



ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH & SCHOOL

January 9, 2022

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

Brenda Basalla, Business Manager
bbasalla@leothegreat.org

Mickey Stitt, Music Director
mstitt@leothegreat.org

Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician
mpiechowski@leothegreat.org

Maureen Frydl, Social Media Manager
mfrydl@leothegreat.org

Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator
missnadia@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 & Preschool Director
dburns@leothegreat.org

Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary
ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org

Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
jderanek@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:00AM—3:00PM

www.leothegreat.org

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 Saturdays from 3pm-3:30pm, Sundays from 10am-10:30am, 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.

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.

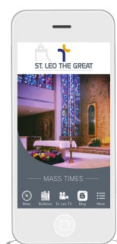
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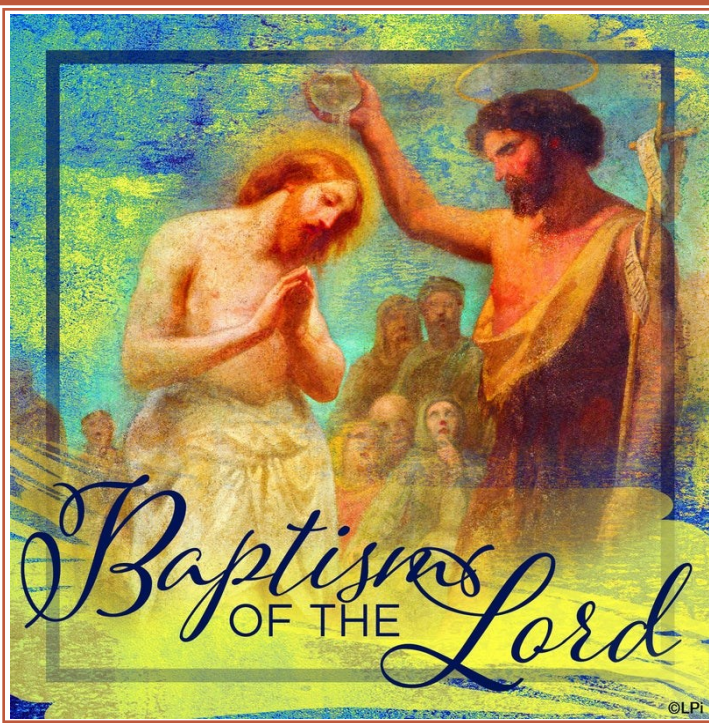


JANUARY 9, 2022 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ONLINE GIVING



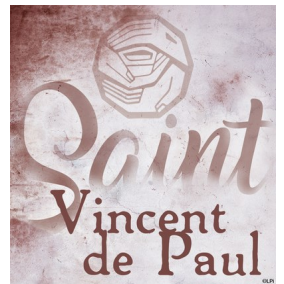
Online Giving is available here at St. Leo the Great. Look for this icon on our website (www.leotheadgreat.org) to sign up. If you have any questions or need help, call the parish office at 216-661-1006.



GOD
CLAIMS US
AS HIS OWN

St. Vincent de Paul

The Lord calls each one of us to share our Faith by committing ourselves to life and becoming involved in the lives of our brothers and sisters. One small way to find involvement is to help the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach organization volunteers by donating food and staples to our monthly food collection. Our monthly food collection is next weekend, January 15th and 16th. Our cupboard is in need of INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, STUFFING MIX, SWEET POTATOES, CRANBERRY SAUCE, ELBOW MACARONI, CANNED PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, MACARONI AND CHEESE, SPAGHETTI NOODLES, CANNED SLICED TOMATOES, RICE AND NOODLE SIDES, SKILLET DINNERS, CANNED PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, RAMEN NOODLES, ASSORTED SOUPS, TUNA FISH, CANNED VEGETABLES, CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY, CANNED FRUIT, PANCAKE SYRUP, BAR SOAP AND DISHWASHING SOAP. Our cupboard really can use your help, so whatever you are able to donate will be very much appreciated. Thank you very, very much.

