



ST. LEO THE GREAT

PARISH & SCHOOL

December 5, 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 5, 2021 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



ONLINE GIVING



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.

Reflection

Wednesday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation. There is an all school Mass at 8:30am and there will also be a Mass at 7:00pm.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.



Congratulations to St. Leo the Great School's former student, **Shawn Komora**, for making the honor roll this quarter at St. Edward High school.

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

November 21st to December 5th

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bob Zarko

From Rose Zarko



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 leotheadgreat.org or call the Rectory Office at 216-661-1006.



Congratulations to St. Leo the Great School's former students who have been recognized by Trinity High school as having earned the rank of honor roll.

First Honors: Connor DeSiena
Giacomo Rolando

Second Honors: Jillian Kalic

Merit Roll: Madison Messer

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO



Prayer REQUESTS

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.

- Monday, December 6th—Advent Weekday**
8:30am +Martin Fontaine (Mairam Fontaine)
- Tuesday, December 7th—Saint Ambrose, Bishop**
8:30am +Frances Szymanski (Daniel Szymanski)
- Wednesday, December 8th—Immaculate Conception**
8:30am Jorje Velez (Friend)
7:00pm +Blados & Pusateri Families (Family)
- Thursday December 9th—Advent Weekday**
8:30am Communion Service
- Friday, December 10th—Advent Weekday**
8:30am +William LaGodney (Your Loving Family)
- First Saturday, December 11th—Advent Weekday**
4:00pm +Deluga Family (Rose Zarko)
- Sunday, December 12th—Third Sunday of Advent**
8:00am People of the Parish
11:00am +Alice Schulz (Daughter Kathy)



GREAT SWEEPSTAKES



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

First Reading: Genesis 22 1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18

Events in today's reading took place approximately 1800 years before Christ. In that pagan culture, child sacrifice was common. That's why Abraham believed God wanted him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Later generations constantly looked back to the event as an example of Abrahams's great faith.

Second Reading: Romans 8:13-34

Today's reading is part of a hymn that celebrates God's love and which concludes the eighth of Paul's letter to the Romans. In our first reading, we heard how God spared Abraham's only son; in this passage we will hear how, out of love for us, God did *not* spare *his* only son.

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

Joseph Rohan
St. Joseph, Cuyahoga Falls
Second Year, Borromeo



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

Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

- Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

Collection.....	\$5,587.21
WeShare (Online).....	\$2,540.12
Total.....	\$8,127.33

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ST. LEO THE GREAT- CLEVELAND, OHIO



Dear Parishioners,

This Wednesday, December 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holy day of obligation & the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. We will have an all school Mass at 8:30am and a Mass at 7pm. Please be sure to attend one of these 2 Masses or to join us via livestream.

Congratulations to Ryan & Melissa McNamara on the baptism of their son, Daxton, which took place on November 27th. May Daxton live the faith his parents profess and practice themselves and so know happiness in this life and eternal joy in the life to come.

Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union gifted St. Leo's with \$150 as part of their Giving Back Auto Loan program. They started this program in 2014 and give us \$50 for every parishioner who finances a car through them. We had three parish members mention St. Leo's when getting their loans so we thank them for their support.

We now have 40 people signed up for our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May of 2022! The 30 person group limit was raised to 40 and may be raised again so if you are considering this opportunity, you may want to get signed up as soon as possible, even if that means being on a waiting list. I am really looking forward to this experience and recently heard from a couple of people who were just there & they were so glad to have had the opportunity to be there. Let me know if you have any questions about this trip.

Christmas this year falls on a Saturday so I thought I would let you know in advance our liturgy schedule for this feast which is now only 3 weeks away. We will have a 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve which will be on Friday, December 24th. On Saturday, Christmas Day, Mass will be at 8 and 11am. Though we also had a 7pm and 10pm Mass on Christmas Eve in years past, I don't believe these will be necessary given the continued lower number of people coming to church due to COVID. Many people are still participating in weekly Mass via livestream, and while I am happy that many are taking advantage of that opportunity, I ask you to consider whether that continues to be a necessity for you. It is far better to be physically in the church for the sacred liturgy, most especially so that you can receive Holy Communion which is the climax of this solemn prayer. But it is also very important to be with your fellow parishioners and to join the Catholic Community in person. While some still have good reason to avoid being around others due to the risk of COVID because of advanced age or serious health issues, I wonder if others are becoming too accustomed to "watching" Mass at home due to convenience. I invite you to prayerfully and seriously consider this personal decision & to return to Mass in the church, especially if you have been vaccinated and your current health situation does not pose a great risk for you. As the pandemic lingers, we still encourage but do not mandate the wearing of a mask to cover your nose and mouth (& masks are always available at the doors of the church). We hope that by Christmas, the vast majority of parishioners will be physically present in the church to receive the Eucharistic Sacrament and to be reunited once again with fellow Catholics as we pray the Mass together & in person.

