

Fr. James P. Schmitz

Pastor

4940 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Thanksgiving Blessings

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

THE 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



PARISH STAFF | 216.661.1006

Father James Schmitz, Pastor

jschmitz@leothegreat.org

Deacon Patrick & Joan Berigan

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missnadia@leothegreat.org

Judy Strodtbeck, Facilities Manager

jstrodtbeck@leothegreat.org

Shelly Eslick, Rectory Housekeeper

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Rectory Office *will be Closed* on Thursday, November 23rd (Thanksgiving Day) and Friday November 24th. It will reopen Saturday, November 25th.

We hope you all enjoy the quality time and meals you share with those you are most grateful for!

CELEBRATING 75



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.

Holy Hour for All Souls | Sunday, Nov 19th at 6:00pm

Thanksgiving Day Mass | Thursday, Nov 23rd, at 9:00am

MEMORIES

There was always such a large turnout at the Thanksgiving Day Mass that a social was held afterward before parishioners went to their family gatherings. One year the parishioners setting up for the social triggered an alarm. When police officers showed up, they were offered some bakery and juice for their efforts.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous and merciful God, we thank you for your abundant gifts to us. As we celebrate this Thanksgiving feast, we ask you to send your Spirit, to open our hearts to you and our neighbor, that we may share the gifts you have given us as your Son Jesus taught us to. Thank you for the many blessings of our lives: our family and friends, our home and the food we eat, our health and employment. We ask your blessing on all gathered here today, and all your people throughout the world, through Christ your Son. Amen.

ALL SOULS HOLY HOUR

Sunday, November 19, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Join us for an All Souls Holy Hour to memorialize and pray for those who have passed away, most especially those within this past year. Come gather with others who, like you, are grieving. May you find comfort and healing in the quiet, prayerful commemoration.

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 Burkhardt, Barb Pavlick, Maria Giangrande and Amanda Pacanavsky.



Sr. Audra Hoffmeister

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 20th—Weekday

8:30am **NO MORNING MASS**

Tuesday, November 21st—Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am **NO MORNING MASS**

Wednesday, November 22nd—Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

8:30am **NO MORNING MASS**

Thursday, November 23rd—Weekday

9:00am Thanksgiving Day Mass

Friday, November 24th—St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

8:30am **NO MORNING MASS**

Saturday, November 25th—Weekday

4:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday, November 26th—Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00am +Harriett Zanzano (Doug & Annie Haldi)

11:00am Dloniak Family (Roberta Dloniak)

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: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings, compiled over a number of centuries. Today's passage is part of a lengthy poem which praises the virtues of a good wife and mother.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Paul and the early Christians expected the immediate Second Coming of Christ. Today, as he concludes his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul reminds them to be prepared for this. His message is encouraging, not frightening.

SUNDAY Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1a)/1 Thes 5:1-6, Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

MONDAY 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

TUESDAY 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

WEDNESDAY 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28

THURSDAY 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44

FRIDAY 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

SATURDAY 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

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!

A BEAUTIFUL BLEND OF SCRIPTURE AND MENTAL HEALTH

This week's Gospel tells us of what God can truly do with the gifts that we share with the people around us. We learn about a servant who is entrusted with talents and was able to multiply them while another servant buried his single talent in the ground instead of growing it. I think the lesson here is that Christ works with what we bring to Him. We may view ourselves as insignificant or our talents as unimportant. We can see needs in our community and dismiss the impact that our talents and skills will have on improving anything. It is easy to think that we need a significant amount of money, a degree in theology, or some saintly level of holiness to make a difference, but this is a lie. We have many saints who serve as an example of how small and silent acts have an incredibly far-reaching impact. No matter how small or insignificant we think we are, or our talents are, God will take them and make great things happen because they are offered. He will take our offering and change, develop, and perfect it. We always have something important to contribute to the Body of Christ and no offering is too small, unimportant, or insignificant. If we continue to offer ourselves and our gifts to Christ, we will continue to be like the person in today's Gospel whose talents were multiplied. —Luke Brown, LCC

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



*“Master, you gave me
five talents. See, I have
made five more.”*

—Matthew 25:20

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,

It was a great joy for me to see so many of you fill Lux Hall for our Anniversary Dinner last Sunday! I hope you all enjoyed the meal as much as I did. I am deeply grateful to all those who setup and cleaned up and especially to those who organized the event & served the food. They keep asking me not to mention them by name and I want to respect that but I wish I could acknowledge them publicly for all the time & effort they put into such great events. I know that they have your gratitude as well and trust that the Lord will reward them for their good works. But thanks to all of you for your presence and willingness to join with so many others to thank God for all that has gone before us. I will include some pictures here so that all may see that we had a full house & a great time. Thanks also to John Sabol for his presentation on the history of St. Leo's. I'll continue to share more of that with you in next weekend's bulletin.

I am taking my final vacation time for this year as I typically do before the Advent & Christmas seasons but part of it will be spent working...kind of...this weekend. I am currently away in Orlando, Florida for a Good News Conference on Evangelization. I was drawn to this event mainly because of the speakers: Bishop Robert Barron (a name that I hope is becoming more & more well known as a national & international speaker), Dr. Jordan Peterson, a very popular speaker, author & psychologist who appeals especially to young men in their 20's & 30's, and finally Tim Tebow, a devoted Christian and athlete whom I can relate to because of my own athletic skills. I may have exaggerated that last bit just a little, but I do admire his faith and witness. So I hope to bring back with me a bit of wisdom and continued enthusiasm for how we can continue to spread the Gospel in a culture that is so opposed to faith in God.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9am this Thursday and pray that you will join me each weekend in giving thanks to God for all His blessings.



