



St. Leo the Great Parish August Newsletter 2018



It's Been a Busy, Busy Summer at St. Leo . . .

Summertime is usually slow-paced for most people, but activity seems to pick up at St. Leo's at this time of year—and summer isn't over yet.

Guatemala →

Three members of the parish staff—Father Jim Schutte, pastor; Stephanie Sepate, business manager; and Judie Kuhlman, youth director joined parishioners from Holy Family, St. Clement, and Our Lady of Visitation parishes on a week-long visit to Guatemala, where they met families of parishioners who live in small mountainous towns outside San Marcos in the northern part of the country. Though families there had few material possessions they were rich in spirit and warm and welcoming and eager to share what they had.



Culture Fest ↓

St. Leo's shared its wonderful diversity at its annual culture fest Saturday, July 14. The day featured prayer, ethnic food, music and song from our many talented musicians. The entire day focused on our unity in God.

Continued on page 4 . . .



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 Guatemalan parishioners for organizing the Culture Fest at St. Leo's. It was a beautiful day of joyful prayer, great music, fabulous food and fun for the kids.



¡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 . . .

The idea for a St. Leo Cultural Fest was born several years ago when the Guatemalan Community at St. Leo the Great wanted to invite the entire parish to an outdoor concert of spiritual music in order to thank the parish for welcoming and accepting them to St. Leo. Different Latino groups from various parishes shared their music in praise of God and the crowd feasted on fruit and tacos.

It was great for our parish because it was a party for everyone hosted by the Guatemalan Community. The diversity of St. Leo Parish was well represented – Burundians, Guatemalans, African Americans and Americans – dancing, singing, sharing Mexican/Guatemalan cuisine and thanking God for bringing us all together.

This year the festival was July 14. It is mostly a festival of prayer: singing, dancing, preaching, praying and sharing good food. We take our faith to our parking lot and the sound of our praise and worship echoes throughout the neighborhood.

The theme of the Fest was: "We are all one in Christ."

Like the Good Samaritan and the victim in the gospel story, St. Leo Parish depends so much on the help of Good Samaritans. We have to beg a lot for others to share their time, talent and treasure with us and we pray that people won't pass us by. Our Cultural Fest is an indication that people do not pass us by, parishioners and non-parishioners alike, and we give thanks for their generosity and for the healing, and growth that we receive.

It is also clear that St. Leo Parish is being called to be Good Samaritans to others. Certainly, some of our Burundian and Guatemalan parishioners have been treated horribly in the past. Some bear the beatings of an oppressive government and some have witnessed killings of their family members. St. Leo is a new home for them where they can have some of the freedoms that they have been denied and rightly deserve.

St. Leo has always been a beacon of light and hope in the North Fairmount neighborhood that has suffered from economic depression for years. As a Good Samaritan, we provide assistance with rent and utility bills when we are able. We are actively involved with planning and development of our neighborhoods for affordable and diversity housing. Our food pantry serves around 900 people, 325 families with a lot of children each month and our parish nursing program is the number one source of health care for many. Our parish has come to new life by focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to which the Good Samaritan is a great example. We want to bless and love others as we have been blessed and loved. This year's culture Fest was a prayerful celebration of God's love for all of us and our love for God and neighbor.

It doesn't matter where someone is from, or what they look like or the color of their skin; we are all one in Christ Jesus. We are

all one family. We are brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ. We find our home in Him here at St. Leo with each other and for all others, serving the needs of all with the love of God. We are all one in Christ.

This is our blessing. This is our salvation. This is our joy and thanksgiving. This is our continual prayer for the church and the world.

And since you are all an important part of our unity, identity, support and ministry, I want to inform you of two upcoming events. The first is August 18, Noon to 4pm. It is our annual Day of Hope. St. Leo joins with other churches and faiths and District Three of the Cincinnati Police Department in sponsoring this day. It is at Wayne Park by Mr. Gene's Dog House on Beekman St. in South Cumminsville. There will be free food and supplies and agencies that provide services to our neighborhoods in a friendly atmosphere of faith and religious music. There will be things for the children also.

Also please mark your calendars and save this date, September 9, 2018 and plan to join us. Bishop Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, is coming to St. Leo for our 10:30am, Sunday Mass. Immediately after Mass, we will proceed down the side walk and across the street to our nearby food pantry for a blessing, dedication and open house. Since the food pantry opened for service not quite three years ago, renovation has continued to include six office/meeting rooms and a spacious open area that can be used for large meetings or a classroom. St. Leo will certainly benefit from this additional space since we are growing and becoming more active but our hope is to work with other agencies to provide social services such as job opportunities and aid to immigrants and refugees. The Food Pantry and now this additional space are the work of many volunteers and the generous donation of time talent and treasure by individuals, groups, businesses and agencies including Catholic Social Services of Southwest Ohio. We are so grateful to everyone for helping us feed the hungry and for helping to take many of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to deeper levels. Our joy is your joy! Our celebration, dedication and open house will not be the same without you. Please join us for 10:30 Mass on September 9 and/or the dedication/open house afterward about 11:45am. Bring others with you. Everyone is welcome.

