

January 27, 2019



## **From Fr. Jim . . .**

**Prayer for Vocations:** Last week's Gospel speaks about John the Baptist seeing Jesus coming toward him and John calls Jesus "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Both of the vocations of John and Jesus are alluded to in this passage. In this week's Gospel, Jesus is walking along the shore and he sees Simon and Andrew and James and John casting their nets. Jesus invites them to follow him. The Scriptures give us all cause to be thankful for how we have answered the Lord's call and to continue discerning how to answer the Lord's call in our lives today. The Lord told the disciples that they would be catching people. How are we caught? How does the Lord catch others with us? Prayer is one good way. The following is Archbishop Schnurr's prayer for vocations. He asks us to pray this often:

Almighty Father, you have created us for some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path you have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make our Archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to your call with courage and zeal. Stir among our men a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a chaste single life, permanent deacons, and faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ's love for his church. We commend our prayer for vocations to you, Father, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CISE Collection:** This weekend, today, there is a second collection for CISE. CISE is the Catholic Inner City Schools Education Fund. Our children from St. Leo who attend Catholic grade schools all go to CISE schools. Because of CISE Funding, our children can afford the tuition of a Catholic education. Thank you for all of your prayers and support for our children.

**2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA):** The weekend of February 2 and 3 is the commitment pledge for the 2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The CMA is an opportunity to support the work of six vital ministries and their many programs, all of which operate right here in our Archdiocese. Every registered parish household should receive a CMA mailing from Archbishop Schnurr. Please prayerfully complete your pledge card and return it in the envelope provided or bring your completed pledge card sealed in its return envelope to Mass and place it in the collection basket. For more information, please visit [CatholicAppeal.info](http://CatholicAppeal.info). Thank You.

**About All the Snow:** It looks like we are in for a bad winter this year. Let's hope and pray that the snow and ice storms don't always come on the weekends. I don't like canceling Sunday Mass especially two weeks in a row, but I thought it was for the best and for the good and safety of everyone. Many of St. Leo's parishioners do not live in North Fairmount and some come from the east and the North of Cincinnati. Both times, the major roads and highways were still icy even after having been treated. The last week, there was a level two snow emergency throughout Cincinnati which means that no one should be driving unless it is an absolute emergency. Also, when the weather is that severe, we do not always have adequate resources to clear the snow and ice off the sidewalks and steps. Thus, I thought it best for everyone to cancel Mass.

I truly believe that the Lord understands this and would always encourage us to be safe and to use common sense. I want you to know that I will always try to have Sunday Mass and even if I don't cancel it and you think it is too difficult for you to come, please use and trust your best judgement. When Mass is officially canceled, it will be posted on Television channels 9, 12 and 19. It will also be posted in English and Spanish on Facebook. Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation.