



## ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH & SCHOOL

March 20, 2022

**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](mailto:jschmitz@leothegreat.org)

**Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan**

[pberigan@leothegreat.org](mailto:pberigan@leothegreat.org)

[jberigan@leothegreat.org](mailto:jberigan@leothegreat.org)

**Brenda Basalla, Business Manager**

[bbasalla@leothegreat.org](mailto:bbasalla@leothegreat.org)

**Mickey Stitt, Music Director**

[mstitt@leothegreat.org](mailto:mstitt@leothegreat.org)

**Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician**

[mpiechowski@leothegreat.org](mailto:mpiechowski@leothegreat.org)

**Maureen Frydl, Social Media Manager**

[mfrydl@leothegreat.org](mailto:mfrydl@leothegreat.org)

**Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator**

[missnadia@leothegreat.org](mailto:missnadia@leothegreat.org)

**Judy Strodbeck, Facilities Manager**

[jstrodbeck@leothegreat.org](mailto:jstrodbeck@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](mailto:dburns@leothegreat.org)

**Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary**

[ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org](mailto:ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org)

**Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education (DRE)**

[jderanek@leothegreat.org](mailto:jderanek@leothegreat.org)

### SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:00AM—3:00PM

[www.leothegreat.org](http://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](https://www.instagram.com/leothegreatorg)



Facebook—[leothegreatorg](https://www.facebook.com/leothegreatorg)



Twitter [@leothegreatorg](https://twitter.com/leothegreatorg)



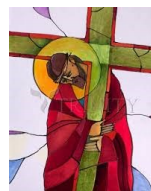
## St. Leo Fish Dinners 2022

Lobster Dinner - Friday, April 1st  
Lobster Tail - Baked Potato or Fries -  
Coleslaw or Apple Sauce - Roll with Butter  
*Advance Ticket Sale Only* - \$25.00

Additional Lobster Tail  
*with purchase of Lobster Dinner* - \$20.00

Advance Ticket Sales Only  
Rectory Office  
Tickets Available Until  
**Monday, March 28th**

Regular Fish Dinner  
Selections Available



### SCRIPTURAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCRIPTURE STUDY

We will be offering a Scripture Study based on St. Pope John Paul II Scriptural Stations of the Cross. We will discuss the Scriptural text of each of the Fourteen Stations. The study will take place in the Parish Center on March 29, 30 and 31 at 2:00 PM each day. We hope to see you there. We will then pray the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 3:00 PM. We hope to see you there! **BRING YOUR BIBLE!**

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please plan on joining us for Stations of the Cross every **Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm in the Church**. Fr. Jim or Deacon Pat will be leading the Stations of the Cross. Music will be included as we want more people to take advantage of this wonderful prayer opportunity. This helps us to unite our sufferings to those of Christ. Please consider experiencing this unique prayer that has such a long tradition in our church.



### Blood Drive

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at St. Leo's Lux Hall on Sunday, March 27th from 8-Noon. Please consider donating due to the critical need for blood. Walk ins will not be accepted. Thank you for your support. God Bless and stay healthy.

### ROSARY



Include the rosary as part of your Lenten prayer. Please join us in church on Thursday, March 24th, as we say the rosary at 7:00 p.m. If you are not familiar with the rosary, we will provide you with what you need.



### St. Vincent de Paul

**EASTER DISTRIBUTION...** This year the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization will be giving our families a gift card to purchase their Easter Ham and additional items to help make their Easter dinner more complete. Please consider a donation to help us with these expenses. Place your cash or check in an envelope marked "SVPD EASTER" and drop it in the collection basket or take it to the Rectory Office. We thank you very much for helping us make their Easter dinner more complete. Thank you!

