up with day to day expenses. We assist with keeping food on the table and often help with other expenses. When you pass by the Poor Boxes, help members reach out and help a needy family with your donation. Donations can also be put in an envelope marked "SVDP" and drop it in the collection basket or take it to the rectory. We thank you very much!

### HELP THE HOMELESS THANK YOU

Your overwhelming generosity provided three SUVs packed full of donations for the homeless. Malachi Center thanks you so much for your generous gifts of needed items, money contributions and your ongoing support. With your help, Malachi Center is able to provide life changing services for children, men and women in need. It is a safe haven where the homeless, low income families and their children can build on their strengths and resiliency, access community resources and take positive steps toward their lives. May God bless you. Merry Christmas!  
Jeanne Sabol

### SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

January 2nd to January 16th

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

Patricia Chopka  
We love you,  
Andy & Family



### REGISTER WITH US

Have you moved into the area recently, or have you joined us for Mass? We would love to have you as a registered member of our parish family. Please stop by at the rectory office, go online at [leothegreat.org](http://leothegreat.org) or call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006.



They were  
overjoyed at  
seeing the star.

Matthew 2:10

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...



Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Taylor Corbett, Annamae Sironen, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, William & Amelia Rebello, Marie Stankiewicz, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Anthony Arlia, Jeanne Karasek, Denise Sisley, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, Joseph Mackey, John Sofcheck, Ireneo (Ernie) Santiago, Rob Blum, Sally Herman, Lorice Yurek, Gary Skelley, Lee Rinaldi, Joe Lorkowski, Millie Ancin, Phyllis Zbasnik, Virginia Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Ken Proctor, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavy & Ana Mendoza.



Monday, January 3rd—Christmas Weekday

8:30am Charles Huetter (Barb Ceccarelli)

Tuesday, January 4th—USA, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:30am Charles Huetter (Mary Bublavy)

Wednesday, January 5th—USA, Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:30am +Ray & Kathy Hirsch (Mickey Stitt)

Thursday January 6th—Christmas Weekday

8:30am People of the Parish

Friday, January 7th—Christms Weekday

8:30am +Carmen Crea (Family)

Saturday, January 8th—Christmas Weekday

4:00 +Stanley & Margie Kwiatek (Linda Anderson)

Sunday, January 9th—Baptism of the Lord

8:00am People of the Parish

11:00am +Loretta Caruso (Anita Skryp)



Every week we pray for those discerning a vocation in religious life.

Timothy Rubeling  
Capuchin Formation Program  
Senior, Borromeo



Pray that he may continue to persevere and that others may respond to God's call.

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The fourth book of the Bible is called the Book of Numbers simply because in describing the wanderings of the people in the Sinai Desert, it gives two census reports. In this section, we hear how God instructed the priestly leaders to bless the people.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Galatia was a Roman province in what is now central Turkey, Paul had visited there and founded a Christian community. In this section of his letters to them, he explains that all people, not just a select few, are called to be sons and daughters of God.

Readings for the week of January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

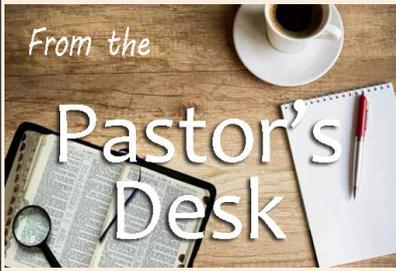
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

THE NUMBERS WILL BE IN NEXT WEEK!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Dear Parishioners,

I am especially mindful in this New Year of 2022 of those who still carry grief due to the death of a loved one in the past year, especially those who died shortly before the holidays. I think especially of someone like Dawn Burcham whose husband

Douglas died unexpectedly in December. We had a funeral Mass for him on December 15<sup>th</sup> and remember how good he was to his wife Dawn of 25 years and to his two children, Eddie & Callie. Doug was a joyful, giving person whom we pray now rejoices in the One who gave himself up for us all.

Beverly Habrat's funeral was celebrated on December 17<sup>th</sup> and she was a person who enjoyed the holidays, especially as she hosted them and cooked for her family members. She was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Thoreau Park in Parma. She enjoyed her nieces & nephews and was a kind person who liked having fun. She had a devotion to Mary & to the rosary and so we ask Mary to pray for her now as we believe she also prayed for Beverly at the hour of her death.

We also celebrated the funeral of Deborah Semancik on December 17<sup>th</sup> and remembered how faithful she was to attending Mass except for when she was ill. She had a devotion to Joseph & Mary whom we all honored during the Feast of the Holy Family last Sunday. Debbie enjoyed her family & was especially close to her brothers. A quiet person who enjoyed solitude like many of the saints, Debbie lived in Diamond, Ohio because of the peace & tranquility she found there. May she now know the eternal peace of God's heavenly kingdom.

In the name of Jeannie Sabol, I want to thank you all for your continued generosity during the Advent season toward our Adopt a Child program. We sent 3 car or truck loads of about 400 gifts for the Santa Shop at St. Aloysius School where there are about 300 children enrolled. Another 200 gifts went to our own parish families through our St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Ministry, and to families at Malachi Center & Zelie's Home. The donations totaled \$3,690, a bit more than last year. And we are grateful to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for their additional donation of \$600. We also received \$100 in gift cards. So once again, thank you for making the lives of many children a little bit happier this Christmas and know that what you did for them, you did for the Lord himself.

