



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

December 27, 2020

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

Mary Lou Hauck, Office Manager
mlhauck@leothegreat.org

Brenda Basalla, Business Manager
bbasalla@leothegreat.org

Mickey Stitt, Music Director
mstitt@leothegreat.org

Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician
mpiechowski@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
dburns@leothegreat.org

Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary
ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org

Jennifer Robinson, Preschool Director
jrobinson@leothegreat.org

Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
jderanek@leothegreat.org

Cindy Funari, Tuition Manager
cfunari@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday through Friday/School Day ~ 8:00AM—2:45PM

Main Office ~ 7:30AM—3:30PM

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 after Mass by request or any time by appointment.

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

New parishioners and those moving from the parish or changing address 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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

THE GIFT OF FAMILY

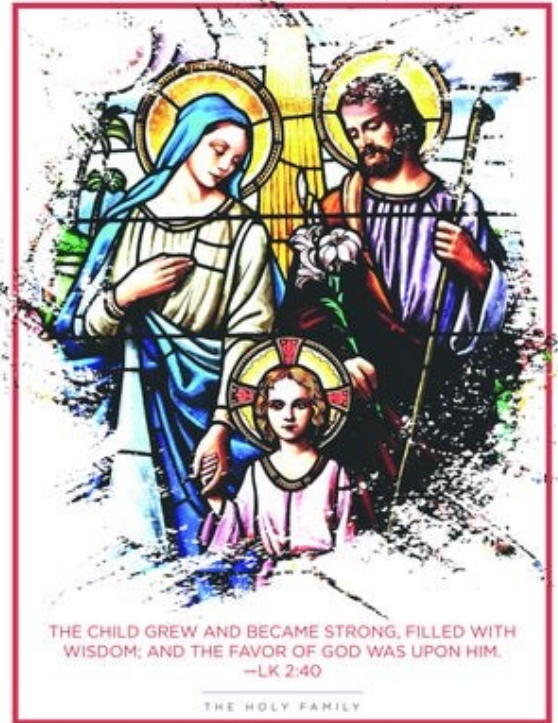
What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

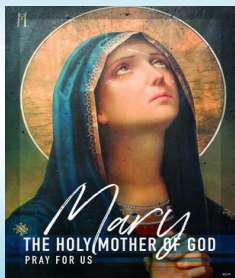
When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



REMINDER: There is still no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. This includes New Years.



New Year's Eve & New Year's Day SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31st
8:30am – Communion Service

Friday, January 1st
8:30am - Mass

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...



Bob McLaughlin, Annamae Sironen, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Carol Rucinski, Pat Chopka, William & Amelia Rebello, Louise Horvath, Diane Kalus, Marie Stankiewicz, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Linda Debaltzo, Anthony Arlia, Jeanne Karasek, Denise Sisley, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, Antoinette Jakosh, Ralph Mlady, Ralph Rath, Joseph Mackey, John Sofcheck, Roger Horvath, James Cook, Cherie Seitz, Mary Slepecky & Ireneo (Ernie) Santiago.



Monday, December 28th - The Holy Innocents
8:30am +Charles Sexton (Wife)

Tuesday, December 29th - St. Thomas Becket
8:30am +Alberta Nicholson (Daughter)

Wednesday, December 30th - 6th Day within the Octave of Nativity of the Lord
8:30am +Marge Vrcan & Ed Gorczyca (Gorczyca and Vrcan Family)

Thursday, December 31st - St. Sylvester I
8:30am Communion Service

Friday, January 1st-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
8:00am +Elizabeth & Raymond McDermott (Family)

Saturday, January 2nd - St. Basil the Great
4:00pm Richard Brikowski (Jennie Brikowski)

Sunday, January 3rd - Epiphany of the Lord
8:00am Arkie Caraballo (Mother)
11:00am People of the Parish



Our NEW Great Sweepstakes weekly drawing will start January 1, 2021.

We are now selling tickets. Forms are available at the Rectory Office or our website leothegreat.org.

The drawing will go from January 1, 2021 thru November 10, 2021 (Feast of St. Leo). There will be (44) \$100 Weekly Drawings, (5) \$200 Special Drawings and (1) \$1,000 Super Drawing on the Feast of St. Leo on November 10, 2021.

