

April 28, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .

There is an old and favorite story that I like to tell and I am sure that many of you have heard me tell it before. It is especially good to tell during the Easter Season. Once there was a mother mouse and she was lining up her brood to take them out into the house through their mouse hole in the wall for the first time. As they go marching out, the house cat that appeared to be sleeping opens one eye and raises one paw. Immediately and instinctively the mother mouse sat back on her haunches and she BARKED! It was louder than any dog could produce and the cat went scurrying away. The mother mouse turns to her brood and says, "You see it pays to know a second language!" The mice continued on their journey in safety.



When it comes to sin and death and journeying in this world to the next one it pays everyone to know well the language of the resurrection. In the readings for the Easter season, we hear the risen Christ teach the apostles, disciples and all creation how to speak this language. The risen Christ speaks this language when he offers the frightened apostles peace and tells them not to be afraid. He speaks it to Thomas when he tells him to touch his wounds and to know that he is risen and alive and to believe in him. He speaks it when he tells the disciples to "Receive the Holy Spirit" and to forgive sin. The language of the resurrection is truly spoken with the virtues of the Holy Spirit as these virtues permeate all of God's creation and fill the hearts of all the faithful. It pays us to know the Lord's language of the Resurrection because this language sent death scurrying away and it keeps death in its place, takes its sting away and diminishes its power over the world. It conquers death and offers eternal life. Jesus speaks this language and he, himself, is the language. It pays us all well to know the Risen Christ.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. God's mercy is the language of Lent and it speaks the language of the Resurrection incredibly well also. Psalm 118, today's responsorial psalm sums this up well. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His mercy endures forever." ...The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; Let us be glad and rejoice in it. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

And the one simple word that the Church uses that speaks strongly of the Lord's language of resurrection is ALLELUIA! We are truly a people of the Resurrection and Alleluia is our song. Let us join with all of God's creation and with all the saints around the heavenly kingdom and sing it loud and clear. Let us pray that we will learn the language of the resurrection better during these fifty days of Easter. As I have learned from trying to speak Spanish, if I don't use it and keep trying to speak it then I will lose it! Have fun practicing resurrection, speaking its language and rejoicing in the fullness of God's life and love for us all. It truly pays us all to know the risen Lord!

Congratulations to Ben Lotiang'a! Ben was ordained to the Diaconate Saturday morning, April 20th. He has one more year of studies and will function as a deacon on the weekends at St. Leo until he is ordained a priest next May. As a Deacon, Ben has more responsibilities at the altar during Mass. He can also preach at Mass and proclaim the Gospel. He can perform marriages and Baptisms outside of Mass. Ben is diaconating at both of our Masses this weekend and giving the homily. There will be a reception for him after the 10:30am Mass Sunday, April 28. Please stop by and congratulate him and have some light refreshments.

A Special Mass: St. Leo is hosting a Special Mass Monday, April 29, 2019, 7pm. This Mass is in Spanish and Fr. Louis Gasparini is the presider. It is sponsored by the Family Life Office for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It is a Mass for healing for parents who have lost an unborn child. All are welcome.

Many, many thanks to our Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for April: Paul and Therese Rieger

Confirmation practice April 28th: Confirmation is Sunday, May 5th at 2:00pm at the Cathedral. Eight youth and 25 adults will receive the sacrament that day.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursday, May 2: immediately following 7:00pm mass until 9:00pm.

National Day of Prayer, asking God to bless our city and neighborhoods. Thursday, May 2, Join us at any or all of our prayer caravan stops: 10:00 The Villages at Roll Hill & Childhood Food Solutions, 3691 President Drive; 10:18 Taylor Academy & Millvale Rec Center, 1930 Fricke Rd; 10:36 Hopple Street Health Center & Galilee Baptist Church, 2750 Beekman St.; 10:54 St. Leo Pray Wall & Food Pantry, 2573 St. Leo Pl.; 11:12 North Fairmont School & Willing Spirit Baptist Church, 2001 Baltimore Ave.; 11:30 Talbert House for Women, 1616 Harrison Ave.; 11:48 Sav-a lot Parking Lot, Cincinnati Urban Mission & Shepherd's Heart Church, 2435 Harrison Ave.; 12:06 President Drive Church & Roll Hill School, 2380 Baltimore Ave.

7:00 PM Prayer Walk, begin at Third Presbyterian Church 3358 McHenry Ave and prayer walk to President Drive Church of Christ 3671 President Drive where ice cream sundaes will be served.

Beekman Corridor Celebration! Saturday, May 4th, 1-3:00 PM, 1814 Dreman Avenue. Celebrate the new coalition. Updates from each committee. Socialize with your neighbors. Potluck style. Bring a dish to share!

Join us on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019 for the 16th 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>

SPONSOR A STUDENT: St. Leo's Youth Group would like to join the Hunger Walk, but some of our students can't afford the registration fee. Please consider a \$20 sponsorship to allow one of our Youth to participate. If you are willing, please send a \$20 check made out to: St. Leo the Great Church with the note: Youth Group Hunger Walk Sponsorship. Mail to: St. Leo the Great Church, 2573 St. Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Guatemalan Film Festival hosted at St. Leo's, Friday, June 7: 1-4:00 pm, Workshops; 6-7:00 pm, Reception, Food by the bites; 7:00 pm, [Voice of A Mountain](#), by Erik Nj Allen, film screening and special artist talk

Saturday, June 8: 12:00 pm, Cafe opens; 1-4:00 pm Workshops;

6:00 pm, [500 Years](#), film screening and discussion worksheet

Register at CincinnatiFilm.org, On sale date April 22nd. Exact time of workshops tba. For questions go to info@cincinnatifilmsociety.org

Blessing of St. Leo's Stained Glass Windows: Sunday, June 9, after 10:30 am Mass A reception and light refreshments will follow in Centennial Hall.