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CHURCH OF ST. LEO THE GREAT

4940 Broadview Rd. Cleveland, OH 44109 | 216.661.1006 | leothegreat.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

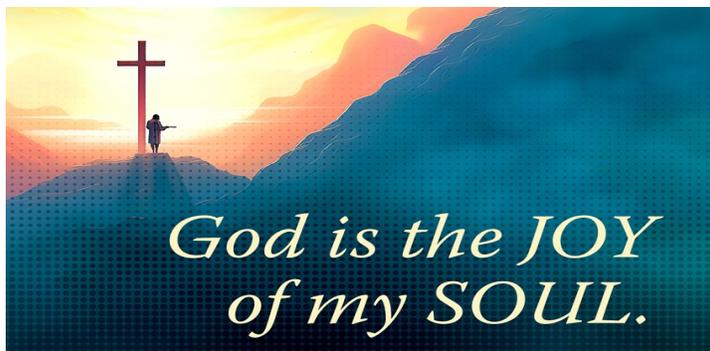
“I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

- Jn 1:26-27

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve | Sunday, December 24th @ 4pm
Christmas Day | Monday, December 25th @ 8am & 11am

Note: Rectory Office will be closed 12/24 thru 12/26



ADVENT WITH MARY: THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Continuing Monday, December 18th at 10:00a.m. we will conclude our reflections on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Join us for this last Monday of Advent in the Chapel as we pray, meditate and share. Please bring your Rosaries.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

During the Advent season we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of the Son of God into our lives. It's a joyous time, too, for some quiet reflection on what that really means. In your quiet time and your prayerful reflection, please remember those who are hungry, forgotten, lonely or deprived. Please help the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization with your donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Boxes or place your donation in an envelope marked "SVDP" and drop it in the collection basket during weekend masses or drop it off at the rectory. We thank you very much for your help and support throughout the year.



Mark your calendars to join us for Mass, events & activities throughout the year!

Are you a former student of St. Leo School?
Is your child a former student of St. Leo School?
Please, let us know by completing a form on the parish website leothegreat.org. Under "Organizations" tab select *Alumni Association*. We hope to hear from you!

Photos taken back in August, September, or October can be picked up in the rectory during the week or in the main vestibule of the church after the weekend Masses.

Remembrance Trees -- Ornaments will be available before and after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 23rd, and the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday, December 24th.

Christmas Mass -- Sunday, December 24th, at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, December 25th, at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

MEMORIES

The freshly-cut Christmas trees in the sanctuary were beautiful to look at, but sometimes they came with a bonus. One year not long after Christmas, the priest was beginning the Eucharistic Prayer at the 7:00 p.m. weekday Mass when something flew out of a dark corner of the church, right over the priest's head and then up into the bell tower. The priest maintained his composure through the rest of the Mass, but afterward he told us that he could tell the flying creature was a bat which must have been in one of the Christmas trees. It wasn't until several weeks later that the bat was discovered in a corner by one of the windows in the main vestibule, apparently thinking he could fly out that way.

Share *YOUR* memories with us! Submit them to nzola@leothegreat.org or write it down on a piece of paper and turn it in to the Rectory Office.

We also welcome PHOTOS throughout the year of the people and events taking place. Please, send *YOURS* to photos@leothegreat.org.



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

2024 THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES 2024

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please return this stub with your payment of \$30.00. Checks are to be made out to St. Leo the Great.

Questions? Please call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006 or visit our website at www.leothegreat.org

