



**ST. LEO THE GREAT**  
PARISH & SCHOOL

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 6, 2020**

**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

**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 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, 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 after Mass by request or any time 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.



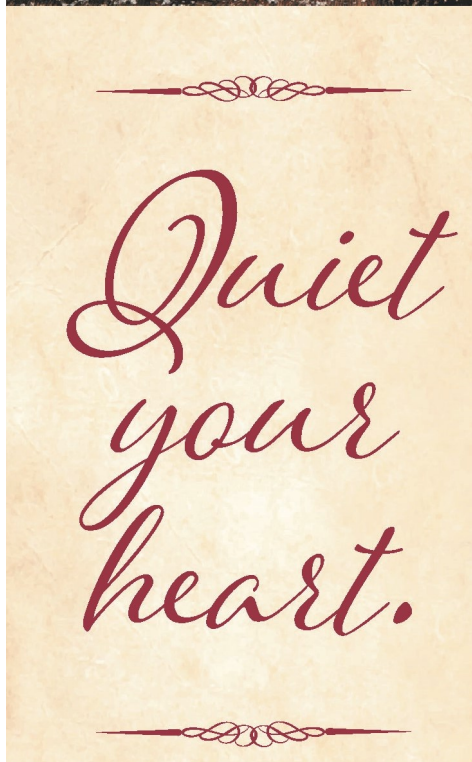
**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP!**

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

Instagram @leothegreatorg

Facebook—leothegreatorg

Twitter @leothegreatorg



## WINTER SOLSTICE

### Prayer for the Coming of the Light

In a world so often filled with darkness and sin,  
Jesus, You are the rising Son!

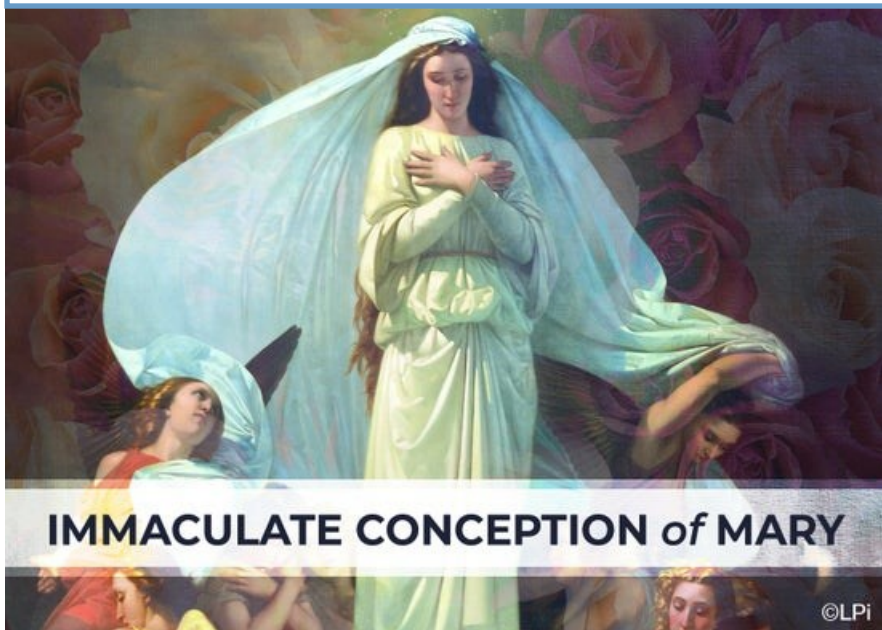
When the night of our lives feels longer  
than we can bear, Jesus, You are the  
hope of a new dawn!

When we are anxious for what the future  
holds, Jesus, You are the morning star  
that never sets!

In all our confusion and division, Jesus,  
You are the light of the world!



Heavenly Father, in this Advent season,  
we await Your Son's coming with anticipation.  
Send Your Spirit to sustain and carry us through these  
final days of Advent preparation,  
as we await the dawning of the Light of the World!



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!



