

He is not here;
he has Risen!
Luke 24:6

St. Leo the Great Parish April Newsletter 2018

Welcome to the Family!!

The Easter Season will be a time of great rejoicing at St. Leo's as nearly 80 persons will be receiving at least one of the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

The celebration begins at the Easter Vigil when members of the Campos family are received into the church. Dad was Catholic and those under seven were baptized last year. One of those baptized, Moises, will receive First Communion at the Vigil. The family had been taking part with others in the RCIA classes led by Jeanne Hunt and catechists from our covenant partner parish, Our Lady of Visitation.

Dad Emilio was invited to St. Leo's by his sister and soon encouraged his family to join him. Mom Amber said that at first they were hesitant, but decided as a family to give it a try. In the beginning it felt awkward, but soon the whole family was coming to church three times a week and it felt like home. The family is getting active in the community, and helping wherever they can. Amber and daughter Angelica are now singing in one of the Spanish choirs.

The Sunday after Easter more than 40 Hispanics will be receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. There will be a wedding at the 10:30 am Mass on April 15 and the entire congregation is invited. On the three following Sundays there will be four baptisms each week.

In mid-May two African young women will be received into the church, receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. There will be six baptisms and seven First Communions. One of the families explained that war in their homeland and lack of pastoral care in the refugee camps didn't offer them the opportunity to receive these sacraments. They are looking forward to officially joining their parish family.

And it is with great joy and love that we welcome them. We are truly one in our faith and diversity.



Looking forward to the Easter Vigil are members of Campos family (front row) Moises, Esperanza, and Elidia with son Jason; (back row) Emilio, Angelica, mom Amber holding Maribel, and Dad Emilio.



Unity in our diversity and the spirit of family are displayed in this cross made of wooden blocks with messages of love and gratitude written on them by members of St. Leo's youth group during their first retreat together. We are one in Christ.



Because of You...

St. Leo's struggle and its gift is its poverty. In order to continue and expand its mission and ministry to the community and our immigrant and refugee parishioners we need to reach out to others to help us through prayer, finances, and service. Through God's grace it becomes mutual blessing.

And so we thank you ...



Many, many thanks to our dear friend and dedicated food pantry volunteer, Jerry Fettig, for donating a ping pong table for our youth group. Your thoughtfulness is MOST appreciated!



Many, many thanks to the parishioners at St. John the Evangelist Church in West Chester for providing dozens of bags containing Easter goodies for St. Leo's parishioners including: seed cups, soil, seeds, rosaries, rosary prayer guides, and assorted snacks. Food for our bodies, minds and to grow and share.



Many, many thanks to our dear friend, Elaine Janis, for providing several dozen handcrafted Baptismal bibs in a variety of sizes and designs. The families of our newest members are deeply grateful for your gift of beauty.



Many, many thanks also, to Ms. Janis for the supply of a variety of seed packets for our St. Leo's

¡Gracias! Murakoze! Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for your continued and generous support. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you and your loved ones in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time. May our gracious God fill you with every blessing!

Pastor's Ponderings...

