# Church of St. Leo the Great

4940 Broadview Rd. Cleveland, OH 44109

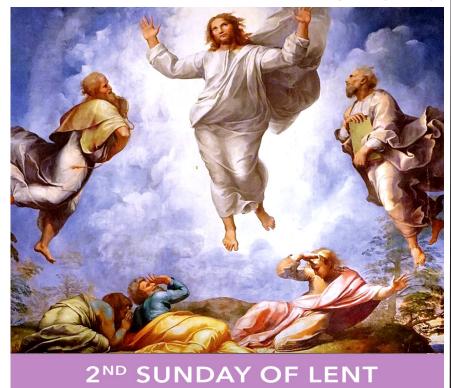


# PARISH STAFF | 216.661.1006

Father James Schmitz, Pastor	jschmitz@leothegreat.org	
Patrick Berigan, Deacon	pberigan@leothegreat.org	
Joan Berigan, Pastoral Minister	jberigan@leothegreat.org	
Brenda Basalla, Business Manager	bbasalla@leothegreat.org	
Nina Capone, Office & Social Media Manager ncapone@leothegreat.org		
Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician	mpiechowski@leothegreat.org	
Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator	missnadia@leothegreat.org	
Judy Strodtbeck, Facilities Manager	jstrodtbeck@leothegreat.org	

### SCHOOL STAFF: 216.661.2120 HOURS: Monday-Friday | 8a-3p

Denise Burns, Principal	dburns@leothegreat.org
Robin Salem, Assistant Principal	rsalem@leothegreat.org
Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary	.ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org
Joann Deranek, Dir. Of Religious Education	jderanek@leothegreat.org
Dan Trainer, Athletic Director	dtrainer@leothegreat.org
Parent Teacher Committee	ptc@leothegreat.org



#### **RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday—Friday | 9:00am— 4:00pm Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm Sunday | 9:00am—12:00pm

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm

Sundays | 8:00am and 11:00am

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

#### **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

Mass will be at 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.



Twitter @leothegreatorg



Leothegreat.org/flocknote

### LENTEN SERIES | SORROWFUL MYSTERIES



Join us Tuesday Feb. 27th, March 5th, and March 12th at 10:00a.m. in the Chapel for a Lenten study on the Sorrowful Mysteries as we pray, meditate and share. Please bring your Rosaries.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

After enjoying a delicious fish dinner, please join your fellow parishioners in the church at 7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent for the Stations of the Cross. Make a prayerful journey to Calvary with Jesus and form a better understanding of what He endured.



#### SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

HEAR THE CRY! Gods' people hear the cry of the poor! But are all of us listening? Your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization is committed to

listening to the call of the Lord and the cry of His beloved needy. Vincentians are always ready to help. Help your SVDP Volunteers give our neighbors that true sense of peace with a donation to the Poor Boxes or a check made payable to St. Leo's and drop it off at the Rectory Office. Thank you.

#### EASTER DISTRIBUTION

The St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Program will also be giving our families a gift card to purchase their Easter ham and additional items to help make their Easter dinner more complete. Please consider a donation to help us with these expenses. Place your cash or check in an envelope marked "SVDP Easter" and drop it in the collection basket or take it to the Rectory Office.

# 2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS To receive a copy of your 2023 contribution statement,

also call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006. Please indicate
how you would like to receive your statement. You can also
include your name on this slip and return it to the office or
drop it in the offertory basket.
Name:
I
Call me at ( and I will pick
up during office hours
I will pick up in the back of church
Send it to the eMail address listed on the line below:
Sand it via the United States Destal Service
Send it via the United States Postal Service

We thank you for your patience as we work to fulfill your request!

# n Donut Sunday

Join us in the main vestibule for donuts coffee on Sunday, February 25th, after the 8:00 and 11:00 Masses.



# EXPERIENCE CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST Saturday, March 2, 2024

Bishop Michael Woost Speaking at 3:00pm Mass at 4:00pm

Registration is covered by The Knights of Columbus. Men, if you are interested in attending please be sure to contact Deacon Pat Berigan

pberigan@leothegreat.org

(PLEASE NOTE: An incorrect email was displayed in precious issues of the bulletin. The above is the corrected email that you should send inquiry to.)

Visit www.cmfneo.com/#conference to view the a full agenda for the event.

