

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE****Saturday, Mar. 4 – 6:00pm** Mass

Intention for the People of the Parish.

Readings: Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32

**Sunday, Mar. 5 – 10:30am** Mass

Mass Intention for Robert Bruser. Readings:

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**Monday, Mar. 6** - No Service.

Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

**Tuesday, Mar. 7** - No Service.

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

**Wednesday, Mar. 8**

Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

**Thursday, Mar. 9 – Adoration 10:00am-Noon****NO Thursday evening Mass.** Mass Intention for Marie Antoinette Macke. Readings: Esther 4:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12**Friday, Mar. 10 – Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm.**

Readings: Ezra 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

**Saturday, Mar. 11 – 6:00pm** Mass

Intention for the People of the Parish.

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

**Sunday, Mar. 12 – 10:30am** Mass **Second Sunday of Lent**

Mass Intention for Robert Bruser. Readings: Genesis 12:1-4;

2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

**MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH 5***Lectors* – Paul, Albert*Distributors* – Becky, Claudette, Berta M., Marina S., Kate M.*Servers* – Martin, Irving V.**MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH 12***Lectors* – Marianne, Agrippine*Distributors* – Jon T., Pierre, Edgar V. Hector E., Laura*Servers* – Adela, Vanessa D.**ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY****Serving Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 1:00-3:30pm**

Closed for inclement weather when Cincinnati Public Schools are closed.

**SEWING CLASSES** Fridays, 9am – noon, at the rectory.**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES** are held at St. Leo **Thurs. at 9:30am-12:30pm**, and **Sat. 10am-noon**.

We teach English to Spanish and Burundi-speaking students, but welcome all wishing to learn English. Free!

**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

GED Referral: Roll Hill: 513-542-8333x5

Literary Network: 513-621-7323

**HELPING HANDS STORE****ALL ITEMS FREE**, 2568 Beekman St, 45225, at the corner of Beekman and Dempsey. Accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. 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**YOUR GIFT TO ST. LEO IS MOST APPRECIATED!**

Collection for February 26 will be reported next week.

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 Trinity Hill UCC.

**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**

This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand. Let us reform our lives and believe in the Good News.

**LET US PRAY**

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, grant us in our misery that we may do for your sake alone, what we know you want us to do. Amen

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- March 5** - Confirmation Class after Mass
- March 9** - **NO Thursday evening Mass**
- March 10** - Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm
- March 14** - The Light Is On For You, 7:00-9:00pm
- March 18** - Confirmation Retreat Day
- March 26** - Confirmation Class
- March 26** - Server's Club

**Stations of the Cross – 7:00pm Fridays during Lent**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.

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.

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. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati every parish will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation by offering private confessions on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Every parish church will have their doors open for you.

Lenten Services
Ash Wednesday, March 1st: Mass 7:00pm
Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 7:00pm

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed
On Call Drivers Needed. Escorts needed for Mon., Wed. and especially Fridays. We are still looking for an Inventory Control Assistant. For more info, call Stephanie at 513-921-1044.

St. Leo’s Volunteer Drivers Needed
St. Leo’s is looking for a licensed van driver to drive the church van, and others willing to provide rides for our parish members to attend Sunday mass. Please call the office if you can help: 513-921-1044.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2016
If you need a contribution statement for your weekly envelope donations, please call the Parish Office at 921-1044.

Stained Glass Window Fund
St. Leo’s stained glass windows are in serious need of repair and restoration. The total cost to repair all of the windows is expected to be at least \$25,000. In order to do this, St. Leo’s is initiating a Stained Glass Window Fund to help cover the cost of repairing and restoring all of the stained glass windows in the church over the next few years. We ask you to consider making a donation to help build our Stained Glass Window Fund. Your gift of beauty will enhance our worship experience for many years to come.

Lenten Lecture Series
at St. Dominic Church, Wednesdays, March 8 – April 5, 7:00 – 8:00pm followed by discussion, reflection and light refreshment. Dea. Amado Lim will deliver the first presentation, followed by inspiring messages from Fr. Ray Kellerman, Fr. Jim Schutte, Bishop Joe Binzer and Fr. Bob Hater on important aspects of renewing our discipleship. Each lecture will be meaningful on its own. No need to pre-register.

Lunch With the Lord
Theologian, Msgr. Frank Lane, offers inspiring insights on the Sunday Scriptures during Lent. Free and open to the public. Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3 from Noon to 1:00 pm in the Synod Hall of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, following the 11:30am Mass. Bring your lunch and a friend. Drinks are available for a donation. For details, call 513.421.5354.

Introducing the LEAP Academy
Located in the former North Fairmount School building on Baltimore Ave. Giving students an academic advantage with world language instruction in Spanish. Enrolling now for the 2017-18 school year. For info, visit www.cps-k12.org or call Customer Help Center at 513-363-0123.

Lenten Series at St. William Wed., Mar. 15, “Restoring Order and Human Dignity.” Sister Tracy will talk about her faith journey that led her to work with the Hispanic community and immigration. Wed., Mar. 22, Fr. Philip Seher will talk about “Grace and Purification.” Fr. Reardon Hall (beneath St. William Church), 4108 West Eighth Street in Price Hill. No cost and ALL are welcome!