



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

News & Views

**Attention parishioners—
Effective Jan. 1, 2017, St. Leo's weekend
Mass schedule will be 4 p.m. Saturday,
and 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday.**

Her gift lifts up many throughout the year

By Chris Rath

For Robin Imbroggiotta, Christmas giving lasts all year as she brings comfort and counseling to St. Leo parishioners and others who are most in need.

As a pastoral care chaplain, she has been assisting since May in the outreach ministry to St. Leo's sick and homebound parishioners. Robin is also in the St. Leo rectory office on Fridays, when she isn't out visiting folks. Sundays through Thursdays, she can be found working as director of pastoral care at Mt. Alverna Home in Parma.

Robin's philosophy is to "meet people where they are, especially after a traumatic event or diagnosis. The Church hasn't always been there for people in these situations, including those who may be close to dying, undergoing chemotherapy treatments or experiencing recent bereavement."

After many years as a hospice chaplain, Robin notes that people often hear the word "hospice" and immediately think of death. But Robin explains, "Hospice is really a way of living life, not just in the shadow of death, but a way of living fully, as a child of God." She said she finds that part of her ministry very rewarding, and feels she has been "called to be with people at or near the end of life."

Robin holds a master's degree in pastoral ministry, and in 2000 began training as a chaplain through a CPE program at St. Vincent Charity Hospital and St. John Westshore Hospital.

She initially worked as a chaplain at Lorain Community Hospital, but found the commute from her home in Brecksville a bit arduous. Robin also



Robin Imbroggiatta

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Festival is back

For the second year in a row the St. Leo Festival, October 14 and 15, brought together families and friends for two nights.

Corned beef and Reuben sandwiches were featured Friday night, and the traditional pork dinner with dumplings was the Saturday feature.

New this year was the EGG-citing raffle, which featured a 55-inch TV each night, besides the \$5,000 grand prize drawing.

Friday night, the band Backtrax played hit after golden oldies hit for dancers and listeners. And on Saturday the Amazing Superstars covered classic rock tunes as well as the original artists.

If you didn't try your luck in the casino, maybe you won one of the 23 fabulous gift baskets.



Her gift lifts many throughout the year

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served for five years as a pastoral care chaplain at St. Mary's Parish in Berea and four years with the Hospice of the Visiting Nurse Services in Akron.

At St. Leo's Robin averages 3-4 visits weekly as she assists about 10 people at the parish. She tries to reach out to bereaved families within a month after their loss. She will also visit patients in the hospital if either the patient or their family requests it. She said that each visit is unique to the person, "taking people where they are and being open to what the Holy Spirit has waiting for that interaction."

Robin lives with her parents and said she has "no husband or children, but my dog!" Mayzee is a labradoodle who outweighs Michaela, St. Leo Pastor Fr. Jim Schmitz's pet, by about 60 pounds. Robin was earning her doctor of ministry degree at St. Mary Seminary at the same time as Fr. Jim, so she is also familiar with Michaela.

She hopes to begin a support group for the bereaved, but she said people with a

recent loss will need time. "When someone (you love) dies, the first 6 to 8 months you're basically in shock," she said. "You can't even see color; you can't remember anything," and support groups are not recommended for someone until more time has passed.

As a secular Franciscan, Robin belongs to the St. Francis Fraternity, open to anyone who is Roman Catholic and wants to deepen their spirituality particularly through the Franciscan charism, which she defined as "living in peace with humanity and creation and all animals."

As part of her own Franciscan commitment, she said she wants a "green burial," which means no coffin or wake services. In a green burial, the body is wrapped in a shroud and placed in the ground to become part of the earth again. Then a memorial Mass is celebrated later.

If you wonder why the Franciscan name sounds a little familiar, you might have been a student at St. Leo School in the 1950s or '60s, when St. Leo School

was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, known then as the Order of St. Francis of Blessed Kunegunda. This group of sisters also founded Mt. Alverna.

Kunegunda was a Polish princess who was widowed and then became a nun in the 13th century. She has since been canonized. Only one parish in the United States is named for St. Kunegunda—in Sugar Camp, Wisconsin.