#### MATTHEW 25 COLLECTION

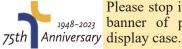
If you've not yet visited any, some or all of the Matthew 25 Collection near Cleveland's westside neighborhoods —it's most definitely worth the venture. The series of bronze sculptures by Canadian Artist, Timothy Schmalz, is amazing in and of itself but especially moving during the season of Lent, when we are encouraged to reflect more deeply on what we, as Christians, are called by God to be here for one another.

You can experience these works of art displayed in 7 different areas as seen below:

- "Homeless Jesus" at St. Malachi Parish
- "When I Was Sick" at Lutheran Hospital
- "When I Was in Prison" at Bridge CLE
- "When I Was a Stranger" at Urban Community School
- "When I Was Naked" at Malachi House
- "When I Was Hungry and Thirsty" at Old Stone Church and
- "Let the Oppressed Go Free" at Public Square.

Visit www.communitywestfoundation.org for a map of the locations and more info on each individual site.





Please stop in the main vestibule to see the banner of parishioner photos above the

Thank you to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to John Sabol for re-creating the image of the church building used in the banner. You may recall that the image was used as part of the 50th anniversary logo. While a church is a building, it is the people who make up the Church.

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

After the 8:30am Mass on Friday, March 1st spend some quiet time in front of the Eucharist. There are books available in the back of the chapel for you to read while present, and you are welcome to bring your own prayer book, rosary, or inspired article to help guide your thoughts.

"Sadness is when you look at yourself, happiness is when you look at God." -Blessed Carlo Acutis

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

There are plenty of weekdays available for Mass Intentions for the first half of the year. The stipend is \$10.00. Stop by the Rectory Office during the week or in the back vestibule after weekend Masses to see what dates we have open.

# PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Larry Kuznik, Irma Zappitelli, John Sofcheck, Gary Skelley, Virgina 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, 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 Woolard, Claudia Woolard, 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, Anthony Bozek, Joe Brodzinski Suzanne Brown, Joyce Stevens, Victoria Fischer, John Gierlach, Dylan Greve, Ken Perry, 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, Kathy Patterson, Jack Gibas, Christine Slaghter, Gloria Ashworth, Dan & Teri Divincenzo, Maryann Kosakowski, Ranae Walters, Cady Williams and Dave Collins.



#### Joseph Thuan Vu Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Postulant

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
February 24th—March 9th
+Ralph Rath
With Love from Your Family

# MASS INTENTIONS AND LITURGICAL EVENTS

SAT: Feb 24th Lenten Weekday

Mass at 4:00p.m. +Rocco A. Capone (Family)

SUN: Feb 25th The 2nd Sunday of Lent

Mass at 8:00a.m. People of the Parish

Mass at 11:00a.m +Mildred & +David Handlovic

(Melanie Handlovic)

MON: Feb 26th Lenten Weekday

Mass at 8:30a.m. +Harold Esterwood (Della)

TUES: Feb 27th Lenten Weekday

Mass at 8:30a.m. +Margaret Neff (The Neff Family)

WED: Feb 28th Lenten Weekday

Mass at 8:30a.m. +Ardith Elam (Arlene Sevic)

5:00p-8:00p Diocesan-Wide Day of Penance

FRI: Mar 1st Lenten Weekday

Mass at 8:30a.m. The Jaholnyckyj Family & Friends (Family)

9:00a-5:00p Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel

7:00p.m. Stations of the Cross

SAT: Mar 2nd Lenten Weekday

Mass at 4:00p.m. +Elaine Hocevar (Harriette Franko)

SUN: Mar 3rd The 3rd Sunday of Lent

Mass at 8:00a.m. +Rich & +Bill Sevic (Dan & Arlene Sevic)

Mass at 11:00a.m People of the Parish

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

(116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28 **Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 **Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/

Saturday: M1 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Next Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

(8)/ Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

#### FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18

Events in today's reading took place approximately 1800 years before Christ. In that pagan culture, child sacrifice was common. That's why Abraham believed God wanted him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Later generations constantly looked back to this event as an example of Abraham's great faith.

#### SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-34

Today's reading is part of a hymn that celebrates God's love and which concludes the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. In our first reading, we heard how God spared Abraham's only son; in this passage we will hear how, out of love for us, God did *not spare his only son*.

