



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

Winter 2017

News & Views



Mary Perry, a teacher at St. Leo School and PSR director, is also a satisfied customer at the 2017 St. Leo Festival.

Festival 2017: Thumbs up

They came and they ate ... and ate ... and ate.

This year's Festival was an overwhelming success, benefiting from the weather, which cooperated with clear skies and warm temperatures. The kitchen staff never got a break, serving food nonstop each night. The corned beef and Reuben sandwiches Friday night were hot sellers,

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Now in its 45th year

Adopt-a-Child— How you can help

The St. Leo Adopt-a-Child program enters its 45th year this year, one of the longest running outreach programs in parish history. And it's not unusual that the program will be increasing its outreach and attracting new supporters as it hits the big four five.

Under the program, parishioners are asked to sign up to purchase a gift of about \$15 for a needy child. Children who benefit from the program include families at St. Leo Parish, St. Aloysius School, Malachi Center, Maggie's Place and Catholic Charities Refugee families.

The 2017 season of Adopt-a-Child began the weekend of November 11/12 and ends when gifts are collected December 9 and delivered December 10.

"In past years, the program benefited children 12 and under," said Jeanne Sabol, program director for the past 44 years, "but this year we have been asked to also buy gifts for older children up to the eighth-grade level at St. Aloysius School. These are young people who may be home alone after Christmas. They may come from single parent households, where the mother or the father cannot be home during the day. It's been suggested that St. Leo parishioners purchase snack food or gift cards for specific fast-food

restaurants in the St. Aloysius area for these older children."

Also new this year is a pledge of matching funds for these families from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Junior Branch 014. The FCSLA will match up to \$600 in contributions from St. Leo parishioners. Checks payable to St. Leo Parish or cash can be placed in an envelope marked "Adopt-a-Child" and placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the rectory.

To sign up for Adopt-a-Child, call Jeanne Sabol at 216 351 6247 or Judi Westerburg at 216 642 0134. They will give you the name and age of a child so you can buy an appropriate gift. Or you can sign up after all Masses on Nov. 18/19 and 25/26.

If you purchase a gift, please wrap it, tag it and bring it to the Parish Community Center on Saturday, December 9 from 4–7 p.m. Please note there is no Sunday drop-off. If you cannot drop off gifts at these times, the gifts may be left at the rectory before the drop-off weekend.

If you have questions, would like a child's name, or would like to help deliver gifts, please call Jeanne at 216 351 6247 or Judi at 216 642 0134.

Thumbs up for St. Leo's 2017 Festival

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along with delicious pork dinners with homemade dumplings Saturday night.

Preschool Director Jennifer Robinson served as new coordinator of the kiddie games. "We were very busy, and that's what you want. After all the work that goes into it, you want to be busy."

Besides trying their hand at games, the younger crowd made crafts to take home. Parish students shared their talents with the youngsters by making balloon animals and doing some creative face painting.

The Amazing Superstars played classic rock tunes Friday night. If you weren't looking, you would have thought that the original artists were playing their songs. Backtrax, the featured band Saturday night, played everyone's favorite oldies before revving up the crowd for the grand prize drawing.

Grand prize winner was Calista Bajorek, with Joe Soflkancs wining second prize and Yolanda Berris winning third.

They weren't the only winners. The value of the beautiful gift baskets ranged from \$80 to \$450. One of the most popular "baskets" was the Cleveland-themed corn hole game with additional Cleveland accessories.

After sampling all the food and concessions, listening to the bands, and playing all the games, everyone went home a winner.

The fish returns to St. Leo in 2018

Lent begins February 14, 2018, and the traditional St. Leo fish dinners will begin February 16 and continue through March 23 (no dinners on Good Friday).

Watch the Sunday Bulletin or our next newsletter for details about menus and prices, and keep those Fridays open for fish dinners.



Prayers for parish pets

On Saturday, October 7, the St. Leo community celebrated the annual Blessing of the Animals. The blessing takes place close to October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, who had a love for all creatures. Fr. Jim Schmitz presided over the blessing, but it's not known whether his dog and cat Michaela and Abby benefitted from the service.

Lecture series available on CD

By Chris Rath

From September 19–October 23 St. Leo parishioners attended a series of lectures via CD given by Lavinia Theodoli Spirito, founding team teaching member of the Catholic Way Bible Study. These lectures are now available for individuals or groups at the St. Leo Rectory.

The mission of the Catholic Way Bible Study (CWBS)—evangelism, catechesis, formation, and discipleship—is formulated to reach, teach, support, and encourage all Catholics to live out their baptismal calling to build the church in today's world.