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after the **4:00 P.M. MASS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, AND THE 8:00 & 11:00 A.M. MASSES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.** Names of loved ones can be written on the ornaments and hung on the trees in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. *If a loved one from this parish passed away earlier this year, their name has already been placed on an ornament and will be added to the tree.* The ornaments can be taken home in January at the conclusion of the Christmas season -- January 6th and 7th. Ornaments not taken from the trees at that time will be placed in the main vestibule and may be picked up until January 21st.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Larry Kuznik, Irma Zappitelli, John Sofcheck, Ireneo (Ernie) Santiago, Gary Skelley, Virginia Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavy, Anna Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze, Stan Wasacz, Marcia Bailey, Jim Tisch, MaryLou Durfee, Chris Grdosic, Kathy Svoboda, Matt Pauloski, Kelley, Tootie, Megan Arena, Lena Sunyak, Chuck Pacanovsky, Theresa Truxall, Susan Fenski, Antoinette Jakosh, Rose Arlia, Liz Woisnet, Betty Popow, Allen Phillips, Ruth Bublavy, John O'Malley, Jesse Kazimer, William Wollard, Claudia Wollard, Carol Rucinski, Joe Deranek, Ben Wheelock, Janice Smith, Lesley Uffman, Dorothy Pazdernik, Sandie Stefanchik, Jordan Sierra Lionberger, Dottie Barr, Joe Barr, Brett Stewart, Allison Dusenbury, Mary Ann Perry, Mary Ann Corlett, Shawn Calvey, Gloria Madonia, Sharon Rock, Anthony Bozek, Joe Brodzinski Suzanne Brown, Joyce Stevens, Victoria Fischer, John Gierlach, Dylan Greve, Ken Perry, Dayna Hansen, Leo Hansen, Betty Hinton, Eileen Johnson, Judy Towalski, Susan Mante, Vicki Przybylski, Kristi Burkhart, Maria Giangrande, Amanda Pacanavsky, Leslie Hahn Karen Horvath, Chris Geiger, Scott, Jesse Wilson and Kathy Patterson.



Sr. Chelsea Parza
Mercedarian Sisters

of the Blessed Sacrament, Novice

Every week we pray for those discerning a vocation in religious life. Pray that they may continue to persevere and that others may respond to God's call.

Sanctuary Candle Intention
December 17th—December 31st

+Larry Bronecki

"In Our Hearts Forever"

From, Lynda & Family

WEDDING BANNES



I. BRANDON ROBINSON & NICHOLE KIRK

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday, December 18th—Late Advent Weekday**
8:30am +Maga Noga (Family)
- Tuesday, December 19th—Late Advent Weekday**
8:30am +Fr. Vesely's Anniversary of Ordination (Fr. James Schmitz)
- Wednesday, December 20th—Late Advent Weekday**
8:30am +Gaytana Cosiano (Mary Fazekas)
- Friday, December 22nd—Late Advent Weekday**
8:30am +Dennis Dina (Louise Tupper)
- Saturday, December 23rd—Advent Weekday**
4:00pm People of the Parish
- Sunday, December 24th — 4th Sunday of Advent**
8:00am +Ralph Mlady (Family)
11:00am Deceased Members of the LaGodney & Will Families
(Your Loving Family)

Sunday, December 24th—The Nativity of the Lord | Christmas Eve
4:00pm People of the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who preached after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. In today's reading, the prophet describes how God Called him to encourage the people in this desperate time.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Our second reading comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Just as a parent might give last-minute instructions as their child might head out the door, so Paul has a list of last-minute instructions for these people whom he loves.

SUNDAY Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

MONDAY Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

SATURDAY Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

REFLECTIONS | SACRED HEART COUNSELING

When it comes to winters in Ohio, some of them can be very dreary. As a counselor, some of the most common symptoms I hear about in the winter season involve low energy, depression, and a general lack of motivation. There are many things that we take for granted in the summer such as the sunlight, warmer weather, and all the things that come with them such as frequent social occasions, the ease of exercising outside or simply taking a walk, and a wider variety of things to do. After a few weeks of the cold and lack of sunlight, it is easy for cabin fever to set in and we can find ourselves irritable, sedentary, and isolated. Some of the most effective ways to combat these symptoms are to engage in exercise, social interactions, and finding something interesting to do indoors. Part of the problem is that these things require more energy, time, and effort in the winter months than they do in the summer. For example, it is easy to go on a walk in the summer and run into neighbors for brief social interactions or go to the gym without needing to put on our heaviest parka. While these things require more of us in the winter months, they are very important to continue to maintain our mental health. In the winter, they often require more planning, discipline, and execution. For example, the spontaneous exercise of going for a walk is easy in the summer whereas in the winter we might have to plan and prepare to go to the gym. Something I often recommend to people is to plan out their week on Sunday to make plans for social engagements, exercise, and something interesting and engaging to do at home such as painting, reading, or a home project. If you find yourself experiencing cabin fever in the winter months, consider making a more intentional effort to engage in activities that maintain or improve your mental health. —Luke Brown, LCC