There is a time for study, a time for discussion, a time for decision, a time to act. Act on the Gospel message "Love your Neighbor" and share what you are able in the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Poor Boxes. You can also place your contribution in an envelope and mark it "SVPD" and take it to the rectory. Act now during Lent, a special time for almsgiving.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Prayer REQUESTS

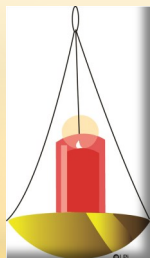
Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Taylor Corbett, Annamae Sironen, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, William & Amelia Rebello, Marie Stankiewicz, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Anthony Arlia, Denise Sisley, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, John Sofcheck, Irene (Ernie) Santiago, Rob Blum, Sally Herman, Lorice Yurek, Gary Skelley, Lee Rinaldi, Joe Lorkowski, Millie Ancin, Phyllis Zbasnik, Virginia Sofkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Ken Proctor, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublav, Harriet Franko, Ana Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Denise Warnock, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze & Joe Barr.

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

**Nathan Frankart**  
St. Joseph, Amherst  
I Theology, Saint Mary



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



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

March 13 to March 27

IN LOVING MEMORY  
To my husband Thomas Kinder,  
with love from his wife Johanna.



SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

Sunday Collection.....\$7,102.75

WeShare.....\$3,305.00

Total.....\$10,407.75

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022 COLLECTION  
WILL BE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MASS+ INTENTIONS

**Monday, March 21st—Lenten Weekday**  
8:30am +Raymond Sposet (Barbara Sposet)  
**Tuesday, March 22nd—Lenten Weekday**  
8:30am +Dennis Dina (Rose Zarko)  
**Wednesday, March 23rd—Lenten Weekday**  
8:30am +Dennis Dina (Lynn Gorsha)  
**Thursday March 24th—Lenten Weekday**  
8:30am Communion Service  
**Friday March 25th—The Annunciation of the Lord**  
8:30am +Mary & Walter Kulwicki (Kulwicki Family)  
**Saturday, March 26th — Lenten Weekday**  
4:00 +Kathleen Domanski (Kenneth Domanski)  
**Sunday, March 27th—Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
8:00am People of the Parish  
11:00am +Doug Burcham  
am (Tony, Chris, Alyssa Lizzini)

**First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**

When he was a young man, Moses had slain an Egyptian official, and he had to flee into the desert near Mount Sinai (sometimes called Mount Horeb). In the ensuing years, he settled down, married and worked as a shepherd. Now, probably thinking he had a quiet future, his life takes a different turn.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

Paul did not want his Corinthian converts to be overconfident. They were saved by their faith in Jesus, but they still needed to live a daily life pleasing to God. (In this passage, we will hear Paul refer to an interesting piece of Jewish folklore not found in the Bible. The legend is that the rock from which God gave them water followed them wherever they went in their desert wanderings.)

**Readings for the week of March 20, 2022**

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14



Dear Parishioners,

Congratulations to the parents of Nellie Ferguson who will be baptized this Sunday. May she grow to know, love and serve the Lord in this life so as to be happy now and forever in the life to come.

Congratulations also to John & Irma Zappitelli who have been parishioners at St. Leo's for a very long time. They will be celebrating 69 years of marriage at the 8am Mass this Sunday! They have both needed to move out the parish but we still consider them part of our parish family and so we pray that they may be filled with God's blessings as they join us in prayer on this special occasion. I look forward to their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year!

This Friday is the feast of the Annunciation, when we recall the announcement that the angel Gabriel made to Mary that she would be the Mother of God. It takes place on March 25<sup>th</sup> because that is exactly 9 months until Christmas, the celebration of Christ's birth. You may be surprised to learn that a Solemnity such as this (a solemnity being a high ranking feast day) is not observed as a penitential day. So since it falls on a Friday of Lent this year, penitential practices like fasting or abstaining from eating meat are not required on this day. So celebrate this great feast by having a juicy hamburger or better yet, come to our Fish Fry & enjoy a great (but meatless) meal.