#### REFLECTIONS BY LUKE BROWN | SACRED HEART COUNSELING

Sacrifice is important throughout the year, but it is especially important to reflect on during the Lenten season. All of our relationships require sacrifice and some of us are worse at it than others. When it comes to sacrifice, I often like to ask people how they are being called to sacrifice. How we are called to sacrifice is something that changes depending on our vocation, relationships, and faith. I spoke with a man once who was reflecting on the early years of his relationship with his wife and how difficult it was to leave his wife at home and work long hours to make ends meet. The sacrifice was leaving his wife at home to work long hours for the betterment of his family and future financial security. When I met him, he had been married fifteen years and was still working long hours despite achieving financial security. His wife was upset with him for working too hard and missing social events and their children's sports. Over time, he realized that the sacrifice of working long hours was something he was no longer being called to. He came to realize that the sacrifice he was being called to was to give up a part of his reputation as dependable and hard working at his job so that he could be more present to his wife and children. While this may sound simple, it is no easy task to give up something that we enjoy, which is why it is called a sacrifice. We need to frequently look at how we are being called to sacrifice for the ones we love because the sacrifice we are called to is not always the same. First and foremost, we need to ask God how He wants us to sacrifice for the ones we love. We also need to ask our loved ones what they need from us so that we can serve them. This week, consider reflecting on sacrifice in your life and how you are being called to sacrifice to grow in holiness, love, and peace. — LUKE BROWN

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



During Lent St. Leo's is sponsoring our annual Have-a-Heart, Lend-a-Hand program. Twelve area organizations will be recipients of your generosity.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14, and during Lent, baskets of hearts will be at all church entrances. Please take a heart or two and purchase the items requested for the organization listed. Or you can purchase items from

You may bring your donations to the church (bins by doors) or rectory by Friday, March 22 or to the St. Leo School cafeteria on Saturday, March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. Please remember to attach the heart or a tag with the organization name to your donated items.

Rectory hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-5; or Sunday, 9 a.m.-Noon

#### Birthright

Baby Bottles (not disposable), Baby Lotion, Crib Sheets, Diapers Size 4 or 5, Rattles/ Pacifiers, Receiving Blankets, Sleepers, Newborn-12 Months

- ▼ Broadview Multi-Care Adult Coloring Books, Board Games, Colored Pencils, Markers, Large-Piece Jigsaw Puzzles, Large-Print Word Searches, Men's/Women's Body Wash, Nail Polish-Neutral Colors, Pencil Sharpener, Pens, Pencils, Playing Cards, Seasonal Craft Kits from Dollar Tree
- **Holy Family Hospice** Bleach, Body Wash, Clorox Wipes, Kleenex, Large-Print Word Search Books, Lestoil, Nail Polish, Paper Towels, Napkins, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
- Joseph House of Cleveland New Bath Towels, Laundry Detergent, Men's White T-Shirts (med,lrg), Toilet Tissue
- Malachi House 30-Gallon Trash Bags, Gift Cards (Amazon, Gordon Food Service, Giant Eagle, Hobby Lobby, Walmart), Cans of Coke/Pepsi/Ginger Ale/Sprite, Paper Towels, Postage Stamps



#### ▼ MetroHealth Friends of Mothers and Infants Baby Board Books, Baby Wipes, Diapers-Size 1 to 5,

Sleepers-Sizes 3-12 Months Mt. Alverna Cans of Diet Pop, Chocolate

Candy, Individual Snack Bags, e.g., Chips, Cookies, Pretzels, Large-Print Word Searches, Nail Polish, Remover, Cotton Balls, New Small Stuffed Animals, Spring Room Decorations, Sugar-Free Candy

♥ Parma Care Center Adult Coloring Books, Body Wash-Men's/Women's, Cans of Diet Pepsi/Coke/Root Beer, Construction Paper, Ladies Hair Brushes, Wide-Tooth Combs, Large-Print Word Search Books, Men's Aftershave, Cologne, Washable Markers and Colored Pencils

Providence House 13-Gallon Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags, Aquaphor Baby Healing Ointment, Children's Benadryl, Zyrtec, Motrin, Canned fruits-peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, Children's New Shoes, Children's Summer Clothing-All Sizes, Gift Cards—Target, Walmart, Giant Eagle, Gas Cards, Girls Undershirts-Size 2T-7. Girls/Bovs Underwear-All Sizes, Graham Crackers, Saltines, cheese crackers, Pull-Ups-All Sizes, Toys, Activities-Newborn-12 Years

