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CHURCH OF ST. LEO THE GREAT

4940 BROADVIEW RD. CLEVELAND, OH 44109 | 216.661.1006 | LEOTHEGREAT.ORG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:31



The Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve | Sunday, December 24th | 4pm
Christmas Day | Monday, December 25th | 8am & 11am

Note: There will be no Mass on December 26th, January 1st or January 2nd. The Rectory Office will be closed 12/24 thru 12/26 as well as 12/31/2023 thru 1/2/2024.

We pray that you all have a wonderful Christmas!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Loving is ...

Caring is the art of Caring

Caring is the art of Sharing

Sharing is the art of Living

Living is the art of Loving.

Share your love, share your caring and living by helping the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization here at St. Leo's as we care for those in need among us. Thank you very much your help throughout the year and wishing all of you a Merry Christmas.



Mark your calendars to join us for Mass, events & activities throughout the year!

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" tab select *Alumni Association*. We hope to hear from you!

Photos taken back in August, September, or October can be picked up in the rectory during the week or in the main vestibule of the church after the weekend Masses.

Remembrance Trees -- Ornaments will be available before and after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 23rd, and the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses on Sunday, December 24th.

Christmas Mass -- Sunday, December 24th, at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, December 25th, at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

MEMORIES

Christmas Eve fell on a Saturday in 2016. The Cleveland Browns were playing that day, but with their losing record stretching from the previous year, no one seemed interested. The Vigil Mass had just ended, and members of the congregation were wishing one another a Merry Christmas before hurrying off to dinner. As soon as the final notes of the closing hymn ended, a booming voice was heard throughout the church -- "The Cleveland Browns won! The Cleveland Browns won!" Everyone stopped talking and looked around for the source of the announcement. There was no one by any of the microphones in the sanctuary. As the voice gave the final score (Cleveland Browns 20, San Diego Chargers 17), everyone smiled as they realized that it was Fr. Vesely who was sitting in the sacristy and using one of the portable microphones to share his excitement that the Browns had given Cleveland an early Christmas present. -- Nancy Zola

Share *YOUR* memories with us! Submit them to nzola@leothegreat.org or write it down on a piece of paper and turn it in to the Rectory Office. We also welcome PHOTOS throughout the year of the people and events taking place. Please, send *YOURS* to photos@leothegreat.org.



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

2024 THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES 2024

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please return this stub with your payment of \$30.00. Checks are to be made out to St. Leo the Great.

Questions? Please call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006 or visit our website at www.leothegreat.org

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Ornaments in remembrance of loved ones will be available before and after the 4:00 P.M. MASS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, AND THE 8:00 & 11:00 A.M. MASSES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.

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 6th and 7th. Ornaments not taken from the trees at that time will be placed in the main vestibule and may be picked up until January 21st.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Larry Kuznik, Irma Zappitelli, John Sofcheck, Irene (Ernie) Santiago, Gary Skelley, Virginia Soflkanacs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavay, Anna Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze, Stan Wasacz, 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, Betty Popow, Allen Phillips, Ruth Bublavay, John O'Malley, Jesse Kazimer, William Wollard, Claudia Wollard, Carol Rucinski, Joe Deranek, Ben Wheelock, Janice Smith, Lesley Uffman, Dorothy Pazdernik, Sandie Stefanchik, Jordan Sierra Lionberger, Dottie Barr, Joe Barr, Brett Stewart, Allison Dusenbury, Mary Ann Perry, Mary Ann Corlett, Shawn Calvey, Gloria Madonia, Sharon Rock, Anthony Bozek, Joe Brodzinski Suzanne Brown, Joyce Stevens, Victoria Fischer, John Gierlach, Dylan Greve, Ken Perry, Dayna Hansen, Leo Hansen, Betty Hinton, Eileen Johnson, Judy Towalski, Susan Mante, Vicki Przybylski, Kristi Burkhart, Maria Giangrande, Amanda Pacanavsky, Leslie Hahn Karen Horvath, Chris Geiger, Scott, Jesse Wilson and Kathy Patterson.



Sr. Marie Refugio Santora, HMSS
Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed
Sacrament, Temporary Vows

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.

Sanctuary Candle Intention

December 17th—December 31st

+Larry Bronecki

"In Our Hearts Forever"

From, Lynda & Family

WEDDING BANNS



II. BRANDON ROBINSON & NICHOLE KIRK

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 25th—The Nativity of the Lord

8:00a.m. People of the Parish

11:00a.m. People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 26th—Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

8:30a.m. NO MASS THIS DATE

Wednesday, December 27th—Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30a.m. +Joseph Rogalski Family (The Rogalski Family)

Friday, December 29th—5th Day within the Octave of the

Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

8:30a.m. +Donald Donelon (Family)

Saturday, December 30th—6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity

4:00p.m. +Ronald Larson (Rita & Dave Neumann)

of the Lord

Sunday, December 31st—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00a.m. +Sr. Patricia Raelene Peters Birthday (John Peters)

11:00a.m. People of the Parish

Notes: The + before a person's name indicates that they are deceased. There is no Mass here at St. Leo's on Thursdays. You can visit another nearby parish for weekday Mass including St. Charles Borromeo (7:00a & 7:00p), Mary Queen of Peace (8:00a), St. Columbkille (8:15a) or St. Francis de Sales (8:45a).