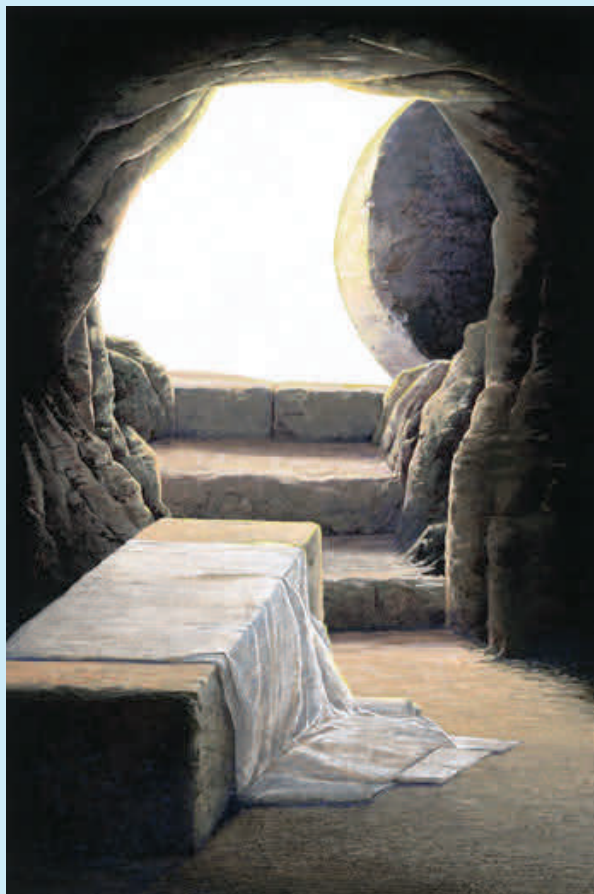


This is the month that Easter begins and we continue to celebrate it in our liturgies for fifty days. All of us at St. Leo the Great Parish wish you Feliz Pascua, Pasti Conziza, Happy Easter! We hope and pray that you will thoroughly enjoy and



of and age of

delight in the fifty days of celebrating Easter that conclude with the grand celebration of Pentecost. We pray that you will be blessed with new and abundant life of God's presence in your life, rejoicing as you live your faith, renewed by the promises of your baptism, singing Alleluia and practicing resurrection. Thank you for the hope you will live and bring to others by living more freely away from sin and death in our world. Celebrate the Lord's victory over death by loving unconditionally and helping raise others up over the weaknesses of the human condition. Show your family and the whole world that life, eternal life has the final say now and forever. As signs of Spring break out in abundance during this month and remind us that "unless a seed falls to the earth and dies it will not produce much fruit," join with all creation in praising and thanking God for the gift of resurrection and new life.



Catholic, will be confirmed and/or receive Eucharist. There are twelve couples prepared to celebrate infant baptisms on the other Sundays in the Easter Season and another family of nine that will receive initiation into the church. "The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! New life in Christ is abundant at St. Leo's in so many ways and on so many levels. Please share our joy and rejoice with us.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for all of us here at St. Leo the Great. We have been the beneficiaries of the fruits of your Lenten prayer, fasting and works of charity. In so many ways, you have helped us experience the new life of the Lord's resurrection and you have shown us that life gets the final say for anyone who believes. Please know that as we praise God with Alleluias, music and dancing we are also thanking God for you and your goodness. May the Lord fill you

This Easter Season, St. Leo's rejoices for the gift of with an abundance of Easter joy and blessings. Thank you for conversion and faith. At the Easter Vigil, a family of eight will helping us build God's kingdom and for being God's church

St. Leo's Prayer Wall is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, as well as peacemakers and saints who have inspired us through the ages.



The Wall is a place for staff and volunteers, youth groups, community meetings, and for individuals who pass through our parking lot on the way to work, school, etc., to pray, reflect and pause. We invite you to share in this special way of prayer, joy, and thanksgiving. Praise God!

God cares about every need in your life and knows what you need even before you ask Him for help. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time.

All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence. **Send your prayer request to:** Saint Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225. You can also submit your prayer request online at: <http://saint-leo/WorksofMercy/PrayerWallMinistry.aspx>.

Sharing the Good News

And so, I have come from Kenya, a harsh land where it is difficult to find reconciliation among our tribes and people. We fight and inflict violent revenge when others have hurt us or committed some sort of aggression against our tribe. In Kenya, many of the people still hold on to a similar image of God, that mirrors their experience as a tribe. God, in the mind of some, is vengeful, judgmental, and God could be violent and harsh in dealing with people who have "sinned." We created a God, in our own image and likeness, who is a distant observer, sitting back and judging us.

But if we have learned anything about God in the Scriptures, we see that God is merciful. He cannot be outdone in generosity, mercy and forgiveness. The image we are given in the Gospel is this: "But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." In another place it says "Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So, they began to celebrate."

