



ST. LEO THE GREAT

PARISH & SCHOOL

November 28, 2021

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

Bailey Milcinovic, Social Media Manager
bmilcinovic@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

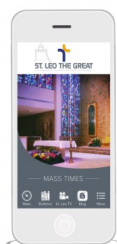
Parents desiring Baptism for their children are asked to contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

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.



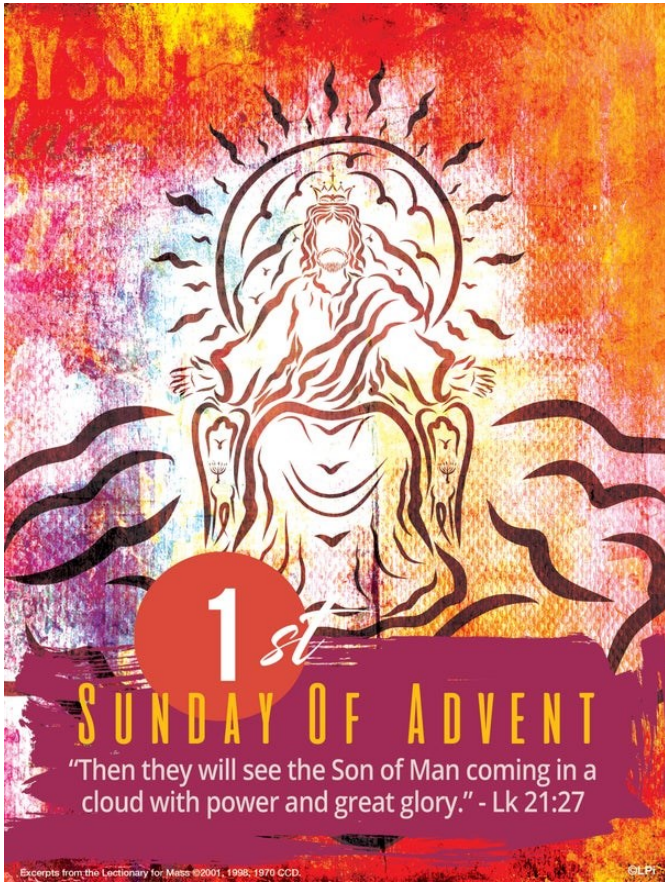
DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP!

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

Instagram @leothegreatorg

Facebook—leothegreatorg

Twitter @leothegreatorg



Sharing your Christmas love

St. Leo's Adopt-A-Child Program is an ideal way to share your Christmas joy and love with others who are less fortunate. This year more than ever we need to help each other.

Who are we helping?

Recipients of your Christmas gifts include families from our own parish community, St. Aloysius School, Zelie's Home (formerly Maggie's Place) and Malachi Center.

How can I participate?

To participate, you would purchase and wrap a \$15-\$20 gift for a needy child. To obtain the names of these children, please call Jeanne Sabol at 216-351-6247 or Judi Westerburg at 216-642-0134. Or you can complete and submit the form on our parish website.

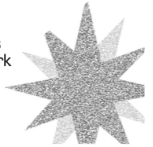
When is drop-off?

Gifts are to be wrapped, tagged and dropped off at the Parish Rectory or the church at mass times. Rectory hours are: Mon-Fri, 9 am-3pm; Sat, noon-5:30pm; Sun, 9am-12:30pm. If purchasing gift cards, please take them to the rectory. All gifts are due by Thursday, Dec. 9.

Can I give money or gift cards?

Monetary donations or gift cards may be dropped in the boxes by the church doors or left at/sent to the Rectory. Please mark all contributions "Adopt-A-Child" and make checks payable to St. Leo the Great and write Adopt-A-Child on the memo line.

Once again, please take the time and opportunity to help others this Christmas season. Thank you and may God bless you.



First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
Jr. Branch 014 is a sponsor of Adopt-A-Child this year and will donate up to \$600 in matching funds



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

©LPI

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

November 21st to December 5th

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bob Zarko

From Rose Zarko



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



Please join us in church on **Thursday, December 2nd** as we say the rosary at **7:00 p.m.** If you are not familiar with the rosary, we will provide you with what you need.

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Prayer REQUESTS

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.