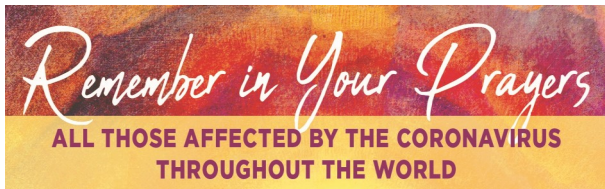
**ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...**



Bob McLaughlin, Annamae Sironen, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Carol Rucinski, Pat Chopka, William & Amelia Rebello, Louise Horvath,

Diane Kalus, Marie Stankiewicz, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Linda Debaltzo, Anthony Arlia, Jeanne Karasek, Denise Sisley, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, Antoinette Jakosh, Ralph Mlady, Ralph Rath, Joseph Mackey, John Sofcheck, Roger Horvath, James Cook & Cherie Seitz.



**Our NEW Great Sweepstakes weekly drawing will start January 1, 2021.**

**We are now selling tickets. Forms are available at the Rectory Office or our website [leothegreat.org](http://leothegreat.org).**

**THEY MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!**

The drawing will go from January 1, 2021 thru November 10, 2021 (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, 2021.

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

**NATHAN FRANKART**  
St. Joseph, Amherst  
Senior, Borromeo



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

**Parish Support**

**Sunday, November 22nd**

Collection ..... \$ 4,297.10  
WeShare(online)..... \$ 1,347.50  
Total..... \$ 5,644.60

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



- Monday, December 7th - St. Ambrose**  
8:30am +Martin Fontaine (Miriam Fontaine)
- Tuesday, December 8th - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
8:30am +Frances Szymanski (Daniel Szymanski)
- Wednesday, December 9th - St. Juan Diego (Cuauthlatoatzin)**  
8:30am +Therese Mayfield (Friend)
- Thursday, December 10th - Advent Weekday**  
8:30am Communion Service
- Friday, December 11th - St. Damasus I**  
8:30am +William LaGodney, Sr. (Wife & Son)
- Saturday, December 12th—Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
4:00pm Dec'd. Members of the Siekaniec Family (Family)
- Sunday, December 13th - Third Sunday of Advent**  
8:00am +Dave Nekvinda (Jennie Shantery)  
11:00am People of the Parish

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

This passage from the book of Isaiah begins with God calling upon the prophet to encourage the Jewish people who are exiled in Babylon. The prophet is to tell them that they will be returning home soon, and the road of the return will pass through the desert. We will also hear God call the people to proclaim from a mountaintop the goodness of God.

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

The second letter of Peter was written nearly 100 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. At an earlier time, Christians had expected the Lord to return in glory quickly. But by this time, they had lost confidence that the Lord would return at all. The author doesn't want people to abandon their hope, and gives a positive interpretation to this delay.

**Readings for the week of December 6, 2020**

- Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab-10,11-12,13-14/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2,3-4,8&10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Next Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 /1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



*"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mk 1:7b-8)*

## ST. LEO THE GREAT- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Dear Parishioners,

Happy feast of St. Nicholas! Of course liturgically we celebrate today the Second Sunday of Advent, but when December 6<sup>th</sup> does not fall on a Sunday, the Church honors St. Nicholas, the one after whom Santa Claus gets his name and his characteristic of helping children (Nicholas, who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, is said to have secretly given three purses of gold to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters). It is customary in some places for St. Nick to put either coal or candy in the shoes of children, depending upon whether they've been "naughty or nice." Just don't leave your shoes in the church today or you'll be sure to find them filled with coal. Besides, you don't want to walk barefoot outside today.

We certainly got a blast of winter this past Tuesday on the first day of December. Personally I love to see snow at this time of year...even all the way through January. But when February arrives I'm really tired of its inconvenience & so tend to travel south during that month, especially before Lent begins. I'm still hoping to go to my sister's in Florida in February but we've all learned this past year not to plan too far ahead so I'll just keep that hope as part of my Christmas wish list for Santa. But I do want to suggest that in such inclement weather, when there is either extreme cold or snow-filled roads (or both), please do not attempt to drive to church for Mass, whether it's during the weekday or the weekend. The most important thing is for everyone to stay safe, either because of the threats of bad weather or because of the pandemic, especially if you are elderly or have health conditions. For daily Mass goers, I would suggest you give us your name & phone number so that we can call in advance if daily Mass will be cancelled on a certain day. You can also feel free to call the rectory office (216-661-1006) & hopefully I'll be able to pick up & answer the call. Safety & health should always come first.

