



Father James P. Schmitz

Pastor

4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Nina Capone, Office Manager

ncapone@leothegreat.org

Mickey Stitt, Music Director

mstitt@leothegreat.org

Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician

mpiechowski@leothegreat.org

Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator

missnadia@leothegreat.org

Judy Strodtbeck, Facilities Manager

jstrodtbeck@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday | 9:00am— 4:00pm

Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday | 9:00am—12:00pm

SCHOOL STAFF: 216.661.2120

Denise Burns, Principal

dburns@leothegreat.org

Robin Salem, Assistant Principal

rsalem@leothegreat.org

Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary

ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org

Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education

jderanek@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday—Friday 8:00am—3:00pm

www.leothegreat.org

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS

Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm

Sundays | 8:00am and 11:00am

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 8:30am

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

8:30am and 7:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual confessions are celebrated Saturdays from 3:00pm-3:30pm, Sundays from 10:00a-10:30a , 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 or use our website.

BAPTISMS

Parents desiring Baptism for their child are asked to contact the Rectory 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 interested about becoming Catholic or have questions about the Catholic Faith, please call the Rectory.

If you or a family member are ill or homebound please let us know so that our priest or deacon can visit and provide spiritual care.



Instagram [@leothegreatorg](https://www.instagram.com/leothegreatorg)



Facebook—[leothegreatorg](https://www.facebook.com/leothegreatorg)



Twitter [@leothegreatorg](https://twitter.com/leothegreatorg)



Read the latest bulletin and find other useful information on your mobile device by downloading the app.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES
 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00PM
 CHRISTMAS DAY 8:00AM & 11:00AM
 NEW YEAR'S EVE 4:00PM
 NEW YEAR'S DAY 8:00AM & 11:00AM

PARISH SUPPORT

November 27, 2022



Sunday Envelope	\$	4,163.20
WeShare	\$	1,190.00
Total	\$	5,353.20
Cap. Improv	\$	105.00
WeShare	\$	15.00
Total	\$	120.00
SVDP	\$	580.00
WeShare	\$	50.00
Total	\$	630.00

November Totals

<i>All Saints</i>	\$813.00
<i>All Souls</i>	\$346.00
<i>Hurricane Relief</i>	\$1,306.00
<i>Maryknoll Missions</i>	\$3,082.72
<i>Human Development</i>	\$35.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Please mark your calendars to join us for Mass and the events and activities throughout the year!

Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after all of the Masses the weekend of December 17th & 18th.

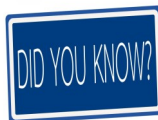
Join us for Christmas Eve Mass on Saturday, December 24th, at 4:00 p.m. or Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 25th, at 8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

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 - Alumni Association*. We hope to hear from you!

Do you have a **favorite memory** from the past 75 years? If so, please submit it to nzola@leothegreat.org.

“Once a week the church organist, Mrs. Galmarini, would teach the entire school songs via the PA system. She would accompany the singing with a small keyboard. You could hear the singing throughout the school.”

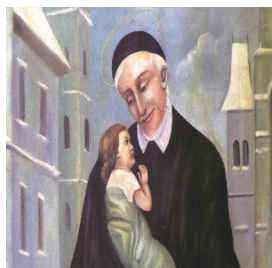
—Submitted by a former student



Before the lower level of the school was converted to classrooms, it was used as meeting rooms for the various groups of the parish. Scouts and other organizations used the meeting space, including a kitchen area for functions where food was served.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Time To Remember



In this 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 take it over to the rectory. We thank you very much for your help and support throughout the year.

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

REMINDER

There will be no Mass on Monday, December 26, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023. Please note that the Rectory office will also be closed these days.

REMEMBRANCE TREES

Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after all of the Masses the weekend of December 17th & 18th. 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 7th and 8th. Ornaments not taken from the trees at that time will be placed in the main vestibule and may be picked up until January 22nd.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Taylor Corbett, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, John Sofcheck, Ireneo (Ernie) Santiago, Rob Blum, Sally Herman, Gary Skelley, Virginia Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavy, Kristen Eble, Ana Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Denise Warnock, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze, Stan Wasacz, Joe Barr, Mary Ann & Doug Kiesel, 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, MaryKay Simonek, Betty Popow, R.Rosario, Margarita Quinones, Allen Phillips, John O'Malley, Kenneth Lees, Tina Sunday, and Karen Horvath.