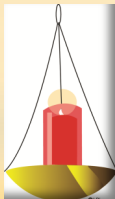


SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

January 2nd to January 16th

IN LOVING MEMORY

Patricia Chopka
We love you,
Andy & Family

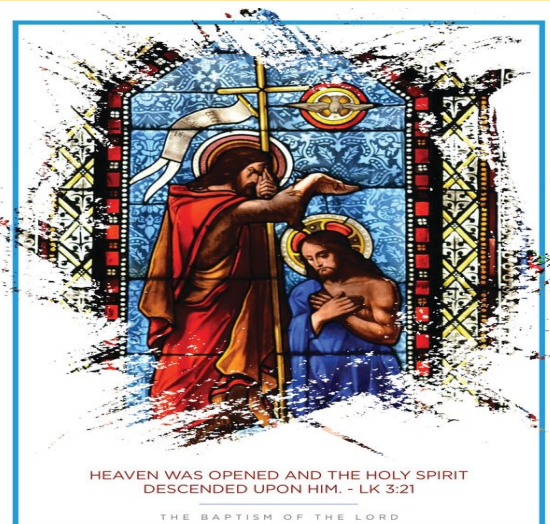


REGISTER WITH US

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



Welcome



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, Harriet Franko & Ana Mendoza.

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



DC. James Winings
St. Dominic, Shaker Heights
V Theology, Saint Mary

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Collection.....	\$6,245.51
WeShare (Online).....	\$2,550.00
Total.....	\$8,795.51

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

Collection.....	\$3,599.00
WeShare (Online).....	\$2,086.00
Total.....	\$5,685.00

CHRISTMAS

Christmas.....	\$18,564.00
Christmas We Share.....	\$5,745.00
Christmas Total.....	\$24,309.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Monday, January 10th—Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)

8:30am +Sigfrid Johler (Sophie Linder)

Tuesday, January 11th—Weeday

8:30am +Frances Szymanski (Daniel Szymanski)

Wednesday, January 12th—Weekday

8:30am +Ralph Cosiano (Doris Neylon)

Thursday January 13th—Weekday

8:30am Communion Service

Friday, January 14th—Weekday

8:30am +Gierlach Family (Gierlach Family)

Saturday, January 15th—Weekday

4:00 +Bob Zarko (Rose Zarko)

Sunday, January 16th—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Candida Lobregatt (Cora Dejele)

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

This passage from the book of Isaiah begins with God calling the prophet to encourage the Jewish people exiled in Babylon. He 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: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

The letter to Titus was written about 30 years after Paul's death, and was written in Paul's name, a practice common in the ancient world. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, and later was in charge of a Christian community on the island of Crete. The verses we are about to hear are also read at Masses on Christmas.

Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

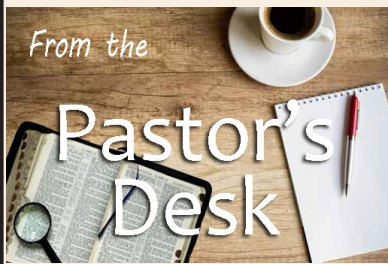
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17



Dear Parishioners,

Last Tuesday we celebrated the funeral Mass for Kevin Austin, and I expressed the support of our prayers and faith to the family members as I always do, especially to Kevin's sisters Vivienne & Eileen and to his twin

brother Keith. Kevin was a quiet man who enjoyed time fishing especially with his dad and brother. As the Word of God assures us, the just are in the hands of God and they are in peace. We pray for Kevin and for all those hit by the sadness of a deceased loved one in this new year.

The total of our at Mass Christmas collection last month was \$24,309.00 compared to \$20,709.00 a year ago (more donations come through the mail). Our total Sunday collection for 2021 was \$408,206 compared to \$388,410 in 2020, an increase of about \$20,000. This is incredible, given that we had the fewest people in attendance for Christmas Mass in the 35 years I've been celebrating Christmas Masses, due of course to the pandemic. Your generosity continues to inspire me and to make me ever more grateful for your support of our parish. Thank you for the sacrifices you make, especially in light of the Coronavirus. I pray only that the Berigan's and I and all of our parish staff will serve you to the best of our abilities.

The priests of the Diocese received an update from Bishop Malefic as we face the Omicron variant of COVID. This is causing the Diocese to review and adjust some of the diocesan events planned for the coming months. My cousin, Fr. Dan Schlegel, has been working overtime trying to coordinate coverage for the number of priests who have come down with the new strain and so are unable to celebrate weekend Masses. The Bishop is asking us once again to encourage you to wear a mask when in church and to be vaccinated if you are medically able to do so for the common good.