— Father Jim



It's Been a Busy, Busy Summer at St. Leo . . .

. . . continued from Page 1.



Rome

Parishioner Jon Trauth who helped work with refugees to get the garden started on the hill behind the parking lot wrote his doctoral dissertation about using gardening to help refugees deal with the trauma of their past experiences of violence and feel more comfortable in their new land. He had an opportunity to present what he learned at an international conference in Rome July 17.



Wedding Bells

Coming into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil was a wonderful blessing for members of the Campos family, but there was one more thing that could make it even better. Amber and Emilio Campos were married in the Catholic Church Saturday, July 7. Emilio's sister Arcenia who first invited him to come to St. Leo's and her husband James Campos also were married in the Church at the same ceremony.



UNION ST.
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LANGUAGE

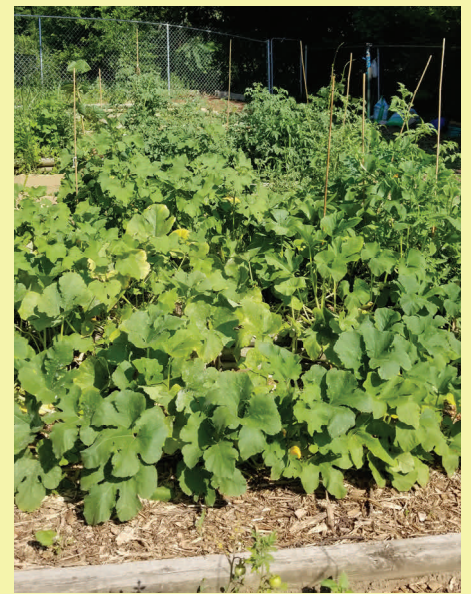
Building on their African Culture

Several teen and young adult members of our Burundian community took part in a weekend reunion in Louisville to reflect on their culture and heritage and to encourage other young Burundian refugees to become their best selves. One of the leaders of the event was parishioner Alexandre Marembo a talented musician whose songs in his native Kirundi language aim to speak about what binds all humans such as love, family, trials, and grief. The reunions work to create a sense of community across the miles. There is an African saying that says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."



Youth Summer Fun

St. Leo's youth group had many fun-filled and faith-filled activities including Vacation Bible School, soccer clinics led by FC Cincinnati, Winton Woods Paddlefest, bowling and putt-putt golf, a Reds' game, and creative activities from Word Play Cincinnati.



Community Garden

The hillside garden has become truly a community garden with neighborhood residents planting plots and working together to help water and weed and tend the growing plants. Some of the produce will be shared with the food pantry.

North Fairmount Ascends

St. Leo's is joining with the North Fairmount Community Council in a neighborhood Paint the Steps project starting with the steps by Talbert House. Parishioner Carolyn Crombie won a \$10,000 grant to fund the project which was kicked off with a neighborhood party June 30. There will be \$500 awards for the top three designs. Winners will be announced September 2.

Learning How to Hear . . .

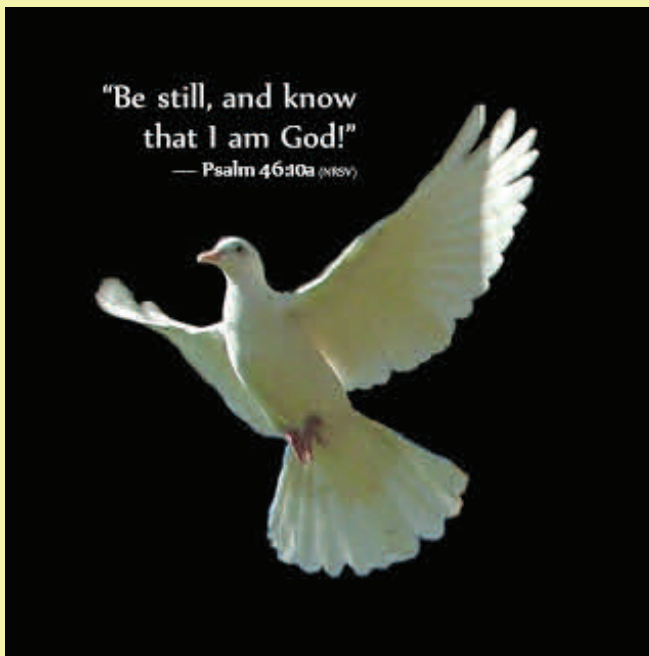
My six-year-old grandson Simon has autism. Though he can speak it's hard for him to focus and identify with other people's feelings and non-verbal cues even though he really wants to be able to do that. He learns how to respond to a person in one situation but human interactions keep changing so it's really difficult for him to predict what to do in any given circumstance. The more time I spend with him the more I realize how hard it must be for him and how courageous he is. There's so much information coming in that it's almost impossible for him to manage. It's overload for him and sometimes the only way he can calm himself and get back on track is by "stimming"-- staring ahead and sometimes flapping his hands. It helps him regain his focus. In the small church he attends the sound of the choir is too much so he wears headphones to block it out and the choir graciously stops singing when it comes to a certain place in the aisle. He's bright; he's loving; but the amount of outside stimulus often overwhelms him.

