



# ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



## ***BENEFITTING FROM THE EXAMPLE OF OUR SENIORS...***

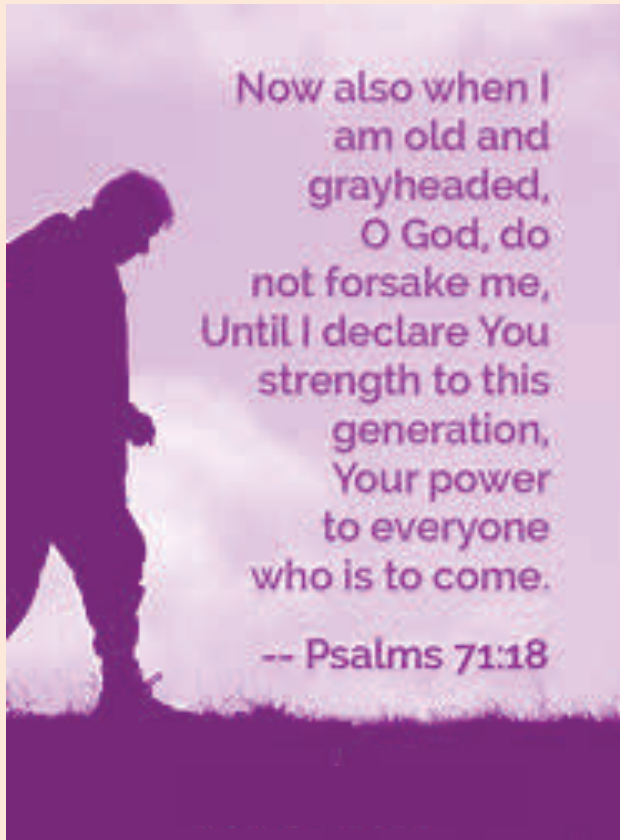
While St. Leo is becoming a younger parish with over 60 baptisms and only one funeral last year, it continues to be grounded in the faith and wisdom of its elders, both past and present.

Though some long-time parishioners may recognize those mentioned names will not be used in order to allow readers to begin to develop their own list of senior "saints" that have impacted their faith journeys both here and in their own families and communities.

Service to the church is often a hallmark of those in their later years and it is usually behind the scenes, humble work like taking care of washing and ironing of cloths needed for Mass and seeing that candles are ready. Others work in ministries of hospitality and being Eucharistic distributors. Still others are involved in music and prison ministry and take communion to the sick. Being at Mass each week is important to them and they come to church in their finest clothes often carrying well-worn prayer books. A woman who was a friend and mentor to many died as she got ready to come to a revival at St. Leo's. Her life was quiet but she touched so many people. Another long time parishioner who had been very active in the parish and is now home bound still is involved from a distance and frequently calls with input and ideas. PTA work when there was a school, craft sales and commitment to being there when things needed to be done marked the life of one who had lived in the neighborhood all of her life.

Refugees from violence and war come with experiences of seeing loved ones killed and loss of everything but their faith that carried them through horrors difficult to imagine. They come with hopes for their future and a desire to see their children and grandchildren have better lives but still stay grounded in the values and relationship with God that continues to sustain them.

Helping others and sharing what they have motivated many of our seniors. One who raised ten children of her own took in children in need and relatives going through hard times—no questions asked. Another who was known for her baked goods and Italian food,



invited a family with less to share Thanksgiving with her family even though she didn't have much herself.

Those who have been in the neighborhood many years share the stories and history of the past when the area was thriving, are getting involved in neighborhood planning, and share visions of what is possible in the future.

There have been parishioners who started and staffed a food co-op in the building that is now Angels' Arms. A man who was known as the St. Joseph of St. Leo's for his ability to repair and build things, as well as his gentle spirit, helped start the food pantry which was managed for many years by a woman who wouldn't go with the EMT's until the food was loaded in the van even after she broke her hip slipping on a wet floor. Another long-time parishioner whose family literally helped build the church made sure to turn in her envelope to Father who visited her as she lay dying. She supported her parish until the end.

Our seniors have been a dedicated group and their labors and example are bearing fruit as young families and youth are taking leadership and following in their footsteps.



# 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 all of the enthusiastic, energetic volunteers who help make the annual toy and clothing sale a big success!



**Many, many thanks** to the multitude of dedicated volunteers who work at the food pantry every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, year-round!

**Many, many thanks** to the four La Salle students who so faithfully continue to do their senior service work project St. Leo's Food Pantry every Wednesday during this 2019-2020 academic year. **Congratulations** to La Salle on their Division II Football State Championship! One of our student volunteers was on the team! ➔

**Many thanks to our  
Monthly Overhead Sponsor  
for January  
Kind Anonymous Donor**



**Many, many thanks** to Jake Hodesh and Ben Ranz along with several UC Law students, who prepared 38 youth passports. They sat with our families at the church then helped them at the Post Office to complete the final steps in the paperwork. They funded the entire project. It was an amazing accomplishment!



