



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 29, 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 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.



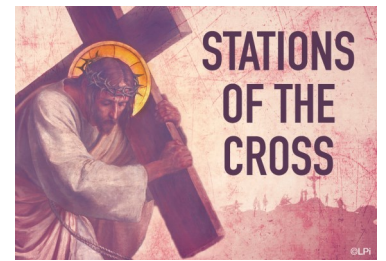
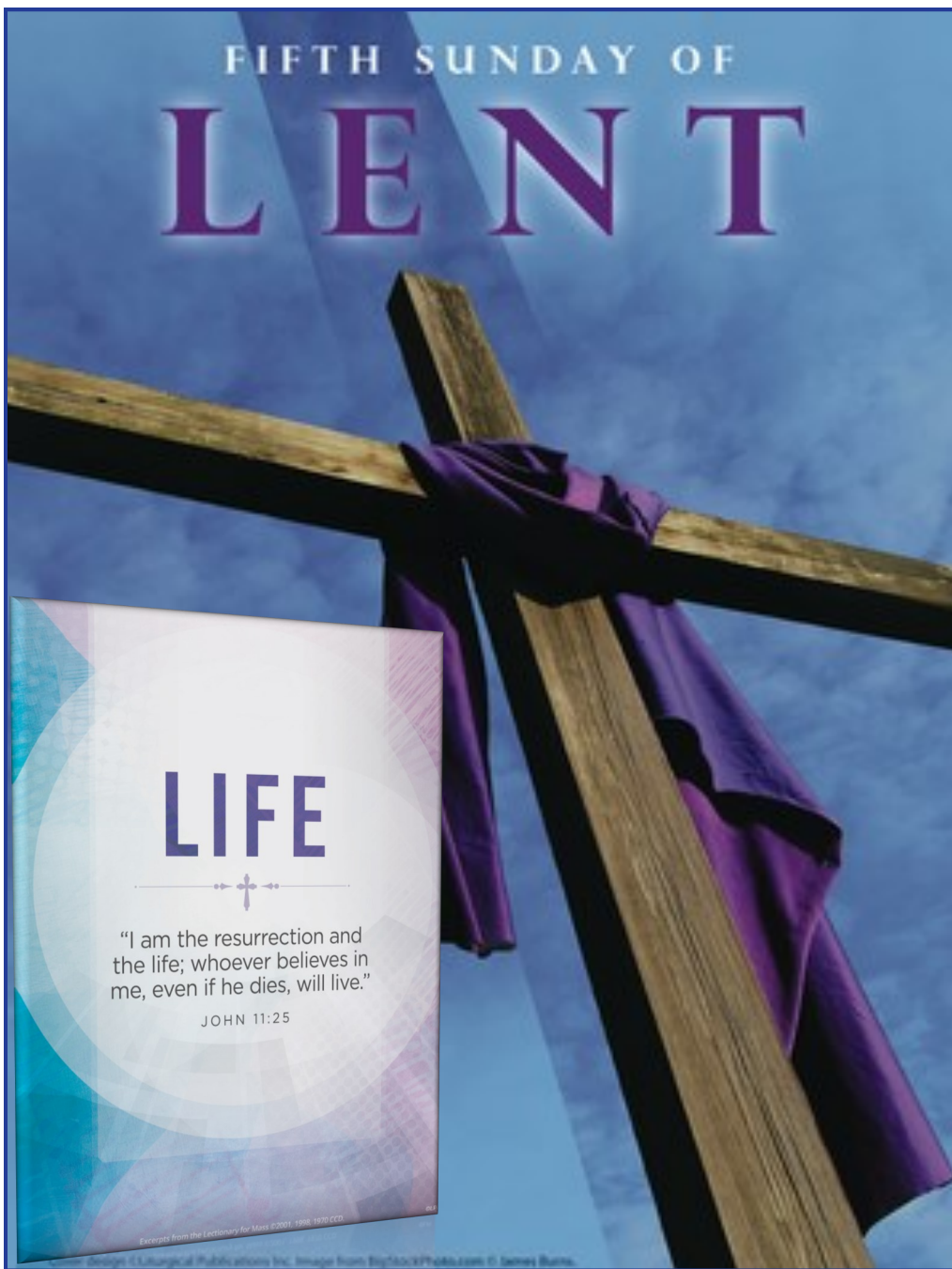
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Facebook—leothegreatorg

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Stations of the Cross

Question:

Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer:

The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

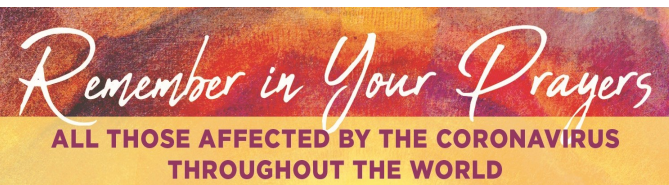


We face death every day. Whether it comes with the actual death of someone we love (or someone we don't even know), a failed relationship, the loss of a job, a broken dream, or pondering our own mortality, death is always around us. What does death say to us? What we believe about our death experiences is going to say volumes about how we live our lives. Jesus comes to us today just as he did many years ago to people who were struggling with loss and death and wondering what to do. He calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" Jesus leads us out of death and gives us hope. There is always hope. There is always transformation. Although we may not always see where the road of life is taking us or see God's presence with us on our journey, we will be brought to a new place and be given new life. Walk with God and listen to Him call you. Tomorrow, there awaits another surprise.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...