If you or anyone you know is homebound or ill, or would like to talk with Robin, call her at the rectory 216-661-1006, or her cell phone 440-552-9061. She will also be glad to tell you more about the secular Franciscans.

St. Leo News & Views

The St. Leo News & Views is published three times a year. Articles and article ideas are always welcome.

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School hits new highs in tech

By Alex Pavlick

Technology advancements seem to be at the top of the wish list for Sr. Erin Zubal, principal of St. Leo School.

Sr. Erin saw the necessity of upgrading computer availability at the school and applied for a federally funded program called E-rate, which provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

According to Sr. Erin, applying is a lengthy process, but the results of her diligence paid off with a \$28,000 wire and wireless system. "I learned about the E-rate program from a consultant I met at a workshop who was instrumental in helping me apply for these funds," Sr. Erin said.

In addition, a St. Leo family has donated a sizeable sum to purchase 30 computers for the school. There are typically 30 students per class, which would allow every child to use a computer.

Currently, students share the available computers, and often the computers don't work. St. Leo's has not purchased any computers yet because Sr. Erin is investigating different computer types and operating systems. However, the goal is to have the computers by Easter or sooner.

In addition to the expansion of computer availability, the school has also widened its wi-fi network with the installation of 16 access points.

Another advancement at St. Leo that sounds like fun, is the implementation of yoga classes for preschool and kindergarten pupils. Working closely with Preschool Director Sue Poultney, Sr. Erin has obtained grants to hire two yoga teachers (therapists).

Yoga classes began in mid-October, with yoga teaching concentration, meditation, discipline and stress reduction. Yoga is a proven therapy that incorporates activities,

songs and music, and teaches kindness. Yoga engages the children in a variety of activities to hold their attention span.

Gym classes are not available to preschool children, so yoga is an excellent option for them, Sr. Erin explained, adding that children can practice yoga in their respective buildings.

Teaching yoga to children early in their lives also will train them to give themselves time to reduce stress and to sharpen their focus on their lives. The practices learned in yoga hopefully stay with the students and enhance them not only throughout their learning years, but also throughout their lives. For the future, yoga could be extended to more grades, Sr. Erin added.



Two teachers now work with preschool and kindergarten children teaching them the fundamentals of yoga. Here, a kindergarten class learn some basic yoga positions.



This isn't nap time at the preschool. It's actually one of the preschool classes in a yoga pose.

**Catholic Diocese
St. Leo the Great Parish
4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland OH 44109
216/661-1006**

Rev. James P. Schmitz, Pastor
Rev. James Vesely, in Residence

Mass Schedule

Sundays—4 p.m. (Saturday Vigil)
8 and 10 a.m. and noon.

After Jan. 1, 2017—4 p.m. (Saturday Vigil) 8 and 11 a.m.

Weekdays—Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation—7 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
(school Mass when in session) and 7
p.m. (please check Sunday Bulletin for
exceptions to this schedule)

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Blessed events

December 10—Adopt-A-Child Drop Off—
3–7 p.m.

December 11—Breakfast with Santa (tick-
ets must be purchased in advance)

December 13—School Christmas Concert—7 p.m.

December 16—School Christmas Break—
last day of school

December 24—Christmas Eve—Masses at
4, 7, 10 p.m.

December 25—Christmas—Masses at 10
a.m. and Noon

December 31—Solemnity of Mary Vigil—
Mass at 4 p.m.

January 1—Solemnity of Mary—Masses at
8 and 11 a.m.

January 3—School resumes

January 6—Eucharistic Adoration—9 a.m.–5 p.m.

January 15—Bloodmobile—8:30 a.m.– Noon

January 29–February 4—Catholic Schools Week

February 3—Eucharistic Adoration—9 a.m.–5 p.m.

March 1—Ash Wednesday—Masses at 8:30
a.m. and 7 p.m.

March 3—Eucharistic Adoration—9 a.m.–5 p.m.

March 3—Fish Dinners begin and continue
each Friday through April 7—4:30–7 p.m.

Each Sunday—RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation
of Adults) 9–10:00 a.m. Sundays. All are
welcome to attend.