#### ♥ St. Colman Refugee Center

Any Size Diapers, Bar Soap, Cleaning Products, Dish Detergent, Feminine Napkins, Laundry Detergent—Half-Gallon Size, Men's Deodorant/ Shaving Lotion/Razors, Toilet Tissue—4-8-Roll Pkg., Women's Deodorant/Shampoo/ Shower Gel

#### ▼ St. Leo/St. Vincent dePaul Outreach

Baked Beans, Dry Beans, Canned Corn, Green Beans, Canned Fruit, Canned Pasta, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Soup, Tuna, Cereal, Oatmeal, Dish Detergent, Bar Soap, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Rice/Noodle Side Dishes, Skillet Dinners, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta

West Side Catholic Center Bar Soap, Deodorant, Sham-



#### FIRST RECONCILIATION







If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Sabol at 216/351-6247.

# From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners.

We are still in search of a full time Music Director but they are very hard to come by. I'm very grateful though for the subs we have been able to get and thank Joan Berigan & Mary Piechowski for dealing with all of that. We are also working to have our microphone system replaced as it just went out on us a couple weeks ago so it may not sound up to par in the mean time. We need to transfer from our older analogue system to a digital system. It was working quite well up until recently. As they say, it's always something.

I'm sure many of you will remember the Neocatechumenal Team that gave some talks last year. They reached out to me as they are doing missionary talks in Norton, Ohio & in Kentucky but were in need of a place to stay for a few months & I had offered our hospitality to them in case they were in need. We are able to have them stay with us in the unused suites in the rectory so we welcome Father Felipe Rodriquez and seminarians Tim Johnson & Angelo Calderon who will be here until July. You may see them around, especially at weekday Mass and Fr. Felipe may be able to celebrate Mass or help with confessions from time to time. We are happy to have them with us again as they continue to proclaim the gospel to others. Please remember them in your prayers during their time here.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Marilyn Davis whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn had 7 children, 14 grandchildren & 7 greatgrandchildren, and all of her children attended our parish school. In fact, Marilyn was a substitute teacher at our school and invented new ways of teaching according to the needs of the individual students. Marilyn was also the Director of the Westside Catholic Center. Marilyn was the program director and a licensed nursing home director of the Welsh home for over 20 years. I'm grateful for their invitation to come to where Marilyn was living in order to anoint her and give her Viaticum, her last Holy Communion before she died. May our Blessed Mother, called upon frequently when Marilyn prayed the rosary, now intercede for her.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders made their first Confession last Sunday and all did a great job celebrating that Sacrament for the first time so thanks to their parents and to the Faith Formation Team for helping them prepare for the sacramental reception of God's forgiveness. We continue to pray for them as they prepare now for their First Holy Communion at the end of April.

Following the Fish Fry we have the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm. But don't feel that must pray the Stations communally or even just on Fridays. You can enter the church any day (we're open until 3pm Monday through Friday) and pray the Stations by yourself, either with a booklet you bring (we'll try to have some available for you as well) or just by walking the stations and allowing the mosaic image to remind you of what Jesus & others experienced on his way to Calvary. This is a wonderful devotion we have as Catholics to allow the suffering of Jesus to make sense out of our own suffering...whether big or small.

This is also another reminder about our Have a Heart, Lend a Hand act of charity which we offer as an opportunity to you each year during Lent. There are paper hearts in a container at all the doors of the church. We invite you to take one (or more if you wish), purchase the item written there & then bring it to the church & place it in one of the baskets at the doors of the church. It's a another great way, besides Catholic Charities, to reach out & help meet the corporal needs of others.

Jr. James Ochnitz

# 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: March 4th, and May 6th

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 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 continue to contribute. Here are a few ways to make contributions when unable to place directly in the offertory basket at Mass on the weekends:

- 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 Fish Dinners

Every Friday in Lent February 16th to March 22nd Serving 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinners - \$10.00 choice of:

Parmesan Crusted Tilapia Baked Seasoned Cod Battered Fried Fish

Breaded Shrimp

Pierogis

Includes:

Choice of baked potato or fries. coleslaw or applesauce.

roll and butter

\$12.00 Combo Meal-add 3 pierogis

Weekly Specials - Seafood Empanadas, Salmon Patty Dinner

Fish Sandwich or Kids Meal - \$5.00 Fish Tacos (2) - \$8.00 choice of: fried fish/pizza/ sandwich or tacos mac & cheese/pierogi served with fries with fries and drink and coleslaw (age 10 & under please)

