



ST. LEO THE GREAT
PARISH & SCHOOL

Summer/Fall 2015

News & Views

Happy new (school) year

Preschool director's childhood venture repeats itself

By Elizabeth Fleming

When Sue Poultney was 12 years old, she and a friend started a summer preschool for children in their neighborhood. From 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, they taught 3-5-year-olds for 50 cents a day.

"At the time I felt a little guilty charging for it, but after having kids of my own, I thought it was a bargain for the moms," she laughed. They continued the preschool for

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Lux Hall transitioned to a new look this past summer thanks largely to a grant from the Sherwin-Williams Company.

St. Leo School dons new look for 2015-16

By John Sabol

For most young people and their parents, the start of a new school year is an almost endless series of shopping trips for supplies, new clothes and all of the other unnamed items needed to effectively outfit the well-equipped student.

When you're the school principal, it's not much different, except the mad rush to prepare for opening day starts sometime in June.

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St. Leo Festival returns Oct. 16 and 17

By Nancy Zola

It's back! After a brief hiatus, the St. Leo the Great Festival will be back. With a bit of "old-days" flavor, the Festival will be held on Friday, October 16, and Saturday, October 17.

"We're trying to get our feet wet again", said one committee member. "We're starting with only two days, and if it's a success, we can grow in the future."

Pork dinners will be featured on Saturday night, as well as favorites such as pierogies, cabbage and noodles, and Italian sausage sandwiches on both days of the festival. You'll be able to snack on Honey Hut ice cream, popcorn, nachos, cotton candy, caramel apples and yes—pickles! And if that isn't enough, top it all off with fresh bakery from our own parishioners.

While you're dining, you can listen to the music of Pat Daley on Friday night, and

the band Driven on Saturday night. Both acts play a variety of music for everyone's listening pleasure.

Games of chance will be available for toddlers, youngsters, teens and adults. The casino will feature card games, money wheels and dice games. Of course, there will be instant bingo and those fabulous gift baskets—one featuring lottery tickets.

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Elementary school takes on new look

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That's what Sr. Erin Zubal, OSU, new principal of St. Leo School, faced as she looked at the calendar, noted the date school opens and began preparing for her first day of school at St. Leo's. The new academic year has also seen some changes in the school environment, curriculum and services provided for students. And long-range plans point to more of the same as St. Leo School begins its 66th year.

Most significant change was the repainting of the school gymnasium (Lux Hall) and two classrooms. The new look at Lux Hall was done thanks to a grant from the Sherwin-Williams Company, which paid for the paint and all of the labor except for work done to the ceiling. In addition, new wall pads and drapes are being installed along with a new scoreboard, courtesy of the St. Leo Athletic Department.

"Every square inch of the floors in the entire school was stripped, waxed and buffed," Sr. Erin said. "And a broken air conditioning unit was taken off the roof by a crane and a leak in the ceiling has been repaired."

"We have also cleaned out and decluttered the basement and the boiler room. In connection with that, 13 dumpsters of unusable items were removed from the school, preschool, parish center, church and rectory. Over 50 percent of what was hauled away was recycled, reclaimed or donated to Habitat for Humanity."

A new waiting area for families and guests has been created outside the main office, and the nurse's office has been cleaned and renovated to accommodate a full-time medical assistant.

Sr. Erin added that a new SMART Board has been installed in the resource unit, and music classes have been moved to a larger room that has been painted and carpeted to accommodate all voice and instrumental music students.

"We have created a better teacher work area in addition to an organized storage area with overflow supplies for the year. For the 2016-2017 school year we are looking at moving the resource unit into the new open rooms that have been cleaned out," said Sr. Erin.

"We are in the process of going through a technology audit to help us identify our critical needs, what we can use of our current system, and what new technology we need to purchase. The Ohio Department of Education has given us a \$5000 grant to reimburse us for the front entranceway security cameras that were installed last year," she added.

These physical changes are also accompanied by curriculum improvements for the coming year, including Spanish classes in grades 6, 7 and 8.

A principal focus for the school has been increasing enrollment. At the end of July 1000 postcards promoting the school were mailed to households within a five-mile radius of St. Leo's having children aged 3 to 12 years. Enrollment has increased 4 percent for

the 2015-16 school years and the preschool currently has a waiting list for full time enrollment for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Ninety eight percent of St. Leo students receive tuition vouchers, and 52 percent identify themselves as Catholic, although they are not necessarily St. Leo parishioners.

As for the long term, Sr. Erin says the school's plan is student focused. "We know that students and teachers are directly impacted by the environment in which they work, so we are continuing to do the little things to create the best learning environment we can."

"Long term, we are working on a three-year technology plan in addition to public relations and marketing. This year we increased enrollment from 207 to 216 in the day school in addition to increasing enrollment in the preschool to full capacity. For the 2016-2017 school year I would like us to be at 225 total enrollment plus a full preschool."

"These are all opportunities for success," she said.

