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# CHURCH OF ST. LEO THE GREAT

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023**

## THE HOLY FAMILY




The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

**Wishing you  
a *blessed*  
New Year**

**Please Note: There will be no Mass on Monday, January 1st or Tuesday, January 2nd. The Rectory Office will also be closed from 12/31/2023 thru 1/2/2024.**

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**

When the weather turns bad, people who are out of work or sick, seem to drop out of sight and sometimes out of mind. Hopelessness is a chronic problem of the needy. Let others know that you care by helping your St. Vincent De Paul Outreach Organization bring light and hope into lives that seem so dark with a donation into the Poor Boxes located at the entrances of the Church, or put your donation in an envelope marked "SVDP" and drop it in the collection basket, or take it to the rectory office. It will be very, very much appreciated.



**2024 CALENDARS ARE IN!**

Calendars for the New Year, generously provided to us by YURCH Funeral Home, are available on the tables at the entrances of the church and over in the Rectory Office. Be sure to get yours and keep up with important liturgical events celebrated throughout the year as well as keep track of important dates, appointments & any resolutions you are working on.

To receive a copy of your 2023 contribution statement, please email your request to [info@leothegreat.org](mailto:info@leothegreat.org). You can also call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006. Please indicate how you would like to receive your statement. You can also include your name on this slip and return it to the office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


I will pick up in the office

I will pick up in the back of church

Send it to the eMail address listed on the line below:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send it via the United States Postal Service

*We thank you for your patience as we work to fulfill your request!*



**75 Years**  
Gather Us In—1948—2023

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

**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 may be taken down on Sunday, January 7th, and will be available in the main vestibule until Sunday, January 21st.

**MEMORIES**

*This week's memories relate to the memories made this past year. Fr. Jim's vision for this year was to put emphasis on what already existed -- the events and the buildings. Just like your own home, after years of use the buildings on the property began to show wear. It was time for painting, repairing, and replacing throughout the parish campus, especially the school. All of these improvements were showcased in the parish open house where stories were told, parishioners reminisced, and some people saw parts of the parish campus where they had never ventured before. The opening Mass was the perfect opportunity to welcome Bishop Malesic to our parish for the first time, and the closing dinner was attended by almost 200 people who dined with fellow parishioners and watched a presentation on the history of the parish. We are grateful to so many individuals whose efforts helped to make this anniversary happen. Although there are many people who had important roles over this past year, the maintenance team led by Judy Strodbeck was instrumental in completing the transformation of the school and other buildings. Members of the parish and school staff were vital to the completion of all of the projects, especially the staff members who assisted during the parish cleaning and open house. John Sabol, the parish historian, played a key role in providing pictures and information as well as presenting a history of the parish. Jack and Angela Wunderle, who spent many hours over three weekends taking photos of parishioners, showed attention to detail and made everyone look sensational in their photos. Trapper Jack, in his engaging style, returned to speak on the "Eucharist: A Challenging Truth to Swallow" during this Year of the Eucharist. Many thanks to the volunteers who stepped forward to assist in various events and projects, and thanks to everyone who participated in the events, had their photos taken, and provided a glimpse into the past by sharing their memories from the last 75 years. Special thanks to Fr. Jim for his vision and support throughout the year. The banners will be taken down, but we will be left with memories to share over the coming years. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you.*

*—Joan Berigan & Nancy Zola*

# ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

*In Loving Memory Of*  
**Ireneo R. Santiago**

December 5, 1935  
December 17, 2023

**Your Life**

Your life was a blessing,  
your memory a treasure.  
You are loved beyond words  
and missed beyond measure.



Ornaments that were placed on the remembrance trees on the altar can be taken home in January at the conclusion of the Christmas season -- January 6th and 7th. Ornaments not taken 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, Ireneo (Ernie) Santiago, Gary Skelley, Virginia Sofkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavy, 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 Bublavy, John O'Malley, Jesse Kazimer, William 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 Burkhardt, Maria Giangrande, Amanda Pacanavsky, Leslie Hahn Karen Horvath, Chris Geiger, Scott, Jesse Wilson and Kathy Patterson.



**Sr. Ines de Jesus Soto, 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 31st—January 14th

+CAROL SLADEWSKI

"You will always be remembered."