#### A la carte menu

Baked potato	\$2.50	French fries	\$2.50
Cheese pizza	\$2.00	Pierogies (3)	\$4.00
Mac & cheese	\$3.00	Cabbage & noodles	\$3.50
Soup of the day	\$3.00	Dessert Available	

St. Leo the Great Church - Lux Hall 4900 Broadview Road - Cleveland

# St. Leo Lobster Dinners 2024

Lobster Dinner - Friday, March 15th Lobster Tail - Baked Potato or Fries -Coleslaw or Apple Sauce - Roll with Butter Advance Ticket Sale Only - \$25.00

Additional Lobster Tail with purchase of Lobster Dinner - \$20.00

Advance Ticket Sales Only Rectory Office Tickets Available Until Monday, March 11th

Regular Fish Dinner Selections Available

### (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

"On the Mountain" by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why climb a mountain? "Because it's there," George Mallory famously said, before perishing in an attempt to scale Mount Everest.

God is an event planner; every detail matters, and the location is most crucial of all. On the mountain, God demanded the sacrifice of Isaac. On the mountain, he restored Isaac to his father. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured, revealed in all his mystifying glory as the beloved Son of God, the sacrifice which would finally balance the scale.

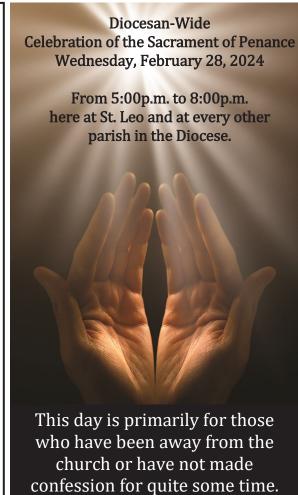
These things happened on a mountain because they could only happen on a mountain. The mountain is where the reckoning happens. It is where God takes, where He gives back, where He hands down.

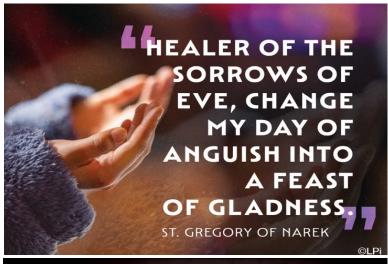
In Lent, we encounter the mountain. We are removed from the distractions of ordinary life and placed outside the confines of our everyday habits. We find silence and mystery, pain and truth. We struggle and we become tired, and there is always a moment when we wonder if, perhaps, it would have been easier not to climb. There is always a moment when others look at us and think: "Why climb a mountain?"

I confess, I am not much of an outdoorswoman. Hiking, in my family, is any walking you do on a trail that is not paved, so I am far from qualified to comment on whether or not the view from the summit was worth George Mallory's life. But I do know a thing or two about struggling through a difficult experience. I know the strange peace that exists in the moment after it's all over and you catch your breath and realize you are a better, stronger, wiser person for the pain.

The mountain is there. Let's climb it.

"God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am!' he replied." — Genesis 22:1









# THE 2024 GREAT SWEEPSTAKES February 19th \$100 Drawing Pam Alessandro

Tickets are available for purchase in the Rectory Office or on our website. Cost: \$30 for a chance to win multiple times!



# 2024 Bus Trips

River's Casino | Pittsburgh, PA Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Casino Bonus: \$20 slot play, \$5 Food Credit

\$46/person

**Deadline: Tuesday, March 26th** 

#### Hartville

Monday, May 13, 2024 Lunch at Hartville Kitchen (included) \$78/person

Deadline: Tuesday, April 23rd

#### Seneca Niagra (overnight stay)

Thursday, June 27th
Casino Bonus: \$50 slot play, \$20 food credit
Buffet Open

# Seneca Allegany

Friday, June 28th
Casino Bonus: \$25 slot play, \$5 food credit
Buffet Open

Deadline: Monday, May 20th

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

#### SCHOOL FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

If you like to shop online visit schoolstore.com and shop over 400 National Brands online. When you purchase through SchoolStore.com as opposed to a direct website of a participating merchant a percentage of your purchase goes to support our parish school!

You can also support our teachers by donating a Caring for Classrooms gift card that help them purchase classroom materials throughout the year. Contact Nina at the Rectory Office or **ncapone@leothegreat.org** with any questions you might have.