Lecture topics chosen for the six-week series included Why Study Scripture, Overview of Scripture, Angels, History of the Catholic Church, Saints Among Us and Purgatory. Because of the length of its content, Saints Among Us has been deferred until Lent, so watch the Sunday Bulletin for its availability.

Attendees at the talks reacted positively; although listening without visuals can be a challenge. Future topics will be available on various books of the Bible, which are presented as video lectures and come with discussion guides.

Lavinia grew up in Rome, Italy, and earned a BA in anthropology and Spanish from the University of Michigan, a JD from the University of Kentucky College of Law and a masters in theology from the Augustine Institute in Denver.

St. Leo News & Views

The St. Leo News & Views is published three times a year. Articles and article ideas are always welcome.

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Sprucing up continues at St. Leo's

By Alex Pavlick

The last issue of *News & Views* listed many of the repairs and updates that have been needed at St. Leo's church and rectory buildings. But not all at St. Leo's is shopworn and breaking down.

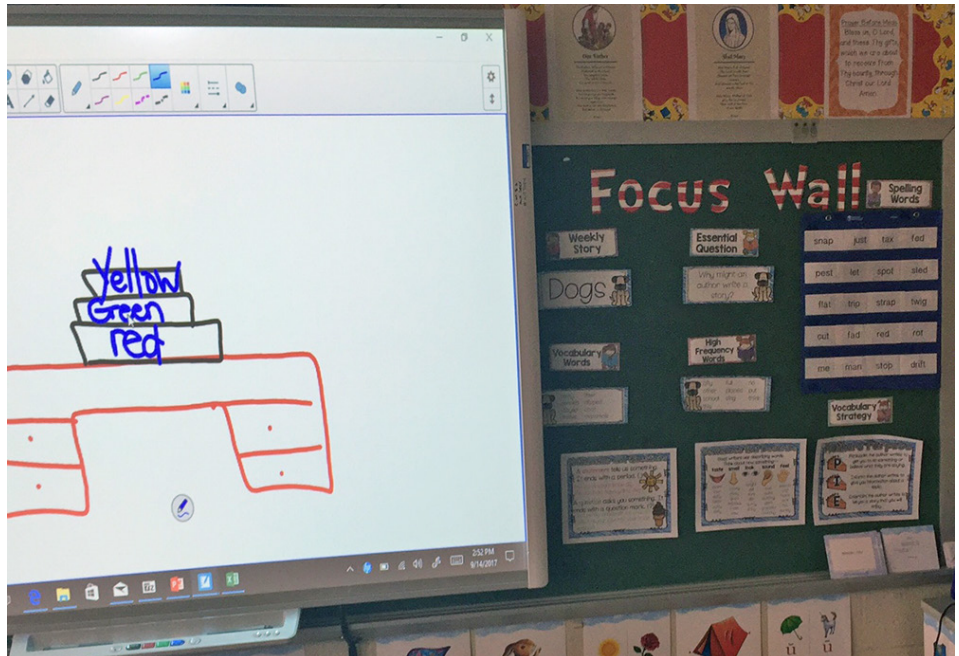
As Fr. Jim Schmitz, the custodial staff and outside contractors labor to make repairs, many parish facilities are being updated.

The Marian shrine behind the Parish Center now has new benches, with flip top backs that can be used as tables. Fr. Schmitz is hoping to somehow address the need for better landscaping in that area.

Inside Lux Hall, thanks in large part to donations from St. Leo's Athletic Department, a new scoreboard and LED lights have been added.

St. Leo's is a much brighter place at a lower price thanks to the change to LED lights, which have reduced power consumption by almost 90 percent.

Outside the Parish Center, a new fence and toys have been added for preschoolers.



New to St. Leo School are smart boards in each classroom, thanks to former principal Sr Erin Zubal, OSU. Cleveland City Schools allocated funds for the boards based on the number of pupils at St. Leo's.

New smartboards at St. Leo School blend the concept of the chalkboard with contemporary technology and feature sounds, photos, and Internet access controlled by teachers. Pupils love smart boards and they learn quickly that learning can be fun.

And even though St. Leo School provides a warm learning environment, it's even a little warmer since the school boiler has been inspected and repaired.

"As homeowners know," said Fr. Schmitz, "the need for repairs and updates never

seems to end. This is even more true of large buildings and a large property like we have here at St. Leo's which need to be constantly repaired, updated and maintained.

"Outside of landscaping, I have no plans for any further improvements on our campus since we would like to save money to recoup what we needed to spend on the HVAC system in the church and school buildings this year. In seeking to repair the cracked arches on the church building, we also discovered that the church roof needs repairs, and eventually replacement."

