



Father James P. Schmitz
Pastor
Father James J. Vesely
Retired

4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2019

St. Leo the Great Church
1969 - 2019



PARISH STAFF:
216.661.1006

- Father James Schmitz, Pastor**
jschmitz@leothegreat.org
- Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan**
pberigan@leothegreat.org
jberigan@leothegreat.org
- Mary Lou Hauck, Office Manager**
mlhauck@leothegreat.org
- Brenda Basalla, Business Manager**
bbasalla@leothegreat.org
- Mickey Stitt, Music Director**
mstitt@leothegreat.org
- Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician**
mpiechowski@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday ~ 9:00AM—7:00PM
Friday ~ 9:00AM—3:00PM
Saturday ~ Noon—5:30PM
Sunday ~ 9:00AM—12:30PM

SCHOOL STAFF:
216.661.2120

- Denise Burns Principal**
dburns@leothegreat.org
- Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary**
ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org
- Jennifer Robinson, Preschool Director**
jrobinson@leothegreat.org
- Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education (DRE)**
jderanek@leothegreat.org
- Cindy Funari, Tuition Manager**
cfunari@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday through Friday/School Day ~ 8:00AM—2:45PM
Main Office ~ 7:30AM—3:30PM

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS
Saturday Vigil ~ 4:00PM
Sundays ~ 8:00AM, and 11:00AM

WEEKDAYS
Monday through Thursday ~ 7:30AM
Friday ~ 8:30AM

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
8:30AM and 7:00PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual confessions are heard on Saturday, from 2:45PM—3:30PM or anytime by appointment.

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

New parishioners and those moving from the parish or changing address 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.



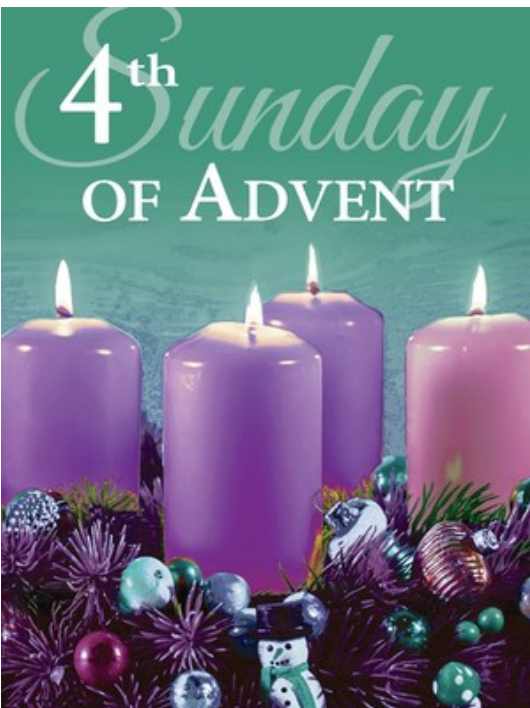
DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP!

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

Instagram @leothegreatorg

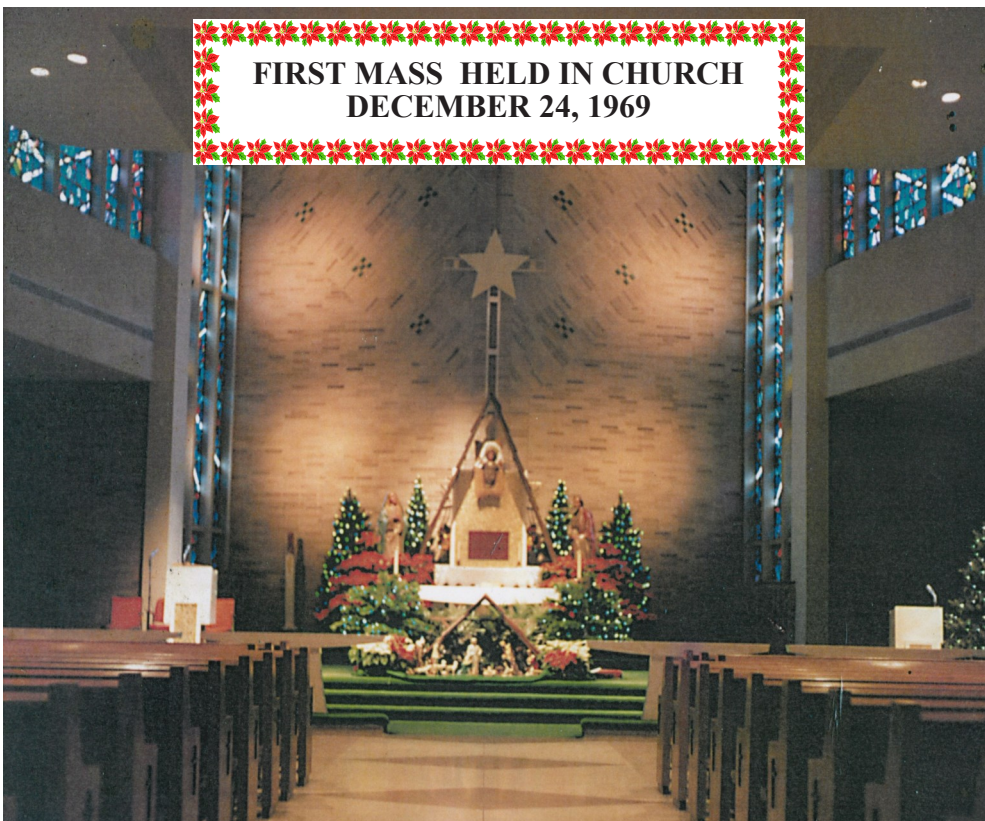
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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.