BRENDAN WELSH
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
GATES MILLS
THIRD YEAR, BORROMEIO

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.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 19th—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am People of the Parish
Tuesday, December 20th—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am +Mary Kay (Ray & Joshua Kay)
Wednesday, December 21st—St. Peter Canisius
8:30am Robert Mocadlo (Ron Kollar)
Friday, December 23rd—St. John of Kanty
8:30am +Lora Mae Phillips (Marie & Allen Phillips)
Saturday, December 24th—Late Advent Weekday
4:00pm People of the Parish
Sunday, December 25th—The Nativity of the Lord
8:00am People of the Parish
11:00am +Elaine Dudor (Dave Dudor)

Since there is no Mass here at St. Leo's on Thursdays you can attend Mass at one of our other local parishes; St. Charles (7am), St. Barbara (7:30am), St. Francis de Sales (8:45am) or Mary Queen of Peace (8am).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-14

In today's passage, the prophet Isaiah speaks to the Jewish king Ahaz, who is more interested in politics than religion. Isaiah announces that the wife of Ahaz will soon have a son, who will be a better king than his father. Christians have seen in this passage a deeper meaning, namely, Mary giving birth to Jesus.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

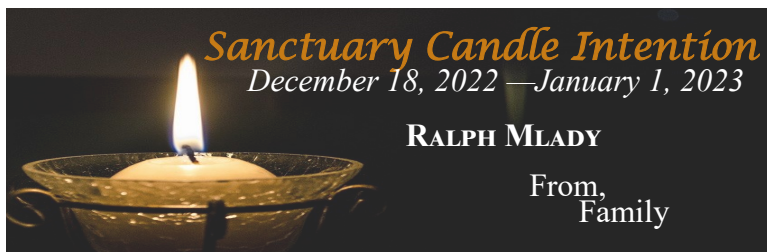
The opening words of the letter to the Romans are an example of the classical style of letter writing at that time: Paul first identifies himself, extends a greeting, gives some helpful information about himself, and personalizes his letter by naming the community to whom he is writing. Paul highlights the fact that Jesus was descended from the Royal House of David. Early Christians (many of them from the lower class) were particularly proud of this.

SUNDAY Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
MONDAY Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
TUESDAY Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
WEDNESDAY Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
THURSDAY 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
FRIDAY Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
SATURDAY 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Sanctuary Candle Intention
December 18, 2022 — January 1, 2023

RALPH MLADY

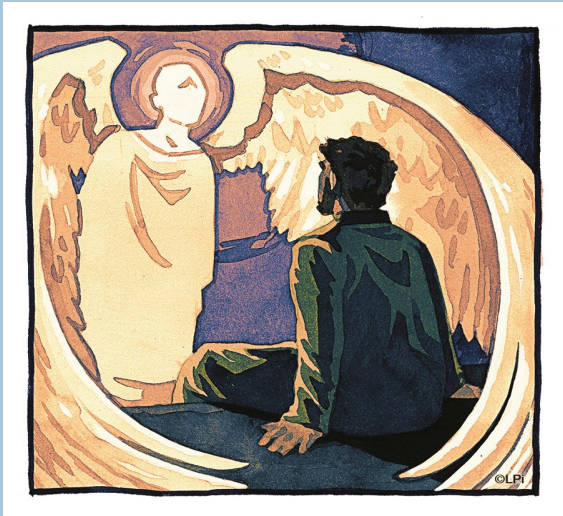
From,
Family



ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

SEEING GOD IN OUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

St. Joseph the Steward



St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

*Gospel
Meditation*

ENCOURAGE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;

IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;

WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.

OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY

AND COURAGE. AMEN.

