

# Father James P. Schmitz

Pastor 4940 Broadview Road Cleveland, Ohio 44109



December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

# 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 Nina Capone, Office Manager ncapone@leothegreat.org Mickey Stitt, Music Director mstitt@leothegreat.org Mary Piechowski, Associate Musician mpiechowski@leothegreat.org Miss Nadia, Parish Center Coordinator missnadia@leothegreat.org Judy Strodtbeck, Facilities Manager jstrodtbeck@leothegreat.org

# **RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday—Friday | 9:00am— 3:00pm Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm Sunday | 9:00am—12:30pm

## SCHOOL STAFF: 216.661.2120

Denise Burns, Principal dburns@leothegreat.org Robin Salem, Assistant Principal rsalem@leothegreat.org Eileen Breitmeyer, School Secretary ebreitmeyer@leothegreat.org Joann Deranek, Director of Religious Education jderanek@leothegreat.org

# **SCHOOL HOURS:**

Monday—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

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

8:30am and 7:00pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual confessions can be heard Saturdays from 3:00pm-3:30pm, Sundays from 10:00a-10:30a and after the 11:00am Mass, 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.

If you or a family member are ill or homebound please let us know so that our priest or deacon can visit with the sacraments and provide spiritual care. Please call the rectory office and give the contact information (name, address, phone number). We do our very best and are always willing to come to you.



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Read the latest bulletin, Pastor's blog and find other useful information on your mobile device by downloading the app.

Twitter @leothegreatorg

Facebook—leothegreatorg

# December 4, 2022 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Nícholas M Eaton & Kathleen E Basalla



## SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Let your heart and your means dictate what your share. Your contribution 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 Bones" 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. Please be as generous as you are able. The need is great. Thank you.



## **SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY**

This weekend, after each Mass, a sign-up will be available for our Christmas Caroling activity on Saturday, December 17 at 5 pm at the Parish Center. You can also sign up on-line through the St. Leo tacting Pat Dolezal by phone

website or by contacting Pat Dolezal by phone (330.933.4992) or email (jgpadolezal@yahoo.com).

# **St. Leo Senior Group**

Reminder to our members that our Christmas card exchange box will be in the vestibule of the church on the weekends of December 3rd & 4th as well as December 10th & 11th.

Please drop your cards in the exchange box so that we can pre-sort and arrange the cards for distribution at the Senior Christmas Party on Wednesday December 14th. Please put your cards in alphabetical order.





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 — <u>leothegreat.org</u> — under *Organizations - Alumni Association*. We hope to hear from you!

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

Thursday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception -- a holy day of obligation. The Mass schedule for this holy day of obligation is 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 8th.

We welcome photos throughout the year of the people and events taking place. Please forward your photos to : photos@leothegreat.org





At the same time that the current church was being built and Lux Hall was reconstructed at the north end of the school, the five classrooms forming the west wing of the school were built. The current cafeteria was

formed out of several classrooms, a library, and a storage area. The school kitchen was added between the cafeteria and Lux Hall.

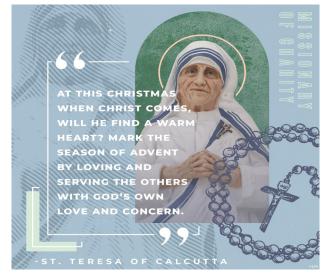


Bloodmobile will be at St. Leos Lux Hall on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30a-12:00p. Please consider donating due to the critical need for blood. Schedule

your appointment at redcrossblood.org.

Walk-ins *will be accepted*; however, those who have a scheduled appointment will be taken first. Therefore, there may be some wait depending on when you walk in. Thank you for your support. God Bless and stay healthy.

# ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO



**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, Sally Herman, Gary Skelley, Virgina Soflkancs, Evelyn Bastian, Mary Lou Neuendorf, Joseph Bublavy, Kristen Eble, Ana 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, Judy Kucia, Lena Sunyak, Chuck Pacanovsky, Theresa Truxall, Susan Fenski, Glen Balog, Antoinette Jakosh, Rose Arlia, Liz Woisnet, MaryKay Simonek, Betty Popow, R.Rosario, Margarita Quinones, Allen Phillips, and Ruth Bublavy

#### William Wainio Diocese of Youngstown III 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 4th — December 18th

Elizabeth & Joseph Hirko



## MASS INTENTIONS

# Monday, December 5th—Advent Weekday

8:30am +Theresa Kowal (Maria Romano)

**Tuesday, December 6th—St. Nicholas, Bishop** 8:30am +Elaine Dudor (Family)

Wednesday, December 7th—St. Ambrose, Bishop and Dr.

of the Church

8:30am +Francis Szymanski (Daniel Szymanski) **Thursday, December 8th—Feast of Immaculate Conception** 8:30am +Rocco A. Capone (Family) 7:00pm Lena, Mac and Charlie (Aunt MaryAnn)

Saturday, December 10th — Advent Weekday

4:00pm +William LaGodney Sr. (Mary LaGodney, Bill Jr.

