



December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

Father James P. Schmitz

Pastor

4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109



PARISH STAFF | 216.661.1006

Father James Schmitz, *Pastor*

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jstrodtbeck@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday | 9:00am—3:00pm

Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday | 9:00am—12:30pm

SCHOOL STAFF: 216.661.2120

Denise Burns, *Principal*

dburns@leothegreat.org

Robin Salem, *Assistant Principal*

rsalem@leothegreat.org

Eileen Breitmeyer, *School Secretary*

ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org

Joann Deranek, *Director of Religious Education*

jderanek@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday—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

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

8:30am and 7:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual confessions can be heard Saturdays from 3:00pm-3:30pm, Sundays from 10:00a-10:30a and after the 11:00am Mass, 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.

If you or a family member are ill or homebound please let us know so that our priest or deacon can visit with the sacraments and provide spiritual care. Please call the rectory office and give the contact information (name, address, phone number). We do our very best and are always willing to come to you.



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Facebook—leothegreatorg



Twitter @leothegreatorg



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

December 11, 2022 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

To “live and let live” is all right in its own way—but, to “live and **HELP** live” is much better. You can help others live by sharing your goods and your prayers with those in need through your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization. Next

weekend, December 17th and 18th, is our monthly food collection. Our cupboard is in need of the following items:

Canned Sweet Potatoes	Cranberry Sauce	Stuffing Mix
Instant Mashed Potatoes	Canned Mixed Vegetables	Canned Baked Beans
Canned Pasta	Pasta Sauce	Canned Diced Tomatoes
Assorted Soups	Ramen Noodles	Tuna Fish
Rice & Noodle Sides	Peanut Butter & Jelly	Cereal
Canned Fruit	Pancake Syrup	Dishwashing Soap & Bar Soap

Let others know that you care by helping your organization bring light and hope during this Christmas season. We thank you for your continued support!

REMEMBRANCE TREES

Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after all of the Masses the weekend of December 10th & 11th. Names of loved ones can be written on the ornaments and hung on the trees in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. If a loved one from this parish passed away earlier this year, their name has already been placed on an ornament and will be added to the tree. The ornaments can be taken home in January at the conclusion of the Christmas season -- January 7th and 8th. Ornaments not taken from the trees at that time will be placed in the main vestibule and may be picked up until January 22nd.



ROSARY

Please join us for the recitation of the rosary in church on :

Thursday, December 13th at 7:00p.m.

Make this part of your hourly prayer for the day. Please enter through the doors closest to the rectory.



Are you a former student of St. Leo School? Is your child a former student of St. Leo School? Please let us know by completing a form on the parish website — leothegreat.org — under *Organizations - Alumni Association*.

We hope to hear from you!

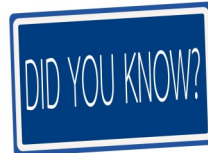
Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after all of the Masses the weekend of December 10th & 11th.

Do you have a **favorite memory** from the past 75 years? If so, please submit it to nzola@leothegreat.org.

Please mark your calendars to join us for Mass and the events and activities throughout the year!

We welcome photos throughout the year of the people and events taking place. Please forward your photos to : photos@leothegreat.org

YOUR PHOTO HERE



When the convent was converted to the Parish Center, the Sisters still assigned to St. Leo's moved to a residence on Silverdale Avenue. A gate was installed in the fence that marks the northern boundary of the parish so that the Sisters could have easier access to the parish grounds.

PRO+LIFE will NOT be meeting in December since our regular date and time is so close to Christmas. Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday January 18, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Parish Center. Because our country remains under constant attack from evil, we ask all to continue praying to St. Michael the Archangel, as often as you can. He can help us defeat the enemy. If you have any questions about the group, the meeting or its content, please contact either Dennis Badar at 216-398-2830 or Chris Rath at 216-741-1536.

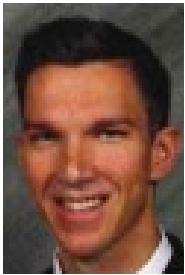
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Taylor Corbett, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, John Sofcheck, Irene (Ernie) Santiago, Rob Blum, Sally Herman, Gary Skelley, Virginia Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublav, Kristen Eble, Ana Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Denise Warnock, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze, Stan Wasacz, Joe Barr, Mary Ann & Doug Kiesel, Marcia Bailey, 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, MaryKay Simonek, Betty Popow, R.Rosario, Margarita Quinones, Allen Phillips, John O'Malley, Kenneth Lees, Tina Sunday, and Karen Horvath.



