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CHURCH OF ST. LEO THE GREAT

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mk 13:33



ADVENT WITH MARY: THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Beginning Monday, December 4th at 10:00a.m. we will be reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Join us for each of the Mondays during Advent (December 4th, 11th, and 18th) in the Chapel as we pray, meditate and share. Please bring your Rosaries.

ROSARY

December 7, 2023 @ 7:00p.m.

Please join us in honoring Mary by praying the rosary in the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th. Please enter through the doors closest to the rectory. If you are unfamiliar with praying the rosary, we will provide you with everything you need.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8, 2023

December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. The title "the Immaculate Conception" was bestowed upon the Blessed Virgin Mary because of the Church's belief that Mary was conceived without original sin since she was destined to be the Mother of God. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is also the patron saint of the United States. The Mass schedule for this holy day of obligation is 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8th.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Let your heart and your means dictate what you share. Your contribution during this Christmas Season will enable your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization to deliver your message of good cheer to our needy neighbors. The poor boxes can be seen as the "bread Boxes" of the poor. You can also put your donation in an envelope marked "SVDP Christmas" and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory office. Please be as generous as you are able. The need is great. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 16, 2023 @ 5:00pm

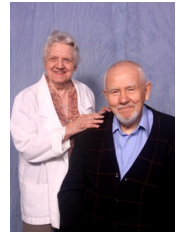
Sing your heart out for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Join us as we go caroling up and down nearby Old Brooklyn side streets, filling the quiet winter air with our songs of

JOY. We will meet in the Parish Center following the 4:00pm vigil Mass. Soups will be shared—as well as cookies, coffee, cocoa and other refreshments. Sign up online, in the back of the church after weekend Masses, or over at the Rectory Office.



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

Are you a former student of St. Leo School?
Is your child a former student of St. Leo School?
Please, let us know by completing a form on the parish website leothegreat.org. Under "Organizations" tab select *Alumni Association*. We hope to hear from you!



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.

Book: *Wisdom of the Saints* | In celebration of the 75th, books regarding the saints are at the doors of the church.

St. Leo Prayer Card | In honor of his Feast Day, a prayer card with the 75th Anniversary Prayer are available on at the doors of the church.

Rosary | Thursday, December 8th at 7:00pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception | Friday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses will be at 8:30am & 7:00pm

MEMORIES

Advent Fair was a way to prepare for both the Advent and Christmas seasons. While it was geared for children, there were aspects for adults as well. Lux Hall was divided into different areas -- an area where a teacher read stories to children, an area where the children decorated star, tree, or wreath cookies with frosting and sprinkles, an area where the children could make a craft to take home, and an area with books, ornaments, Advent wreaths, Christmas cards and other items for sale. Everyone could sit down and enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate while snacking on a donut.

Share *YOUR* memories with us! Submit them to nzola@leothegreat.org or write it down on a piece of paper and turn it in to the Rectory Office.

We also welcome PHOTOS throughout the year of the people and events taking place. Please, send *YOURS* to photos@leothegreat.org.

ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO



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 Soflkanacs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublav, 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 Bublav, John O'Malley, Jesse Kazimer, William Wollard, Claudia 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 Przylski, Kristi Burkhart, Maria Giangrande, Amanda Pacanavsky, and Leslie Hahn.



Katie Krantz
*Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed
Sacrament, Postulant*

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 3rd—December 16th

+Bill LaGodney Sr.

With Love Always,
Mary, Bill & Family

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4th—Advent Weekday

8:30am +Peter Reindfleisch (Roseann Cifani)

Tuesday, December 5th—Advent Weekday

8:30am +Theresa Kowal & +Robert Kostura (Kowal & Kostura Families)

Wednesday, December 6th—Advent Weekday

8:30am +Elaine Dudor (Dave Dudor)

Friday, December 8th—Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am +Jacqueline Nagy (Eva Bunosky)

7:00pm Celebrant's Choice

Saturday, December 9th—Advent Weekday

4:00pm The Deceased Members of the Siekaniec Family (Carol Siekaniec)

Sunday, December 10th — Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am People of the Parish

11:00am +William LaGodney Sr. (Mary, Bill, & Family)

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).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:1, 2-7

The Israelites had just returned from exile and were suffering economic hardship and persecution. The prophet expresses their expectation that God will intervene in human history in a dramatic way to help them. At the end of this reading, we will hear a familiar image.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In the letter-writing style popular in Paul's day, writers would begin by extending greetings and then thank the gods for the blessing they themselves had received. But Paul begins his first letter to the Corinthians by thanking God for the blessings his converts in Corinth have received. (It may help to know that the phrase "day of the Lord" refers to Jesus coming again in glory.)