READINGS FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Today's passage refers to the "Ark of God" which was a wooden chest overlaid by gold, where the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments were kept. King David, rich and comfortable in his palace, felt the Ark deserved to be housed in similar splendor. God will tell David that a physical building is not as important as the "house" (that is the dynasty) of David. Christians have seen this prophecy fulfilled in Christ, who was born of the House of David.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Our second Scripture reading is the conclusion of Paul's long letter to the Romans. It is one sentence, and it is very much like a toast offered to God. In effect, Paul is saying that it all comes down to this: We should give thanks to God that salvation is available to all people through faith in Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

MONDAY Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/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/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/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

TUESDAY Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,
16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

WEDNESDAY 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

THURSDAY 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

FRIDAY 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

SATURDAY 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

REFLECTIONS | SACRED HEART COUNSELING

Merry Christmas! The day is finally here and I hope that everyone has a blessed time with friends and family! While the holidays are a time of joy where we look forward to Jesus's arrival with expectant hearts, they can be a difficult time for some. Whether it is struggles with family members, financial hardship, or someone not present this year due to death or divorce, a season that is meant to bring with it such joy, peace, and gratitude can become a time of depression, anxiety, and sadness. Families are complicated. Wounds sustained by family members are difficult to overcome and can overshadow the occasion. Financial struggles make it difficult to live up to the increasingly materialistic aspect of Christmas. Death & divorce can make our families feel fractured and incomplete. In these moments, let us remember that Jesus is coming to save and heal us. Jesus wants us to jump for joy at His arrival as John the Baptist did in Elizabeth's womb! This is only possible if we keep Him at the center of our minds and hearts. Take those struggles to Him and you will find the healing power of Christ. If you have much to be thankful for, do not forget those that are struggling at this time. The holidays are a time for generous hearts. If you know someone who does not have anyone to share Christmas with, consider inviting them into your home for a meal this Christmas. Consider donating a scarf or winter hat to your local shelter for those who are cold. In moments we are the ones who need care, but there are also moments that we can care for others. I pray that all of you enjoy the season of Christmas! —Luke Brown, LCC

Holistic Catholic Counseling
www.sacredheartcleveland.com
440-305-6192



Before Christmas break began, the students had the opportunity to practice small-scale life skills in money management as they shopped for gifts for their family at the school's Santa Shop hosted by PTC. This event instills the importance of considering others—that "it is in giving that we receive" (St. Francis). While short on volunteers, the Spirit of Christmas ensured it was still a fun and meaningful experience for all!



ADOPT-A-CHILD THANK YOU

Thank you for your truly overwhelming generosity this year on behalf of the Adopt-a-Child for Christmas program. We distributed about 500 gifts to children of our own St. Vincent DePaul Outreach families, Zelig's Home (formerly Maggie's Place), Malachi Center Families, and to supply the Santa Shop for the 300+ children at St. Aloysius School. Contributions totaled \$3600, plus \$600 in matching funds from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

We are deeply grateful to all. So many individuals generously contributed gifts, money or volunteered their time to sort gifts and help deliver. A sincere THANK YOU to all who helped to continue our tradition of helping others. We truly appreciate your generosity especially during these difficult times when the need is so great.

Special THANKS to the Parma Browns Backers of Knuckleheads Bar on Brookpark Rd. for their most generous donations of gifts and complete Christmas dinners for eight families. God has truly blessed us with these wonderful people helping those of us less fortunate. God blessings to you through the new year. Stay safe!

Sincerely,
Jeanne Sabol and Judi Westerburg

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

Though most of you will be reading this on December 24th, this bulletin is for both the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. So let me begin by welcoming all of you here with us this weekend, regardless of the day. We especially are happy to have visitors to our parish for the great feast of the Nativity of the Lord, but of course we are always happy to have our “regular” parishioners as well.

If you're reading this on Saturday or Sunday morning when we are celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent, we have a very short time to prepare for Christmas. But the whole Advent season that we enter each year, reminds us of that life-long fact: our time is short. I am experiencing what so many others have told me over the years: the older you get, the faster life seems to go. I say “seems” because of course time is time and it's not in fact going by faster, but it certainly seems that way. I don't know why that is exactly. Perhaps it's because we get busier as time goes on and so we're not as attentive to time. I also know that, as I've said here recently, it will be my first Christmas without my dad and his wife Mildred. It's still hard to believe that their passing took place earlier this year. This makes me sensitive to the fact that many of you too have lost people you love...either this past year or over the years that have passed... and that is always hard to get used to. As a priest I know used to say, we get used to it but we never really get over it when we lose people close to us. But in all truth, we should also be content and hopeful, believing they are with the Lord in a way we can only imagine on this side of life.