## ¡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 . . .

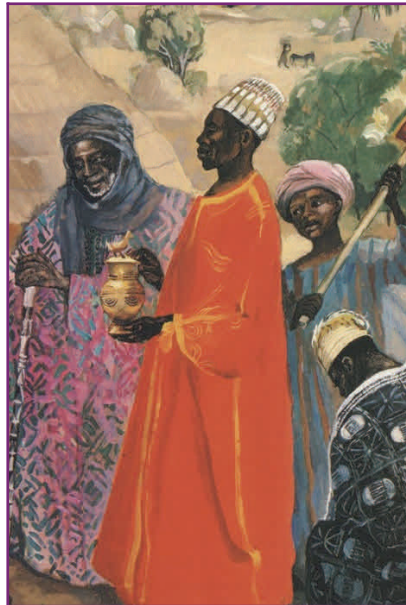
On behalf of the entire staff and parish of St. Leo the Great, I offer to you and yours a happy, prosperous and blessed New Year. We believe that each New Year is another opportunity for encountering and embracing the grace and holiness of the God who has come to us in human form and shape to liberate us and to set us free from all that enslaves us.

So, in the words of the prophet Isaiah and the words on the scroll that Jesus opened and proclaimed to the people in the temple, may this year be one in which all people know that Jesus has come "to bring glad tidings to the poor, to announce a year of favor from the Lord, recovery of sight to the blind and to proclaim liberty to captives." As we are thinking about making resolutions for the New Year, let us also resolve to become more aware of just how Jesus has come to build his kingdom in our lives and can we also resolve to help him build this kingdom in the lives of others and in the entire world?

At the beginning of each New Year, especially in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the hearts of Catholic Christians turn to embracing and praying for the peace that only God can give. On the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, we have the option of using the Mass for Peace if we so choose. Isn't Mary the perfect model and example of one who has embraced the peace (Jesus Christ) that only God can give us? How can we be more open to welcoming Jesus into our lives and giving him a home in our hearts? In doing this, let us pray for the peace of his presence, of knowing his love for us, our love for him and our willingness to share his love in our homes, neighborhoods, and in a world still formed and shaped by wars and violence.

This month, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The Magi from the East represent all the people of the entire world coming to pay homage to their king. At St. Leo's we give thanks for the graced privileged of being a place where nations from the world are welcomed and can give God praise together. Together, here, God has come to announce a year of favor and to proclaim liberty to captives and glad tidings to the poor. Here, together, we embrace the peace that only God can bring. Here, together, we celebrate our one faith and a New Year filled with the presence of our loving God and king.

With our prayer and worship and by living together the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, we hear and see the works of the Christ who is ever so present among us. Although we do these things to prepare for the Lord's second coming, we also do these things to celebrate Christmas every day of the year and to acknowledge that our salvation has come, is come and will come again. We continue to build the kingdom that God has already started and handed onto us as we actively wait for God to come back and complete what Jesus started and what the church continues to do in His name.



We are so blessed by everyone (parishioner, partner, visitor) sharing their time, talent and treasure to build God's kingdom, to prepare the way for the Lord's return and to celebrate his presence among us now. God is always present in our love for one another. This new year, let us continue to hold each other in deep prayer and together let us pray for the peace that only God brings to our minds, hearts and homes as well as to the many troubles of our world. Let us work for peace and justice for all and for the respect and dignity that life on all levels deserves. Let us keep welcoming the infant in the womb, immigrants, refugees, and the elderly. May violence, harassment, bullying, and terrorism of every kind cease. It is a new year and it is time to once again announce a year of favor from the Lord and pray and work for the newness of God's reign to take deeper root in our lives, all people, nations and the world.

Thanks for building the kingdom of God. Thanks for all that you do to help make our joy complete and to help us live freely for the Lord and each other. Please come and celebrate with us anytime, won't you? Please know that you are always welcome and bring someone with you. Come all ye faithful, come. Come learn, celebrate and live the faith with us. With our lives, let us always sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come to save us!"

~ Fr. Jim

**St. Leo's Prayer Wall** is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, as well as peacemakers and saints who have inspired us through the ages.

The Wall is a place for staff and volunteers, youth groups, community meetings, and for individuals who pass through our parking lot on the way to work, school, etc., to pray, reflect and pause. We invite you to share in this special way of prayer, joy, and thanksgiving. Praise God! God cares about every need in your life and knows what you need even before you ask Him for help. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time.



All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence. **Send your prayer request to:** Saint Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225. You can also submit your prayer request online at: <http://saint-leo/WorksofMercy/PrayerWallMinistry.aspx>.

