

Fr. James P. Schmitz

Pastor

4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



PARISH STAFF | 216.661.1006

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seslick@leothegreat.org

RECTORY/OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday | 9:00am— 4:00pm

Saturday | 12:00pm—5:00pm

Sunday | 9:00am—12:00pm

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, Dir. Of Religious Education

jderanek@leothegreat.org

Dan Trainer, Athletic Director

dtrainer@leothegreat.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

Monday-Friday | 8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

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 are celebrated Saturdays from 3:00pm-3:30pm, Sundays from 10:00a-10:30a, 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 or use our website.

BAPTISMS

Parents desiring Baptism for their child are asked to contact the Rectory 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 interested 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 and provide spiritual care.

Read the latest bulletin and find other useful information by visiting our website today.

www.leothegreat.org



leothegreat.org/flocknote



Instagram @leothegreatorg



Twitter @leothegreatorg

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel on December 1st beginning after the 8:30am Mass and concluding with Benediction at 4:45pm. Spend some time with the Lord in a quiet, prayerful atmosphere.



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

Thanksgiving is a time for loving and sharing what we have with others. Because of your generous donations of food and money, your St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Organization was able to make this Thanksgiving holiday brighter for the 36 families we serve. Your response to our requests for food and money was very much appreciated. WE THANK YOU SO MUCH!



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

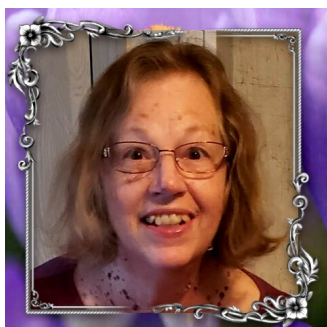
MEMORIES

Being on a wooded lot with many oak trees, in the fall the parking lot and sidewalks would be covered with acorns. The squirrels did their best to gather as many as they could, but the students in the school would collect them, too, and use them to decorate bulletin boards and for art projects.

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



In Loving Memory of **Barbara A. Pavlick**

September 14, 1951
November 13, 2023

Mass of Christian Burial
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
November 17, 2023

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace:

where there is hatred, let me show love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may

not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to

eternal life.

Amen.

TOMON & SONS FUNERAL HOME
4772 Pearl Road - Cleveland, Ohio 44109
216.741.6661



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS

Mary Niec, Alivia Kobal, Glenn "Joe" Hess, Gary LaBuda, Jeanette Klaehn, Amelia Rebello, Larry Kuznik, Irma Zappitelli, John Sofcheck, Irene (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 and Amanda Pacanavsky.



Sr. Ashin Kalladanthiyil *Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Novice*

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

November 19th—December 3rd

In Loving Memory of
+Sally Herman

Love,
Audrey Puszak & Family

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 27th—Weekday

8:30am +Helena Kolpa (Family)

Tuesday, November 28th—Weekday

8:30am +William Fischer (Kathleen Fischer)

Wednesday, November 29th—Weekday

8:30am +Walter Alfien (Wife)

First Friday, December 1, 2023—Weekday

8:30am +Joseph Schmitz (Fr. James Schmitz)

Saturday, December 2nd—Weekday

4:00pm +Fr. Tony Muzic (Fr. James Schmitz)

Sunday, December 3rd — First Sunday of Advent

8:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Deceased members of the McDermott Family (Colleen Dankle)

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: EZEKIAL 34:11-12, 15-17

Ezekiel preached to Jewish exiles at Babylon in the sixth century before Christ. They were a disappointed people and they blamed poor leadership for getting them into this mess. In this passage, Ezekiel uses a popular biblical image of God, that of a shepherd who cares for the sheep.

SECOND READING: CORINTHIANS 15:20-26, 28

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses problems his converts in the community were experiencing. Some members had questioned the bodily resurrection of Jesus and their own resurrection as well. This passage is Paul's response.

SUNDAY Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

MONDAY Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

TUESDAY Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

THURSDAY Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22

FRIDAY Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

SATURDAY Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

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!

REFLECTIONS | SACRED HEART COUNSELING

The holidays are upon us and I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! A common complaint I hear around this time of year is that people are struggling with family members. Old grudges are present, new additions may not be accepted, some family members may choose to not be present, and tensions can be at an all-time high. When these struggles are present, they can take away from the entire holiday spirit of generosity, hospitality, and focus on Christ. They can also leave us with deep wounds and feelings of rejection and failure. The impact is often felt on our mental health and spiritual lives as well. The difficult part for me as a counselor is that there is never a simple answer to these issues. The only thing we can do is continue to do our best to love others despite the differences that arise between us. Sometimes that means continuing to welcome those family members that are challenging or do things that we do not agree with. At times it means setting healthy boundaries and laying some ground rules for the upcoming event such as refraining from discussing political topics, using the event as an opportunity to confront someone, or gossiping about other family members. Try your best to not let family struggles keep you from focusing on the significance and meaning of the holiday. Also, remember that you are not the only family that has these issues. As with most of these things, people do not often talk about them and we can feel like we are the only family that struggles. As we approach the holidays, consider praying and discerning how to best handle potential familial struggles, and remember that counseling is a great place to discuss these issues and brainstorm potential solutions. Please know of my prayers for you and all of your families during the upcoming Advent season!

—Luke Brown, LCC



Holistic Catholic Counseling
www.sacredheartcleveland.com
440-305-6192

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 Nov 26th. 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

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 Westerborg 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!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners,

As previously mentioned in last week's *Pastor's Column*, I would be (was) in attendance at the Good News Conference in Orlando, FL the weekend before Thanksgiving. Provided below are the names of the presenters themselves in case you are interested in researching some their work for yourself if you're not already familiar.