SUNDAY Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

MONDAY Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

TUESDAY Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

SATURDAY Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

WELCOME! Have you moved into the area recently or joined us for Mass and would like to register with our Parish family? Please stop by the rectory office or give us a call at 216-661-1006. You can visit our website leothegreat.org for more information. We look so forward to meeting you!

!!!UPDATE!!! 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 gifts are still needed. 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 7. 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.

SHARING YOUR CHRISTMAS LOVE



St. Leo's Adopt -A-Child Program is an ideal way to share your Christmas joy and love with others who are less fortunate. This year more than ever we need to help each other.

Who are we helping?

Recipients of your Christmas gifts include families from our own parish community, children from St. Aloysius School, and Zelig's Home (formerly Maggie's Place).

How can I participate?

To participate, you would purchase and wrap a \$15-\$20 gift for a needy child. To obtain the names of these children, please call Jeanne Sabol at 216-351-6247 or Judi Westerburg at 216-642-0134. You can also complete and submit the form on our parish website, or sign up after Masses in church during the weekend of November 18-19.

When is drop-off?

Gifts are to be wrapped, tagged and dropped off at the Parish Rectory or the church at Mass times. Rectory hours are: Mon-Fri, 9 am-4 pm; Sat, noon-5 pm; Sun, 9 am-noon. If purchasing gift cards, please take them to the rectory. All gifts are due by Thursday, Dec. 7.

Can I give money or gift cards?

Monetary donations or gift cards may be left at/sent to the Rectory. Please mark all contributions "Adopt-A-Child" and make checks payable to St. Leo the Great and write Adopt-A-Child on the memo line.

Once again, please take the time and opportunity to help others this Christmas season. Thank you and may God bless you.

FCSLALife (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association) Jr. Branch 014 is a sponsor of Adopt-A-Child this year and will donate up to \$600 in matching funds!



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

as we forgive those...

*"To forgive is to set a prisoner free
and discover that prisoner was you."*

—Lewis B. Smedes

If you're looking for something a little extra to do this Advent to prepare your heart for Christ, there is a 4-week series available on reallifecatholic.com called *FORGIVE* that you can follow. This program includes video lessons and guidelines that offer opportunity for group discussion, if you'd like to complete these free sessions with a few friends or family members, but this can easily be turned into an individual study.

Visit reallifecatholic.com/forgive to get started. (Please note: This program was released in 2022, so pay no attention to the dates of each Sunday in Advent, as they will obviously be slightly different this year. Just follow the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent 2023.)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

I was sad to have missed the Mass of Christian Burial for Barbara Pavlick while I was away at the Good News Conference in Florida, but I was able to see her at Holy Family Hospice before I left, while one of her sons and her husband was there. Barb's funeral was celebrated on November 17th and Deacon Pat preached while Fr. Jim Roach (from St. John Cantius) presided at the Mass. Barb and her husband Alex, both very faithful Catholics, joined us for our trip to Italy this past March, and I'm glad that they were able to do so before Barb passed away. Barb was a gentle and humble soul and I trust she is now enjoying the eternal peace that comes not only from the absence of sickness but from the presence of our loving God. We extend our sympathy to her husband Alex and to their sons Joe & Jermaine. May she rest in peace.

While away at the evangelization conference in Orlando, I was able to meet Bishop Barron in person & thank him for his great work as he signed one of his books for me, "Pivotal Players." In the book, he lists 12 people who have had a pivotal role in the evangelization of the world. So I asked him to write "#13" in the book for me as I consider him to be one of the great pivotal players of evangelization today. He did so, though I'm not sure he understood why. I enjoyed his talks and the Mass he celebrated for the hundreds of people who were in attendance. I also enjoyed the conversation that took place between the bishop, Dr. Jordan Peterson & Fr. Mike Schmitz on stage. I bought even more books while there, knowing that I have so many unread books here at home. But I love to read and to learn more about how others are proclaiming the gospel today in a world that is so often devoid of faith and understanding.

You will be reading this after we have all celebrated Thanksgiving with good food, family and friends, but I do hope you all enjoyed the holiday. This time of year always calls for some traditional ravioli and soup noodle making, so my sister & I plan on doing that the day before Thanksgiving. With my dad & Mildred now gone, and the sister who usually hosts the Thanksgiving Dinner is away this year, that leaves my sister Judy & I to fend for ourselves. We plan on eating at a local restaurant for our holiday meal and we are nonetheless grateful for the opportunity to do so. But life certainly changes as we get older and our immediate families shrink and our friends of many years pass away. In fact I am waiting to hear about the imminent passing of a dear friend from St. Ladislaus where I was pastor. I celebrated her husband's funeral just a few months ago in June, and so I gave the anointing, Viaticum (one's last Holy Communion) and last rites to his wife over the last few days. I have been involved in so many of their family events such as the baptism of their grandchildren, then their graduation from high school, and so on. It is at this time of year when the Church reminds us of "the last things" so that by keeping death always on our minds, we may do well to live this short life as best we can with the help of God's grace. This weekend we even bring the Church's liturgical year to a close with the celebration of the feast of Christ the King. With the dying of nature around us at this time of year, we trust that the spring of new life will undoubtedly come in a few months.