During my first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I wanted to confess to a priest something unhealthy that I had held onto for a long time. The priest was kind and approachable. After a warm welcome from the priest, he asked me "Have you heard the good news?" I was surprised by such question! I came to list my sins and get going. I had no answer to the question, no real understanding of Good News. Instead, I told him how I messed up and what a horrible Christian I was because of my behavior. I went on to tell him about my image of God.

For a long time, I had thought God to be like a bad cop; the one who hides and watches along the highways and gives us tickets when we break the traffic rules. For me, God's mercy and forgiveness were earned – based on reward and punishment. I believed God loved only the good boys and girls, who are well-behaved, hard-working, virtuous and Churchy. In America you might say "God is making a list, checking it twice, going to find out who is naughty or nice." I really had a poor image of God and lack of faith in His unconditional love and mercy. We all have struggles that go

on in our lives. That was my struggle with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

But even Pope Francis writes: "How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event, God's judgment will always be in the light of his mercy" – which is infinite!



The Good News that I want to share with you, as we consider the Sacrament of Reconciliation, is that God's mercy and forgiveness are generous, unconditional, inclusive and unmerited. The priest reminded me of that several times. He also reminded me that I am loved unconditionally and totally by God, no matter how sinful I am. That is the good news that I want to remind you and others of, all the time. God is patiently waiting for us, inviting us to be with Him, calling and seeking us. He desperately wants to forgive us, to love us more and more. That is the good news!

And so, I want to ask you – Have you heard the Good News today? In your desire to be here, to listen, to search for a deeper relationship with God – I want to tell you that it is already given, that you are already held by the mercy of God. The desire you have in your heart is, in fact, the reality.

But there is one thing more truth I want to leave you with. In Jesus' inaugural address, the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy." So, our invitation today is to ask and receive our own forgiveness but also to share that mercy and forgiveness. Now that would really be good news!



Join us on Monday, May 28th for the 15th annual Hunger Walk and 5K Run!



Your support of the Hunger Walk on behalf of the St. Leo Food Pantry is VERY important to our continued operation. Although all checks are made payable to Freestore Foodbank, ALL money (even shirt money) designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. This is our "money in the bank." When we make purchases at FSFB it is deducted from our account. Due to your generosity last year and some very frugal spending, we currently have a balance in our account.

Our goal this year is to have enough money at the FreeStore FoodBank to last us until the 2019 Hunger Walk! With your help we can do it!

JOIN OUR TEAM: <http://freestorefoodbank.org/hungerwalk-saintleo-join>

DONATE TO OUR TEAM: <http://freestorefoodbank.org/hungerwalk-saintleo-donate>

Growing in Faith...

When I was a child growing up on Cincinnati's west side in the 1950's and 1960's almost everyone in my neighborhood was Catholic. There were a few families that were "non-Catholic" and to be perfectly honest we often were suspicious and didn't associate with them. As I look back, we lived in a Catholic bubble. Whenever we met someone new the exchange wasn't, "Tell me about yourself. What do you like to do?" Instead, we asked, "What parish are you in?" Depending on their answer we automatically knew where they lived, how their sports teams were doing and generally where they fit in the West Side Catholic community.

All of our social activities were governed by our Catholic ethos—our sports, our Scouts, our get-togethers, and dances were always with other Catholic parishes. I remember our dances always ended with our gathering around the statue of Mary, praying and singing "An Army of Youth bearing the standard of truth..." and "Mother Beloved..." Prom dates had to be Catholic and present their CYO cards and meet us at school to be permitted to escort us. Even our clothing had to be approved. The nuns had to ok our dresses, and had extra material on hand if they needed to be made "more modest."

Beliefs, religious practices and church structure were the same regardless of parish boundaries. The pastor and his associates ran the church were in charge and determined how things should be. Nuns ran the schools. Lay people followed the rules. They could volunteer in the cafeteria or school library, be a coach or Scout leader and work at the annual festival. It was a clearly defined system and we were content and satisfied with our Catholic life though I'm not sure that we ever thought that being church was anything more than what we were experiencing—or that we could ever have an active role in the spiritual side of church life. The grace of Vatican II brought new insights and challenges into our secure world view and it was both scary and exhilarating.