RYAN WALSH
ST. BARNABAS, NORTHFIELD
PRE-THEOLOGY, ST. MARY

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.

—REST IN PEACE—

In Loving Memory of
Judith H. Kucia
(nee Zehnal)

Born March 2, 1937
Entered into Eternal Rest
November 19, 2022

Interment
Calvary Cemetery
Section 92 Lot 109 Grave 1

*Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of death.*

Fortuna FUNERAL HOME
7076 Brecksville Rd., Independence, OH 44131

TIMOTHY BRUNO
NOVEMBER 25, 2022

In Memory of
Linda Marie Smith

June 12, 1954
November 26, 2022

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me to be
a happy one, I'd like to leave an
afterglow of smiles when day is
gone. I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the
ways, of happy times, and
laughing times, and bright and
sunny days.*

YURCH FUNERAL HOME

HARRIETT ZANZANO
NOVEMBER 25, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 12th—Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30am +Betty Kollar (Family)

Tuesday, December 13th—St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:30am +Dan Sunyak (Auntie Mary Ann)

Wednesday, December 14th—St. John of the Cross

8:30am +Norma Janiakm(Faith& Ron Pelley)

Friday, December 16th—Advent Weekday

8:30am +Jaqueline Toth (Tony & Chris Lizzini)

Saturday, December 17th—Late Advent Weekday

8:30am Eugene & Elizabeth Schreiber (Elizabeth Hirko)

Sunday, December 18th—Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am +Gerard (Cork) Hudak (Martha-Jablonksy-Dick)

11:00am +Fr. James Vesely Anniversary of Ordination
(Fr. James Schmitz)

**Per Bishop Malesic, Communion
Services should not be scheduled at
the parish when the priest is away.
The faithful should participate in
the weekday Mass at the closest
neighboring parish.*

St. Charles 7:00a

St. Barbara 7:30a

St. Francis de Sales 8:45a

Mary Queen of Peace 8:00a

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-6, 10

TV coverage of events in the middle east has familiarized us with the empty expanse of arid desert described in today's reading . Therefore, we can appreciate the unbelievable transformation which Isaiah promises. The prophet says that the desert will become a lush garden , as God's chosen people return singing and dancing from their 70 year exile in Babylon.

SECOND READING: JAMES:5 7-10

The letter of James was written approximately 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was addressed to a group of Christians who were disappointed that Jesus had not yet returned in glory. Using an agricultural image , the author encourages them to keep their hope alive as they face the day-to-day trials of life.

SUNDAY Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

MONDAY Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

TUESDAY Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23

THURSDAY Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30

FRIDAY Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36

SATURDAY Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

December 4th — December 18th

ELIZABETH & JOSEPH HIRKO



ENCOURAGE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

DECEMBER 11, 2022 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Gospel
Meditation*

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home.

Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

“Be strong, fear not!” Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life’s roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life’s unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God’s merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God’s child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist’s message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life’s distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

SEEING GOD IN OUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

“The Season That Gives Back”

I don’t have anything left to give.
You can’t pour from an empty cup.
All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I’m sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that’s parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don’t have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

BELIEVE

QUESTION When discussing ways we can change and strengthen our faith, what one thing could we change that would have the greatest impact on our faith?

ANSWER A famous coach once said that when the team is in trouble and things aren’t going well, go back to the basics; when the team is winning and things are going well, go back to the basics! Any renewal program, faith development, or spiritual growth effort has to start with the basic core of what it means to believe. If the foundation is not strong, the house will not stand. So if you work on one thing, begin with the idea that God is love, who loves us and calls us to love one another. If we really take that belief to heart, it changes how we see God, ourselves, and one another. It would change how we pray, how we treat others, and how we understand and live our own life. Our sense of mission and purpose will be more focused on God’s plan and our role in it. Love is the core of faith, the goal of life, and the hope of heaven. Whatever we do to strengthen and deepen our faith will begin and end with love.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

We express our sympathy to Mary Lynn Haldi, a receptionist in our Rectory Office, on the passing of her mother, Harriett Zanzano, whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Thomas More. Please offer a prayer for Harriett & for the Haldi family that God's peace may be with them all.

We also commend Judith Kucia into the loving hands of God as we celebrated her Funeral Mass on Monday, November 28th. Judy was married for almost 40 years and had 7 children & 18 grandchildren. She was a member of St. Leo's for 55 years and served as both a lector and Eucharistic minister. She was a member of the Altar & Rosary Society and had a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, expressed by her praying of the rosary. Judy attended Mass regularly as a devout Catholic. May she rest in God's peace.