MASSt INTENTIONS

Monday, November 29th—Advent Weekday
8:30am +John & Josephine Kwiatek (Linda Anderson)

Tuesday, November 30th—Saint Andrew
8:30am +Kollar Family (Kollar Family)

Wednesday, December 1st—Advent Weekday
8:30am +Joseph Schmitz (Fr. James Schmitz)

Thurs., December 2nd—Advent Weekday
8:30am Communion Service

First Friday, December 3rd—Saint Francis Xavier
8:30am +Brodowski Family (Tom & Alice Kulwicki)

First Saturday, December 4th—Advent Weekday
4:00pm +Deceased Members Siekaniec Family (Carol Siekaniec)

Sunday, December 5th—Second Sunday of Advent
8:00am People Of The Parish
11:00am +Deceased Members of the McDermott Family (Mcdermott)



First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Today's reading from the book of Genesis takes place after the story of Noah and the great flood. Israelite people of long ago saw the rainbow as a symbol of a Warrior-God hanging up his hunting bow as a peaceful gesture. The rainbow symbolizes the solemn promise that God makes to Noah.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

This reading reminds us that just as Noah was saved through the ark, we are saved through baptism. Early Christians believed that those who died before the coming of Jesus awaited redemption in a shadowy existence described here as a prison. When we say in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus "descended into hell," we are saying that Jesus went to announce to those waiting in that "prison" that they had been saved.



Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



Please come a little while this **First Friday December 3, 2021** and visit with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration! This devotion is held every First Friday of the month at St. Leo's from **9am until 5pm** in the chapel area of the church.

GREAT SWEEPSTAKES WINNER



The Feast of St. Leo winner on November 10th for \$1,000 is...

Ron Ruff!

The Great Sweepstakes will begin again on December 1st, and the first drawing will be in January!

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

Sam Roberts
Capuchin Formation Program
IV Year Seminary



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



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

Collection..... \$ 7,406.05
WeShare (Online)..... \$ 3,066.05
Total..... \$ 10,472.10

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Dear Parishioners,

I write this column while still on my vacation and I have to admit it is frustrating having all of these deadlines for future columns due to the bulletin publisher's need to work around holidays such as Thanksgiving. So I write this on November 17th, a full week before Thanksgiving. By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over & we will be celebrating the first Sunday (weekend) of Advent. Due to my own sometimes hectic schedule, I prefer to take each day as it comes instead of getting too involved in the future. But perhaps therein lies the message of Advent, at least for the beginning of this season before Christmas. Advent is about preparing for the future, for the time when Christ will come again at the very end of time. And that can be difficult for us to deal with if we like to stay focused on the present. But this joyful (and challenging) season does not tell us to look only into the future without also being present to today. Because what we do today depends on how our future will work out. That can sound a bit confusing, but I believe it's the message of the gospel we hear today. Jesus speaks about a future time so that he might help us not to be surprised & trapped by that future. He tells us to be aware and to beware (interesting how those words can be separate and yet joined together). We must beware by being aware, we must take heed of the future by being conscious in the present. How do we take heed? By being "vigilant at all times & praying." This is sounding more like a sermon than an informational column so I'll stop here before I get too far ahead of myself. But hopefully it will help both you and me alike to better grasp the meaning of Jesus' words today and of the season of Advent itself.

Did you read the article or see the news about parishioner Armand Venditti? It spoke of him as being a World War II Veteran who turned 101 years old on November 12th! I was hoping to see Armand in church & to recognize his 101st birthday (as I was able to do for his 100th birthday last year) but he is only able to come to church when his health—and the weather—permits. In the article about him (which can be read here: <https://fox8.com/news/local-senior-community-celebrates-service-members-including-100-year-old-wwii-vet/>), Armand says that there is no secret to living a long life. "Rather, he said there's values and principles to live by like eliminating stress, staying healthy, being respectful of others and caring for family. To love each other and, of course, the good Lord, I think plays a good part in your life. You've got to have that, your faith, your faith will carry you through an awful lot." Well said, Armand! I am not surprised he mentioned his faith and the "good Lord" as Armand has been a faith-filled parishioner of St. Leo's for a very long time. He, along with his wife Mary Lou who died a few years ago, were very active members of our parish, and just wonderful people to know. The article mentions how he is now living at Vitalia, a senior living community in Seven Hills. My dad is also living at Vitalia, but the one that is in Strongsville. So let us us wish Armand a happy birthday, thank him for his service to our country, and wish him many more days and years of health and happiness which comes from faith.

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 date will be December 1, 2021 January 5, and February 2, 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.



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.

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



St. Vincent de Paul

THANK YOU! Thanksgiving is a time for loving and sharing what we have with others. Because of your generous donations of food and money, your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization was able to make this Thanksgiving holiday a little brighter for the 36 families we serve. Your response to our requests for food and money was very much appreciated. Thank you!



O' Come Let Us Adore Him



In a world of darkness, bring a note of Christmas cheer to our parish neighbors near.