The most dramatic change was that the Mass was now in English with the priest facing the congregation. Instead of a mysterious holy event we witnessed, we now understood what was being said and were participants with the priest in the Mass. We were beginning to see the importance of our role in the church. Lay people began to be readers and Communion distributors at Mass—ministries that previously had been reserved for priests. The Vatican Council also led to the formation of pastoral councils of lay people who advised the pastor about temporal and spiritual matters. It was

the beginning of a new era in Catholic parish life. More than 50 years later, these things seem second-nature but they were astounding for those times. St. Pope John XXIII who called the council said it was time to open the window and let in the fresh air. The Holy Spirit's guidance was all over that meeting.

Vatican II also called the church to be more involved in the life of the community with its documents about the role of the church in the modern world and collaboration with other religions. It was the time of the civil rights movement and the Church urged Catholics to become involved in the fight against prejudice and discrimination. A social justice dimension was added to my understanding of what it meant to be Catholic. I could no longer sit by and not do something. I was called to become informed, speak up, vote, and get involved in issues that affected the unborn, the poor, the immigrant, the imprisoned, the elderly, and the marginalized. In doing this I often find myself working with people from other faith groups in the community. We pray together, we share talents, we collaborate. We struggle together. Sometimes we fail; other times, we make slow progress. We are one in God's love for humanity.

My experience at St. Leo's has further expanded my idea of being Catholic to include the importance of community—of truly being family. In our wonderful diversity we come together from many parts of the world. As we come together in prayer we are one family—truly brothers and sisters in Christ coming together to love and praise God, to love each other and take that love into the world. Our sense of kinship is palpable.

We were able to share this family spirit as the youth group and music ministries presented a Lenten Sunday afternoon of prayer and reflection March 18. The African women's group, one of the Guatemalan music groups, and Bill Tonnis from our covenant partner parish Our Lady of Visitation all played music from their traditions. The youth group gave a reflection and sang a song of praise written by music minister Rick Nohle in English, Spanish, Swahili, and Kirundi. It was a great family celebration!

My vision of church has been expanded and stretched beyond the church I experienced as a child and it invites greater participation and awareness of our role as a family of faith, true brothers and sisters. I can't wait to see what new things God is going to reveal.



In many areas of our lives we trust others who know more than we do. We trust the architect who builds our home, the pharmacist who gives us medicine for healing, the lawyer who defends us in court. We also need someone trustworthy and knowledgeable where God is concerned. Jesus, the Son of God, is the one who makes God known to us.

--Pope Francis



Clancy's Clichés



Spring has Sprung! Things are Buzzin' in the air. How appropriate, then, to reflect on the BEEattitudes a la Moi:

- *BEEcome understanding of others and support what they are going through, for they may have had a bad day and are feeling a bit out of spirits. As for yourself, *bee humble*, down-to-earth within, and don't *bee* a cry baybee;
- *BEEqueath a gently strong and strongly gentle approach to living, for, otherwise, things of the earth will *bee*guile and possess you;
- *BEEsech hope in your sorrows to share that hope and love with others, for there is no *beemoaning* or self-pitying allowed;
- *BEE hungry and thirsty for justice, for we should love without exception;
- *BEEcome the light of forgiveness and share that *beem* of light unto others, for it will also fill your own heart and replace any *shabee* emptiness;
- *BEEgin trusting through faith and stop *beeing* a doubting Thomas, for it is not in the material things of this world, but through seeing the face of God in all *beeing*s;
- *BEEing peacemakers means *beelieving* in good will on earth, for, as children of God, our cause must inclusively go *beeyond* the earthly realm;
- *BEEhold all who suffer persecution *beecause* of their *beeliefs*, for saving grace flows through the hardships of this life through faith, hope and love. Amen!



And here are a few more I added just *beecause*!



Always *bee* on your best *beehavior*.

Speak clearly rather than *bee* a *mumblebee*.

Beauty is in the eye of the *beeholder*.

Wishing you all a *beautiful* Easter Season of Alleluias!



(These Bee puns really sting, don't they?) Arf Arf!!!



