

CHURCH OF ST. LEO THE GREAT

4940 Broadview Rd. Cleveland, OH 44109 | 216.661.1006 | www.leothegreat.org



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

FR. JAMES P. SCHMITZ, PASTOR
DEACON PATRICK & MRS. JOAN BERIGAN
MRS. DENISE BURNS, PRINCIPAL



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

★ CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00PM ★
★ CHRISTMAS DAY 8:00AM & 11:00AM ★
★ NEW YEAR'S EVE 4:00PM ★
★ NEW YEAR'S DAY 8:00AM & 11:00AM ★

ADOPT-A-CHILD

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), the Catholic Charities Refugee Families, and to supply the Santa Shop for the 300 children at St. Aloysius School.

Contributions totaled \$5400, plus \$600 in matching funds from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Gift card donations totaled \$670. 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 for their most generous donations of gifts and complete Christmas dinners for nine families, to St. Bernadette's Social Concerns Committee for providing ten complete Christmas dinners, and to employees of MP Biomedicals of Solon for their enormous donation from their Penny Wars fundraiser.

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



Please mark your calendars to join us for Mass and the events and activities throughout the year!

Join us for Christmas Mass -- 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day.

Are you a former student of St. Leo School? Is your child a former student of St. Leo School? Let us know by completing a form on the parish website, leothegreat.org under Organizations - Alumni Association. We hope to hear from you!

MEMORIES

"I remember several times the priest selected a young girl to carry up the statue of Baby Jesus in the entrance procession at the first Mass on Christmas Eve. One year a boy and a girl were also asked to carry up the statues of Mary and Joseph. The statues were almost as big as the children selected!"

"There was nothing more moving than the Christmas Masses, particularly Christmas Eve, when the lights of the church were turned off after Communion. The strains of Silent Night filled the church as the trees glowed in the darkness."

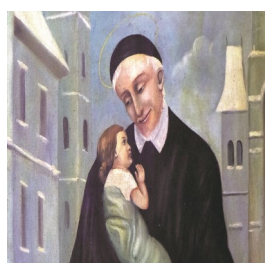
Do you have a favorite memory from the past 75 years? If so, please submit it to nzola@leothegreat.org.



The first Mass in the current church building was celebrated on December 24, 1969.

REMINDER

There will be no Mass on Monday, December 26, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023. Please note that the Rectory office will also be closed these days.



SAINT 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, 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 for your help throughout the year and Merry Christmas to all of you.

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 26th—St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:30am **NO MASS**

Tuesday, December 27th—St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30am + Jim Heindlmayer (The LaGodney Family)

Wednesday, December 28th—The Holy Innocents, Martyr

8:30am +Marie Stankiewicz (The Senior Table)

Friday, December 30th—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30am +Norma Janiak (Faith & Ron Pelley)

Saturday, December 31st—Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00pm +John Kozlowski (Family)

Sunday, January 1st—Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00am +Patrick O'Malley (Family)

11:00am People of the Parish

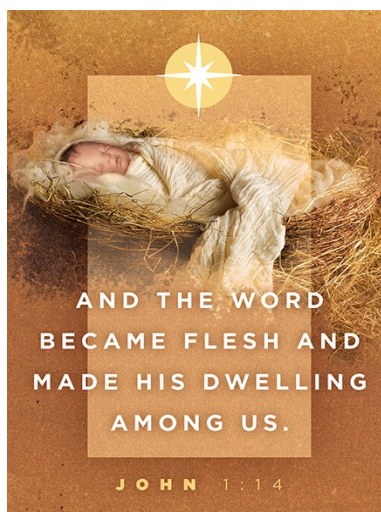
Since there is no Mass here at St. Leo's on Thursdays you can attend Mass at one of our other local parishes; St. Charles (7am), St. Barbara (7:30am), St. Francis de Sales (8:45am) or Mary Queen of Peace (8am).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Taylor Corbett, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Irma Zappitelli, Dianne Toronski, Don Donelon, Larry Kuznik, John Sofcheck, Ireneo (Ernie) Santiago, Rob Blum, Gary Skelley, Virginia Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublav, Kristen Eble, Anna Mendoza, Marianne Kucinski-Powers, Denise Warnock, Edith Lysyj, John Geiger, Rosie Colucci, Buzzy Miano, Judy Bruzshinsky, Carol Broze, Stan Wasacz, Joe Barr, Mary Ann & Doug Kiesel, 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, MaryKay Simonek, Betty Popow, R.Rosario, Margarita Quinones, Allen Phillips, Ruth Bublav, John O'Malley, Kenneth Lees, Tina Sunday, and Karen Horvath.