**FIRST MASS HELD IN CHURCH
DECEMBER 24, 1969**

HOLIDAY
Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday, December 24th:
4:00pm, 7:00pm, & 10:00pm
(Vigil Masses)

CHRISTMAS DAY
Wed., December 25th:
8:00am & 11:00am

Confession Schedule
Mon., Dec. 23rd—11:00am

New Year's Day
**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD :**
Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 31st—
4:00pm Vigil Mass
(No 7:30am Mass)
Wed., January 1st —11:00am



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Ed Gorcyka, Bob McLaughlin, Annamae Sironen, Jo Hoffman, John Risko, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Ruth Frohlich, Ron Vokac, Carol Rucinski, Pat Chopka, Serena Jacobs, William & Amelia Rebello, Louise Horvath, Diane Kalus, Marie Stankiewicz, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Steve Kostrubanic, Marge Menge, Bill Hinton, Linda Debaltzo, Anna Mendoza, Anthony Arlia, Kathleen & Richard Svoboda, Sharon Kopal, Jeanne Karasek, George Aloschen, Herb Mayville, Mary Suder, Charles Hakaim, Jeanne Karasek, Denise Sisley, Walter Milewski, Dorothy Forister & Don Donelon.



Monday, December 23rd -St. John of Kanty
7:30am + Maria & Julio Toro (Family)

Tuesday, December 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00pm +Maria Aponte (Friend)
7:00pm +Jack Manning (Friends)
10:00pm +Virginia Rescina (Family)

Wednesday, December 25th - CHRISTMAS DAY
8:00am People of the Parish
11:00am People of the Parish

Thursday, December 26th - St. Stephen
7:30am Communion Service

Friday, December 27th- St. John
8:30am +Ruthanne Lennox (Chris Rath)

Saturday, December 28th - The Holy Innocents
4:00pm +Charles Sexton (Wife)

Sunday, December 29th -The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:00am People of the Parish
11:00am +Alberta Nicholson (Melody Halsey)



WE WELCOME

LANDYN JOSEPH MORAN
as he is baptized this weekend.

May the blessings you received from God guide you throughout your life!



Our Great Sweepstakes weekly drawing will start January 1, 2020.

We are now selling Great Sweepstakes tickets. Tickets are available at the Rectory Office or at the Information Desk in the back of the Church.

The drawing will go from January 1, 2020 thru November 10, 2020 (Feast of St. Leo). There will be (44) \$100 Weekly Drawings, (5) \$200 Special Drawings and (1) \$1,000 Super Drawing on the Feast of St. Leo on November 10, 2020.

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

Robert Stegmaier
St. Colette, Brunswick
Year 1 - Diaconate Program



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



Sunday, December 8

Basket Collection.....	\$ 7,148.43
WeShare (online)	1,150.00
Total	\$ 8,298.43

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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 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.

Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

Monday: Mal3: 1-4, 23-24/Ps25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10&14/Lk1:57-66
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is91-6/Ps96:1-2, 2-311-12, 13/Ti2:11-14/Lk2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



WEDDING BANNS

I Becky Caraballo & Marvin Beavers IV



Dear Parishioners,

Though we are celebrating the fourth and final Sunday of Advent this weekend, this bulletin will also serve as our Christmas bulletin. So I begin by telling you how joyful I am, along with Deacon Pat and his wife Joan, to have you here with us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We are joyful first, because God in His great mercy has looked upon each of us with such great love that He has given us the greatest gift He could possibly give: the person of His Son who has come to share his life with us, to teach us how to share our life with Him and with each other, and finally to offer His life for us on the cross so as to save us by His death and resurrection. How good it is then that we gather to give praise and thanks to God together, as His beloved children.

But we are also joyful because the presence and prayers and support of the parishioners throughout the year are such a welcome gift to us. In addition, we are joyful that many others who are visitors to our parish, or whom we may not see at other times of the year, are home with us, and we welcome each one of you and hope you feel our Christmas spirit. We are glad to have you here and hope that you will return to join us in prayer and to be supported in faith at other times of the year.

I was able to celebrate Fr. Vesely's 65th Anniversary of Ordination last Monday at Mount Alverna. Bishop Perez presided at the Mass and gave a wonderful homily, thanking Fr. Vesely and his classmates for their service to the Church. Fr. Vesely offered his well-known Litany of Thanksgiving. On behalf of the parish, I gave him a large basket of many things he enjoys, from gift cards to his favorite candy. We look forward to having him here soon so you can congratulate him in person.

Thanks to John & Jeannie Sabol, we have a new poster board and some different pictures in the display case in the vestibule of the church which shows the parish celebrating Christmas in past years. One of the pictures even shows the church on December 24, 1969, the first day that Mass was celebrated in the "new" church. The inside of the church has seen some changes since then as the tabernacle has been moved from the center and the communion rails are no longer in place and the green carpet has been replaced with a beautiful marble floor. But the faith of the people of St. Leo's has remained in place and we continue to give thanks for the beautiful church and for the beautiful people that make up our parish.

As we celebrate 50 years of worshipping God together, we will give you some chocolate and an ornament for your Christmas tree. The chocolate is for eating, the ornament is for hanging. Don't get those mixed-up.

Fr. James Schmitz

THIS WEEK AT ST. LEO'S

Monday, December 23rd

4:30pm 3rd Gr. Girls BB Practice

5:30pm 6th Gr. Boys BB Practice

7:00pm 5th Gr. Boys BB Practice

Lux

Lux

Lux

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve.



Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 26th—Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 27th

7:30pm Recovery International

Basement

Saturday, December 28th

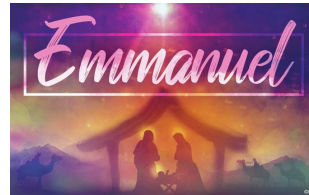
2:45 to 3:30pm Confessions

Church

3:00pm Grapevine

Basement

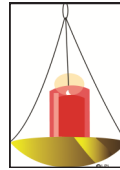
Sunday, December 29th



Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Is 7:14)

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

December 22nd to January 4th



Tyler Larson Hicker

From: Larson Family



Merry Christmas

REMEMBRANCE TREES



Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after all of the Masses this weekend, December 21st & 22nd. Names of loved ones can be written on the ornaments and hung on the trees in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The ornaments can be taken home in January at the conclusion of the Christmas season.

ADOPT A CHILD THANK YOU



Thank you for your truly overwhelming generosity this year on behalf of the Adopt a Child for Christmas program. We distributed about 500 gifts to families from our own parish community, St. Aloysius School, Maggie's Place, Malachi Center and Catholic Charities sponsored refugee families.

Contributions totaled \$2100 plus \$600 in matching funds that will be donated by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. We are deeply grateful to all.

These contributions will be shared with our St. Vincent dePaul Outreach Organization, Providence House, Womankind, St. Colman's Parish, Malachi Center and the Backdoor Ministry of St. Malachi's Parish.

So many individuals generously contributed gifts, money or volunteered their time to sort gifts and help deliver. A sincere THANK YOU to all who helped to continue our tradition of helping others. God blessings to you through the new year.

Sincerely, Jeanne Sabol and Judi Westerburg

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 duffle bag donations 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.

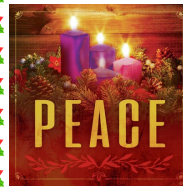
May God bless you.

Jeanne Sabol



Oplatki is still available in the rectory office for a donation of \$2.00 while supplies last. One per family please.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Christmas time is that time of the year for reflecting on all the good we have been blessed with and a time for holding family and friends close. But for many in our community this special day is spent quite different. Please pray for peace in our world, but also remember that "peace" means not being hungry or alone, cold or homeless, sick or afraid. Help your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization give our neighbors that true sense of peace with a donation in the Poor Boxes. Thank you very much for your help throughout the year and Merry Christmas to you all!