Howlin's hootn'; Growlin's not gooten! - Clancy



Clancy's Cackles

Knock, Knock. Who's There?
Abby. Abby who?
Abby just stung me on the nose!



What's a bee's favorite novel? **The Great Gats-Bee!**

What do you get if you cross a bee with a doorbell?
A humm-dinger!

Why did the bee get married? **Because he found his honey!**

What did the queen bee say to the naughty bee?

Bee-hive yourself!



St. Leo Parish and Community Contact Information



Pastor: Rev. James R. Schutte

Address: 2573 Saint Leo Place,
Cincinnati, OH 45225

Phone: 513-921-1044

Parish Nurse: 513-862-4398 **Fax:** 513-921-8048

E-Mail: stleocinti@aol.com **Website:** www.saint-leo.org

Facebook: St. Leo The Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish

Worship Schedule: Saturday 6:00pm Mass in Spanish;
Sunday Mass: 10:30am; Weekday Mass: Thursday 7:00pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: First Thursday following
7:00pm Mass.



FOOD PANTRY: At the corner of Carll & Baltimore
Serving Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:00pm to 3:30pm
Pantry Requirements: Serving North Fairmount, English
Woods, Roll Hill Apts., and Millvale once every 30 days.

See website: www.saint-leo.org or call (513-921-1044) to see if your street is covered. To meet St. Leo's Acts of Mercy pantry donor guidelines, current proof of residence (Duke or telephone bill), photo ID & Social Security Cards for all members of household must be presented at each visit.

Volunteers are needed to help us show kindness to persons in need at the St. Leo Food Pantry: Coordinator for Fridays, noon-4/4:30, point person for other volunteers. Assistant Administrator about 9-12 hours/week, to do ordering, organizing inventory, and communicating with coordinators/volunteers. To participate in any of our volunteer opportunities, please call at 513-921-1044!



SEWING CLASSES On hiatus until further notice.



ESL ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

We welcome all wishing to learn English. **FREE!**
Thursdays, 9:30 – 12:30 am and Saturday 10:00-Noon.



COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/
Referral Services: Linda Klem: 513-921-5842
Housing: 513-921-5889, Healthy Moms & Babes: 513-591-5600
Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500
Literary Network: 513-621-7323



HELPING HANDS STORE 2568 Beekman St, 45225, at the corner of Beekman and Dempsey, and

ANGELS' ARMS STORE, 1882 Baltimore Ave. Both accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Open 9:00-4:00pm. Monday-Friday. Call Linda Klems at 623-9897.

Visit Us!

St. Leo's website: www.Saint-Leo.org

Facebook: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish



Enjoy the online edition with color photos!

Save the www.saint-leo.org site in your "favorites" list to visit often. Feel free to send corrections, updates, news and/or info to be included on the website to Casey Betz, Development Director, at cbetzstleo@aol.com. If you'd like to receive St. Leo's Newsletter, call 921-1044 and we'll add you (or anyone else you know) to the mailing list.

How You Can Help...

Treasure Chest



- Treasure Chest tickets are sold on a monthly basis at \$5.00 each.
- Winner based on Pick 3 played straight every day.

- Each \$100.00 prize will be sent in the mail.
- **Get In On the Fun!** To purchase Treasure Chest tickets, send \$5.00 per ticket by the first of the month to: St. Leo Treasure Chest, 2573 Saint Leo Pl., Cinti., OH 45225
- **Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!**

February Winners: Tom Gall, Madison Nienaber, Jane Lanzarotta, Phyllis Morris, George Young, Janet Nienaber, Joyce Babel



WISH LIST

4-6 Volunteers to fold, tab and label the newsletter, third week of the month. Call Casey: 5-13-921-1044

Sturdy folding utility Step Stool for Food Pantry, nothing too big or heavy (\$30-\$60)

3 Correll Seminar 96" Rectangular Training Tables, Item: 1560623 Model: SP1896PX-15 \$272.69 Ea. Only Available Online at Staples: https://m.staples.com/-/product_1560623

Small Chest Freezer for Youth Group

New tires for pantry van (\$600) Call 921-1044 for info.