I recognize that I drifted into a reflection on those who have left us, but I really want this to be a time for us to think about who has come into our life. And that of course is God, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. He came into our world, onto our earth, and into our human nature many centuries ago. But the God who is without limitation also comes into our life every day, really in every moment. That is the reason for our joy, if only we take the time to think about what that means. God is always coming after us...not in a way that should make us run in fear, but he chases us, like the “Hound of Heaven” says, in a way that seeks our acknowledgement, our friendship, and our love. This is what Christmas is all about. God is always reaching out to enter our lives in new ways. God is always hoping to be born again among us. We must not use these words just in pious ways of speaking about Christmas. They must be words that express the reality of our every day life. How do we make Christmas something new this year, without just going through the motions? It's wonderful to send and receive cards, to see lighted trees and beautiful decorations, and to enjoy good meals. But there must be something more to what we do at this time every year. And in order to understand that, we must take time. To think, to pray, to worship, to listen, and to keep hoping that we will get the message a little more clearly this year than we did last year.

So now that I've given something of a Christmas homily, I'll get practical for a moment. We will have one Mass on Sunday evening, December 24th, at 4pm. This will be our Christmas Eve Mass. And yes, you need to still join us for the 4th Sunday of Advent, either earlier on Christmas Eve for the 8am or 11am Mass, or on Saturday, December 23rd at the 4pm Mass. Then on Christmas Day, we will have our usual holy day Masses at 8am and 11am. The rectory office will be closed and there will be no 8:30am Mass on Tuesday, December 26th, and the same will be true for both January 1st and 2nd. January 1st is not a holy day of obligation this year.

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 MONDAY 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.

Feel free to join us—no reservations needed!

Upcoming Meetings in 2024:
February 5th, March 4th, and May 6th

If you have any questions,
contact Joan Berigan at 216-661-1006 or by
email: jberigan@leothegreat.org.

PRE-PLANNED FUNERAL

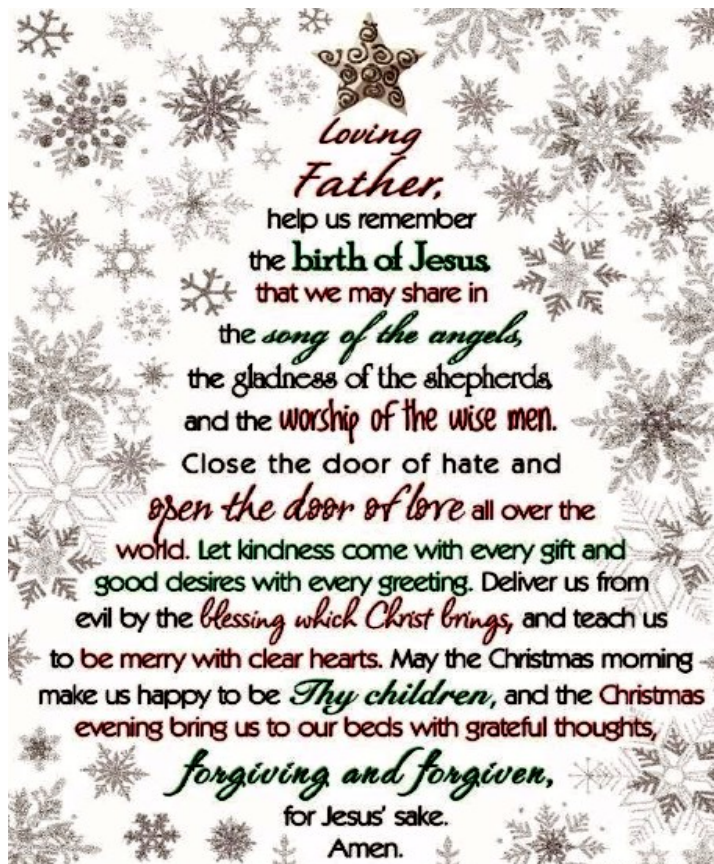
Do your loved ones know what your wishes are for your funeral Mass? Have you thought about the readings you'd like to have at your funeral Mass? If so, contact Joan Berigan at the rectory (216-661-1006) or jberigan@leothegreat.org for help in pre-planning your funeral Mass.

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.