We will be closed on:

**Tuesday, December 24th —Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25th—Christmas Day
& Thursday, Dec. 26th**

We will reopen at 9:00am Friday, December 27th.

**Tuesday, December 31st—New Year's Eve
Wednesday January 1st—New Year's Day &
Thursday, January 2nd**

We will reopen at 9:00am Friday, January 3rd.

REGISTER WITH US



Have you moved into the area recently, or have you been joining us for Mass? We would love to have you as a registered member of our parish family. Please stop at the information desk in the vestibule of the church, at the rectory office, or call 216-661-1006.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM



We encourage everyone to participate in Our Gift Card Program, as it is an excellent, easy and convenient way to help support our Parish. There is great potential in this program. Purchase cards for all needs, including everyday purchases, travel, and a wonderful way to say thank you to someone. A complete list of the gift cards is available at the Information Desk in the vestibule of the church, on the website or at the Rectory Office.

PLEASE STOP BY AND SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM.

ST. LEO THE GREAT—CLEVELAND, OHIO

On behalf of the Staff and Students at St. Leo the Great School, we would like to wish you a very Blessed Christmas Season. The students have been anxiously awaiting the birth of Jesus. The building has been decorated celebrating Christmas around the world. Each class studied a different country and how Christmas was celebrated in that country. The Kindergarten students performed a Nativity play for their families last week. In addition, the students in grades 6, 7 & 8 sang beautiful Christmas songs and the band helped us celebrate the season with festive sounds. Thank you Ms. Goode for all your work with the students.



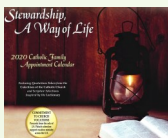
*Blessings to all,
Mrs. Burns*

Preschool created a beautiful Christmas Hand Wreath and a Holiday Giving Tree. Mr. & Mrs. Claus visited the PTC Lunch with Santa. Music was provided by the St. Leo Elf Band.



DECEMBER 22, 2019—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CALENDARS



Thank You to Yurch Funeral Home for once again providing our beautiful St. Leo the Great Calendars. The 2020 Catholic Family Appointment Calendars will be available in the church and rectory.



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 by email at jberigan@leothgreat.org for help in pre-planning your funeral.

HOMEBOUND VISITS



Do you have a loved one confined to home or in a local nursing home? Would they like a visit from the pastoral staff at St. Leo the Great? Contact Deacon Pat or Joan Berigan at the rectory (216-661-1006) and leave us the details.

A TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN KACHER



The Avon High School Business Class has created a phenomenal product that is not only perfect for the holiday season, but every season! The class has personally designed high-quality, microwavable safe mugs that will show off Avon Pride! We have decided to donate 100% of the proceeds to the Cleveland Clinic Hematology and Medical Oncology Department, in order to not only honor **our beloved Spanish teacher, Mrs. Kacher**, who lost her battle with cancer this year, but to provide hope for the people who will still fight that battle today and in the future. We would like to thank you in advance for your purchase of a great product that supports a worthy cause. **Please go to <https://www.locallevelvents.com/events/details/893> for details.** Caitlin was also a beloved member of St. Leo the Great Parish.

PARISH COMMUNITY CENTER



The Great Room, located in our Parish Community Center is available to **rent for special events, all types of parties, meetings, funeral luncheons, etc.**


For information or to book, please contact Mina Rolando at 216-544-0190 or visit our parish website at leothgreat.org.

ONLINE DONATIONS



If you haven't already set up your donation online, **NOW IS THE TIME!** No need to worry about bringing your envelope to church, but you can print off a donation slip to put in the basket with you every weekend. You can easily change the amount of your donation right from your computer. See the directions below to set up your online donation account. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Brenda at the Parish Office 216-661-1006 or email her at bbasalla@leothgreat.org. She will be glad to assist you.

2020 MASS INTENTIONS

 2020 Mass Intentions are available. Please stop by the Parish Office to get your intentions. The Mass stipend is \$10.00.

BRING IT TO THE BIN



Did you know you can help our school earn \$\$? Just bring it to the bin. Bring your Mail, Newspapers, Hard and Soft Bound Books, Phone books, Brown Paper Bags, and Flattened Cardboard. Tell your family, friends and neighbors to save their paper too!