"The world might have expected the Son of God to be born—if he was to be born at all—in an inn. A stable would be the last place in the world where one would have looked for him. Divinity is always where one least expects to find it."

-Venerable Fulton Sheen

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1-6

The prophet Isaiah lived 750 years before Christ. In his time, the northern Jewish Kingdom of Israel was laid waste by the armies of Assyria. Today's passage offers the conquered people hope for a glorious future under a wonderful king. Christians have seen Jesus as fulfilling this prophecy.

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14; 3:4-7

The letter to Titus was written about 30 years after Paul's death, and was written in Paul's name, a practice common in the ancient world. Titus was a travelling companion of Paul, and later was in charge of a Christian community on the island of Crete.

SUNDAY Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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



CRAIG ZIOBERT
DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN
PRE-THEOLOGY, SAINT MARY

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 18, 2022 — January 1, 2023

RALPH MLADY

From,
Family



ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Gospel Meditation

ENCOURAGE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home.

SEEING GOD IN OUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either "I already know about Jesus, thanks," or "I've heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I'm really not interested in hearing more."

Because in the end, our very lives are how we "announce his salvation" in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It's our job to show them.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



QUESTION: Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

ANSWER: Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable. Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness. In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

As December 25th falls on a Sunday this year, it certainly makes the Christmas Mass schedule easier to remember as it follows the usual weekend Mass times that are in place throughout the year. It is also easier on me, and on you as well, as we come to Mass just one time this week instead of those years when we attend Christmas Mass during the same week that we attend Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent. But I continue to be saddened by the fact that we no longer need two other Masses on Christmas Eve, such as when we had a 4pm, 7pm & 10pm on December 24th. I believe that the effects of COVID are to blame for the continued decrease in attendance as many continue to watch us at home instead of being with us in person. If that is true for you, I strongly encourage you to come back to church where we can all be inspired by the presence of one another and where you can receive the Holy Eucharist. Let us remember what Jesus says to us: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you will have no life within you!" Again, I understand if you need to watch us via livestream due to serious illness, risk of flu or COVID infection due to being out in public, or inability to walk due to advanced age. This is a legitimate reason to remain at home. However, that would mean that you don't go out anywhere in public except for visits to the doctor. I feel bad having to repeat this challenging message so often, but the priests and Bishop of the Diocese (and really throughout the country/world) have often expressed their concern over this continued particular effect of the COVID pandemic. I believe the Lord would have me remind you that His sacramental gifts are necessary for salvation and would want me to encourage you as often as I can to receive them with gratitude and joy.

I hope that those of you who are with us in church for this celebration of the Lord's birth will forgive my rather joyless message at the beginning of this column and will allow me now to welcome you here today. Whether you are a faithful parishioner, a visitor from another parish or even a person who has not been here for some time, I welcome you warmly and with joy today! I also want to remind you too that God's great love is a gift that we do not deserve, but which is seen today in such a powerful way in the birth of his Son. This is not simply a birthday party but a solemn celebration of the Incarnation, the event that no one really could expect or imagine, the decision of God to become one of us, taking on our human nature so that we can have a share in God's divine nature. We can't really comprehend what this means until we are safe in God's kingdom. There are still many people today of other religious backgrounds who believe it is blasphemy to believe that the all-powerful and transcendent God would dare put aside his eternal glory in order to descend into the sinful reality of human life. How easy it is for us to take this for granted every year on this day. It should continue to shake us to our core, to astound and surprise us, to leave us in disbelief...God has become one of us! Despite the continued indulgence in sin and evil, God continues to love us now as much as he did when he was born into the sinful world of the 1st century. Yet we will only know the joy of this love if we accept God into our lives through faith. God respects our free will and so will not force us to love Him. We can reject him and live in the terrible sadness that comes as a result of our selfishness. It should be so obvious to us that a world that rejects God and faith is a world that is sinking into depression and despair. So thank you for being here today. I hope you are here next Sunday, as well, as we begin a new year. Let God into your life and you will know the peace God wants you to have.