& Family)

Sunday, December 11th — Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Deceased members of Raymond & Elizabeth McDermott's Family (Colleen Dankle)

*Per Bishop Malesic, Communion Services should not be scheduled at the		
Services should not be scheduled at the	St. Charles	7:00a
parish when the priest is away. The	St. Barbara	7:30a
parish when the priest is away. The faithful should participate in the weekday Mass at the closest	St. Francis de Sales	8:45a
neighboring parish.	Mary Queen of Peace	8:00a

# **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

The prophet Isaiah lived 750 years before Christ. Despite the political unrest he looked forward to a kingdom so wonderful that even nature is at peace. This perfect world would be ruled by a descendent of king David. (As you listen to this reading, it helps to know that "Jesse" is the name of David's father.

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-9

In the early days of the Church, some Jewish converts to Christianity continued to practice their Jewish traditions. Many of them were members of the Church in Rome, along with others who were Gentiles. They sometimes found it difficult to get along. As Paul nears the end of his letter to them, he encourages them to live in harmony by drawing upon the Scriptures they had in common—what we have called the "Old Testament".

**Sunday** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

MONDAY Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

TUESDAY IS 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

- WEDNESDAY IS 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
- **Thursday** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
  - **FRIDAY** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
- **SATURDAY** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

## ST. LEO THE GREAT - CLEVELAND, OHIO



# **ENCOURAGE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

DECEMBER 4, 2022 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw

them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her.

# SEEING GOD IN OUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

## "How Much Is Enough?"

I've got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn't care what name you bear. He doesn't care where you were born, and he doesn't care what your family tree looks like. He doesn't care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I've also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It's so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That's enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That's enough.

I'm on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That's enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



# 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

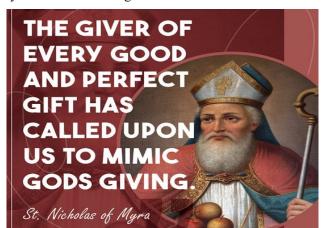
Westerburg at 216-642-0134 or visit the parish website!

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 8. 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!



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



### Dear Parishioners,

I want to express the sympathy of the entire parish community to Richard & Mary Riccardi on the death of their son Russell, and to assure them, and their other son Rocco, of our prayers for Russell and for them during this difficult time. Russell graduated from our parish school and went on to graduate from St. Ignatius High School and then from the University of Toledo. He was gifted as a chemical engineer and enjoyed the esteem and friendship of his fellow workers. He spent time with his family & friends, especially enjoying the game of golf every Saturday. He watched Mass via livestream & also enjoyed reading daily meditations and had a devotion to St. Francis of Assisi, notably who loved animals as Russell himself did. Russell was also a gifted painter and I really admired some of his works which were displayed at the funeral home. We commended him to the love of God as we celebrated his funeral Mass on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. May he rest in God's peace until his family and loved ones enjoy his company again in the kingdom of heaven.

Congratulations to the parents of Carver Davis who is being baptized this Sunday after the 11am Mass. May they raise him in the knowledge of God's love and in the practice of the faith.

Congratulations, as well, go out to our Business Manager, Brenda Basalla and to her husband George as they proudly attend the marriage of their daughter Kathleen to her husband Nicholas Eaton this weekend. I am especially honored and grateful to witness Katie's marriage as she worked here at St. Leo's and I have enjoyed many family events with her parents and relatives. May Katie & Nick enjoy a long, happy & fruitful marriage.

This Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our country. This is an acknowledgement and celebration of God's gift to Mary in that she was conceived without sin and chose by the gift of free will to remain sinless throughout the course of her life. Mary is of course a central figure throughout the year but especially during this Advent Time as we reflect on her role in the God's plan of salvation. So please remember to join us for the celebration of Mass (this is a holy day of obligation) either at 8:30am, along with our parish school children, or at 7pm.