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

Brook Benedict
Diocese of Youngstown
Pastoral Year, Saint Mary



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

First Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6: 21:1-3

In ancient Near Eastern culture, it was thought essential to have a male descendent to carry on the family line and inherit all that his parents had worked for. But the elderly Abraham and Sarah were still childless, which seemed to contradict God's earlier promise to them. Today's passage will tell us how this problem was resolved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

The author of the letter to the Hebrews frequently help up Old Testament heroes as models of faith. He did this because he was writing to a community whose faith was wavering. Today he present, as examples, Abraham and Sarah whose faith had survived severe testing.

Readings for the week of December 27, 2020

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40

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

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

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

Thursday: 1Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2,11-12,13/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Sunday, December 13th

Collection	\$ 8,045.00
WeShare(online).....	\$ 1,827.50
Total.....	\$ 9,872.50

Campaign for Human Development.....	\$369.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$943.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

*The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
(Gn 15:5)*

ST. LEO THE GREAT- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Dear Parishioners,

Since many will be joining us via livestream for our sacred Christmas liturgies, I wanted to be sure that our beautiful nativity scene could be seen “up close & center” & so asked the Art & Environment people to put it right in front of the altar this year. In recent years the Church has asked us to keep the altar and what is placed on it as the main focus of the sanctuary since it is on that sacred table that we place the Body and Blood of Christ, and nothing is more important in our liturgical space than that. But at Christmas, what we celebrate is what the Church calls the “Incarnation” or the very real presence of God “in the flesh” as the divine God chooses to take on our human nature. In the liturgy, that same God becomes incarnate in the bread and wine we offer on the altar and which we receive into our bodies. Though many people fail to remember the “rubric” that is in italics on the page where the Creed is found in our hymnals, Deacon Pat & I make a conscious effort to *bow* when we say the words “For us men and for our salvation, **he came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**” Why are we (all) directed to do this? To show our profound respect for what we celebrate today...that the Son of God came down from heaven & became one of us. The significance of this can never be overstated. And so the priest & deacon also bow or genuflect after the priest repeats the words of Jesus, “This is my Body...this is the cup of my Blood.” May the manger scene you see displayed before our altar (a picture is on our website), be a reminder of the truth we are in awe of this day.

Not only can you see the pictures of former Christmases at St. Leo’s on display in the vestibule, but our website (leothegreat.org) also has a 10-minute YouTube video showing several pictures as well. We have also posted a Christmas concert held at our parish many years ago along with a list of the songs they are singing so you don’t want to miss that either. Thanks to parishioner John Sabol for putting these together for us to enjoy.

I want to thank you for your participation in our Adopt a Child program this year (headed by John’s wife, Jeanne Sabol). We collected a total of \$3,475 (a total of \$4,075 with the matching funds grant from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association)! Last year we collected \$2100, so you were especially generous this year. In addition, gift cards in the amount of \$1920 were collected and approximately 300 gifts were distributed to children. You also continued to be faithful to your contributions to the parish this year, even when you couldn’t be here in the church. So I thank you in advance for your Christmas donations as we are several thousand dollars behind our collections budget due to the absence of Easter liturgies this year. Many more have signed up for online giving through WeShare (again available on our website) which helps a great deal as well. I pray you will receive much for giving much.

It took us about 5 hours to make 650 cheese raviolis and an uncountable number of homemade noodles for chicken soup. We had a couple of extra helpers this year (who of course took an oath of secrecy for the recipe) and that probably saved me from being seen bent over as I celebrate Christmas Masses today. I hope to enjoy the fruits of this labor today. I will probably have to increase my intermittent fasting hours well into the new year but I’m OK with having a gut more like Santa’s for the remainder of this holiday.

Fr. James Schmitz



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.



