

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, February 17** – 6:00 pm Mass in Spanish  
 Mass Intention for the People of the Parish  
 Readings: Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32

**Sunday, February 18** – 10:30am Mass, **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
 Mass Intention for Anna Mae Bruser; Readings: Genesis 9:8-15,  
 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

**Monday, February 19** – No Service  
 Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

**Tuesday, February 20** – No Service.  
 Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

**Wednesday, February 21** – No Service.  
 Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

**Thursday, February 22** – 7:00pm Mass,  
 Mass Intentions for Repose of the soul of Geraldine “Gerry”  
 Burke; Readings: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

**Friday, February 23** –No Service  
 Readings: Ezekial 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

**Saturday, February 24** – 6:00 pm Mass in Spanish  
 Mass Intention for the People of the Parish  
 Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

**Sunday, February 25**– 10:30am Mass, **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
 Mass Intention for Sue and Bob Strobel;  
 Readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31-34;  
 Mark 9:2-10

**MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 18**

*Lectors* – Mawo, Yvone  
*Distributors* – Myles, Epiphany, Berlamino T., Rosario B., Jon T.  
*Servers* – Stanilaus, Jefferson B.

**MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 25**

*Lectors* – Shirley, Albert  
*Distributors* – Kate, Claudette, Pedro B., Alejandra P., Becky  
*Servers* – Patience, Vanessa

**ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY**

**Serving Hours: Mon., Wed. and Fri. 1:00-3:30pm**  
**CLOSED** when Cincinnati Public Schools are closed for snow,  
 ice and/or bitter cold. Check media: TV, Facebook and website.



**SEWING CLASSES** Fridays, 9am – noon, at the rectory.

**ESL ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES FREE!**

Thursdays, 9:30am – 12:30pm.  
 Saturdays, 10:00, 10:00 - Noon



**COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS**

North Fairmount Community Center/Referral Services:  
 Linda Klem: 513-921-5842, Housing: 513-921-5889  
 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.

**SNOW NEWS!** Check out the following stations for St. Leo  
 cancellations: WCPO-Channel 9, WXIX-Channel 19

**VISIT US! St. Leo's website:** www.Saint-Leo.org

**Facebook:** St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

**St. Leo's YouTube Channel:** StLeoTheGreatParish



**YOUR GIFT TO ST. LEO  
 IS MOST APPRECIATED!**

Collection for February 11: \$1,274.83

Thank you for generously supporting your parish!

**EASY ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE:**

Go to <http://saint-leo.org/DonateNow.aspx> and click on the  
 Donate Now Button.

**SHOP AT AMAZON SMILE AND SUPPORT ST. LEO:**

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

**SHOP AT 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.

**Make a long lasting difference! Leave a Legacy by remembering  
 St. Leo the Great Church in your Will. For more information  
 contact Casey Betz at 513-921-1044 ext. 30.**

**PRAY FOR OUR PARISH PARTNERS**

In deepest gratitude for their most generous contributions of time,  
 talent and treasure to St. Leo's, this week please keep in prayer  
 St. Antoninus.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED**

Please keep in your prayers all those listed in our Parish Petition/Special  
 Prayer Books. Please call the Parish Office if you are hospitalized and  
 wish to be visited. Hospitals no longer share that information.

**VOCATION VIEW**

We do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from  
 the mouth of God. Who will proclaim that word to us? Pray for  
 vocations to priesthood and religious live.

**LET US PRAY**

According to one rabbi, you, God, created humans because you  
 enjoy stories. Show us how to accept the story you want for us.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- February 18** Religious Education  
Server's Club
- February 27** The Light Is On For You, 7-9:00pm
- March 4** Religious Education  
Youth Group
- March 11** Youth Group

Bulletin information is always welcome! Articles must be in the  
 office by 10am the Monday prior to publication, provided there is  
 still Room. Please call Casey at 921-1044X30 or email to  
[cbetzstleo@aol.com](mailto:cbetzstleo@aol.com)

To receive the parish weekly bulletin by e-mail, go to  
[www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com) and search St. Leo in Cincinnati, OH.  
 Under bulletin, click on sign-up for e-mail notification. Enter  
 your user name and e-mail address.

**Sign up to receive St. Leo's Monthly Newsletter:** call the  
 office at 513-921-1044, email your name and address to:  
[cbetzstleo@aol.com](mailto:cbetzstleo@aol.com) or sign up online at: <http://saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoMonthlyNewsletter.aspx>

From Fr. Jim . . .