In some ways many of us are also like Simon--overwhelmed with the constant media and news cycle that has become a routine part of our daily lives. There's so much and it never seems to stop. It's often conflicting, nasty, and can put a pall of hopelessness over us. It tends to make us dig in on our positions, listen only to what agrees with us and block out any person or message that's different from what we believe. Divisions grow deeper and we tend to fear instead of listening with openness and compassion to those who see things differently. What might we learn if we listened? How might both of us be changed? What would our communities and nations look like if we did?

It seems to be an almost impossible challenge and we struggle with how do we find balance, figure out what God calls us to do to work for justice, peace and the common good, learn to see the good in others, begin to love our neighbor as ourselves, and grow in peace and trust in God.

Maybe it might help to put on spiritual earphones to block

out the chatter and spend some time each day just "being" and "present" to God and others in the "right now." I've been trying to do that each day for more than a year and while I can't say I've been successful at "doing" it I believe the desire and showing up has made a difference. My mind may be spinning with to-do lists and "brilliant" solutions to problems even though I keep trying to push these interruptions aside. Though I often feel that I might have "failed" at being present, I'm finding that this is the most important time of my day.



This practice has helped me see that God often shows up in unexpected places—places that shake my perspective and open me to new possibilities. One of my favorite examples is found in this passage from 1 Kings 19 *Then the LORD said: (to Elijah) Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD;* the LORD will pass by. There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a silent whispering sound.** It was only then that the Lord told him what to do.

I've always struggled with Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God." I'm not sure that I know how to be still. I don't think it's in my DNA. Yet my spirit knows that is where I find peace and gain new eyes to see God at work, hear the cries of the poor, and learn to see God in everyone—even those I vehemently disagree with. I think it's only then that we can come together to listen to, respect, and work together for the common good of all—no exceptions.

We live in tumultuous times. Be still and listen for the tiny whispering sound.

—Angela Anno

PLEASE JOIN US FOR 10:30 MASS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 FOLLOWED BY A
BLESSING, DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE
AT THE FOOD PANTRY.
BISHOP BINZER, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF CINCINNATI, PRESIDING.

**OUR CELEBRATION, DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE
WILL NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU.
BRING OTHERS WITH YOU. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

CLANCY'S CLICHÉ'S

We all have different and unique porpoises. Most of us are great at some things like making someone laugh, greeting folks at the door with a helicopter tail, listening to a friend over and over again about the same issue and problem, driving the van for the Food Pantry, picking up folks for ESL or tutoring or dog-training classes, licking dirty dishes left in the sink, putting someone's vitamins in alphabetical order in their weekly pill box, letting someone pat you on the head, providing a smile to anyone and everyone, or providing a back on which to place treats and make your master laugh.



For example, the only one at St. Leo any good at having their belly rubbed is me. (Jake is too much of a busy-body!) This is a great therapy for so many folks which usually brings on a giggle or laugh—another great therapy! So I endure it happily. My master is quite good at those silly puns which makes everyone groan but also helps lighten up the challenges of the day.

It is in recognizing and admitting that someone else can do a better job, though, and not only acknowledge it but celebrate it! (Celebrations are great!) So whatever gifts we each are given, we have them to serve, help, and be helped by others—that's why we're here. We're a big dog team pulling each other forward in life! Now, mush, team! Mush onward!

In other news . . . National Tell-A-Joke-Day is August 16. And that's no joke! (Am I the only one who knows this?) Celebrate by sharing a few of these nice summer jokes (well, summer funny and summer not!):

Why are spiders such good swimmers?

A. They have webbed feet!

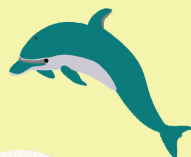


What is the best day to go to the beach?

A. SUNDAY!

Why do porpoises swim in salt water?

A. Pepper makes them sneeze!



Why do bananas use sunscreen?

A. They peel easily!



What did the pig say at the beach?