Fr. 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 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.

5 THINGS THAT GRATITUDE POWERFULLY UNLEASHES IN YOUR LIFE

Being genuinely grateful to God will unlock your power to enjoy your life. By: Chris Stefanick

The first rule for living joy is so powerful I almost wrote my entire book *Living Joy* about it. It's gratitude. I'm going to talk about the five things that gratitude powerfully unleashes in your life, and the one main reason we all tend to stink at it.

I know God's will for your life. Check this out, from 1 Thessalonians 5: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

What does God want from my life? Does he want me to move to California or does he want me to move to North Dakota? Does he want me to be a missionary or get married? Does he want me to have pepperoni or sausage? All important questions.

Well, let me tell you, before you think about anything else, his will for you is to be a grateful person, because your mind can't tackle anything else you might try to discern in your life until you have a mind of gratitude.

So what does gratitude do for you?

First, gratitude unlocks your power to enjoy your life. Gratitude is the key that will unlock the smile on your face. God wants you to enjoy your life. Some of the harshest words I've ever read in Sacred Scripture are addressed to people who have blessings, but their hearts don't enjoy them. It's in Ecclesiastes, and the words are: "A stillborn child is better off than you." Ouch.

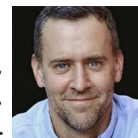
Two, gratitude generates feelings in the natural that make you more successful. Some people think that their success will lead to their joy. The opposite is true. You having a joyful grateful spirit actually leads to your success. Some people look to things like Red Bull and creatine for performance enhancers. When you focus on what makes you grateful, it releases serotonin and dopamine — real performance enhancers. It also lights up the part of your brain associated with learning and problem-solving, so kids who go to school complaining about school the whole time — they're not actually learning. Neither are you when you're complaining about everything in your life.

Three, gratitude makes you a blessing magnet. If you say "thank you" to people all the time, they just want to give you more. This also applies to God. St. Therese of Lisieux said what most attracts God's graces is gratitude, because if we thank him for a gift, he's touched and hastens to give us 10 more.

Four, gratitude gives you a victorious attitude and changes you from a victim to a victor. St. Paul had this victor attitude in prison because he was grateful. Think of Paul in prison — miserable circumstances, in chains. The people walking around might have been the ones who were scheduled to behead him. And in those circumstances, he writes to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice!" And then he commands them: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." You know why St. Paul had an unconquerable spirit in prison? Because he filtered every experience he had through gratitude.

Five, gratitude preserves the relationships in your life, because I've literally seen marriages end because of ingratitude. If you want to find the flaws in your spouse rather than giving thanks for the blessings of your spouse — and this is just one relationship example — oh, trust me, you'll find those flaws. And you'd better pray your spouse isn't looking for yours, because you'll find those too. You fixate on what will bring you down, not in the blessings that bring you up. It's natural. But aren't you tired of living in the natural? Gratitude is the way out.

Chris Stefanick is a husband and father,
an internationally-acclaimed author and speaker,
and the founder and president of RealLifeCatholic.com.



A WORD FROM BISHOP MALESIC IN RESPONSE TO THE PASSAGE OF **ISSUE 1**

Today (November 8th) is a very sad, disheartening day for me, as I am sure it is for so many of you who have championed the great cause of upholding the sanctity of human life, from the moment of conception. Even though our efforts to overcome the enshrinement of abortion into our state constitution failed, we must never give up on the just cause to support a culture that values every life, at every stage.

We must recommit ourselves to supporting pregnant women in need through our ministries that serve them — whether they face challenging pregnancies or find it extremely difficult to care for their children after birth. We must continue our work to care for these vulnerable women by providing physical, emotional and spiritual support through places like Zelie's Home, the Christ Child Society and the many programs offered by Catholic Charities.

Please join me in praying and persisting in our mission to protect every life, which is foundational to our faith and in our belief that every life is a priceless, precious gift from God.



Due to Thanksgiving, our upcoming bulletins are having to be submitted even earlier than regularly scheduled so the usual collection totals you'd find here will not be available this weekend, but can be expected in the next issues of the bulletin. Thanks for your understanding.

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

THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

November 10, 2023

St. Leo the Great Feast Day

\$1,000.00 WINNER

Congrats, Molly Murray!!!



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)

RECOGNIZING GOD IN OUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By: Tracy Earl Welliver

Thanksgiving Day is coming and you will soon be saying, "Pass me the mashed potatoes, please." This November holiday has its roots in American history and has grown into a day where we remember all the things for which we are thankful: country, family, friends, health, etc. Unfortunately, we can find ourselves so caught up with travel plans and buying the perfect turkey or ham that we let the day pass us by, and all we can focus on is how much we ate and who won the day's football games. That's why it is time NOW to begin reflecting daily of all things, great and small, that we are thankful for in life.

Gratitude is a key characteristic of a good Everyday Steward, but it does not develop in us without effort. In the coming days, we can contemplate all those things God has given us. If it helps, we can create a written list and bring it with us to the Thanksgiving dinner table. The point is that too often we take so many gifts for granted, and unless we pause and purposely reflect, we miss the chance to give thanks. A healthy and hearty heart filled with gratitude can make the highs in life that much higher and the lows easier to bear. Increased gratitude will also bring us closer to the source of all those good gifts, our God.

So, what will Thanksgiving be like for you this year? You have some time to make it something more than it has been in the past. The choice is yours.

Lord, I thank you for...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