Lenten Reflection: I have a piece of art by a Mexican artist who makes sculptures out of clay and then paints them with bright colors – yellow, orange, blue, red, purple , green. All of the sculptures he calls “The Tree of Life.” Many of these sculptures have secular themes and many have biblical themes that image the Tree of life in the Garden of Eden and tell the story of creation and salvation.

The piece that I have, as it keeps its shape of a tree, tells the story of Noah’s ark. In the midst of all the beautiful flowers, fruit and abundant life, animals are safely on the ark enjoying the life of salvation and there are animals climbing up the side of the ark to get into the boat of life and salvation. It’s as if the life in the Garden of Eden is being restored for all creatures and things are returning to the way they were at the beginning of creation.

Jesus suffered, died and rose for all of us that we might know the salvation of God and join with all creation in being restored to a fullness of life with God. We are in the boat of salvation. God wants and desires for us through Jesus and with their Spirit to live in union with the life of God now and forever.

The forty days of Lent can be like a retreat for the whole church where the people of God examine this reality and grow together more deeply in understanding and appreciating the life, love and salvation that God so generously shares with us. As we understand and accept this reality, Lent becomes a time when we strive to live more closely in union with what we believe and with the life we know God is giving us.

God has given us a promise that God will never push us out of the boat and that we always have a place in it no matter what. When we feel otherwise, more than likely, the attractions of the world and selfishness have lured us back into the troubled waters of sin and death or we are blinded to see the place that God has prepared for us or deaf to God’s call to take our rightful place.

Lent, then, is a wonderful opportunity for us to repent and to seek God’s forgiveness and mercy, to turn away from sin and remain as faithful to the Gospel as we possibly can. It is a time for us to walk with catechumens and candidates for full communion with the church and to examine our lives and our faith journey together with the Lenten Gospels. It is a time for prayer, fasting and giving alms (works of mercy and charity). We do all of this not to earn our place back onto the boat of salvation or to convince God to keep us on the boat but solely as a response to being saved and to being in union with the life of God. Quite frankly, this is what is expected of us as branches on the Tree of God’s Life. We pray, fast, forgive, and live in charity with one another because God has truly saved us from sin and death.

So, what do we want to do this Lent in order to celebrate our place on the Tree of God’s life? How will living with God’s forgiveness and mercy, prayer and the rituals of the church, fasting and giving alms help us to do this? The boat is sailing. Praise God that there is a place for us.

As part of your Lenten Prayer, please remember to pray for our catechumens from St. Leo who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil this year and there are 50 or more people who are already baptized Catholic and who will receive first communion and Confirmation here at St. Leo on the Sunday’s during Easter. Also we have parishioner children in Catholic Schools who will receive first communion and Confirmation sometime this year at their respective

school. May God bless their faith. “As for me and my household, we will choose the Lord!” Praise God now and always!



The Light Is On for You “The Light Is On for You” is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to invite all Catholics to experience the love and mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confession is a wonderful opportunity to turn away from our sinfulness and to experience the grace of reconciliation with God and with others in our lives. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati every parish will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation by offering private confessions on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Every parish church will have their doors open for you.

Religious Education: The sessions are in English, on the first and third Sundays of the month from Noon – 1:00pm in our Parish Office Building. Feb. 18, March 4, 18

YOUTH PROGRAM for students 10-12 years and 13-18 years Sunday: March 4

Servers’ Club/Grupo de Alcolitos March 11/se reune 11 marzo Immediately following mass. For students 3rd grade and up. You do not have to be a server to join.

SNOW NEWS! Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations: WCPO-Channel 9, WXIX-Channel 19

St. Leo Food Pantry will be CLOSED when Cincinnati Public Schools are closed for bad weather: snow, ice, bitter cold. Check media: TV, Facebook and website.

CRS Rise Bowl is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program. Join our faith community, and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl Pick you family’s CRS Rice Bowl from the back of church.

Volunteer Drivers Needed Hospitality is the welcome we give to someone’s presence. Volunteers are needed to provide rides to and from church so that folks in need can be present for Sunday mass. Would you be willing to assist a family that lives on your way? Please call the office if you can help: 513-921-1044.

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, to act as point person for other volunteers. Assistant Administrator about 9-12 hours a week, to tend to ordering, organizing the inventory, and conveying to coordinators/volunteers what’s up. If you feel called to either of these volunteer settings, or to participate in any of our other volunteer opportunities, please call at 513-921-1044!

LENTE REMINDERS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE Ash Wednesday, February 14, and Good Friday, March 30 are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97, 1252).