An Evening of Caroling and Prayer

Save the Date – Friday, December 17 at 6 pm for Christmas caroling in St. Leo's neighborhood. All ages welcome. There will be something for everyone. We need singers, bakers, pray-ers/adorers. Group leaders, decorators, and set-up and take down crews. Contact Pat Dolezal by phone, text (330-933-4992) or email (jgpadolezal@yahoo.com) for questions or to participate. Sign-ups will be after all weekend Masses on the weekend of December 4 & 5.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."

—JEREMIAH 33:14

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING



Our Gift Card Program is an excellent way to help support your Parish. A complete list of gift cards is available at the rectory office or on our website at leothegreat.org.

Gift Cards can be used for everyday purchases, gifts, or a simple thank you.

PLEASE STOP BY THE OFFICE & SUPPORT US.



This holiday season Catholics across the Diocese of Cleveland are encouraged to support the annual Retirement Fund for Religious. Religious brothers, sisters and order priests have dedicated their lives to ministering to those in need. Today, with longer life expectancies and rising health care costs, the challenge to provide retirement funding is compounded. Now, parishioners across the diocese can help in their hour of need.

Donations may be made online (<http://www.shareinthecare.org/content.100013.donate>) or via mail. To mail a contribution please give to:

**The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland
Office for Religious
ATTN: Fr. Dan Schlegel
1404 East 9th Street
Cleveland OH 44114**

This December please consider donating to help with the care of those retired religious sisters, brothers and order priests from the diocese. Contributions may be mailed to the address below, or donate through the online link, and even collected at local parishes December 11 and 12, 2021.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS



Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the “Christmas-songs-in-November” debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There’s no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it’s not everyone’s cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It’s hard to miss that point — Lent doesn’t even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It’s harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — “advent” — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, “so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.”

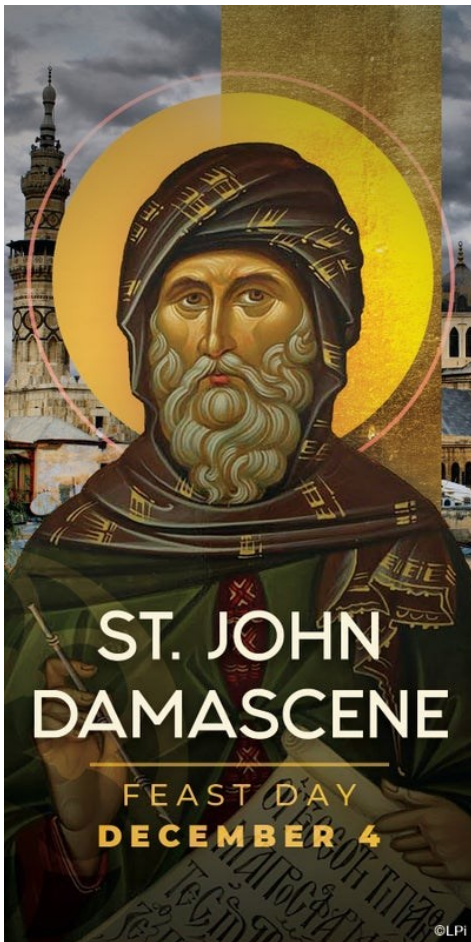
So let us not forget — our master’s advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



September 1st 2021-End of December—Every Wednesday at 6:30pm.

St. John Damascene | Feast Day December 4



St. John Damascene (676 -749) was the son of the chief of the revenue department in the city of Damascus. Through his father, he received a classical and theological education and attempted to follow in his footsteps by serving in a government position. However, the Lord was calling him to a different life, and a few years later he resigned from his position and went to the Monastery of St. Sabas, where he wrote books and composed hymns along with his adopted brother, Cosmas.

St. John Damascene is best known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images; his treatise, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, a summary of the Greek Fathers; and his work as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.



Northeast Ohio's Online
Day of Catholic Giving

Together As One Community

Let's come together on Giving Tuesday, November 30, to raise awareness and inspire our Catholic community to generosity in support of Catholic parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities sites/programs, and Catholic nonprofits in our region. #weGiveCatholic is Northeast Ohio's online day of Catholic giving, supporting more than 200 Catholic organizations throughout our region.

Sharing Our Gifts

#weGiveCatholic is 24 hours of fun and fundraising hosted by the Catholic Community Foundation. This is a day dedicated to giving thanks and giving back. If you have been blessed, be a blessing to others through the support of organizations that shape our souls.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.wegivecatholic.org/giving-events/wgc21>