Fr. James Delmonico

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 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 January 4, 2023, February 1, 2023 and March 1, 2023.**

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.**

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.

ST. LEO THE GREAT—CLEVELAND, OHIO

If interested, cut out and complete the bottom portion of this page and return to the rectory office with your payment of \$30.00. Tickets will also be available in the office to purchase via cash, check or credit card.



ST. LEO THE GREAT



2023

THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

2023

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

JANUARY 1, 2023 — NOVEMBER 10, 2023

<u>WEEKLY DRAWING</u> \$ 100.00		<u>SPECIAL DRAWINGS</u> \$ 200.00	
JANUARY	2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD & 30TH	NEW YEAR'S DAY	JANUARY 1ST
FEBRUARY	6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH	EASTER SUNDAY	APRIL 9TH
MARCH	6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH	MOTHER'S DAY	MAY 14TH
APRIL	3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 24TH	FATHER'S DAY	JUNE 18TH
MAY	1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 29TH	INDEPENDENCE DAY	JULY 4TH
JUNE	5TH, 12TH, 19TH & 26TH	<u>SUPER DRAWING</u> \$ 1,000.00 NOVEMBER 10, 2023 FEAST DAY OF ST. LEO THE GREAT	
JULY	3RD, 10TH, 17TH, 24TH & 31ST		
AUGUST	7TH, 14TH, 21ST, & 28TH		
SEPTEMBER	4TH, 11TH, 18TH, & 25TH		
OCTOBER	2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD & 30TH		
NOVEMBER	6TH		



2023

THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

2023

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

December 25, 2022— THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

UNITY CATHOLIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION has a program called “The Giving Back Car Loan”. Each time one of their members finances a car, they ask what parish or school they would like them to donate \$50.00 to.



Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union was originally chartered as St. Charles Borromeo Parish Federal Credit Union. Established in 1942 to serve parishioners and families of that one parish, the credit union has grown to serve more than 10,000 members from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. In 2007, they became “Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union,” a name which reflects a respect for their roots and a pride that their credit union continues to grow and flourish.

Throughout the years, the credit union has provided first-rate, affordable financial services to its members. Because they’re a not-for-profit organization that is owned, controlled and operated by the very members they serve, Unity Catholic FCU can offer higher savings rates, lower loan rates, and more free or discounted services than traditional savings institutions. Helping you achieve financial security is their goal.

WHO CAN JOIN UNITY CATHOLIC FEDERAL CATHOLIC UNION?

Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union is open to all parishioners, students and employees of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and Eparchy of Parma. You only need to meet any one of the criteria identified below. You are eligible to become a member of the credit union. If you are:

- A family member of an existing Unity Catholic member
- A member of a church parish of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland or Eparchy of Parma
- A student in any school or university of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland or Eparchy of Parma
- An employee of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland or Eparchy of Parma

PARISH SUPPORT

December 4, 2022

	Sunday Envelope	\$	7,040.00
	WeShare	\$	2,385.00
	Total	\$	9,425.00
	Cap. Improv	\$	795.00
	WeShare	\$	75.00
	Total	\$	870.00
	SVDP	\$	100.00
	WeShare	\$	120.00
	Total	\$	220.00

**Thank you for
your continued
generosity.**



For more information and to become a member you can visit their website at unitycatholiccu.org or contact them at 440-886-2558 to schedule an appointment—you’ll need to bring a picture I.D., social security card and your initial deposit of \$5.00 to your convenient credit union branch office location.

5839 Ridge Road
Parma, OH 44129