Bishop Malesic has informed us that Eucharistic Ministers may bring Holy Communion to their family members whom they reside with and who are homebound but they may not yet bring the Sacrament to others outside of their own home. Clergy are encouraged by the bishop to be very cautious about visits to the hospital and nursing homes due to COVID but he is trying to gather a few priests in the Diocese who would be trained for visits to those in need of the Anointing of the Sick. If you have any questions or doubt regarding anointing or receiving Holy Communion for yourself or a loved one, please do not hesitate to call Deacon Pat or I and we would be happy to assess the situation with you.

Since the bishops of Ohio have dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass during the pandemic, there will be only one Mass this Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It will be at 8:30am & will be live-streamed on our website and to the children in our parish school. More information about our Christmas schedule will be given next weekend.

We have ordered a limited number of 2021 Breaking Bread books which will be available to you at the doors of the church. You may take one home & bring it back with you each week but please do not leave it behind in the church. It is yours to keep. We will order more if there is not enough for all who would like to have one.

*Fr. James Schmitz*

# PREPARE

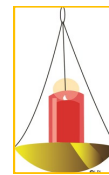


Please join us in church on this **Tuesday, December 8th**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patron saint of our country, as we say the rosary at 7:00pm.

What is a rosary? The rosary is the recitation of the Hail Mary, Our Father and other traditional prayers in a particular order. Don't own a rosary? Don't know how to say the rosary? Please join us anyway, and we will provide you with what you need.

### SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

December 6th to December 19th



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
BILL & MICHELLE GABEL**

From: Eileen Gabel



Oplatki is now available in the rectory office for a donation of \$2.00.

### REMEMBRANCE TREES



Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after all of the Masses the weekends of December 12th & 13th and 19th & 20th. 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.

### BULLETIN ARTICLES



Please have all bulletin articles in two weeks in advance of the publish date. Articles can be emailed to [mlhauck@leothegreat.org](mailto:mlhauck@leothegreat.org). Thanks!





**OUR PARISH'S  
ADOPT-A-CHILD**

If you haven't contributed to our annual gift giving program to help needy children, there is still time to do so. The need is greater than ever this year.

There are still some names available. Please call Jeanne Sabol, 216 351-6247 or Judi Westerburg, 216 642 0134 or visit our parish website.

We are also collecting gift cards, any denomination, for St. Aloysius School families. Suggestions are Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Subway, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Dave's, Giant Eagle, Sav-a-Lot. You may also donate art supplies or classroom games to St. Aloysius School. These do not need to be wrapped.

Monetary contributions are always welcome. Checks should be made out to St. Leo Parish, with "Adopt a Child" on the memo line.

**All gifts must be dropped off by December 10th. Please take them to the St. Leo Rectory or leave them in the church to the side of the altar. Please leave all gift cards at the rectory and mark them Adopt a Child.**

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity again this year.

We are most fortunate to have The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association JrBr014 as a sponsor this year. They will donate up to \$600 in matching funds as they have the past several years. We are most grateful to them.

**HELP THE HOMELESS**



Malachi Center at W. 25th St. and Detroit Ave. provides many services to help homeless men and women throughout the year. At Christmas, the Center distributes duffle bags to help our less fortunate friends.

The 18-inch duffle bags are filled with personal items such as heavy socks, hats, gloves, scarves, soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, lotion, snacks, hand and foot warmers, extra large and larger sweatshirts, and many other similar items.

**If you would like to donate bags and/or other items, please bring your donation to the rectory by December 6th. Items should be tagged "Help the Homeless."**

Your overwhelming generosity last year to this cause was heartwarming. Let's do it again this year. Thank you so much.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



To "live and let live" is all right in its own way, but to "live and HELP LIVE" is much better. You can help others live by sharing your goods and your prayers with those in need through your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization. Next weekend December 12th and 13th, is our monthly food collection. Our

cupboard is in need of MIXED VEGETABLES, CREAMED STYLE CORN, DRY BEANS, CANNED BEANS, SWEET POTATOES, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, SCALLOPED POTATOES, ELBOW MACARONI, CANNED PASTA, SPAGHETTI NOODLES, ASSORTED PASTAS, PASTA SAUCE, STUFFING MIX, RAMEN NOODLES, RICE & NOODLE SIDES, SKILLET DINNERS, PACKETS OF GRAVY, CEREAL, PANCAKE SYRUP, PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY AND DISHWASHING SOAP. Let others know that YOU care by helping your Organization bring light and hope during this Christmas Season.