**WEDDING BANNES**



**III. BRANDON ROBINSON & NICHOLE KIRK**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- MON: Jan 1st** The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
8:30a.m. **NO MORNING MASS**
- TUES: Jan 2nd** St. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors  
8:30a.m. **NO MORNING MASS**
- WEDS: Jan 3rd** Christmas Weekday  
8:30a.m. +Eugene Puczkowski (Family)
- FRI: Jan 5th** St. John Neumann, Bishop  
8:30a.m. +Joan Zuercher (Tom & Carrie Kurtz)  
9a-5p Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
- SAT: Jan 6th** Christmas Weekday  
4:00p.m. +Angel Caraballo (Neida Ramos)
- SUN: Jan 7th** The Epiphany of the Lord  
8:00a.m. +William Fischer (Kathleen Fischer)  
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).*

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 | In ancient Near Eastern culture, it was thought essential to have a male descendant 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 solved.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 | The author of the letter to the Hebrews frequently held up Old Testament heroes as models of faith. He did this because he was writing to a community whose faith was wavering. Today he presents, as examples, Abraham and Sarah whose faith had survived severe testing.

**SUNDAY** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**MONDAY** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

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

**WEDNESDAY** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

**THURSDAY** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

**FRIDAY** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

**SATURDAY** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 3

## REFLECTIONS | SACRED HEART COUNSELING

As a counselor, you would not believe how many times I hear about New Year's Resolutions. They are most frequently made about things like diet, exercise, and saving money, but the possibilities are endless. I find myself having very little faith in New Year's Resolutions alone to actually change anything in a person's life. While there are exceptions and having goals for ourselves is always a good thing, I have found that most people start building up January 1st as a big transformative day months in advance, find the courage to stop or start their behavior resolution, and then inevitably slip up, crash and burn, and refrain from trying again until next year. Friends I have in the gym business say that January 1st is the biggest day of the year for new memberships, followed by a sharp decline in attendance throughout the rest of the month. My issue with these resolutions is that failure is very common and having this significant start date for a resolution just leads to increased self-loathing, disappointment, and despair. Who cares if you fail on January 7th? Now the new start date is January 7th-start again. You went 7 days without eating Oreos! Excellent! Now try for 10 days. One of the most important virtues is hope, and Christ wants us to remember this virtue when we fall. We need to always have hope for ourselves and continuously get up to try again when we fall. My other issue with these resolutions is that we should be setting these goals constantly throughout the year. January 1st and Lent aren't the only times we should be practicing sacrifice, generosity, and almsgiving. This week, consider praying about your goals for self-improvement and remember that the process is lifelong, not restricted to January 1st.

—Luke Brown, LCC

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



## PARISH SUPPORT

Due to the office being closed for Christmas and New Year, contributions will be posted in a later issue of the bulletin. We thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. Leo the Great Parish!

## JANUARY PRO-LIFE MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the Parish Center.** The topic for discussion is yet to be determined. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

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 216-394-5803.

### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke them, we humbly pray, and cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

## REFLECTIONS FOR EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

*"The Gift of Family" By: Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

I have heard people say, "You don't get to choose your family!" I believe that to be only partially true. I did not choose my father and mother, but my family is greater than my family tree of ancestors. My family includes those who have been there when both my father and mother passed away. My family includes those who came to see my newborn children in the hospital. My family includes those who celebrated with me my greatest triumphs and consoled me in my greatest times of trial. Each and every one of them I have chosen to be a part of my family. Most of the time we talk about stewardship in terms of time, talent, and treasure. We quantify the size of our gifts, seeing them as things that have a finite value. However, true stewardship has no limits. What we are called to give is everything. When we fully empty ourselves into another and into the reality of God we find ourselves transformed. We truly grow into our own as the creations we became at baptism. It is in that transformation that we find ourselves connected to others in a profound way. Those who were not connected to us by blood are now connected to us by spirit. Our family, the body of Christ, grows and becomes stronger. In this family, a man can be father to a Son not of his flesh and a woman mother to a Son of a divine origin. In this family, we find our hope and our home. And we must never make the mistake of thinking that is not a choice.



Sunday, January 28, 2024

10:30a.m.—12:30p.m. All are welcome!!!

Pre-K (3&4) Grades K-8

Scholarships available:

- Cleveland
- Ed Choice
- Ed Choice Expansion
- Jon Peterson



Come tour the School—Apply for Fall Enrollment

4900 Broadview Road Cleveland, OH | www.leothegreatschool.org

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

A parishioner by the name of Lily Santiago experienced a great loss recently in the death of her husband Ernie whose funeral Mass we celebrated on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lily and Ernie were married for 52 years and had 2 children, Carl & Lorna, as well as 2 grandchildren. Ernie was a medical doctor who helped others in their illness. Sadly, he had experienced years of physical and mental decline himself, but his wife Lily stood by his side & took such great care of him, expressing incredible sacrificial love. I anointed him many times over the years in their home, but also remember the two of them sitting together in church for Mass before Ernie became too ill to leave home. May Ernie now rest in heavenly peace.