RECTORY HOURS

The Rectory Office will be Closed

Thursday, December 31st—New Year’s Eve
Friday, January 1st—New Year’s Day

We will reopen at 12:00am Noon
Saturday, January 2nd

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



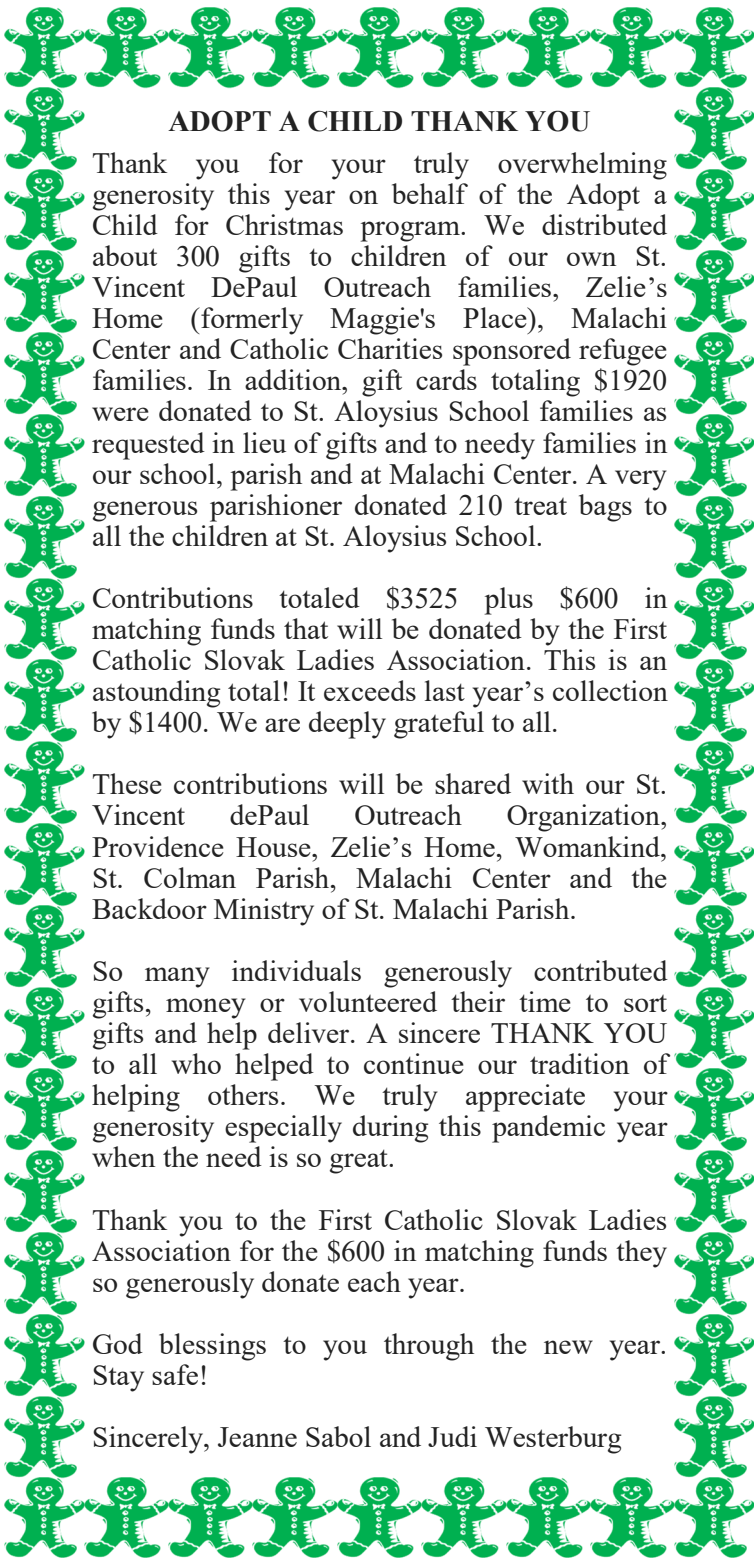
Due to the first Friday of January falling on January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Eucharistic Adoration will be cancelled this Month.

CALENDARS

THANK YOU to YURCH Funeral Home for once again providing our beautiful St. Leo the Great Calendars. The 2021 Catholic Family Appointment Calendars will be available this weekend in the church and rectory.



ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO



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 300 gifts to children of our own St. Vincent DePaul Outreach families, Zelig's Home (formerly Maggie's Place), Malachi Center and Catholic Charities sponsored refugee families. In addition, gift cards totaling \$1920 were donated to St. Aloysius School families as requested in lieu of gifts and to needy families in our school, parish and at Malachi Center. A very generous parishioner donated 210 treat bags to all the children at St. Aloysius School.