Holistic Catholic Counseling
www.sacredheartcleveland.com
440-305-6192

THE SIGN OF PEACE

QUESTION: Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

ANSWER: The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

ADOPT-A-CHILD

So many moving parts and pieces to the planning and coordination that took place last weekend to



ensure that families that were struggling this year were able to rest a little easier knowing that their children had



something extra to make their Christmas a little brighter—and it was all due to the thoughtfulness of those of you who donated your time



and money to this program!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

On December 9th I celebrated a Funeral Mass for Zofia Chyla, the mother of George & John, to whom we extend our sympathies and our prayers. Zofia was 95 years old and still living in her own home at the time of her death. She had been married for 52 years. Her two children went to school here at St. Leo's and the family has been parishioners since 1967, two years before our present church was built. Zofia had a devotion to the Holy Family and attended Mass regularly until she was unable to do so. May she rest in peace now and enjoy the rewards of a life of faith.

Through our new cameras that have been installed in the school, I was able to see how many gifts were dropped over in the school cafeteria last weekend in support of our annual Adopt a Child program, so thank you for your generosity and kindness to the many children who will benefit from your loving compassion. And of course thanks to Jeannie Sabol & all those who assist her in organizing this effort and distributing these gifts each year. May it please not only the children but the Lord Himself who is seen so clearly in the children among us.

I'm grateful for your cooperation as I or others like John Sabol lead the congregation through a cappella singing at those Masses when our Associate Musician, Mary Piechowski, is unable to play organ or piano for us. We are grateful for Mary's extra time as well as we continue to search for another musician, hopefully someone who might be able to work with a choir as well. As I mentioned once before, another musician in the Diocese said several parishes are searching for such talented musicians but they are hard to come by these days. Honestly, I appreciate the opportunity to sing without the accompaniment of a musical instrument ("a cappella") from time to time, and even to have a little more silence in our liturgy, as much as I also appreciate the importance and beauty of such instruments like the piano and organ. Either way, we are still praising God in song which raises the heart along with the mind to our Creator. I'm also grateful to Ruth Novak and to Matt Bobby who have been assisting us with our funeral liturgies. Please continue to pray that God may spare you from my voice and provide us with someone who is talented and available to join us in the ministry.

We had stopped renting out the Parish Community Center for a few months except to active parishioners and parents of our school children since some were not respecting either our property or our rules, such as not using alcohol or not taping things to the ceiling tiles which easily damages them. But this became challenging due to those who claim to be a parishioner but who are not active or regular in their Mass attendance any more. So I've decided to allow the Parish Center to be rented again to anyone as we have so many requests for the use of that space. It has proven to be quite convenient to many who need such a space for larger family gatherings and celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc. But we are going to raise the cost a bit to cover the expenses we incur for the maintenance of those rooms and for the coordination of the rentals. However, I'll let you who are reading this know, that if you are looking to rent the Parish Center, if you see me in church (which means you're an active parishioner or at least a supporting visitor) & let me know you're renting that space, I'll give you a special discount. I believe that people who support the parish with their contributions and especially by their presence here at Mass should be shown a special courtesy. So thank you for your generosity and your presence...both are always appreciated.

Fr. James Schmitz

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 on the **first MONDAY 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.

Feel free to join us—no reservations needed!

**Upcoming Meetings in 2024:
February 5th, March 4th, and May 6th**

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

PRE-PLANNED FUNERAL

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 jberigan@leothegreat.org for help in pre-planning your funeral Mass.

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 44109)
- 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 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.

