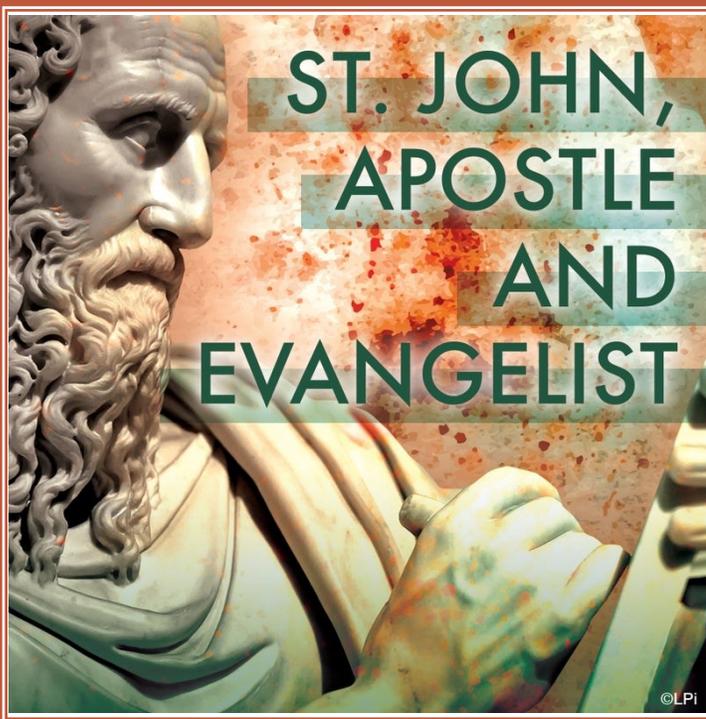




THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH

4940 BROADVIEW RD., CLEVELAND, OH
216.661.1006 | LEOTHEGREAT.ORG



ONLINE GIVING



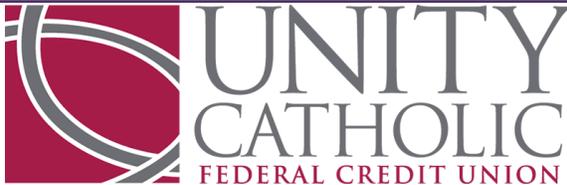
Online Giving is available here at St. Leo the Great. Look for this icon on our website (www.leothegreat.org) to sign up. If you have any questions or need help, call the parish office at 216-661-1006.

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>



PIGGY BANKS TO CREDIT CARDS

Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union is committed to helping schools within the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland provide financial education for their students. We offer a variety of age appropriate money management classes to teach students the importance of financial responsibility. They can be made available to your school.



Loving is...

**Loving is the art of caring,
Caring is the art of sharing,
Sharing is the art of living,
Living is the art of loving.**

Share your Love, Your Caring and Living by helping the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization here at St. Leo's as we care for those in need among us. Your help really does make a difference.

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

December 19th to January 2nd

IN LOVING MEMORY

Tyler Larson Hicker
We miss you,
The Larson Family



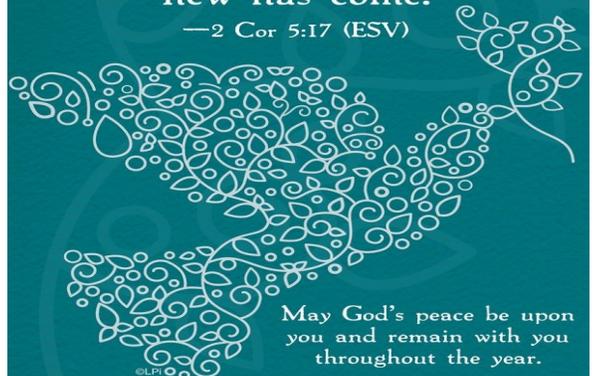
REGISTER WITH US

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 or call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon you and remain with you throughout the year.

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.

GREAT SWEEPSTAKES



DRAWINGS FOR 2022 WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY, YOU CAN STILL GET YOUR TICKETS!

