

Parish welcomes 2 at Easter Vigil

By Elizabeth Fleming

Easter Vigil Mass: the lighting of the Paschal candle outside the church ... the procession into the darkened church ... the lighting of individual candles, person to person...the singing of the Exsultet. All of these special things set a solemn and majestic tone for this unique celebration.

The Easter Vigil Mass also marks the memorable occasion when individuals seeking to join the Catholic Church are officially received. They have undergone a faith-formation process of at least several months called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Those enrolled in RCIA who were never baptized are known as catechumens, while those who were previously baptized but desire full initiation through confirmation and Eucharist are known as candidates.

At this year's Easter Vigil, St. Leo will welcome one catechumen and one candidate into the Catholic faith.

Angelique Arroyo, a catechumen, is the mother of two boys, Emmanuel, nine, and Ishmael, seven and a half. The boys have attended St. Leo School since preschool, and were baptized at last year's Easter Vigil. Because Emmanuel was past the age of reason (seven), he also received the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist.

Receiving those sacraments is something Angelique has wanted to do herself for a long time. She attended St. Patrick grade school on Cleveland's west side, and high school at St. Joseph Academy. "I loved them both," she said. "That's why I wanted my sons to go to a Catholic school."

Angelique is looking forward to the Easter Vigil Mass with excitement. She wants her boys to be involved in the church, and is glad she will be able to join them in receiving the Eucharist at Mass.

Michael Jodon is a candidate who attended Blessed Sacrament School on Cleveland's

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St. Leo School Principal Diane Weiss reads to two kindergartners who brought her a Spanish book for Principal Appreciation Day.

Diane Weiss closes 30 years at St. Leo School

By Chris Rath

At the end of the school year in 2015, Diane Weiss will retire as principal of St. Leo the Great School—a position she has held for the last 12 years.

She began teaching sixth graders at St. Leo in 1983, and except for two years teaching fifth grade in Texas, has been here ever since. Mrs. Weiss has also taught kindergarten, first and fifth grades, followed by junior high science classes, where she taught some of the students she formerly had in kindergarten.

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west side from the fifth through eighth grade. There he met another student who would later become his best friend after they worked together at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Now Mike wants to set a good example for his best friend's 10-year-old son, who is Mike's godson.

Additionally, Mike's best friend's daughter is making her first communion this year. "We're on this journey together," he said, "and we like to talk about it."

Angelique and Mike have been meeting with Father Jim Schmitz, pastor of St. Leo's, every Wednesday since early October. They've both found the RCIA sessions extremely valuable.

"I was pleasantly surprised that Father Jim isn't just teaching from the book," Angelique observed. "He goes into the historical background and explains why things are the way they are. He has a nice, fresh perspective on the faith."

Mike has been similarly impressed. "It's been an amazing five months and more fun than I thought it would be. It's not just sitting and reading. Father Jim has a good way of putting things so that people who aren't as knowledgeable can grasp the concepts easily."

Recently, Mike was able to relay information he learned at RCIA to a close

friend from another Christian faith, whose father is a pastor. The friend had asked on a few occasions why Catholics pray the Hail Mary, but Mike never felt informed enough to answer.

Then at one of the RCIA sessions, Father Jim talked about how the first half of the prayer is from the Bible, and that we are honoring Mary and seeking her intercession for us with God. Mike was glad to be able to share the answer with his friend, who accepted it and agreed it made sense.

Along with Angelique and Mike, several parishioners are attending the weekly RCIA sessions.

The group meets in the Great Room of the Parish Center each Wednesday at 7 p.m., with sessions scheduled through April 22. "Anyone who wants to come and learn more about their faith or be part of the team is welcome," Father Jim said.

Still time to sign up for second season of ARISE

Tired of giving up sweets for Lent? Do you want to increase your knowledge of Scripture and understanding of your faith? The second season of ARISE Together in Christ is just for you.

ARISE is a parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization. The first season took place during the fall of 2014,

with 100 participants meeting once a week for six weeks, reading Scripture, sharing thoughts and accepting the invitation to perform simple acts of service based on Scripture readings. The second season, "Change Our Hearts," coincides with the season of Lent, having begun the week of February 15 and finishing before Holy Week.