Bishop Robert Barron



Dr. Jordan B. Peterson



Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers



Immaculée Ilibagiza



Dr. Peter Kreeft



Fr. Dave Pivonka



Tim Tebow



Jim Wahlberg

Q&A with Bishop Robert Barron:

Understanding 'the reality and importance of God'

Article by America Magazine | November 10, 2023

What is an event from your childhood that helped you understand who God is? *When I was 5 or 6 years old, I saw my father, whom I considered the most powerful force in the world, kneeling in devout prayer, invoking someone that he considered more powerful than himself. That moment permanently shaped my sense of the reality and importance of God.*

What is your favorite movie/book/play/musical/art/sport/etc. right now? *"Mrs. Davis" is an impossibly quirky and theologically very questionable show, but I absolutely love the idea of a committed nun, who regularly communes with Jesus, taking on the soulless A.I. algorithm to which the whole world has surrendered. Everyone refers to Mrs. Davis as "she," but Sister Simone knows that the correct term is "it."*

What's something that people might not know about you? *When I was a doctoral student in Paris, I used to give tours every Wednesday at noon at Notre Dame Cathedral.*

If you had not become a priest, what other job/vocation/career could you see yourself in? *When I was a kid, I wanted to be a professional baseball player. When I was in high school, I thought I would be a lawyer/politician.*

What's a lesson you've learned from the life of your favorite saint that is most applicable to your life today? *My favorite saint is Thomas Aquinas. He's a touchstone figure for me, both intellectually and spiritually. The most important lesson I've learned from him is to make a prayerful relationship with Jesus the foundation for everything I do or say.*

Visit institute.wordonfire.org to Pray, Learn & Evangelize

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 12, 2023

Sun. Envelope	\$	6,154.00
WeShare	\$	1,588.50
Total	\$	7,742.50
Cap. Improv	\$	445.25
WeShare	\$	25.00
Total	\$	70.00
SVDP	\$	20.00
WeShare	\$	275.00
Total	\$	295.00

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



GET YOUR GIFT CARDS HERE AT ST. LEO'S!

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 will be made available in the Rectory Office near the beginning of December for the 2024 Sweepstakes Raffle. 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.

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE

By: Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Growing up Catholic means I must have heard a million times the passage in Matthew's Gospel about how doing things for the “least of these” means you have done them for Jesus. Okay, that is an exaggeration to make a point. But it has been a slogan for so many social justice activities, from clothing and canned food drives, to letter writing campaigns and peaceful protests.

Growing up I only knew how to help the least of these through the school and church activities of the time. Today, YouTube and GodTube are filled with videos of creative ways people reach out to one another. Have you seen the one about the pizza party for the homeless? How about the fake lottery ticket or the house bought from online donations for a poor man? There are even videos of people paying for the car behind them at the drive-through! The awesome thing about this is that it serves as a witness to others. It is not boasting but instead sharing the Good News. Giving and good stewardship can be contagious!

Our pastor has several times over the years handed out \$10 bills to confirmation candidates and asked them to “pay it forward.” They can keep the money or use it to make a difference in someone else's life. One teen planted a garden for an elderly woman. One bought ingredients for brownies and sold them to give even more than \$10 to charity. The teens not only learned something about good stewardship in the process, but also served as great examples to the parish community.

As always, there is much to be done. The King is coming soon! Let's spread the news and some love at the same time!

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Recently, some parishioners stopped in to donate money to our School as an Act of Kindness—something they work to fit into their everyday lives. While keeping it random and without acknowledgment is important, witnessing it and sharing it can be powerful as far as inspiration goes.

Along with the donation that will be used to help fund the school's PTC hosted events, they left a handcrafted bracelet and this card seen here. Such small but sincere gestures can mean so much when it comes to being an example of God's love and generosity. Especially to those who may need it most, or when they least expect it— children and adults alike. May we always be considerate of each other and may we always stay inspired by the good and wonderful deeds we are witness to. May we stretch ourselves enough each day to do something small (seemingly)—but kind— to help someone smile; therein fueling our hope in humanity.





(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The King Comes Holding a Mirror

Of all the many wonderful, thorough examinations of conscience I have come across, the one I normally utilize is very simple, and perfectly suited to someone like me who is not capable of profound thought at the end of the day.

It's just one very short question: Which Christs did I not recognize today?

The King always comes in disguise, and I know I miss him in so many ways every single day. I miss him in people ignored or dismissed. I miss him in opportunities avoided and in moments that could have turned into prayer but instead turned into phone-scrolling. I miss him when he is right in front of me, holding up a mirror and calling my name, begging for my conversion of heart.

The Christian life calls us to constant self-scrutiny. It's not a comfortable life, always thinking about what you could do better, but the Lord shepherds us rightly. His pastures have nothing to offer those who are perfect and strong.

He has gone in search of the lost. He has reclaimed those who have strayed, healed those who were injured, given rest to those who were weary.

We can't be followers of Christ if we are not willing to own our sins. God's mercy does not dismiss our sins, as if they never existed and were not important.

No, it does something far, far better — God's mercy absolves our sins. It sets us free from them. But to be truly free, you have to understand the tyranny of what once enslaved you.

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.



While outside practicing for a fire drill (back on Thursday before their Thanksgiving break) the Kindergarteners made the most of the gorgeous weather. On the way back to their classrooms they took an extra moment to hang out and be in awe of the "burning" brilliance of a beautiful *Crayola red* tree near the front walkway of the school building that was shimmering brightly from the sun rays. There is SO much beauty built into all of the seasons God gives us—we must find pause in every day and take every opportunity to slow down, notice, appreciate and sincerely thank Him for it all!