I also had a funeral service for Linda Smith on Friday, December 2nd, with whom I met a number of times in the last few months. She and I talked about her illness with cancer and we celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and she was strengthened by the gift of the Eucharist. Linda was a courageous woman who had a loving relationship with her husband Robert of 43 years, and they were married here at St. Leo the Great back in 1979. Linda shared with me how important her Catholic faith was and I am comforted in knowing that she sought the help of the Church in her illness. Please remember her in prayer as well.

I was also sad to learn of the death of Mary Ann Kiesel, wife of Don, who died last month after a battle with cancer. Her funeral will be celebrated in the Spring. Mary Ann and Don were married for 63 years, and every Sunday I looked forward to seeing them, sitting together in church. We extend our sympathy to Don and assure him of our prayerful support.

Finally I ask your prayers for Tim Bruno, brother of Chuck Bruno of our parish. I had a funeral service for Tim last Sunday and many people were present there to pray with me for him. Tim was the type of person who was always smiling and willing to help anyone who came to him in need and so will be remembered for his kindness. We expressed our gratitude for the many people who were a part of his life and we commended his soul to God. May Tim and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

I understand that the first episode of Season 3 of The Chosen will be showing this Sunday, December 11th. There is a free app that you can download to watch it but it may also be available on YouTube. Just do a search for The Chosen on Google and you will find links to their website for more information. It has a 4.9 star rating and is a wonderful series which tells the Gospel story of Jesus and his chosen disciples. I hope you will gain as much insight from it as I have.

My youngest sister Barbara (from Florida) will be in town this Sunday to visit with my dad and I will join her in celebrating the 103rd birthday of Mildred, our stepmother. We feel so blessed that our dad (95) & Mildred have been able to enjoy each other's company for so many years together. I look forward to visiting with them and with my sister (who has gratefully survived all the hurricanes in Florida) and pray that God may continue to bless all our loved ones as we prepare to celebrate Christmas this month.

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 on 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 January 4, 2023, February 1, 2023 and March 1, 2023.**

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 jberigan@leothegreat.org for help in pre-planning your funeral Mass.

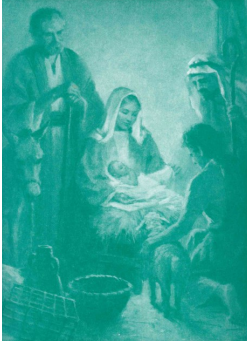
HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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 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.

OPLATKI



For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania the Czech and Slav Republics have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatki, or Oplatek, the Christmas Wafer. Oplatek, taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life.

Traditionally at midnight the head of the household take the pink Oplatek and shares it with the animals on his farm of at his home. This custom brings us back to that Holy Night when even animals were able to speak and remind us that we are all God's creatures.

Be sure to stop by the back vestibule after weekend Masses or at the rectory for your Oplatki! \$3.00 each