Again, we are asked to inform you that **"those who are ill, have significant health risk factors or care for someone who is immune-compromised or ill, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety about contracting the coronavirus in a large group of persons are not obliged to attend Mass."**

This email from the Bishop also included a briefing on the surge in COVID cases in Northeast Ohio from Paul M. Shaniuk, MD, FACP, President of the Archbishop Sheen Catholic Medical Associate Guild of Northeast Ohio. He notes what you probably already know, but summarizes it this way: "Northeast Ohio is currently experiencing one of the worst outbreaks of COVID-19 in the entire country. This is due mostly to the Omicron variant, which is likely to hit hard and fast. Health care workers are also getting sick in high numbers. Even if their illnesses are mild, they are unable to work while sick with COVID-19 to avoid the risk of spreading the virus to their vulnerable patients. Prior to this surge, there had already been a growing shortage in health care workers as approximately 20% have left the field since 2020 for a variety of reasons, of which burnout and moral injury are high and vaccine mandates make only a very small percentage. The health care workers who are still providing front line care are exhausted and demoralized." This document encourages us to pray publicly at Masses for an end to the Pandemic but also for patients suffering from the virus, those who have lost loved ones, and for the exhausted healthcare workers who care for them. I believe we can all acknowledge the need to pray. So let us do that, individually and communally, as we ask God to give us the strength we need to struggle through this pandemic and to help each other according to God's will.

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 dates will be February 2, March 2, and April 6, 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.

PRE-PLANNED FUNERAL

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 Mass.

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 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

*In Loving Memory of
Kevin R. Austin*

*Born
November 15, 1959*

*Entered into Eternal Rest
December 26, 2021*

*Mass of Christian Burial
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
Tuesday ~ January 4, 2022
At 10 a.m.*

*Burial
Holy Cross Cemetery
Section 40 Lot 6815 Grave 1*

*With the saints give rest, O Christ
To the soul of thy servant Kevin,
where there is neither sickness, nor
sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting.
Amen*

TOMON & SONS FUNERAL HOME



RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE



The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at St. Leo's Lux Hall on Sunday, January 16th from 8-Noon. Please consider donating due to the critical need for blood. All donors have to be masked. If you don't have a face covering, one will be provided to you. Please register online at redcross.org. Walk ins will not be accepted. Thank you for your support. God Bless and stay healthy.

The Baptismal Bib

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.



St Charles Borromeo
5891 Ridge Road
Parma, Ohio 44129

All Men & Women are invited to attend the...

LADIES GUILD DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Monday, February 21st, 2022



(President's Day)

Lower Parish Hall

Guest Speaker: Fr. Anthony Simone

**"Living the Little Way in the World through
Charity, Mercy & Stewardship"**

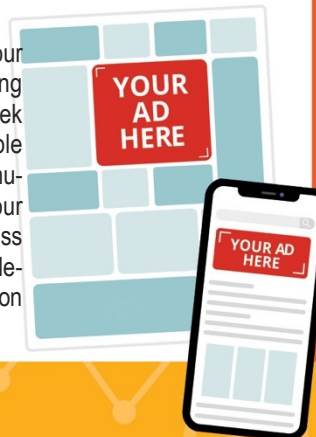
- 9:00 - 10:00am – Begins with a continental breakfast in Lower Parish Hall
- 10:00am - Fr. Anthony speaks
- 12 Noon - Bring a brown bag lunch
- 1:00pm - Fr. Anthony speaks
- 2:30-3:00pm - Adoration and Benediction in the church

Any questions, please contact Regina (330) 770-0248 or Felicia (440) 888-3488.

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Jason Novicky from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church the week of **January 10th**. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



Jason Novicky
216-258-6185

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I Hope I Am Like Him

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

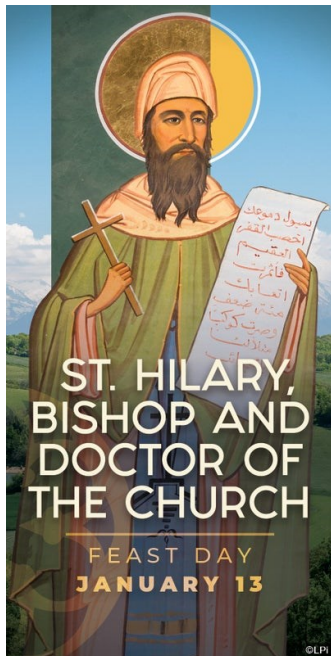
Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church |

January 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ’s divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

**RAFFLE
WINNERS**



New Year’s Day Winner—Bernadine Vance

January 3rd Winner — Kevin Wheeler



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.