People who participated in the first session were eager to rejoin their groups. One group came to the first meeting as strangers but soon considered one another family. Some people were impressed that "group members were all pitching in for one another" and realized "how close each person is to Christ in their own way."

Are you looking for a change of heart? It's not too late to make ARISE part of your Lenten journey. Don't worry about "catching up"—each meeting provides a fresh start. In fact, some participants in the first season of ARISE started in mid-season, stayed on, and are now back for the whole second season.

For more information, call Cora DeJelo at 216-749-3959.

St. Leo alums: We're looking for you

With a proud tradition of providing a Catholic education to thousands of young people for almost 65 years, the St. Leo School has begun a program to contact and organize its graduates into an alumni association.

Many St. Leo's graduates have gone on to great success in their lives, and St. Leo Parish Marketing Director Traci Rath-Detwiler conceived the alumni association as an opportunity to show current students that the "sky is the limit" with the education they receive at St. Leo School.

"We are the foundation that prepares them for high school and beyond. We want

to highlight our alumni as proof of this statement and at the same time, recognize them," Traci said.

"I think when we get the ball rolling on this, a grand reunion may be the way to kick it off."

The parish has taken the first steps in tracking down the school's alumni with bulletin announcements and an electronic registration form on the parish website (leothegreat.org/alumni-association/).

If you are a St. Leo alum or if your children are graduates of St. Leo School, you can visit the online registration site or visit the rectory for a form to register for the St. Leo Alumni Association.

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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Diane Weiss closes out career at St. Leo

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Mrs. Weiss speaks with pride about her goal of creating an atmosphere of respect where everyone is kind, gentle, caring and compassionate. She recognizes that it's sometimes difficult when young people get together, so she encourages all the students to love one another and to pray for and help each other. She noted that they try to hold onto "old fashioned values. Learning and thriving in a nice environment, with love of one another and love of oneself—these are the most important."

"Our kids are the greatest, most respectful," Mrs. Weiss said. "We model that (as teachers and staff). In the adult world things like being polite, making eye contact, (are) things that define 'class.' It gives the kids a leg up in a world that is very casual. Children used to be mentored and values reinforced, but that has gone by the wayside," she said. "There's a gap between what's expected (in the working world) and what's reality. Being respectful and

deferential is not there, but we make sure it is here."

The outgoing principal is also very happy that the school population, although it's dropped over the years, is still viable. She noted that there are nine schools within five miles of St. Leo's: two other Catholic schools, a Lutheran school, three public and three charter schools. Vouchers for tuition help a lot, but parents have a lot of choices. Many St. Leo students are not from the neighborhood.

Mrs. Weiss noted several ZIP codes are represented in the student population. But, she added, "It's nice to see the second generation: children I taught in kindergarten are now parents, and their kids are enrolled at St. Leo. Lots of people are coming back to the Church and that's a good thing."

Speaking about St. Leo graduates, she characterized them as successful, including surgeons, lawyers, nurses, Ph.D.s., members of the military and safety forces.

Mrs. Weiss gives a lot of credit for the school's success to the St. Leo faculty. "I'm proud of the teachers, many of whom have been here for a long time. They're very devoted and still enthusiastic, looking for new ways to help kids succeed."

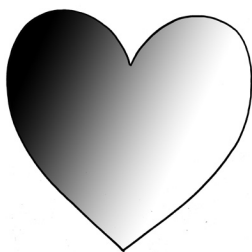
She also gives a great deal of credit to Eileen Breitmeyer, school secretary, and Cindy Funari, who oversees the voucher program and communications with parents.

As for her future, Mrs. Weiss is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren. Her twin sons are grown with families of their own, and she is the sole grandparent for their combined four children, ranging from pre-school to first grade.

Mrs. Weiss envisioned spending much of her retirement time outdoors. "I'd live outside if the climate were better (in Ohio). I think even a tree house would be too confining!" She hopes to volunteer with the Metroparks, perhaps in one of the Nature Centers.

Have-a-Heart—Your donations extend God's love

For more than 10 years, St. Leo Parish has sponsored the Have-a-Heart, Lend-a-Hand program, which allows members of the parish community to extend their love and generosity to the homeless, hungry and others who have no one else to care for them.