PARISH SUPPORT

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Sun. Envelope	\$	7,973.00
WeShare	\$	2,230.00
Total	\$	10,203.00
Cap. Improv	\$	543.00
WeShare	\$	165.00
Total	\$	746.00
SVDP	\$	300.00
WeShare	\$	120.00
Total	\$	420.00

*Thank you for
you continued
generosity and
support of
St. Leo the
Great Parish !*



CHRISTMAS WAFER | OPLATKI

Available for \$3.00 in the Rectory Office during regular hours or after weekend Masses in the back vestibule of the church.



GET YOUR GIFT CARDS

With the Holidays almost upon us, be sure to stop by the Rectory Office to purchase gift cards for those “stocking stuffers”—a great way to check off your holidays shopping list while supporting the parish and school! Note: Newly added gifts cards include *McDonald’s*, *AMC Theatre*, *Meijers*, *Home Goods* and *Sierra* (an extension of T.J. Maxx)



THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

Our 2023 Sweepstakes Raffle is now ended. Tickets are now available in the Rectory Office for the 2024 Sweepstakes Raffle effective January 1, 2024-November 10, 2024. Tickets will again be \$30 each and will be available just in time for the holidays. They make a great Christmas present that offers a chance to win multiple time year round.

“REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.”

———— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17 ————

REFLECTIONS FOR EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

A Constant Companion

By: Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.



Scout Troop 24 meets weekly – Tuesdays 7:30 – 9pm
St. Leo the Great, 4940 Broadview Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109

Looking for adventure?!

Come see what **Boy Scouts Troop 24** has to offer!
Leadership! Camping! Backpacking! Campfire Starting!
Ax & Hatchet! Archery! Riflery! Shotgun! Flying
Airplane! SCUBA! Kayaking!
Winter Shelter Building & Camping!

Who: 6th-12th graders

Where: St. Leo's Parish Community Center

When: Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm

Contact: Mike Robinson 216-409-3733 or eMail
Troop 24 at scout-troop-24@googlegroups.com

Pro-Life Group Meeting

Because the Christmas holidays are so close to the normal meeting date, the Pro-Life group will NOT be meeting in December.

Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 1:00 pm
in the Parish Center. The topic for this month's discussion is yet to be determined.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

Because our country remains under constant attack from evil, we ask all to continue praying to St. Michael the Archangel, as often as you can. He can help us defeat the enemy.

If you have any questions about the group, the meeting or its content, please contact either Dennis Badar at 216-398-2830, Chris Rath at 216-394-5803 or Nina at ncapone@leothegreat.org

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke them, we humbly pray, and cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2024 BUS TRIPS

The Sanctuary Museum | Lakewood, Ohio
(formerly the Museum of the Divine Statues)
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

River's Casino | Pittsburgh, PA
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

More details will be posted at a later date.



For reservations or questions contact
Sandy Diaddario at 216-926-3123

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Ladies, all ages, no matter where you are in your faith journey, please, join us next month on **Tuesday, January 16, 2023 at 6:30p.m. in the Parish Center.** We are meeting to connect and *LIFT* each other up as we grow our relationship with God and learn to live more intentionally and prayerfully in our Journeys as women of the faith. For more information contact Pat (216-403-1523) or Barb (216-302-5454) or email Nina at the rectory office at ncapone@leothegreat.org.

Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, etc. of students at St. Leo School, please consider joining us one evening and witness the powerful, prayerful support of friends in faith.

PARISH INFORMATION

RECTORY STAFF **216.661.1006**

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Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan
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Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator
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Judy Strodbeck, Facilities Manager
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Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary
ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org
Joann Deranek, DRE
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Dan Trainer, Athletic Director
dtrainer@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri | 9:00am— 4:00pm
Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm
Sunday | 9:00am—12:00pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00am & 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon, Tues, Weds & Fri @ 8:30am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00pm-3:30pm
Sunday 10:00am-10:30am

New parishioners and those moving from the parish or changing addresses are asked to contact the Rectory Office or utilize our website to update your records.

www.leothegreat.org



leothegreat.org/flocknote



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Twitter @leothegreatorg

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday-Friday
8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.