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.

Adopt a Child for Christmas

If you haven't contributed to our annual gift giving program to help needy children, there is still time to do so. Many names are still available. Please call Jeanne Sabol at 216 351 6247 or Judi Westerburg at 216 642 0134 or visit the parish website.

Monetary contributions are always welcome. Checks should be payable to St. Leo Parish with "Adopt a Child" on the memo line.

All gifts must be dropped off by December 9. Please take them to the St. Leo rectory or leave them in the bins in church.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity again this year.

We are most fortunate to have The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLALife) as a sponsor this year. They will donate up to \$600 in matching funds as they have the past several years. We are most grateful to them.



Happy
ST. NICHOLAS
Day



GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING

Our Gift Card Program is an excellent way to help support your Parish. A complete list of gift cards is available at the rectory office or on our website at leothegreat.org. Gift Cards can be used for everyday purchases, gifts, or a simple thank you.



**PLEASE STOP BY THE OFFICE
AND SUPPORT US.**

O' Come Let Us Adore Him



This weekend after each mass sign-ups will be available for our Christmas Caroling activity on Friday, December 17 at 6 pm at the Parish Center. Or sign up on-line through the St. Leo website.

An Evening of Caroling and Prayer

Save the Date – Friday, December 17 at 6 pm for Christmas caroling in St. Leo's neighborhood. All ages welcome. There will be something for everyone. We need singers, bakers, pray-ers/adorners. Group leaders, decorators, and set-up and take down crews. Contact Pat Dolezal by phone, text (330-933-4992) or email (jgpadolezal@yahoo.com) for questions or to participate. Sign-ups will be after all weekend Masses on the weekend of December 4 & 5.

This holiday season Catholics across the Diocese of Cleveland are encouraged to support the annual Retirement Fund for Religious. Religious brothers, sisters and order priests who have dedicated their lives to ministering to those in need. Today, with longer life expectancies and rising health care costs, the challenge to provide retirement funding is compounded. Now, parishioners across the diocese can help in their hour of need.

Donations may be made online (<http://www.shareinthecare.org/content.100013.donate>) or via mail. To mail a contribution please give to:



**The Catholic Diocese of
Cleveland
Office for Religious
ATTN: Fr. Dan Schlegel
1404 East 9th Street
Cleveland OH 44114**

This December please consider donating to help with the care of those retired religious sisters, brothers and order priests from the diocese. Contributions may be mailed to the address below, or donate through the online link, and even collected at local parishes December 11 and 12, 2021.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS



God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

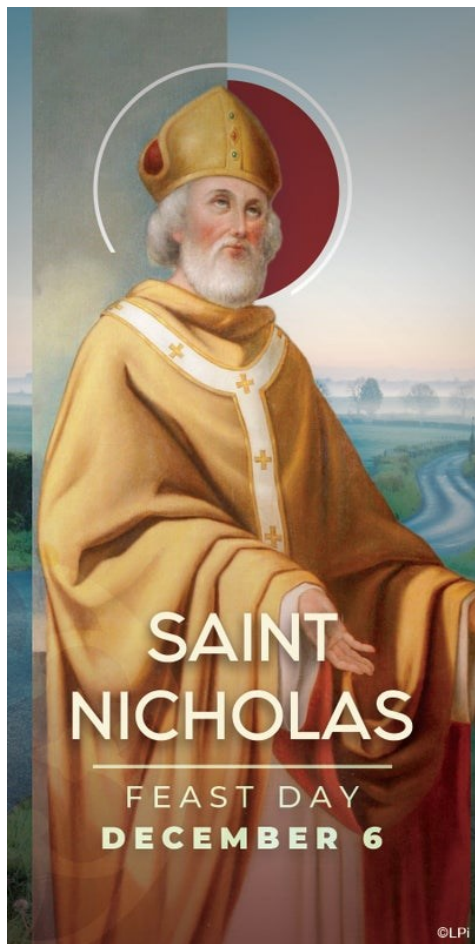
We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MT



CHOIR

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

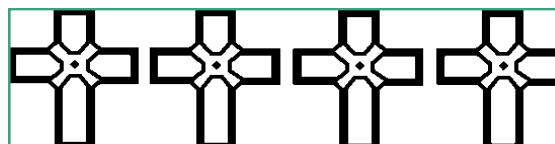


St. Nicholas | Feast Day December 6

St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

OF SCRIPTURE December 5, 2021, 2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. “You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him.” When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God’s gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God’s promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts’ doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God’s simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.