Fr. Schmitz added that roofs on the school/Lux Hall and on the Parish Center also need mending, and the current goal is to continue with these important fixes. "All the buildings have been updated in the last four years, so once we have completed the necessary repairs, I will be focused on keeping everything working properly and safely.

"Our goal in the next few years will be to save and regain what we needed to spend from our Capital Improvement Fund. Donations that have been made and continue to be made to this fund help us greatly, and we are grateful for the continued financial support of the parish."



Fr. Schmitz's goal of making use of all parish space has resulted in updating the Parish Center, which is rented out for events. "We've painted walls and added new flooring and lighting," said Fr. Schmitz. "Part of our interest in updating the Parish Center is because the Diocese often rents out that space since we are centrally located." Besides these improvements the conference table in the large meeting room has been sanded and refinished.



Catholic Diocese
St. Leo the Great Parish
 4940 Broadview Road
 Cleveland OH 44109
 216/661-1006

Rev. James P. Schmitz, Pastor
 Rev. James Vesely, in Residence

Mass Schedule

Sundays—4 p.m. (Saturday Vigil)
 8 and 11 a.m.

Weekdays—Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.
 Friday 8:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation—8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
**For Christmas Mass schedule, please see
 calendar below**

Stewardship Church

My church is composed of people like me.
 I help make it what it is

It will be friendly if I am.
 It will be holy if I am.

Its pews will be filled if I help fill them.
 It will do great work, if I work.
 It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,
 if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into its worship,
 if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love,
 of fearlessness and faith,
 of compassion, charity and mercy,
 If I, who make it what it is, am filled with
 these same things.

Therefore with the help of God,
 I now dedicate myself to the task of being
 all these things that I want my church to be.

*Adapted from the stewardship prayer of the
 Diocese of San Diego*

Transform yourself and your faith in the new year

By **Nina Capone**

Each year, as leaves begin to fall and seasons change, another transformation begins to take place in the Catholic Church—RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

I had gone from kindergarten through the 12th grade in Catholic schools, but I was never confirmed, and in the fall of 2015 I looked into the program.

These Faith Formation sessions, announced in the Sunday Bulletin and on the St. Leo website, enabled me to seal my faith. RCIA is designed for those who wish to become Catholic. As a baptized Catholic, I attended half the sessions as a renewal of my Catholic education.

“There are many people whose Catholic educations ended after eighth grade and come to me wondering how they can grow in their faith,” said Fr. Jim Schmitz, St. Leo pastor. “These people want to remember all they learned as children but yearn to understand it better as adults. Believing is seeing, but understanding what our faith teaches helps us to preach the Good Word as we are all called to be evangelists.”

However, some Catholics have been away from the church for an extended time and

wish to renew their faith. Or some may be eager to learn more about the gospels and history of the Bible.

In a sense, Fr. Schmitz said, Faith Formation allows everyone to fit under the same umbrella and enjoy the fellowship of other Catholics.

During the sessions Fr. Schmitz offers time to learn from one teacher and from one another while engaging in conversation with fellow parishioners.

Asked to share his greatest hope for life group, Fr. Schmitz replied, “as priests and leaders in the church, it is really difficult sometimes to be able to sum up our hopes and faith in ten minutes on Sundays or in that one hour during these sessions. However, my greatest hope is that we can break down the most important messages and connect learning with experience.”

More details on Faith Formation will be released in coming weeks, but sessions will most likely be twice a month on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Parish Center. Fr. Schmitz calls us all to consider where we are in our relationship with God and welcomes us to accept the invitation to strengthen our faith and fellowship.

Blessed events

November 22—Seniors meeting

November 23—Thanksgiving Mass, 9 a.m.

November 26—Bloodmobile, 8:30–Noon

December 1—Eucharistic Adoration,
 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

December 8—Feast of the Immaculate
 Conception, Masses, 8:30 a.m., 7 p.m.

December 9—Adopt-A-Child drop off, 4–7 p.m.

December 10—Lunch with Santa (advance
 ticket purchase only)

Check bulletin for confession schedule

December 13—Seniors meeting

December 16/17—St. Vincent de Paul food
 collection at all the Masses

December 24—Christmas Eve Masses, 4, 7
 and 10 p.m.

December 25—Christmas Day Mass, 11 a.m.

December 27—Seniors meeting

January 5—Eucharistic Adoration,
 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

January 10—Seniors meeting

January 13/14—St. Vincent de Paul food
 collection, all Masses

January 15—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 24—Seniors meeting

January 28—Donut Sunday

February 2—Eucharistic Adoration, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

February 14—Ash Wednesday