Ed Gorcyka, Bob McLaughlin, Annamae Sironen, John Risko, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Ron Vokac, Carol Rucinski, Pat Chopka, William & Amelia Rebello, Louise Horvath, Diane Kalus, Marie Stankiewicz, Irma Zappitelli, Bill Hinton, Linda Debaltzo, Anna Mendoza, Anthony Arlia, Kathleen & Richard Svoboda, George Aloschen, Mary Suder, Charles Hakaim, Jeanne Karasek, Denise Sisley, Dorothy Forister, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, & Trudy Miller.



GREAT SWEEPSTAKES WINNER!

FRED & LINDA FISHER
March 23, 2020

Don't forget to sign up for our **Great Sweepstakes weekly drawing**. Forms to sign up are available at the Information Desk in the vestibule of the Church, or at the Rectory Office.

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

Alexander Krukemeyer
Our Lady of Victory, Tallmadge
First Year, Borromeo



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



Sunday, March 22nd

Financial information for last Sunday was not available at the time of publication.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT,
ESPECIALL DURING THESE
VERY DIFFICULT DAYS!



Monday, March 30th - Lenten Weekday
+Julia Korchowska (Maria)

Tuesday, March 31st - Lenten Weekday
+Mary Schmitz (Fr. James Schmitz)

Wednesday, April 1st - Lenten Weekday
+People of the Parish

Thursday, April 2nd - St. Francis of Paola
(Patron Saint of Sailors)

No Intentions

Friday, April 3rd - Lenten Weekday
+Neroni Sisters: Ann, Josephine & Delia (Family)

Saturday, April 4th - St. Isidore (Patron Saint of Internet & Computers)

+Dorothy Prioletti (Pepera Family)

Sunday, April 5th - Palm Sunday
+Russell Walker (Children)

People of the Parish

(Fr. Jim will offer these intentions during his private Masses during the shut down of public Masses.)

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

The prophet Ezekiel spoke to God's people during their exile in Babylon, six centuries before Christ. In today's passage, the prophet (using the image of death and resurrection) assures the people that God will one day bring them back to their homeland.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul's letter to the Romans is his most detailed and important theological work. Throughout the letter, he teaches that Jesus overcame sin and the effects of sin. In today's passage, Paul stresses that through the Spirit, this saving power of Jesus is present and active in Christians of all times and places.

Readings for the week of March 29, 2020

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9m 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Ps 231-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps102:2-3,6-8,19-21/Jn 8:21-30 10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt26:14-25

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/os 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51:59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a,3bc-4,5-6,7/Jn11:45-56
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (Jn 11:25)

FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

How quickly things change during this pandemic! Since Gov. Mike DeWine issued an order last Monday for Ohioans to stay home and avoid non-essential businesses (though we don't believe that the Church is a non-essential business!), of course we want to comply as a Diocese and as a parish for the health of all people. So I will repeat here the information we posted on our website since many of those receiving this bulletin may not have the ability to access our website.

Our rectory office and our church/chapel will now be closed until at least April 6th.

On Monday morning I met with rectory staff and I had a video conference with our Principal and all Parish School teachers. Here's the message we want to get out to you: though our doors must be closed, our hearts remain open to you during this time. Please feel free to leave a voicemail message in the rectory or for me personally if there is something we can do for you or a question we can answer for you.

Once you hear the voicemail greeting, you can dial one of these extensions to go directly to that staff person's voicemail, and they will return the call as soon as they can (but please be patient as they will be working from home). If you don't choose an extension, it will put you in the rectory office voicemail box.

Office Manger, Mary Lou Hauck, ext. 100 or press 1
Fr. Schmitz, ext. 105 or press 2
Business Manager, Brenda Basalla, ext. 103
Deacon Pat & Joan Berigan, ext. 102
Principal, Denise Burns, ext. 205
School Secretary, Eileen Breitmeyer, ex. 200
Tuition Manager, Cindy Funari, ext. 203

If you do have internet access, we encourage you to check our website (leothegreat.org) often for the latest news. I'll do my best to keep the information helpful and relevant.

Deacon Pat, Joan and I are trying to reach out to parishioners who have called us or whom we know may need a phone call. But again, please reach out to one of us if there is something we can do for you at this time.