A. It's so hot, I'm bacon!



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

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. **Plan ahead: Children must be supervised while at our Food Pantry.**

Plan Ahead For Any Emergency: Give 9-1-1 the information they need to help you fast. Go to: <https://www.smart911.com/>

Once you've signed up for Smart911, first responders will be aware of important information you have provided that will help Police, Fire, and EMS locate and help you in an emergency.

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 & Babies: 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!**

May Winners: Eileen Bronkowski, Mark Schlormiann, Rosemary Beckman, Annie Reynolds, Sr. Marion Boeddeker



WISH LIST

- **Wireless Doorbell** w/Flashing Light (\$30-\$50)
- **Toddler size Baptism Bibs** (about 20) and Baby sized Baptism Bibs (about 15)
- **2 Large Wipe Boards** for our meeting space in the Food Pantry building. Available at Staples: U Brands Glass Dry-Erase Board, 70"W x 35"H available at Staples, Item:131724/Model:123U00-01 (\$299.99 each)
- **2 Correll Seminar 96" Rectangular Training Tables**, Item: 1560623Model: SP1896PX-15 \$272.69 Ea. Only Available Online at Staples: https://m.staples.com/-/product_1560623
- **50" flat screen TV** (\$225-\$250) with **articulating wall mount** (\$65) for the community hub at St. Leo's
- **TV wall cabinet** (\$250) for the community hub at St. Leo's
- **12 8ftx30in lightweight folding tables**
- **40 lightweight stacking chairs**
- **5 new or gently used office chairs**
- **Gift Cards** for the continuing work and maintenance of the parish, and our Youth Group functions: **Home Depot, Staples, Hobby Lobby, Kroger Priceless!**

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/31-0538556>

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 June the Food Pantry served 846 individuals, in 298 households, including 358 children and 96 seniors.

Needs for August:

- ◇ Canned: baked beans, cream of mushroom soup, tuna, salmon, chicken, mixed veggies, spinach, pineapple, mixed fruit
- ◇ Vinegar, cooking oil
- ◇ Deodorant, shaving cream, ANY household or personal cleaning items
- ◇ Spaghetti, egg noodles, 1-lb bags of rice
- ◇ BAGGIES - quart and sandwich sizes
- ◇ Electric Bread Slicer-Sharpener/Commercial Grade=If anyone know anyone in the business, perhaps they might have a used one sitting around. These are very expensive, yet we receive several dozen of un-sliced bread that are the last to be taken and a used bread slicer would help immensely!

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.

To volunteer, or for more information, please call at 513-921-1044!



Volunteer Needed

3-4 hours each week to do light housekeeping at the rectory, including cleaning the restrooms and kitchen, vacuuming and dusting the offices and meeting spaces. If you are interested, please call 513-921-1044 ext. 20.



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.

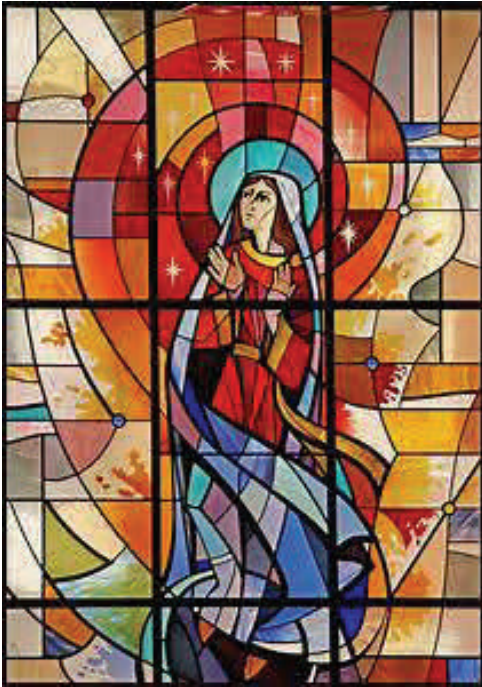
Volunteering! Be sure to check us out on Facebook at: [St. Leo the Great Catholic Church](#) and on our Web Page at www.saint-leo.org, and please spread the word about us to your family and friends.

**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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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 August			1 Food Pantry Open	2 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	3 Food Pantry open AA Meeting 7:30pm Youth Summer Fun Program 10am-2pm	4 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
5 Mass: 10:30am	6 Food Pantry Open Youth Summer Fun Program 10am-2pm	7	8 Food Pantry Open	9 NO MASS English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	10 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm Youth Summer Fun Program 10am-2pm	11 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
12 Mass: 10:30am	13 Food Pantry Open	14	15 Food Pantry Open Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 7:00pm Mass Office Closed	16 English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am St. Leo's	17 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	18 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon Day of Hope
19 Mass: 10:30am	20 Food Pantry Open	21	22 Food Pantry Open	23 English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	24 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	25 Mass in Spanish 6pm;; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
26 Mass: 10:30am	27 Food Pantry Open	28	29	30	31	