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING

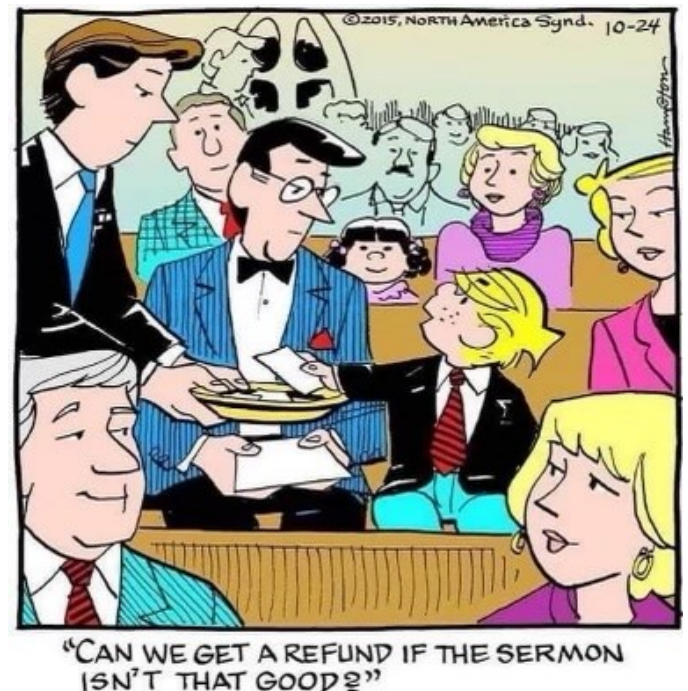
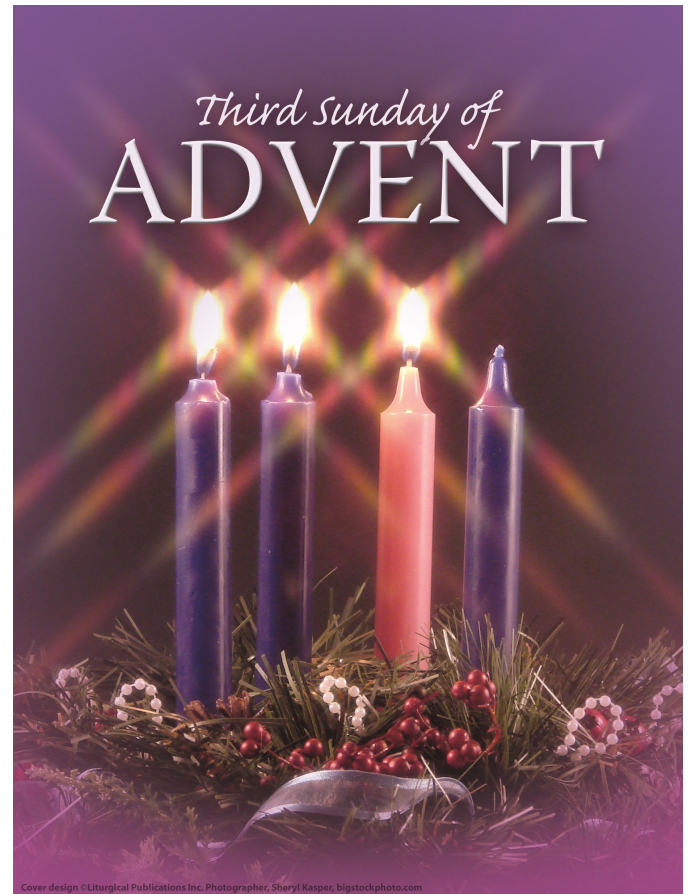


Join us Saturday, December 17
at 5pm for outdoor Christmas
caroling. The schedule

- 4:30** Set-up crew arrives at the Parish Center.
- 5:00** Meet for food and fellowship in the main room of the Parish Center.
- 6:00** Group leaders divide carolers into groups of 10-12 people. Send-off prayer is given. Adorers stay and pray.
- 6:15** Carolers go door-to-door singing 2-3 carols and passing out a Christmas postcard inviting families to Christmas services.
- 7:15** Join together with adorers for one final song. Enjoy refreshments and additional socializing.
- 8:00** Clean-up crew begins

Please remember to dress for the weather and to bring a flashlight or battery powered candle. Song books will be provided.

If you did not sign up yet to attend our Christmas Caroling event, it's not too late! Please sign up on the website or contact Pat Dolezal by phone/text at 330.933.4992 or email jgpadolezal@yahoo.com.



THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES 2023



Great News! Raffle tickets will be ready in a few weeks for purchase for the 2023 St. Leo the Great Sweepstakes! Thirty dollars will get you a weekly chance at either \$100, \$200, and/or \$1,000 depending on the date—AND— you can win multiple times from January 1st thru the Feast Day of St. Leo the Great on November 10th, 2023.

GIFT CARDS

With the Holidays upon us, be sure to stop by the rectory to purchase gift cards—a great way to check off your holidays shopping list while supporting the parish. Note: We may be adding a few to the mix for the holidays. Be sure to keep an eye out for an upcoming flash sale!



GETTING INTO THE HOLIDAY *SP*IRIT

The eighth graders enjoyed a field trip to Cleveland's own, Playhouse Square, last Thursday, December 1st, 2022, to see Charles Dickens classic, A Christmas Carol at Ohio Theatre. This is somewhat of a St. Leo Senior's Class tradition: Past, Present and Future!

SICK CALL CRUCIFIX

A parishioner recently donated a cross that was traditionally used for Anointing of the sick. It's a beautiful crucifix, in next to new condition ,that is in need of a good home. Call or stop by the rectory office to take a look if your are at all interested.



PARISH SUPPORT

Figures for Parish Support can be expected next issue of the bulletin. Please excuse the delay. We appreciate your understanding, as well as continued generosity ALWAYS!