REFLECTIONS FOR EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Journey

By: Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

HELP THE HOMELESS THANK YOU

Your overwhelming generosity provided three SUVs packed full of donations for the homeless. Malachi Center thanks you so much for your generous gifts of needed items, money contributions and your ongoing support. With your help, Malachi Center is able to provide life changing services for children, men and women in need. It is a safe haven where the homeless, low income families and their children can build on their strengths and resiliency, access community resources and take positive steps toward their lives. May God bless you. Merry Christmas!

—Jeanne Sabol



Sunday, December 10, 2023

Sun. Envelope	\$	5,099.00
WeShare	\$	1,615.00
Total	\$	6,714.00
Cap. Improv	\$	306.00
WeShare	\$	175.00
Total	\$	481.00
SVDP	\$	200.00
WeShare	\$	10.00
Total	\$	210.00

*Thank you for
you continued
generosity and
support of
St. Leo the
Great Parish !*



GET YOUR GIFT CARDS

With the Holidays almost upon us, be sure to stop by the Rectory Office to purchase gift cards for those "stocking stuffers"—a great way to check off your holidays shopping list while supporting the parish and school! Note: Newly added gifts cards include McDonald's, AMC Theatre, Meijers, Home Goods and Sierra (an extension of T.J. Maxx)



THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

Our 2023 Sweepstakes Raffle is now ended. Tickets are now available in the Rectory Office for the 2024 Sweepstakes Raffle effective January 1, 2024-November 10, 2024. Tickets will again be \$30 each and will be available just in time for the holidays. They make a great Christmas present that offers a chance to win multiple time year round.



CHRISTMAS WAFER | OPLATKI

Available for \$3.00 in the Rectory Office during regular hours or after weekend Masses in the back vestibule of the church.

A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2024 BUS TRIPS

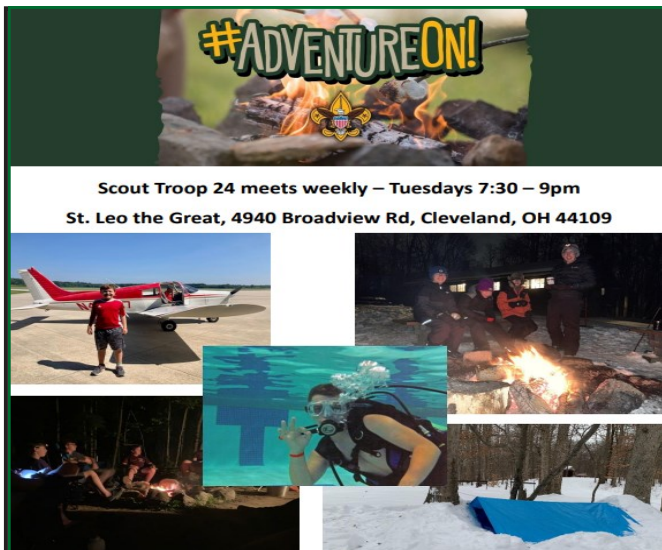
The Sanctuary Museum | Lakewood, Ohio
(formerly the Museum of the Divine Statues)
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

River's Casino | Pittsburgh, PA
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

More details will be posted at a later date.



For reservations or questions contact
Sandy Diaddario at 216-926-3123



Scout Troop 24 meets weekly – Tuesdays 7:30 – 9pm
St. Leo the Great, 4940 Broadview Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109

Come see what **Boy Scouts Troop 24** has to offer!
Leadership! Camping! Backpacking! Campfire Starting!
Ax & Hatchet! Archery! Riflery! Shotgun! Flying
Airplane! SCUBA! Kayaking! Shelter Building &
Camping!

Who: 6th-12th graders

Where: St. Leo's Parish Community Center

When: Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm

Contact: Mike Robinson 216-409-3733 or eMail

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Ladies, all ages, no matter where you are in your faith journey, please, join us next month on **Tuesday, January 16, 2023 at 6:30p.m. in the Parish Center.** We are meeting to connect and *LIFT* each other up as we grow our relationship with God and learn to live more intentionally and prayerfully in our Journeys as women of the faith. For more information contact Pat (216-403-1523) or Barb (216-302-5454) or email Nina at the rectory office at ncapone@leothegreat.org.

Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, etc. of students at St. Leo School, please consider joining us one evening and witness the powerful, prayerful support of friends in faith.

PARISH INFORMATION

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Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator

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Judy Strodbeck, Facilities Manager

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Joann Deranek, DRE

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Dan Trainer, Athletic Director

dtrainer@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri | 9:00am— 4:00pm

Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday | 9:00am—12:00pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon, Tues, Weds & Fri @ 8:30am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00pm-3:30pm

Sunday 10:00am-10:30am

New parishioners and those moving from the parish or changing addresses are asked to contact the Rectory Office or utilize our website to update your records.

www.leothegreat.org



leothegreat.org/flocknote



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Twitter @leothegreatorg

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday-Friday

8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.