St. Leo Festival returns October 16 and 17

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Main raffle prizes are \$5000, \$2000 and \$1000. If you haven't sold your tickets yet, you still have an opportunity to be in one of the early bird drawings—September 20 and October 4. The *seller* of the ticket drawn in the early bird drawings will win a \$100 prize (all tickets remain in the running for the main raffle on Saturday night).

"It's a lot of work, but we're having a lot of fun planning it," said a committee member. "We're looking forward to a GREAT weekend of fun for all our parishioners."

Festival hours are 6–11 p.m. on Friday and 5–11 p.m. on Saturday.

To make the Festival work, we need your help. Volunteers are always needed, and that means you. To sign up as a volunteer, contact the rectory at (216) 661-1006 or check the parish website at leothegreat.org.

St. Leo News & Views

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

STAFF

Editor—John Sabol
Reporters—Elizabeth Fleming
Christine Rath
Nancy Zola



Rolling pennies to be cashed in and sent to Syrian Christians in the Holy Land are members of this ARISE group, including (left to right) John Giangrande, Cora Dejelo, Bill Miller, Rudy Dejelo, Allen Morinec, Maria Giangrande, Rich Bunosky, Eva Bunosky and Carol Glinka. Group member not present was Barb Ceccarelli.

New preschool director started her career early

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two more summers until they were old enough to get “real summer jobs.”

As she begins the 2015-16 school year as the new director of the St. Leo Preschool, she must have more than a twinge of nostalgia in recalling her early foray into early childhood education.

Sue brings a wealth of experience to St. Leo's, including five years in the Garfield Heights school system teaching special education for grades 3-12, and 30 years in the Parma school system teaching special education for grades K-6 and regular classes for grades 4 and 5.

Born and raised in Parma, Sue earned her undergraduate degree in special education from Miami University of Ohio, and a master's degree in supervision from Cleveland State University.

Earlier this summer, Sue met with Sister Erin Zubal, OSU, new principal of St. Leo

the Great School. A common goal they discussed is to increase interaction between the preschool and the day school. Besides using the gymnasium once a month and visiting the library, preschoolers will participate in a buddy system. Three-year-olds will be matched with sixth-graders, and four-year-olds with seventh-graders. Sue and Sr. Erin both believe that each age-level will benefit from these relationships.

The preschool has also purchased six iPads to help facilitate children's learning in phonics, math, and science.

The preschool is fully accredited by the State of Ohio and accepts the county voucher. Anyone interested in learning more about the preschool can meet with Sue and take a mini-tour. Please call 216-661-5330 or the rectory office at 216-661-1006. A registration form can be downloaded at www.leothegreat.org.

Third ARISE season begins in the fall

By Chris Rath

The third season of ARISE Together in Christ, a six-week faith sharing and growth process presented by Renew International, will begin the week of Oct. 12. During the first two seasons, about 100 parishioners have discovered the beauty of Scripture, community, support, friendship and the love of God.

Theme for the third season is “In the Footsteps of Christ.” All meetings include time for prayer, faith sharing (as much or as little as you are comfortable with), discussion of assigned Scripture passages, and a commitment to Christian service.

Previous group members have been unanimously favorable in their comments. During the six-week season and beyond, people have supported others in their groups through good times and bad.

One group had a weekly prayer request forum, which sought and reported on prayer requests. Another group reached out and donated over \$150 to provide clean water resources through Oxfam. Still another group collected loose pennies, totaling between \$300 and \$400, which was sent to Syrian Christians struggling to survive violent situations in the Holy Land.

St. Leo the Great is the only parish in the eight-county Cleveland Diocese that is currently involved with the ARISE Together in Christ program. If you haven't been to St. Leo's in a while, this is a great way to get to know folks in the parish. Please join us as we Arise Together in Christ.

First-time participants are always welcomed and encouraged to join an ARISE group. Meetings are usually held in afternoons or evenings, for about an hour and a half, for six weeks. Sign-ups Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20, will give everyone a choice of the most convenient day and time.

**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 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

September 9—Seniors, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

September 19/20—ARISE Sign Up
Weekend, After all the Masses

September 19/20—St. Vincent de Paul
Collection at all the Masses

September 20—RCIA Rite of Intention, 10
a.m. Mass

September 23—Seniors, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

September 27—CYO Team Mass, 10 a.m.

September 27—Donut Sunday, after all
Sunday Masses

September 27—Flu Clinic after Masses

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

October 4—Blood Pressure Screening, after
noon Mass

October 12—ARISE Third Session Begins

October 14—Seniors, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

October 16 & 17—Festival

October 17/18—St. Vincent de Paul
Collection at all the Masses

October 25—Donut Sunday, after all Sunday
Masses

October 28—Seniors, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

October 30—Fall Sports Banquet

November 1—Bloodmobile, 8:30 a.m.–Noon

November 1—Blood Pressure Screening,
after Noon Mass

November 11—Seniors, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

November 25—Seniors, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

November 26—Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9
a.m.

November 29—Donut Sunday, after all
Sunday Masses

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
9–10 a.m. Sunday mornings. All are wel-
come to attend.