We plan on allowing you to view me celebrating the Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (this weekend of March 28th & 29th) so if you are able, you can watch it on our website. We are also discussing how we can livestream services during Holy Week according to the diocesan directives, and how we can allow you to pick up palms.

Please know of my prayers for you daily and join me in reaching out especially to the elderly and the infirm. We pray for all those affected by this virus in any way and ask Mary, Health of the Sick, to intercede for us.

Fr. James Schmitz

Welcome Linda Anderson



A bright spot in the darkness of the COVID-19 virus was the opportunity to receive Linda Anderson into the Catholic Church at the "private" Mass I celebrated on Monday, March 23rd.

Linda also received the Sacrament of Confirmation and received her First Holy Communion at this same Mass.

Interestingly, a number of months ago Linda brought me a statue of the infant Jesus that she found many years ago at a garage sale. It was a large one (about 18 inches) and had it stored in her garage until she found a good home for it. After forgetting about it for a number of years, she found and decided it needed a good home so she brought it to us. We had it in front of the altar for Christmas, 2019, surrounded by candles and poinsettias. We are grateful that Linda gave it to us where it has found a good home.

We welcome Linda (whose Confirmation name is Mary) and we thank Mania Komm for being her sponsor.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT ARE YOU ASLEEP?



Today Jesus is called to the grave of a dear friend who had recently died. Martha cries out that if Jesus were closer, her brother Lazarus would not have died.

Remember from the First Sunday in Lent that death and sin are connected and that life is seen as living a faith-filled life? That is what is happening in this Gospel. Living as a disciple of Christ can give us the ability for a life everlasting in the presence of God.

What in our lives needs to be uncovered, as Lazarus is unwrapped of his burial clothes and returned to **live with his loved ones**?

As we move closer to Easter Sunday, let us ask God to unwrap or unbind that which needs to be healed so that we may live a life that is pleasing to God.

FACING SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE, THE AMERICAN RED CROSS ASKS HEALTHY PEOPLE TO GIVE BLOOD



The American Red Cross will be at St. Leo's **THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 29th**, from 8:00am to Noon in Lux Hall (gym). They are in a blood emergency due to the virus affecting donors. If you are able, please stop by and donate. Please note the precautions the Red Cross will take: temperature taken at the door (above 99.5 will not be permitted to donate); greater physical distancing; employees are screened before they are sent out to drives; cleaning of beds between donations; donors using sanitizer while using equipment. Please consider donating due to the emergency. May God Bless everyone. Be healthy, be nice, be safe!

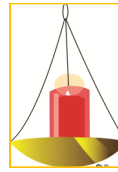
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you to our parish

We are all poor in different ways, spiritually, materially financially, and humanly. Whatever our personal poverty we all rely upon the help of our fellow Christians to survive. Your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Volunteers thank you for letting us and helping us be of service to the needy in our parish community during this holy season of Lent. Your response to our monthly food collection and generous donations to the Poor Boxes are deeply appreciated. Your donations can be put in an envelope marked SVDP Outreach and taken or mailed to the rectory office. We THANK YOU very much for your continued support.

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

March 29th to April 11th



**In Loving Memory of
Tom Kinder**

From: Johanna Kinder

RECTORY OFFICE



Gov. Mike DeWine issued an order for Ohioans to stay home and avoid non-essential businesses (though we don't believe that the Church is a non-essential business!), of course we want to comply as a Diocese and as a parish for the health of all people. As a result, our rectory office and our church/chapel will be closed until at least April 6th.



FISH FRY - CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF LENT

Due to the increased guidance from the CDC, we have cancelled the remaining Fish Fry's. We thank you for the support you have given us this year and for your understanding of our need to cancel as new directives are given to us.



The Have a Heart, Lend a Hand Lenten program has been temporarily suspended. When normal church activities resume we will continue the program. The baskets of hearts will remain at the doors of the church for a month or so after church activities resume and we will post a new collection weekend. There is NO collection on Palm Sunday weekend, April 4/5. All

items collected for these organizations are needed throughout the year so whenever we deliver them they will be greatly appreciated. Some of you have already purchased items. If you need to drop them off at the rectory, you may. But if you can, please keep them for our new collection weekend. Let us all pray for each other. Thank you and may God Bless You.



WORSHIP & MEDITATION

PLEASE TAKE SOME EXTRA TIME TO PRAY DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES FOR OUR PARISH



FIRST READING

You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! (Ez 37:13)

PSALM

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps 130)

SECOND READING

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. (Rom 8:10)

GOSPEL

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (Jn 11:25)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.



God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time?

MARCH 29, 2020—FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



We are grateful that so many have asked how they can continue with their contribute during this time. Here are some options:

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) Use our online giving option called WeShare by clicking the WeShare logo on this page. 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.

4) Stop by or call the rectory office (216-661-1006) and someone will be very happy to help you in person.