I hope many of you enjoyed the YouTube video about confession that I posted on our website & which I mentioned here in the bulletin & at all of our Masses. It was a good opportunity to see the Sacrament of Reconciliation from the perspective of the priest as Confessor. I'm going to take the liberty to post another YouTube video which I believe is also very timely, though this one may be a bit more challenging. It is done by Fr. Mike Schmitz (no relation to me other than we share both the priestly ministry and a last name). He speaks honestly about whether watching a livestream Mass is still appropriate now, and perhaps even sinful, now that we seem to be looking at the Coronavirus more in the back mirror than through the windshield. During the last couple of years, I have often encouraged people to make use of the livestream technology which we had installed in our church for the sake of those wishing to join in the prayer of the Mass celebrated in their own parish church, without actually being here. Such technology is a godsend when we were told that there would be no public Masses for 3 months during 2020, and even when the bishop continued to give a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass in recent months for those who have serious health issues and concerns relating to the pandemic (and even regarding their health apart from COVID-19). But Fr. Schmitz also challenges us to recognize that most of us can safely return now to Mass, and to avoid doing so may even be sinful if we are using the technology or the pandemic as an excuse from being physically present at Mass. I've pointed out that the main problem with live-streamed Mass is that we are not physically present with each other as the Body of Christ, as the Church, and cannot even receive the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. Just as the Church expects us to make our best effort to attend Mass when on vacation, it also expects that we will not miss Mass when we are still going out in public for other reasons, whether grocery shopping, eating out, or doing whatever we did outside our homes before the pandemic. I find it interesting that we still have close to or well over 200 people watching the livestream video every weekend even now, and fear, along with the bishops, that the pandemic may have opened us up to mis-using the technology that can help us but also hurt us in these strange times. So please take a look at the video & ask yourself prayerfully and honestly, if it's time to come back to Mass in church where we not only receive the Body of Christ but become the Body of Christ in the community of faith.

*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 dates will be April 6, May 4, and June 1, 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](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 email her at [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 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](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 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

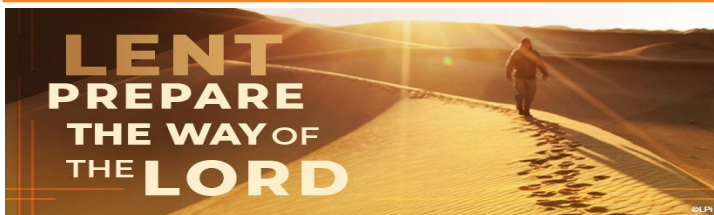
### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**March 20, 2022—3rd Sunday of Lent**

Deserts can be lonely, isolated, and treacherous places. When a person wanders in a desert, they can easily get disoriented, dehydrated, confused, lost, and vulnerable. Temptation is at its peak, especially when confronted with something that may offer some respite or relief, even a mirage. Deserts can bring us to our weakest moment and tempt our faith. The Christian journey can be described as a desert experience as we vacillate back and forth, falling victim to the mirages of our lives versus the true, life-giving water offered by God. We need a burning bush experience in our lives that convinces us of the power of God and reveals Him as the "I am" of all existence.

Moses was leading his flock across the desert when he found himself at Mount Horeb. Mountains give us a fuller perspective of life, a panoramic view of what would otherwise be hidden from the limitations of our sight. That's when Moses met God. We have to find our way to a mountain experience where our vantage point can take on a wider view of life. Many things can do this for us: the birth of a child, the death of someone we love, the joy that comes from marveling at the beauty of God's work, the pondering of life's mysteries, and the ache of longing found deep within our souls. There are many things in life that can wake us up, give us a clearer, better view of things and become occasions where a bush may burn and God's presence as the eternal uncreated One is revealed.

God is very patient and gives us the time and space we need to figure things out and bear some good fruit. He doesn't rush to cut us down or get frustrated with our barrenness. But we have to remember that the desert journeys of our lives come with some risks. The major risk is that we will mistakenly believe that the mirages are real. Thus, we fall victim to thinking that the respite and refreshment we seek is discovered in a place other than where it actually is. Our faith and the life of the Church are the safeguards we need to keep us properly orientated so that we don't get lost or confused and stay on course.



