



ST. LEO THE GREAT

PARISH & SCHOOL

December 12, 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

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.

Instagram @leothegreatorg

Facebook—leothegreatorg

Twitter @leothegreatorg

DECEMBER 12, 2021 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



O' Come Let Us Adore Him Christmas Caroling Schedule

5:30 Set-up crew arrives at the Parish Center.

6:00 Everyone gathers in the main room of the Parish Center. Group leaders divide carolers into groups of 10-12 people. Send-off prayer is given. Adorers move to prayer room.

6:15 Carolers go door-to-door singing 2-3 carols and passing out a Christmas postcard to families.

7:15 Join together with adorers for one final song. Enjoy refreshments and socializing.

8:30 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 (330.933.4992) or email (jgpadolezal@yahoo.com).

ONLINE GIVING



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

In Loving Memory of

Loretta L. Zola

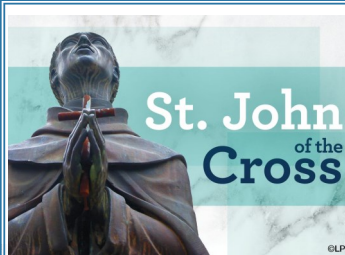
July 11, 1931 ~ November 23, 2021
Mass of Christian Burial
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
Friday - November 26, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Burial
Holy Cross Cemetery
Section: 31 Lot: 3536 Grave: 1



God saw that you were getting tired
And a cure was not to be, so He put His
Arms around you and whispered,
"Come, with Me." It's lonesome here
Without you, We miss you so each day,
Our lives aren't the same since you
Died that day. When the days are sad
And lonely, and everything goes wrong,
We seem to hear you whisper, "Cheer
Up and carry on." God saw that you
Were tired and whispered, "Come with
Me." May God grant you eternal peace
And may your tender love
Watch over us always.

Tomlin & Sons Funeral Home
4772 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109 - 216.741.6661



Giving Back Auto Loan

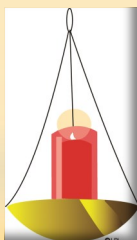
Get a low-rate auto loan and tell us which Catholic School or Parish you would like to help. We will Donate \$50 to your choice.

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

December 5th to December 19th

IN LOVING MEMORY

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



DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHARING EARLY...

Let your heart and your means dictate what to share. Your contributions will enable the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization to deliver your Christmas message of good cheer to our needy neighbors. The Poor Boxes can be seen as the "bread boxes" of the poor.

THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION THANK YOU



We would like to THANK YOU for your overwhelming donations of money that we used towards the purchase of gift cards and other Thanksgiving food for our clients. Your kindness to those who might not have had a turkey and other Thanksgiving food is very much appreciated. Thank you again.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Prayer REQUESTS

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 & Ana Mendoza.

Advent & Christmastide Resources

Visit our website for Advent and Christmastide liturgical resources your domestic churches (households) may use to celebrate the season. From antiphons and prayers to blessings, all of the resources are downloadable and easy to implement!

GREAT



DRAWINGS FOR 2022 WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY, YOU CAN STILL GET YOUR TICKETS!

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



Luke Rose
St. Basil the Great, Brecksville
I Theology, Saint Mary

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



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

Collection.....	\$4,630.75
WeShare (Online).....	\$1,668.33
Total.....	\$6,299.08

Human Development (11/21).....\$494.00
Capital Improvements—November.\$1,980.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MASST INTENTIONS

Monday, December 13th—St. Lucy Virgin & Martyr
8:30am +Family & Friends (Dina Family)

Tuesday, December 14th—Saint John of the Cross
8:30am +Dudor, Lou, Elaine (Family)

Wednesday, December 15th—Advent Weekday
8:30am +David Lincheck (Pamela & Theresa Lincheck)

Thursday December 16th—Advent Weekday
8:30am Communion Service

Friday, December 17th—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am Fr. James Vesely Anniversary of Ordination (December 19th)

Saturday, December 18th—Late Advent Weekday
4:00pm Seniors

Sunday, December 19th—Third Sunday of Advent
8:00am +Ralph Mlady (Fran & Charla)
11:00am People of the Parish

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

The days of the prophet Zephaniah were bad times for Israel because of their idolatry and unfaithfulness to the law. Zephaniah preached impending judgment, a day of doom. But in the end, he tells them of a day when they will sing for joy, and the Lord will sing joyfully over them.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Of all the communities founded by Paul, the one at Philippi was his favorite. Toward the end of his letter to them, he advises them how to live as they await Christ's return in glory.

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

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

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

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

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25



Dear Parishioners,

On November 26th, we celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Loretta Zola, the mother of parishioners Nancy Zola and Jeannie Zola. We express our sincere sympathy to them and to their brothers Keith and Jeff. Loretta,

nicknamed “Lola” by her siblings, a combination of her first name (Loretta) & her middle name (Laverne), was an active homemaker and a devout Catholic. She had a special devotion to Mary through the prayer of the rosary and to St. Jude, whose intercession she sought when having back surgery some 60 years ago. Lola had been lovingly taken care of for several weeks by the good people at Holy Family Hospice. Many family members and parishioners were present at her funeral Mass to show their love for her and to comfort her family. May Lola Rest In Peace now with her husband Gene and with all the faithful departed.