If you've had any contact with the outside world recently, you would know that there has been much controversy over a Vatican document (a "declaration") entitled *Fiducia Supplicans*, which is translated as "On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings." It was submitted to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who approved it with his signature. This document has caused much consternation from both Catholics and non-Catholics alike as it concerns the blessing of those couples who are in a same-sex or irregular relationship. An "irregular" relationship would be a couple who are cohabiting outside of marriage, or couples who have been civilly married but not married in the Church. I have not seen such debate about a Vatican declaration for many years, if ever during my years as a priest.

I have thoroughly read the document in question (which I encourage all to do if you are curious about exactly what was said) and it can be found on the Vatican website as well as many other places on the internet and is published in several languages.

The first thing that the document makes clear is this: that the Church's traditional teaching on marriage (that it is only between a man and a woman) has not changed. Secondly, it seeks to clarify that a priest may not give a blessing or celebrate a liturgical rite that can sow confusion or imply that the Church is approving of a same-sexed or irregular relationship. It then goes on to describe how the blessing of a priest can contribute to the pastoral outreach a priest is expected to have toward all people.

The problem, it seems to me, concerns how a priest can bless a "couple" who are in a same-sex or irregular relationship. What exactly is the priest blessing? Two individuals who are seeking to follow the will of God, or a couple who is living in a sinful relationship? Even as I try diligently to be as precise and accurate as possible in communicating this issue to you here, I find it challenging to use language that will not confuse or complicate the matter. And of course, I always advise in such cases not to trust the media who have rightly been severely criticized for their biased interpretation of the matter.

Though you are always welcomed to ask me personally about this issue, perhaps the best I could do in this limited space is to quote from the statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: *"The Declaration issued today by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) articulated a distinction between liturgical (sacramental) blessings, and pastoral blessings, which may be given to persons who desire God's loving grace in their lives. The Church's teaching on marriage has not changed, and this declaration affirms that, while also making an effort to accompany people through the imparting of pastoral blessings because each of us needs God's healing love and mercy in our lives."*

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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



**2024 THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES 2024**

**\$30 GETS YOU A CHANCE TO WIN MULTIPLE TIMES!**

**JANUARY 1, 2024 — NOVEMBER 10, 2024**

**WEEKLY DRAWING \$100.00**

- JANUARY** 1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 29TH
- FEBRUARY** 5TH, 12TH, 19TH & 26TH
- MARCH** 4TH, 11TH, 18TH & 25TH
- APRIL** 1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 29TH
- MAY** 6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH
- JUNE** 3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 24TH
- JULY** 1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 29TH
- AUGUST** 5TH, 12TH, 19TH & 26TH
- SEPTEMBER** 2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD & 30TH
- OCTOBER** 7TH, 14TH, 21ST & 28TH
- NOVEMBER** 4TH

**SPECIAL DRAWINGS \$200.00**

- NEW YEAR'S DAY** JANUARY 1ST
- EASTER SUNDAY** MARCH 31ST
- MOTHER'S DAY** MAY 12TH
- FATHER'S DAY** JUNE 16TH
- INDEPENDENCE DAY** JULY 4TH

**SUPER DRAWING**

**\$1,000.00**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

**FEAST DAY OF ST. LEO THE GREAT**



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](http://www.leothegreat.org)**

**KINDERGARTEN NATIVITY PLAY & BREAKFAST WITH SANTA PHOTO DUMP**



**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](mailto: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**

**RECTORY STAFF  
216.661.1006**

- Father James Schmitz, Pastor**  
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- Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator**  
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- Judy Strodbeck, Facilities Manager**  
[jstrodbeck@leothegreat.org](mailto:jstrodbeck@leothegreat.org)

**SCHOOL STAFF  
216.661.2120**

- Denise Burns, Principal**  
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[rsalem@leothegreat.org](mailto:rsalem@leothegreat.org)
- Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary**  
[ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org](mailto:ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org)
- Joann Deranek, DRE**  
[jderanek@leothegreat.org](mailto:jderanek@leothegreat.org)
- Dan Trainer, Athletic Director**  
[dtrainer@leothegreat.org](mailto: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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

First Friday of the month 9a-5p

*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](http://www.leothegreat.org)



[leothegreat.org/flocknote](http://leothegreat.org/flocknote)



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