#### BUS TRIPS

**RIVERS CASINO** - Monday, April 25 -  
\$48.00 per person  
Bonus: \$20 free slot play & \$5 food credit  
Deadline for reservations and payment - March 25.

**HARTVILLE** - Friday, May 27 - \$75.00 per person  
Lunch at Hartville Kitchen - Included  
Shop/browse - Hartville Flea Market  
Downtown Hartville  
Harry London Chocolates

**NAUTICA QUEEN** Wednesday, June 9 -  
\$70.00 per person  
Lunch Cruise - included  
Shop/browse - West Side Market

**SAVE THE DATE: SENECA NIAGARA  
AND SENECA ALLEGANY**  
Monday, July 11 (overnight stay) and  
Tuesday, July 12



Contact Sandy Diaddario -  
216-926-3123



#### St. Leo Fish Dinners

Every Friday in Lent

March 4th to April 8th

Serving 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinners - \$9.00 choice of:

Baked Tilapia Almondine  
Baked Seasoned Cod  
Battered Fried Fish  
Breaded Shrimp  
Pierogies

Includes:

Choice of baked potato or fries,  
coleslaw or applesauce,  
roll and butter

\$11.00 Combo Meal-add 3 pierogies

*Weekly Specials - Fish Tacos, Seafood Empanadas, Salmon Patty Dinner*

**Fish Sandwich - \$7.00**

fried fish with cheese on  
a hoagie roll served with  
fries and coleslaw

**Kids Meal - \$4.50**

choice of: fried fish/pizza/  
mac & cheese/pierogi  
with fries and drink  
(age 10 & under please)

#### A la carte menu

Baked potato	\$2.50	French fries	\$2.50
Cheese pizza	\$2.00	Pierogies (3)	\$4.00
Mac & cheese	\$3.00	Cabbage & noodles	\$3.50
Side of fish	\$5.50	Soup of the day	\$2.50
(2 fried or 1 baked)		Dessert Available	

**St. Leo the Great Church - Lux Hall**  
4900 Broadview Road - Cleveland





*Have a Heart  
Lend a Hand*

During Lent St. Leo's is sponsoring our annual Have-a-Heart, Lend-a-Hand program. Twelve area organizations will be recipients of your generosity.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2, and during Lent, baskets of hearts will be at all church entrances. Please take a heart or two and purchase the items requested for the organization listed. Or you can purchase items from the list below.

You may bring your donations to the church (bins by doors) or rectory by Friday, April 8 or to the St. Leo School cafeteria on Saturday, April 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Please remember to attach the heart or a tag with the organization name to your donated items.

Rectory hours are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Saturday, noon–5:30; or Sunday, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

♥ **Birthright**

Gift Cards for Target, Walmart,  
Marc's, Kohls  
Diapers—Size 4,5,6

♥ **Broadview Multi-Care**

Adult Coloring Books  
Large-Print Word-Search Books  
Colored Pencils, Markers  
Playing Cards  
Nail Polish  
Body Wash  
Men's Crew Socks  
Men's Extra Large Undershirts  
Chess/Checkers Set

♥ **Catholic Charities  
Refugee Families**

Twin-Size Sheets/Blankets  
Full-Size Sheets/Blankets  
Bed Pillows  
Pillow Cases

♥ **Holy Family Hospice**

Paper Towels  
Napkins  
Kleenex  
Bleach  
Lestoil  
Disinfectant Wipes  
Toothpaste/Tooth Brushes  
Body Wash

♥ **Joseph House of Cleveland**

Bath Towels  
Washcloths  
Diapers—4T/5T  
Laundry Detergent  
Toilet Paper

♥ **Malachi House**

Postage Stamps  
Gift Cards: Walmart, Target,  
Giant Eagle, Save-a-Lot, Home  
Depot, GFS, Dave's, Amazon