**WE THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

**GIFT CARD PROGRAM**



The Gift Card Program is an excellent way to help support our Parish. A complete list of gift cards is available at the rectory office or on our website at [leothegreat.org](http://leothegreat.org). Remember, Gift Cards make great Christmas gifts, and can be used for all your holiday shopping.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM.**



If you shop on Amazon.com, a portion of each of your purchases could benefit St. Leo the Great. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-07145> to designate St. Leo the Great for your donations, and then do all of your online shopping at [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com).

GREAT SWEEPSTAKES TICKETS  
MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS.



ST. LEO THE GREAT  
PARISH & SCHOOL

# The Great Sweepstakes - 2021

## \$30 per ticket

You can W\$N Multiple Times January 1, 2021 thru November 10, 2021

### DRAWING DATES—\$100

2021  
January 4, 11, 18, & 25  
February 1, 8, 15, & 22  
March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29  
April 5, 12, 19, & 26  
May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

### Weekly Drawings

**\$ 100.00**

2021(cont.)  
June 7, 14, 21, & 28  
July 5, 12, 19, & 26  
August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30  
September 6, 13, 20, & 27  
October 4, 11, 18, & 25  
November 1, & 8

### DRAWING DATES—\$200

New Years Day 2021  
Easter Sunday 2021  
Mother's Day 2021

### Special Drawings

**\$ 200.00**

Father's Day 2021  
4th of July 2021

ST. LEO'S FEAST DAY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2021

### Super Drawing

**\$1,000.00**



ST. LEO THE GREAT  
PARISH & SCHOOL

## The Great Sweepstakes

Please Print

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

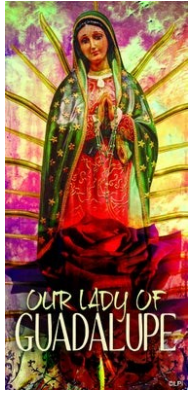
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE—DECEMBER 12TH**

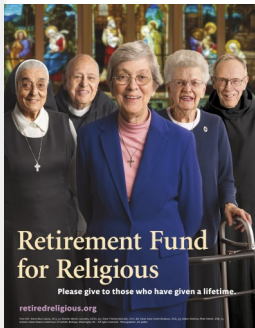


Question:  
Is Our Lady of Guadalupe only a cultural devotion?

Answer:  
You may be familiar with Our Lady of Guadalupe from devotions in Hispanic communities. There is a rich heritage originating in Mexico, the site of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. But Mary is for all of us! Our Lady of Guadalupe is, in fact, named the patroness of all the Americas, from the Chilean Patagonian mountains to the Arctic islands of Canada. After Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego as a young, mestizo woman, conversions to Catholicism began to grow exponentially throughout Latin America. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been meaningful to the Mexican people, and her image and devotions have been incorporated as broader symbols of culture.

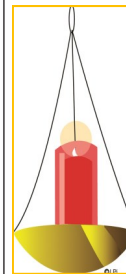
This apparition inspires across lines of nationality and culture. Juan Diego, recipient of the apparition, was a poor laborer. The famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe did not appear on silk or stone, but on the simple, natural woven fibers of Juan Diego's tunic. The apparition affirms the dignity of the poor and shows striking solidarity. Mary appeared as the people appeared. In the apparition, Mary is indeed radiant, with the sun behind her and a cloak of stars around her. But her dress is simple, and she is pregnant. This apparition also reminds us of the sanctity of life and the need for life's protection at all stages. Mary's moving words to Juan Diego are words for us all: *"Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?"* ©LPi

**2020 RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**



**Help our elders.** In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS**



We are taking intentions for **Sanctuary Candle Intentions for 2021**. The donation for the candle will be \$10.00. Please only one request per family. You can stop by the Rectory Office to request a Sanctuary Candle Intention or call us at 216 661-1006.