— POPE FRANCIS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

I want you to know how much I enjoy seeing you all on the weekends when you are here for Mass, and how much I enjoy meeting individually with those who make an appointment to see me. My ministry as a priest and pastor involves a lot of administrative responsibilities which I am happy to attend to as part of my work, but what really gives me joy is getting to know you and being available to help you in any way I can. I share this with you to let you that that I am always happy to meet with you in my office and to that end I have made it possible for you to schedule an appointment with me easily through our website, right on the home page (leothegreat.org). You can do the same with Deacon Pat and Joan Berigan as well. Just scroll down to where it says "Schedule an Appointment" and click the link. It's so easy to do you can even use your phone. It will first ask how much time you'd like (15, 30 or 60 minutes) or give you the option of meeting over Zoom or FaceTime (this is for a video conference for those who don't know what these are). After choosing one of these, it will then show you the days I am available and then the individual time slots. Then just type in your name, email address and 6 phone number (in case I need to cancel or reschedule due to an emergency). You can optionally let me know what the meeting concerns (e.g. confession, counseling, etc.) and any other information that I would find helpful before meeting. You can always cancel or reschedule afterward if something comes up. If such technology confuses or scares you, you can always just call the rectory office and ask the receptionist to schedule an appointment for you & she will be happy to do that. I have found this to be a real time saver as most of the time I will not be available to talk to you when you call & you'll need to leave me a voicemail and then I'll likely need to leave you a voicemail & we can go around like that in circles. Please feel free to ask me before or after Mass to make an appointment with you as well as I will have my phone on me and can schedule something with you right then. I just ask for your patience & understanding when I'm not available if you call or stop in the office or send me an email. It may take me a few days to get back to you when you email or leave a voicemail so allowing you the ability to make an appointment online is for your convenience. But know that I want to make myself available to you so please don't hesitate to reach out if I can help in some way. I always enjoy meeting with people, even if only for a few minutes.

This 4th and final Sunday of Advent signals to us that Christmas is just one week away. With December 25th falling on a Sunday every 7 years as it does this year, it makes our Christmas schedule easy to remember. Mass next Saturday, Christmas Eve, will be at 4pm, and Mass on Christmas will be at 8am and 11am, as usual for a Sunday. We just don't have the numbers anymore to warrant a Mass at 7pm or 10pm on Christmas Eve. Even our 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve no longer sees a full church as it did in pre-COVID years, but I keep hoping that people will choose to come to Mass in church and not simply watch it via livestream. We need to learn how to be present to one another again as COVID stole that from us. We need to know the importance of physical presence...being present to each other as God is physically present to us in Holy Communion. May God allow us to rejoice in each other as we rejoice in Him.

Today we welcome Jakob Vasquez into our Catholic Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. May he know the constant presence of God in his life and be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Jr. 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 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 dates will be January 4, 2023, February 1, 2023 and March 1, 2023.**

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.

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.

ST. LEO THE GREAT—CLEVELAND, OHIO

If interested, cut out and complete the bottom portion of this page and return to the rectory office with your payment of \$30.00. Tickets will also be available in the office to purchase via cash, check or credit card.



ST. LEO THE GREAT



2023

THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

2023

\$30 GETS YOU A CHANCE TO WIN MULTIPLE TIMES!

JANUARY 1, 2023 — NOVEMBER 10, 2023

<u>WEEKLY DRAWING</u> \$ 100.00		<u>SPECIAL DRAWINGS</u> \$ 200.00	
JANUARY	2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD & 30TH	NEW YEAR'S DAY	JANUARY 1ST
FEBRUARY	6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH	EASTER SUNDAY	APRIL 9TH
MARCH	6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH	MOTHER'S DAY	MAY 14TH
APRIL	3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 24TH	FATHER'S DAY	JUNE 18TH
MAY	1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 29TH	INDEPENDENCE DAY	JULY 4TH
JUNE	5TH, 12TH, 19TH & 26TH	<p align="center"><u>SUPER DRAWING</u></p> <p align="center">\$ 1,000.00</p> <p align="center">NOVEMBER 10, 2023</p> <p align="center">FEAST DAY OF ST. LEO THE GREAT</p>	
JULY	3RD, 10TH, 17TH, 24TH & 31ST		
AUGUST	7TH, 14TH, 21ST, & 28TH		
SEPTEMBER	4TH, 11TH, 18TH, & 25TH		
OCTOBER	2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD & 30TH		
NOVEMBER	6TH		



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

2023

THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

2023

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.leotheadgreat.org

December 18, 2022— FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Our Faith Formation group and some of their family members met again last Sunday. Together they worked to create little treat bags along with personalized holiday greeting cards to send to local nursing homes. The cheer that is presented all over those pieces of paper is a beautiful reminder of the reason for this season and is most certain to give all of those who receive them the priceless gift of an honest smile.