♥ **Mt. Alverna**

Large Pop-It Fidget Toys  
Cake/Cookie/Muffin Mixes  
Frosting, Sprinkles  
Sugar-Free Candy  
Cans Diet Pop  
New Small Stuffed Animals  
Big-Piece Puzzles 25 Pieces or Less  
Nail Polish/Remover  
Cotton Balls, Emery Boards

♥ **Parma Care Center**

Diet Cans of Coke/Pepsi  
Large-Print Word Search Books  
Washable Markers/Colored Pencils  
Men's Aftershave, Razors  
Men's/Women's Body Wash  
Women's Hair Accessories  
Watercolor/Acrylic Paints, Brushes

♥ **Providence House**

Applesauce  
Canned fruits: Peaches, Pears,  
Fruit Cocktail  
Cookies, Graham Crackers  
Diapers, Sizes 5, 6  
Clorox Wipes  
Paper Towels  
Liquid Hand Soap  
Baby Wash/Shampoo  
Gift Cards: Target, Walmart  
Paper Cups/Plates

♥ **St. Colman Parish**

Shampoo  
Deodorant  
Bar Soap  
Razors  
Toilet Paper—4-8 Roll Pkg.  
Laundry/Dish Detergent  
Sturdy Reusable Shopping Bags  
(from Marc's)  
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

♥ **St. Leo/St. Vincent  
dePaul Outreach**

Bar Soap  
Boxed Scalloped Potatoes/  
Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Canned Fruit/Vegetables  
Canned Tuna  
Dish Detergent  
Pancake Mix/Syrup  
Peanut Butter/Jelly  
Canned Pasta  
Skillet Dinners  
Cereal  
Baked Beans  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Rice and Noodle Side Dishes

♥ **West Side  
Catholic Center**

Deodorant  
Bar Soap  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste/Tooth Brushes  
New Men's Shoes  
New Children's Shoes  
New Socks—Men, Women, Children

**If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Sabol at 216/351-6247.**

**RAFFLE  
WINNER**



**March 13, 2022**

**Jason Mlady**



**Sarris Fundraiser Candy Sales**



The PTC is selling Sarris Chocolates Easter candy this year. The sale is currently running through April 10th. All sales are being placed online and will be shipped directly to your home. Please use the link to get to the fundraiser. Our school code is 21-3991.

**<https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/>**

## MARCH 20, 2022— THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS Stoking the Lenten Fire

I think we all can acknowledge that there's a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. Next week is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane.

I get that. Maybe you're fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you're doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you're in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don't feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey.

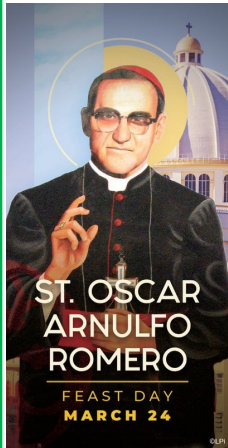
Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember what fuels our Lenten fire.

Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations.

As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world.

Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



### St. Oscar Romero | March 24

When St. Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, his country was in chaos. Many people in El Salvador were living in poverty, while a smaller elite group controlled all political and economic power. In 1980, El Salvador broke out in a 12-year civil war that left over 75,000 people dead. St. Oscar Romero set up pastoral programs to assist the victims of oppression. He also became an outspoken advocate for human rights, appealing to the Salvadoran military to stop killing their own citizens.

On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was murdered while celebrating Mass in El Salvador. A car pulled up outside, and a gunman fired a single shot straight into St. Oscar Romero's heart.

Calling him a "a martyr for the faith" nearly 40 years later, Pope Francis canonized him in 2018. For the occasion, Pope Francis chose to wear the same blood-stained belt that Romero was wearing at the altar when he died.