Contributions totaled \$3525 plus \$600 in matching funds that will be donated by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. This is an astounding total! It exceeds last year's collection by \$1400. We are deeply grateful to all.

These contributions will be shared with our St. Vincent dePaul Outreach Organization, Providence House, Zelig's Home, Womankind, St. Colman Parish, Malachi Center and the Backdoor Ministry of St. Malachi Parish.

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 this pandemic year when the need is so great.

Thank you to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for the \$600 in matching funds they so generously donate each year.

God blessings to you through the new year. Stay safe!

Sincerely, Jeanne Sabol and Judi Westerburg

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

LOVING IS.....

Loving 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, your Caring and Living by helping the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization here at St. Leo's as we care for the poor among us.

ONLINE GIVING IS HERE!



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

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

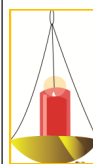


Buying our gift cards is an excellent way to help support our Parish. A complete list of gift cards is available at our office or on our website at leotheadgreat.org. Gift Cards can be used for your grocery needs, drugstore items, gasoline, or used as a simple thank you.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM.

MASS INTENTIONS

The 2021 Mass Intention Book is open. Please come to the Rectory Office where masks and social distancing will be required, and schedule your 2021 Masses. You may also call the Rectory at 216-661-1006 to schedule your intentions. Each parishioner household may have four Mass Intentions (one weekend and three weekdays). The Mass stipend is \$10.00.



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS

We are taking intentions for **Sanctuary Candle Intentions for 2021**. The donation for the candle will be \$10.00. Please only one request per family.

"A Closer Walk With Thee" CCA Monthly Grief Support E-Newsletter:



Don't forget to subscribe to the Catholic Cemeteries Association's monthly grief support e-newsletter, "A Closer Walk with Thee". This e-newsletter is emailed the first Tuesday of each month to any family/individual who has expressed an interest in our bereavement programs. To subscribe to this valued grief support resource, visit [the Bereavement page on our website](#) and click the brown signup box on the right side, contact **Rhonda** at 216-930-4866. You can also click this link and go directly to the signup <https://bit.ly/ccabereavementbulletin>.



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

OUR DRAWINGS START
ON JANUARY 1ST.
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

The Great Sweepstakes - 2021

\$30 per ticket

You can W\$N Multiple Times January 1, 2021 thru November 10, 2021

DRAWING DATES—\$100

2021
January 4, 11, 18, & 25
February 1, 8, 15, & 22
March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
April 5, 12, 19, & 26
May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

Weekly Drawings

\$ 100.00

2021(cont.)
June 7, 14, 21, & 28
July 5, 12, 19, & 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
September 6, 13, 20, & 27
October 4, 11, 18, & 25
November 1, & 8

DRAWING DATES—\$200

New Years Day 2021
Easter Sunday 2021
Mother's Day 2021

Special Drawings

\$ 200.00

Father's Day 2021
4th of July 2021

ST. LEO'S FEAST DAY
NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Super Drawing

\$ 1,000.00



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

The Great Sweepstakes
Please Print

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Remember to recycle all of your holiday paper this season!

Wrapping Paper
Packaging and Boxes
Holiday Catalogs
Holiday Cards

**HELP OUR SCHOOL
EARN \$\$\$**

Just add these items to your regular collection and bring it to your bin!

Have a Safe and
Happy Holiday
Season!



www.rivervalleypaper.com



All three branches of All Saints Federal Credit Union will be closed on Thursday, December 31, 2020, & Friday, January 1, 2021, for the New Year's Holiday. All branches will be open normal hours (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) on Saturday, January 2, 2021. Please visit our website at www.allsaintsfcu.com for hours and branch locations call 216-524-0414, 216-587-0631, or 440-888-3663.

All Saints Federal Credit Union is running a Debt Consolidation Loan Promotion! Borrow up to \$3000.00 with a rate as low as 7.99% for 12 months. This promotion runs from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Visit or call any of our three branch locations; for hours, addresses, phone numbers, and additional information, please visit our website at www.allsaintsfcu.com or call 216-524-0414, 216-587-0631, or 440-888-3663.