We received another letter from Bishop Malesic, asking us to remind you that *"those who are ill, have significant health risk factors or care for someone who is immune-compromised or ill, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety about contracting the coronavirus in a large group of persons, are not obliged to attend Mass."* He reminded us that those who distribute Holy Communion at Mass are mandated to wear a mask until the current danger has subsided.

I know of many people who have become ill with the virus over the holidays and so understand that many will continue to participate in Mass by watching us via livestream at home, and we are glad that they can join us in that way. Though I am writing this column on Christmas Eve, I trust that we will have a prayerful and joyful celebration of the Lord's Nativity, despite the continued pandemic that we all hoped and prayed would be behind us by now. But let us remember that God is always with us, in good days and bad, in sickness and in health, as married couples commit to each other at all times. Let us strengthen one another with prayer and encouragement and support until we can finally put the pandemic to rest.

### BEREAVEMENT SHARING GROUP

Have you recently lost a loved one—a spouse, sibling, a parent, other relative or a close friend? Join the St. Leo the Great Bereavement Sharing Group. We are a group who have a common bond—the loss of someone close to us. All are welcome to come and share with us the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center. We meet for about an hour and share our feelings and memories of our loved ones. **The next meeting date will be January 5, February 2, and March 2, 2022.** Feel free to join us—no reservations needed.

**If you have any questions, contact Joan Berigan at 216-661-1006 or by email: [jberigan@leothegreat.org](mailto:jberigan@leothegreat.org).**



Do your loved ones know what your wishes are for your funeral Mass? Have you thought about the readings you'd like to have at your funeral Mass? If so,

contact Joan Berigan at the rectory (216-661-1006) or email her at [jberigan@leothegreat.org](mailto:jberigan@leothegreat.org) for help in pre-planning your funeral.

### HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful that so many of you have continued to contribute. Here are a few ways to help you with your contributions:

- 1) Mail your contribution envelope(s) to us, either for the week or the month. (St. Leo the Great, 4940 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44019)
- 2) Drop your contribution envelope(s) in the mail slot of the rectory office door.



- 3) Online Giving is available here at St. Leo the Great. Look for this icon on our website [www.leothegreat.org](http://www.leothegreat.org) to sign up. It's incredibly easy and you have many options: weekly, monthly or one-time contributions, the ability to use a checking/savings account direct withdrawal (you just need your account and routing numbers) or you can use a debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover). It is simple and secure.

If you have any questions or need help, call the parish office at 216-661-1006 and we will gladly assist you.

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

*The Epiphany  
OF THE LORD*



*"And you, Bethlehem,  
land of Judah,  
are by no means least among  
the rulers of Judah;  
since from you shall  
come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd  
my people Israel."  
- Mt 2:6*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**AVAILABLE NOW!**  
**PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES**

**The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated**

**Jason Novicky** from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church the week of **January 10<sup>th</sup>**. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

**Church bulletin advertising** is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

**Digital advertising** allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on [ParishesOnline.com](http://ParishesOnline.com) — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!



**Jason Novicky**  
**216-258-6185**

*In Loving Memory of*



**Douglas E. Burcham**

*Born:* June 15, 1957

*Entered Into Rest:* December 8, 2021

*Services:* Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
St. Leo the Great Church  
Cleveland, Ohio

*Final Resting Place:* Holy Cross Cemetery  
Section 6 Lot 75 Grave 1



*In Loving Memory of  
Deborah A. Semancik*

*October 12, 1958  
December 10, 2021*

**Mass of Christian Burial**  
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church  
Friday ~ December 17, 2021  
At 11:30 a.m.

**Entombment**  
Brooklyn Hts. Cemetery  
Sanctuary of Angels Section 1 Tier 8A

*God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not  
To be. So he put his arms around you and  
Whispered, "come to ME". With tearful eyes  
We watched you, and saw you pass away.  
Although we loved you dearly, we could not  
Make you stay. A golden heart stopped  
Beating, hard working hands at rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
He only takes the best.*

**Tomon & Sons Funeral Home**  
4772 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109 ~ 216.741.6661

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

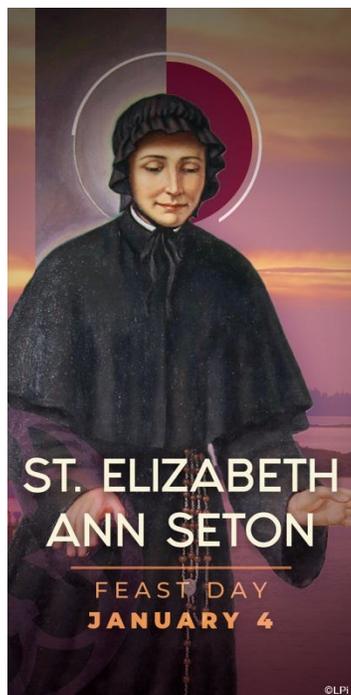
That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



### Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF  
SCRIPTURE**

**January 2, 2022**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



