



ST. LEO THE GREAT

PARISH & SCHOOL

December 19, 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.



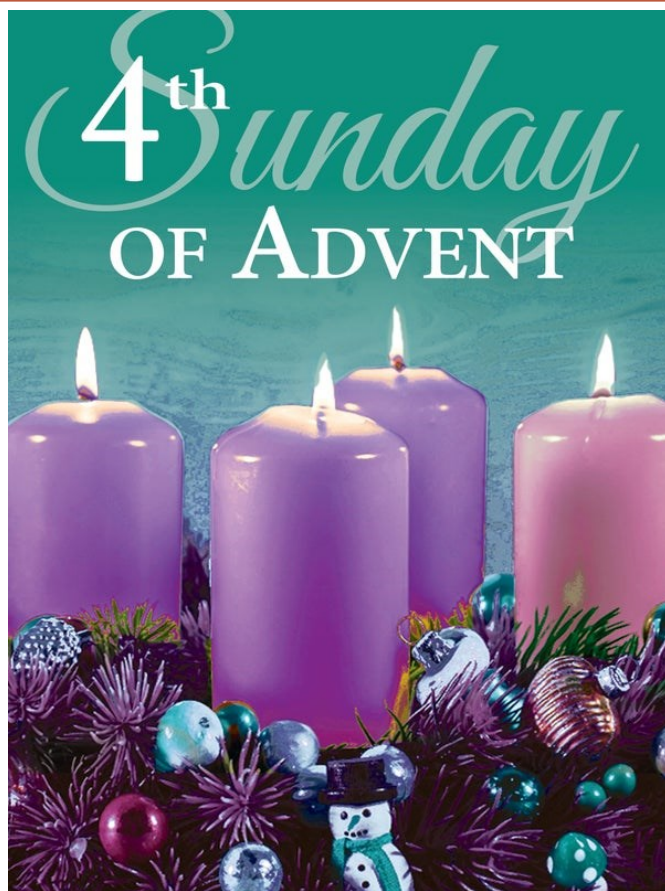
DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP!

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

Instagram @leothegreatorg

Facebook—leothegreatorg

Twitter @leothegreatorg



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

Frances E. Culkin
December 18, 1951
~ December 5, 2021

Interment

Holy Cross Cemetery
Sec.42 Lot.6523 Gr.01

Irish Blessing

*May the road rise with you,
May the wind be always
at your back,
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
And rains fall soft
upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
may God keep you
in the hollow of His hand.*



HUMENIK FUNERAL CHAPEL
216-265-8700



STUDENT SAVER

This is a great way to teach your children the value of saving money as they win prizes and play fun games.

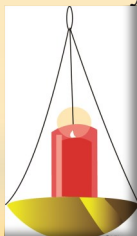
Every week a credit union representative will visit your child's school to accept deposits that will go right in to their very own account.

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.



Welcome



Christmas time is that time of the year for reflecting on all the good we have been blessed with and a time for holding family and friends close. But for many in our community this special day is spent quite differently. Please pray for peace in our world, but also remember that "peace" means not being hungry or alone, cold or homeless, sick or afraid. Help your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization give our neighbors that true sense of peace with a donation in the Poor Boxes or put your donation in an envelope marked "SVDP" and drop it in the collection basket or take it to the rectory. Thank you very much for your help throughout the year and Merry Christmas to all.



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 & Ana Mendoza.

GREAT SWEEPSTAKES



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.

Kyle Rosser
St. Peter Lorain
I Theology, Saint Mary



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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Collection.....	\$7,575.00
WeShare (Online).....	\$2,964.85
Total.....	\$10,539.85

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**MASS+
INTENTIONS**

Monday, December 20th—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am Watson family (Family)

Tuesday, December 21st—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am +Margie Kwiatier (Family)

Wednesday, December 22nd—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am +Ralph Cosiano (Pat & Debbie Cosiano)

Thursday December 23rd—Late Advent Weekday
8:30am Communion Service

Friday, December 24th—Late Advent Weekday
4:00pm People of the Parish

Saturday, December 25th—The Nativity of the Lord
8:00am People of the Parish
11:00am People of the Parish

Sunday, December 26th—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00am +Helen Inez & Alan Franko (Harriet & Wilma Franko)
11:00am People of the Parish

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

The prophet Micah, writing some 700 years before Christ, attacked the social injustices of Israel. He looked ahead to a day when the tiny city of Bethlehem, where David had been born, would bring forth a new shepherd—a good shepherd—who would unify the people and bring peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

The Letter to the Hebrews constantly looks to the Old Testament and shows how Jesus surpassed its laws and sacrifices. In Old Testament times, the people offered animal sacrifices over and over in atonement for their sins. But this could not compare to the God-made-flesh who gave his life *once* for the sins of all.