A reminder that this Friday, December 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holy day of obligation. Mass as usual will be celebrated with our school students at 8:30am and then again at 7pm. Let us remember how God prepared Mary to be the tabernacle of His Son by gracing her with the absence of original sin at her conception by the Holy Spirit. May she be our inspiration as we soon prepare for the celebration of her Son's birth.

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:

December 4th

**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.



Sunday, November 19, 2023

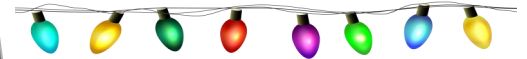
Sun. Envelope	\$	5,230.27
WeShare	\$	2,685.00
Total	\$	7,915.27
Cap. Improv	\$	343.00
WeShare	\$	515.00
Total	\$	858.00
SVDP	\$	50.00
WeShare	\$	125.00
Total	\$	175.00

*Thank you for
you continued
generosity and
support of
St. Leo the
Great Parish !*



CHRISTMAS WAFER | OPLATKI

Available for \$3.00 in the Rectory Office during regular hours or after weekend Masses in the back vestibule of the church.



GET YOUR GIFT CARDS

With the Holidays almost upon us, be sure to stop by the Rectory Office to purchase gift cards for those “stocking stuffers”—a great way to check off your holidays shopping list while supporting the parish and school! Note: Newly added gifts cards include *McDonald's*, *AMC Theatre*, *Meijers*, *Home Goods* and *Sierra* (an extension of T.J. Maxx)



THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

Our 2023 Sweepstakes Raffle is now ended. Tickets are now available in the Rectory Office for the 2024 Sweepstakes Raffle effective January 1, 2024-November 10, 2024. Tickets will again be \$30 each and will be available just in time for the holidays. They make a great Christmas present that offers a chance to win multiple time year round.



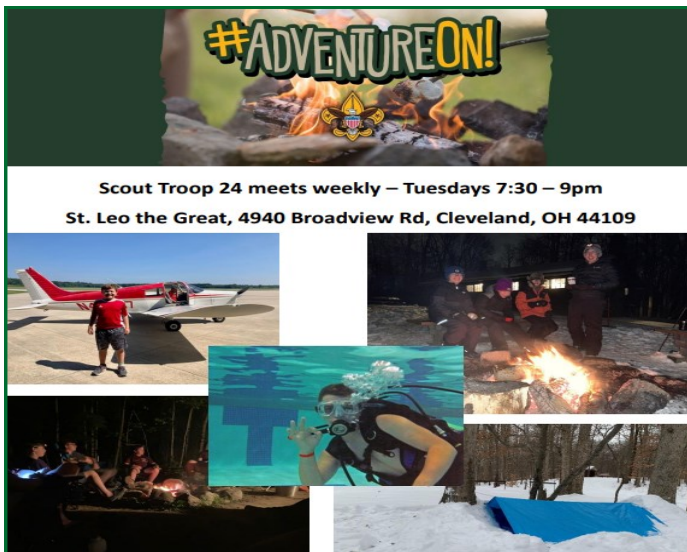
FIRST QUARTER

Brayden Zart



Madison Messer

TRINITY



Scout Troop 24 meets weekly – Tuesdays 7:30 – 9pm

St. Leo the Great, 4940 Broadview Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109

Looking for adventure?!

Come see what **Boy Scouts Troop 24** has to offer!
Leadership! Camping! Backpacking! Campfire Starting!
Ax & Hatchet! Archery! Riflery! Shotgun! Flying
Airplane! SCUBA! Kayaking!
Winter Shelter Building & Camping!

Who: 6th-12th graders

Where: St. Leo's Parish Community Center

When: Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm

Contact: Mike Robinson 216-409-3733 or Email Troop 24 at scout-troop-24@googlegroups.com

REFLECTIONS —EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP “In the Unexpected”

By: Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

“What could happen next?” How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don’t seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, “God with us.” He is the expected in all things unexpected.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC
"Memento Mori"

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: "When we lose you" she kept saying, instead of "When you die."

It's very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

"You can't do all your homework at the end," a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. "Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us."

I think of that a lot when I don't particularly feel like praying, when I think I'm too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to church. All our good deeds are like polluted rags, says the prophet. We have all withered like leaves.

You can't do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?

"May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

— Mark 13:36

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Ladies, all ages, no matter where you are in your faith journey, please, join us next month on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:15p.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.

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

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Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan

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Joann Deranek, DRE

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Dan Trainer, Athletic Director

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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

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



leothegreat.org/flocknote



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Twitter @leothegreatorg

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday-Friday

8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.