Our prayers also go up for Louie Salemi who will be baptized today at 10am. May his parents, Brandon & Taylor, give thanks to God for the gift of their child and express that gratitude by raising him in the practice of the faith.

We now have Oplotki available in the rectory office. These white wafers, much like those used for Holy Communion (unleavened wafers baked from pure wheat flour and water) are embossed with Christmas related images and are shared with each person present at a Christmas meal.

Thanks to John & Jeannie Sabol for the pictures displayed in the vestibule of the church showing Christmases celebrated here at St. Leo’s in past years. Do they bring back memories?

There was a glitch in our online parish registration form which means that we may not have received the information from some people who filled out that form. If you believe this to be the case for you (you would have received a welcome phone call from our Deacon and his wife), please give us a call at the rectory office & we can make sure we have your information.

Also, we have had some technical problems with our marquee sign at the entrance to the church property on Broadview Road. We hope to have it repaired soon but do remember to check our website for the latest information.

Besides Friday, December 17th, being the 85th birthday of Pope Francis (remember to pray for him!), today, December 12th, is the 102nd birthday of my stepmother, Mildred. We are so grateful that she has been able to live in a nice apartment at Vitalia Assisted Living in Strongsville, where my dad has an apartment as well. He is on the 2nd floor and Mildred is on the first floor so they eat meals together in the dining room and then dad spends the majority of the day in Mildred’s apartment before retiring to his place after dinner. My sister Judy and I had lunch with them the day before Thanksgiving & they both look great! Mildred recently came off of Hospice (she got kicked out of the Hospice facility because they have a two month limit!) and we’re so glad she’s doing so well. Their marriage of over 15 years has been a heaven-sent blessing to both of them and they are keeping each other alive and active. If only their hands were strong enough to help us make our homemade ravioli & soup noodles this week...

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 date will be January 5, February 2, and March 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
PARISH & SCHOOL

The Great Sweepstakes - 2022

\$30 per ticket

You can W\$N Multiple Times January 1, 2022 thru November 10th, 2022

DRAWING DATES—\$100

2022

January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
February 7, 14, 21, & 28
March 7, 14, 21, & 28
April 4, 11, 18, & 25
May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Weekly Drawings



100.00

2022(cont.)

June 6, 13, 20, & 27
July 11, 18, & 25
August 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
September 5, 12, 19, & 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
November 7,

DRAWING DATES—\$200

New Years Day 2022
Easter Sunday 2022
Mother's Day 2022

Special Drawings



200.00

Father's Day 2022
4th of July 2022

ST. LEO'S FEAST DAY
NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Super Drawing



1,000.00



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

The Great Sweepstakes

Please Print

2022

NAME: _____

CITY/STATE & ZIP _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE & EMAIL _____

Please return this stub with your payment of \$30. Please make checks payable to St. Leo the Great.

Questions? Please call the Rectory Office at 216.661.1006
or, visit our website at www.leothegreat.org

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. “Rejoice always,” he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you’re really feeling this vibe. But if you’ve got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. “Rejoice always? Always? When I’m tired? Cranky? When I’m sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I’ll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow’s morning commute.”

When we feel this way, we know it’s time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God’s strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It’s water you can keep coming back to. It’s water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to ‘rejoice always.’ To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It’s a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Retirement Fund for Religious

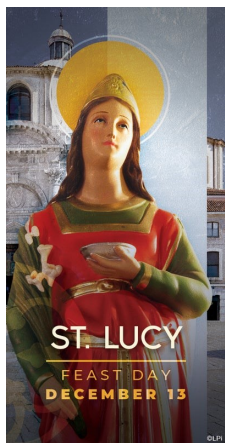
Help religious communities. “Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,” writes a religious sister. The Retirement Fund for Religious is an annual collection to raise funds that are distributed to religious communities. These funds help communities provide for the immediate needs of their elder members. Religious communities are exceedingly grateful for this assistance and are careful stewards of each dollar received. You are encouraged to give to those who have given a lifetime by donating to this collection today. Most importantly, please pray for God’s blessing on all religious. Rest assured, they are praying for you.



Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Cleveland's “Protecting God’s Children” program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or via email at response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org. You are also asked to immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior.

St. Lucy, Feast Day December 13



A name that means “light,” St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (a crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the “bearer” of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 12, 2021, 3rd Sunday of Advent

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters. St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price. We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

A Week for Life

A special media kit with videos and other resources will be available on our website starting Monday, December 13, in preparation for the Week for Life. Over the course of the week leading up to the Mass for Life, we will highlight the many ways we value life from conception to natural death. Each day of the week will include a new video and social media posting, culminating in the Mass for Life on Friday, January 21. We are releasing the videos and other resources ahead of time to allow youth ministers, parish catechetical leaders, school teachers, and parents to review the materials for personal use in their own settings that week (and throughout the year). Contact Mary von Carlowitz with questions.



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