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



John Rovnak
Diocese of Youngstown
III Theology, St. Mary

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

Collection.....	\$6,916.00
WeShare (Online).....	\$1,699.00
Total.....	\$8,615.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$1,664.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Monday, December 27th—St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30am +Ruthanne Lennox (Friend)

Tuesday, December 28th—The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30am +Steve & Sandy Lyons (Family)

Wednesday, December 29th—Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30am +Alberta Nicholson (Daughter)

Thursday December 30th—Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30am Communion Service

Friday, December 31st—Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30am +John Kozlowski (Family)

Saturday, January 1st—The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 People of the Parish

Sunday, January 2nd—The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00am +Stanley Trojan (Dan & Arlene Sevic)

11:00am People of the Parish

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20-22; 24-28

Today’s reading takes place 11 centuries before Christ at an Israelite shrine, which is referred to as a “temple” in the text. When Hannah, who was childless, visited this shrine previously, Eli the high priest had promised that she would bear a son. Today’s reading picks up from there. (Christians have seen Hannah as a symbol of Mary.)

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2;21-24

The first letter of John was written for the community whose leader produced the fourth Gospel. Today’s passage describes in very familiar and understandable terms our close relationship with God.

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

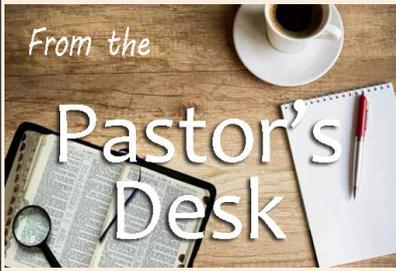
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-2



From the

Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Since Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, this bulletin covers the feast of the Nativity (the Birth of Christ) as well as the feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday following Christmas. So first, let me welcome all of you who are joining us today for Christmas. It is good to have both our parishioners and also our guests to join together in the praise of God as we give thanks for the gift of the Incarnation. We are not, as much of the world believes, simply celebrating the birthday of a good man today. Rather, we are in awe of the fact that the Almighty, Eternal, and All-Powerful Creator, loves us so deeply that He would choose not only to *be* with us, but to *become* one of us. This is an incomprehensible mystery...that God planned to so unite us with Himself that He would take on our human nature and make it divine. So again, this is not just a birthday celebration but a magnificent feast that must be celebrated with awe, reverence and the fear of God. This “fear of God” does not mean we are afraid of God but that we are afraid of not being with God because He is Life itself. As the Scriptures say, God is Love. So let us gather together today to open ourselves up to this great mystery of God and seek to be overwhelmed by God’s beauty, love and life.

If you have not been in church recently because of COVID, it is good to have you here today. If you have not been in church for any other reason, it is again good to have you here today. God invites all of us, sinners that we are, to come to Him and to be loved by Him. Jesus most especially reached out to sinners so that we might all know how to become saints. So whether you have been with us all along this past year or are here with us today simply because it is Christmas, welcome! We invite you to keep coming back here to be with us, to pray with us and to learn with us about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In order for the parish staff to be able to celebrate the holidays after working hard to prepare for them, the rectory office will be closed until Tuesday, December 28th. We will then be closed again on Friday, December 31st and on Monday, January 3rd, in order to enjoy the New Year holiday and will re-open on Tuesday, January 4th.

I’m sure that a question I’ll hear a lot today is, “Do I have to come to Mass again this Sunday (December 26th)?” Well, I’d rather hear you ask the question this way: “*Can* I come to Mass again this Sunday?” But either way, the answer is yes! Today (whether you’re here on Friday, Christmas Eve or Saturday, Christmas Day), we are celebrating Christmas. Sunday, December 26th, we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family. Two different feasts. Two different reasons to celebrate. And to clear up any potential confusion for next weekend, January 1st this year (actually next year as it will be 2022!) is NOT a holy day of obligation as it falls on a Saturday. So you can join us for Mass either on Saturday, January 1st *or* on Sunday, January 2nd for the feast of the Epiphany. It will be so much easier next year (2023).