Gift Cards for the continuing work and maintenance of the parish, and our Youth Group functions: **Lowe's, Home Depot, Staples, Hobby Lobby, Kroger, etc.** Priceless!

Cash to Cover Operating Expenses is Essential

Easy Online Giving

Make a one-time donation, or set up a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual gift to be deducted from your banking account, or to charge your gift to your credit card:

Go to <http://saint-leo.org/DonateNow.aspx>

And click on the Donate Now Button.



SHOP AMAZON SMILE SUPPORT ST. LEO:

[http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556)

0538556

SHOP KROGER'S AND SUPPORT ST. LEO:

<https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> Enter St. Leo's NPO #28680 or search for St. Leo the Great Church.

iGive: Shop the sites you love and support St. Leo! Sounds easy? It is! Sign up at <http://www.igive.com/>

Pantry Press



In February the Food Pantry served 636 individuals, in 241 households, including 241 children and 92 seniors.

Needs for April:

- Deodorant, multi-purpose cleaner, tissues, shaving cream, antibacterial wipes, ANY household or personal cleaning items
- Juices, juice mixes
- Canned tuna, canned chicken, pineapple, spinach, mixed veggies
- Vinegar, salad dressings, cooking oil
- Cereal of any kind, especially cheerios, oatmeal, special children's fun cereals
- Bean with bacon, split pea soup
- Sandwich and quart sized Zip-Lock baggies

**Join us on Monday, May 28th
for the 15th annual Hunger Walk and 5K Run!**

JOIN OUR TEAM: <http://freestorefoodbank.org/hungerwalk-saintleo-join>

DONATE TO OUR TEAM: <http://freestorefoodbank.org/hungerwalk-saintleo-donate>

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help us show kindness to persons in need at the St. Leo Food Pantry:

Assistant Administrator about 9-12 hours a week, to tend to ordering, organizing the inventory, and conveying to coordinators/volunteers what's up.

Coordinator for Fridays, noon-4/4:30, to act as point person for other volunteers.

If you feel called to either of these volunteer settings, or to participate in any of our other volunteer opportunities, please call 513-921-1044!

Building the Kingdom of God

St. Leo's is growing! Please join us in living the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy in real and concrete ways by:

Making a donation by cash or check.

Your **weekly, monthly, or quarterly gift** helps maintain us throughout the year. Sustaining gifts are most welcome and are tax deductible.

Remembering a Loved One. Your gift to St. Leo's is a caring way to honor or remember a special person, or mark a special occasion.

Gifts-In-Kind including food items, clothing, toiletries, and wish list items are just a few of the useful and practical items that help us assist those in most need.

Giving a gift of **stocks, bonds or mutual funds** that have increased in value. You can deduct the entire value from your taxable income and avoid the capital gains tax.

Please consider remembering St. Leo the Great Church in **your Will**. For more information contact Casey Betz at 513-921-1044.

Volunteering! Be sure to check us out on Facebook at: [St. Leo the Great Catholic Church](http://www.saint-leo.org) and on our Web Page at www.saint-leo.org, and please spread the word about us to your family and friends.

Without a doubt, **your ongoing prayers** are much needed and most appreciated!

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH

2573 St. Leo Place at Baltimore Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

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<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 Easter  Mass: 10:30am	2 Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED	3	4	5 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	6 Food Pantry open AA Meeting 7:30pm	7 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
8 Mass: 10:30am Youth Group 12- 1:30pm	9 Food Pantry open	10	11 Food Pantry open	12 NO Mass; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	13 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	14 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
15 Mass: 10:30am	16 Food Pantry open	17	18 Food Pantry open	19 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	20 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	21 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon;
22 Mass: 10:30am Parish Council 11:30am Youth Group 12- 1:30pm	23 Food Pantry open	24	25 Food Pantry open	26 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	27 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	28 Mass in Spanish 6pm;; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon;
29 Mass: 10:30am Youth Group 12- 1:30pm	30 Food Pantry open					

April