After a long run here at St. Leo's, today will be the last day for regular Blood Drives through the Red Cross. Unfortunately, we simply do not have enough people coming to donate blood to justify the number of workers who must be present during these drives. But I want to offer thanks to all those who have given blood in the past, and especially express my gratitude to Dan & Kim Roth who have so generously sacrificed their time and efforts to plan, setup and promote these blood drives over many years. I think of the many lives that were either saved or helped because of their goodness and because of those who willingly offered their blood for others. May God reward them and all of you who have imitated Christ whose Blood has saved us.

I'm happy to report that we have 48 people attending the trip to Italy in March of 2023! The only downside is that we have reached the limit for this trip; but, if you are still interested, I encourage you to submit your registration form so that you can be put on a waiting list in case someone is unable to go. We will not send in the form or cash any check until that availability becomes a reality.

Jr. 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 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 December 7, 2022, and January 4, 2023 and February 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.



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@leothgreat.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



# 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, Zelie's Home (formerly Maggie's Place) and Catholic Charities Refugee Families.

## 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 19-20.

### 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-3pm; Sat, noon-5 pm; Sun, 9 am-12:30 pm. If purchasing gift cards, please take them to the rectory. All gifts are due by Thursday, Dec. 8.

## CAN I GIVE MONEY OR GIFT CARDS?

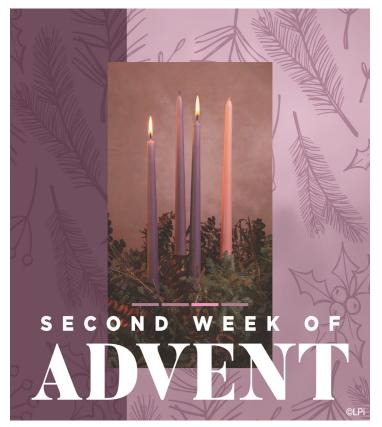
Monetary donations or gift cards may be dropped in the boxes by the church doors or left at/sent to the Rectory. Please mark all contributions "Adopt-A-Child" and make checks payable to

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!



# **HELP THE HOMELESS**

Malachi Center at W. 25th St. and Detroit Ave. provides many services to help homeless men and women throughout the year. This Christmas season, the Center is distributing reusable plastic and/or canvas grocery bags to help our less fortunate friends.

The bags will be filled with personal items such as heavy socks, hats, gloves, scarves, soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, lotion, snacks, hand and foot warmers, extra large and larger sweatshirts, and many other similar items.

If you would like to donate bags and/or other items, please bring your donation to the rectory by November 27, 2022. Items should be tagged "Help the Homeless".

Your overwhelming generosity last year to this cause was heartwarming. Let's do it again this year. Thank you so much.

Questions? Call Jeanne Sabol at 216-351-6247



Thursday, 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 December 8th.

# December 4, 2022— SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



With the Holidays upon us, be sure to stop by the rectory to purchase gift cards a great way to check off your holidays shopping list while supporting the parish.

- Amazon
- Applebee's
- Arby's
- Bakers Square
- Bath & Body Works
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- Best Buy
- Bob Evans
- ♦ BP
- Burger King
- Carrabba's/Outback
- Chilies/Macaroni Grill
- Chipotle
- Cinemark
- Cracker Barrel
- CVS pharmacy
- Dairy Queen
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Dunkin Donuts
- GFS Giant Eagle
- Home Depot
- ♦ IHOP
- ♦ iTunes
- ♦ Joann Fabric
- ♦ Lowe's
- Macy's
- Marathon
- Marcs

- Marshalls/TJ Maxx
- Michael's Craft Center
- Mr. Hero
- OfficeMax
- ♦ Old Navy/Gap
- Olive Garden/Longhorn
- Oriental <u>trading.com</u>
- Panera Bread
- Papa John's
- Ruby Tuesdays
- Sheetz
- Sheetz
- Speedway
- Starbucks
- Steak 'n Shake
- Subway
- Subway
- Taco Bell
- Target
- Texas Roadhouse
- TGIF Friday
- ♦ IGIF Frida
- ♦ Walgreens
- Walmart/Sam's Club
- Wendy's



In Memory of Russell Riccardi June 25, 1987 November 14, 2022

Interment Holy Cross Cemetery

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.

Yurch Funeral Home