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-11:18-25

ST. LEO THE GREAT- CLEVELAND, OHIO



Dear Parishioners,

We celebrated a funeral Mass for Frances Culkin on Friday, December 10th. I remember speaking to her over 4 years ago when she told me that her husband was dying of cancer, and I went to anoint him at their home. She cared for him during his many years with cancer and so we pray that she may join with him now in the kingdom of heaven. Her husband's name was also Francis, and they went by Frank & Fran. We express our sympathies to her sister and brother and to her many nieces & nephews. May she rest in God's peace.

Last weekend I invited those who were watching us via livestream to reach out to us through a simple form I put on the homepage of our website, leothegreat.org. It just asks for your name & a short message (including your phone number and/or email if you'd like us to respond to you) so that we might know how you are doing. Due to COVID we still have many people who are praying with us in spirit but who do not feel comfortable coming to church. We just want to know how you are doing & to see if there is anything we can do for you during this time. We would be able to bring you Holy Communion at home if you are OK with a visitor or I can come to anoint you if you are seriously ill or advanced in age & need the grace of that sacrament of healing. But even if you just want to let us know that you're OK, we would appreciate hearing from you. Thanks to those who have already written and know that we are keeping all of you in our prayers.

Just another reminder that I am available for confessions on Saturdays from 3pm until a few minutes before the 4pm Mass and on Sunday morning from 10:15am until a few minutes before the 11am Mass.

This 4th Sunday of Advent provides me with the last opportunity to remind you of our Christmas Mass schedule (also on our website & available in our greeting if you call the rectory office). Our last Advent Mass will be this Wednesday, December 22nd at 8:30am, and we will have our usual Thursday morning Communion Service this Thursday, December 23rd. On Friday, December 24th, our Christmas Eve Mass will be at 4pm, but we will not have a 7pm or 10pm Mass Christmas Eve due to the lower numbers coming to church because of COVID. On Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 8am and 11am, our usual Sunday schedule. But please note that there will be no 4pm Vigil Mass (as instructed from the Diocese) on Saturday, in anticipation of Sunday, December 26th. Mass next Sunday, December 26th, the feast of the Holy Family, will be at our usual times, 8am and 11am. Since January 1st falls on a Saturday, it will not be a holy day of obligation for the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. We will have our usual 4pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 1st, in anticipation of Sunday, January 2nd, the feast of Epiphany, when we will have our usual Sunday Masses at 8am and 11am. Now read that to someone quickly & quiz them on it! It will be much easier next year when Christmas falls on a Sunday. We look forward to seeing many of you here in person if your health permits you to physically join us for the great feasts ahead of us.

A couple of other last minute reminders: We have Oplatki available in the rectory office for those who would like to break bread (actually white or pink wafers made out of flour & water resembling the hosts you receive at Mass) which you can share before your Christmas dinner at home. We also have gift cards available for purchase which make great Christmas gifts for those on your list you haven't bought for yet.

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

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

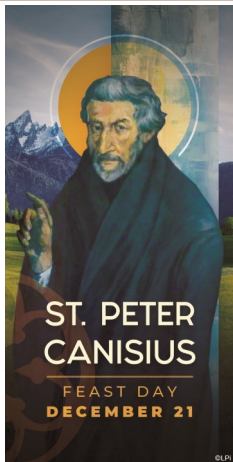
If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTScommitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th, our Christmas Eve Mass will be at 4pm.

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 8am and 11am.

In anticipation of Sunday, December 26th Mass next Sunday, December 26th, the feast of the Holy Family, will be at our usual times, 8am and 11am.



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

Reminder:

The parish office will be closed
December 24th - 27th
and again on
December 31st – January 3rd
2022.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 19, 2021—4th Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.



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