Since Ash Wednesday and during Lent, baskets of hearts have been set out at all church entrances. If you have not done so already, please take a heart (or two) and purchase the item requested on it for the organization listed.

Your donations will be gathered and delivered to the respective social service agency or shelter at the beginning of Holy Week (Palm Sunday weekend). You can drop off donations in the school cafeteria on **Saturday**,

March 28, from 3:30–5 p.m. and Sunday, March 29, from 8:30 a.m.–Noon.

The following organizations will be the recipients of your generosity:

- Broadview Multi Care
- Catholic Charities Refugee Families
- Front Steps (formerly Transitional Housing Inc.)
- Malachi House

- Mt. Alverna
- Parma Care Center
- Providence House
- St. Colman Parish
- Southwest Ozanam Food Pantry
- West Side Catholic Center
- Zechariah House/Maggie's Place

If you have any questions about the program, please call Jeanne Sabol at 216/351-6247, and thank you for your generosity.

Get hooked on fish dinners through March 27

Fish dinners are back for 2015 each Friday during Lent from 4:30–7 p.m. in Lux Hall every Friday through March 27 (no dinners on Good Friday). Take out is available in the cafeteria.

Fish selections will be served: baked tilapia almandine, baked cod and battered fried fish. Shrimp and pierogi dinners are also available.

Combo dinners feature three pierogies with

two fried or one baked fish. Each dinner is served with a choice of French fries or baked potato, applesauce or cole slaw, and a roll with butter. Fish, shrimp, or pierogi dinners are \$8. Combo dinners are \$10.

A la carte selections include macaroni and cheese, homemade cabbage and noodles, and cheese pizza. Fish sandwiches and special kids meals are also available.

**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 a.m., 10 a.m. and Noon

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

Holy Days of Obligation—7 p.m. (Vigil)
7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. (school Mass when
in session) and 7 p.m. (please check
Sunday Bulletin for exceptions to this
schedule)

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Blessed events

Fish Dinners—each Friday during Lent
(except Good Friday), 4:30–7 p.m.,
Lux Hall

Stations of the Cross—each Friday
during Lent, 7 p.m.

Have a Heart Lend a Hand—through-
out Lent. Article on page 3. Items
can be dropped off in the school
cafeteria Saturday, March 28, from
3:30–5 p.m. and Sunday, March 29,
from 8:30 a.m.–Noon.

**March 1–3—Parish Mission, Questions
Jesus Asked**, presented by Fr. Bob Cole,
former parochial vicar (associate pas-
tor) at St. Leo's, 7 p.m., church

**March 4—Diocesan-Wide Celebration of
the Sacrament of Penance**, 5–8 p.m.,
all parishes

March 7—Confirmation, 4 p.m. Mass

Palm Sunday—March 28 & 29—Vigil,
March 28, 4 p.m.; Sunday, March 29,
8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon

**March 29—42nd annual Palm Sunday
Pancake Breakfast**, Lux Hall

Three nights of awe—one event

The whole Christian calendar is focused this season on one event taking place over the space of three nights.

The Paschal Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil—focuses on the events surrounding Jesus' institution of the Eucharist, His great act of salvation on the cross and His resurrection from the grave—our hope for deliverance from death.

The best way to get the most out of the Paschal Triduum is to make an effort to attend and participate in all of these liturgies. We hope to see you there.

Confessions—March 30, 10–11 a.m.

March 31, Noon–1 p.m.

April 1, 7–8 p.m.

Holy Thursday—April 2

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.

Good Friday—April 3

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Passion Play, Noon

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's

Passion, 3 p.m.

Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday—April 4

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m.

Food Blessings 10 a.m. and Noon,

Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday—April 5, Masses at 8 a.m.,
10 a.m., Noon

School Spring Break begins Friday April
3. Classes resume Monday, April 13

April 25—Women's Reverse Raffle, 6 p.m.

May 2—First Holy Communion, 4 p.m.
Mass

May 19—School Spring Concert, 7 p.m.

May 25—Memorial Day, Mass at 9 a.m.