My sincere thanks to everyone who sent cards, cookies, pastries & other Christmas gifts to us. Thank you to all those who work extra hard to help us celebrate these holy days by helping to decorate the church or by providing beautiful music to lift up our hearts in song. We are grateful for your generous donations which help us to live the Christmas message throughout the year. We ask the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, whose feast we celebrate on Sunday, December 26th, to pray for each of our families and to pray for our parish family here at St. Leo.

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 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.



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 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 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
PARISH & SCHOOL

The Great Sweepstakes - 2022

\$30 per ticket

You can W\$N Multiple Times January 1, 2022 thru November 10th, 2022

DRAWING DATES—\$100

2022
January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
February 7, 14, 21, & 28
March 7, 14, 21, & 28
April 4, 11, 18, & 25
May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Weekly Drawings

100.00

2022(cont.)
June 6, 13, 20, & 27
July 11, 18, & 25
August 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
September 5, 12, 19, & 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
November 7,

DRAWING DATES—\$200

New Years Day 2022
Easter Sunday 2022
Mother's Day 2022

Special Drawings

200.00

Father's Day 2022
4th of July 2022

ST. LEO'S FEAST DAY
NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Super Drawing

1,000.00



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

The Great Sweepstakes
Please Print

2022

NAME: _____

CITY/STATE & ZIP _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE & EMAIL _____

Please return this stub with your payment of \$30. Please make checks payable to St. Leo the Great.
Questions? Please call the Rectory Office at 216.661.1006
or, visit our website at www.leotheadgreat.org

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 600 gifts to children of our own St. Vincent DePaul Outreach families, Zelig's Home (formerly Maggie's Place), Malachi Center and to supply the Santa Shop for the 300 children at St. Aloysius School.

Contributions totaled \$3,690. plus \$600 in matching funds that will be donated by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Gift card donations totaled \$100. We are deeply grateful to all.

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. We truly appreciate your generosity especially during this pandemic year when the need is so great.

Thank you to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for the \$600 in matching funds they so generously donate each year.

God's blessings to you through the new year. Stay safe!

Sincerely, Jeanne Sabol and Judi Westerburg



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

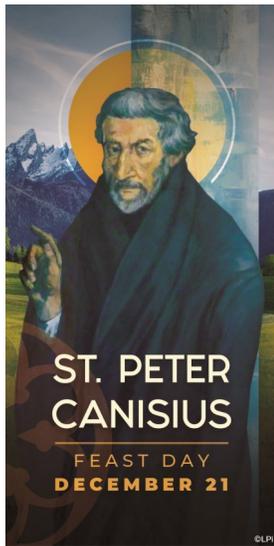
The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26



The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

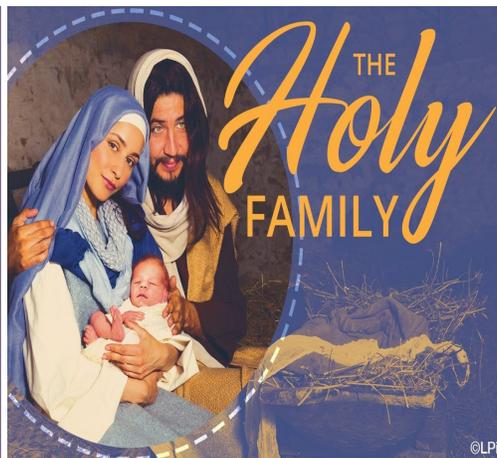
Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.



Reminder:

The parish office will be closed
December 24th - 27th
and again on
December 31st – January
3rd 2022.



Ornaments from Remembrance Trees

The ornaments in memory of a loved one may be removed from the trees in the sanctuary before or after the Masses the weekend of January 8th and 9th. Ornaments not taken from the trees at that time will be placed in the main vestibule until January 23rd.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.



September 1st 2021-End of December—Every Wednesday at 6:30pm.