# *IT'S EPIPHANY EVERY SUNDAY AT ST. LEO!*

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

*The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.*

*All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.*

This psalm for the feast of Epiphany could have been written about Sunday Mass at St. Leo's where people from many nations join together in prayer and song in a variety of languages. The words from our anniversary song also echo that spirit of unity that marks our coming together as brothers and sisters from many nations praising and thanking God as we share our Eucharistic celebration:

*The immigrants now come from other lands,  
But our mission is the same,  
Africa, Central America,  
Still we preach in Jesus' name,  
Of the love poured down from heaven,  
By the Father and the Son,  
And invite the Holy Spirit,  
To unite our hearts as one.*

***Imana shimwe! Alabare al Senor!  
Ev'ryone praise the Lord!  
Gott sei dank! Grazie a Dio!***



## FINDING GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE MESS...

Maybe it's because I'm getting older. Maybe it's because so many things seem to be spinning out of control. Maybe it's because so many people seem fearful and our society seems more and more divided. Maybe the gloom and cold and gray days of winter are making things worse. In any case it seems that left to our own devices we are making a mess of our relationships, our society, and our planet. I, for one, don't like living in a state of powerlessness and anxiety, but good news is often hard to come

by and I sometimes find myself crying out "where are You, God?"

Maybe it's about the way one looks at things--something like the story of the difference between the optimist and the pessimist. The pessimist is given a pony for his birthday and begins to moan about all the work he'd have to do to take care of it. The optimist walks into

the smelly, filthy barn and rejoices. "With all this manure, there's got to be a pony here somewhere." Like I said, it could be the lens I'm looking through that colors how I see things. Would it be different if I believed that in the midst of all this apparent chaos, there's grace and God is at work?

Spending time with the Scriptures and in prayer reminds me that what is happening is nothing new. People have been in this place many times before throughout history and though it may not take the current ache away, it gives me confidence that God never leaves and is always beside us.

Like the father of the prodigal son, God allows us to make our own choices which are often selfish and inconsiderate—and then deal with the consequences. When we begin to regret what we have done—and sometimes even before because he loves us so much--God rushes to us, embraces us, doesn't rub our noses in it and say "I told you so" and often even uses our missteps and failures to bring about healing—not just for ourselves but often for others as well.

The Big Book of AA says something very similar: "I used to think that being an alcoholic was the worst thing that could happen to me. Now I realize it's my greatest gift." The journey to recovery has often enabled people to develop a deeper relationship with God and with others and what seemed to be disaster has become gift to be shared.

Each of us has a part to play in changing things for the better and we all come up with our own excuses not to act and trust in God's promise. We find that heroes from the Bible were much like us. When told she would have a baby at her advanced age, Abraham's wife Sarai laughed.. Moses put conditions on his response to God's call. "I need to know your name before I can lead the Israelites out of Egypt." Jeremiah argued that he was too young (though scholars tell us he was middle-aged at the time). Jonah

didn't want good things for his enemies so he tried to run from God. Peter went back to fishing.

In spite of our waffling, God still invites us and calls us to act. Listen to the prophet Haggai talking to the people of Israel about God's desire to change things and their role in accomplishing this:

*Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? And how do you see it now?*

*...Now be strong, all you people of the land— and WORK! For I am with you—*

*This is the commitment I made to you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit remains in your midst; do not fear! For thus says the LORD of hosts:*

*In just a little while,*

*I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.*

*I will shake all the nations, so that the treasures of all the nations will come in.*

*And I will fill this house with glory— says the LORD of hosts. ....*

*Greater will be the glory of this house than the former—says the LORD of hosts;*

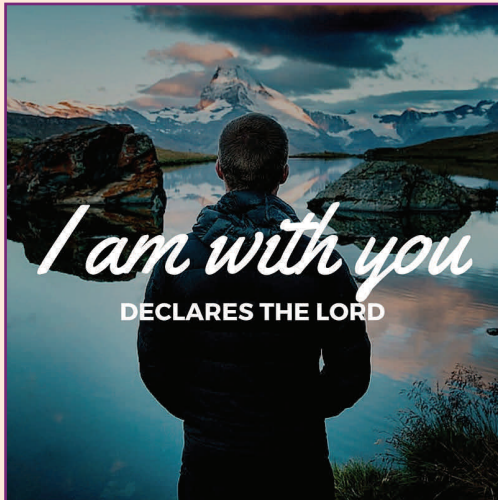
*And in this place I will give you peace—*

Haggai 2:3-9)

Can one person bring about change? Does one drop of water make a difference in the ocean? It affects the drops of water above, below, and on each side of it—and so can we. And in this process we find God has always been with us.

So off with the gloomy faces and sense of helplessness! It's time to get busy!!

~ Angela Anno



*"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty.*



# Clancy's Cliché's



Drumroll, please, for our Word of the Year: AWARENESS. This is the time of year the nights are long which makes the night sky seem so bleak, so dark. It's a good reflection on my 2020 Word of the Year. Think of the stars. First you notice one star. Then two stars (and perhaps a satellite!), and then... and then all the Milky Way is exploding before your eyes that didn't see it before. It reminds me of Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote: *Only in the darkness can you see the stars.* What's out there? What are we missing without an awareness of our surroundings - physically and spiritually?

With permission, I'm sharing a friend's quote: *"Be Aware of what the word Aware holds. Break down the word. Awe and Are. ARE we in AWE of life, of humanity, and all the beauty and presence that abounds and surrounds us?"* Some choose to live their lives in a state of darkness, being unaware of, and being in denial of anything outside the proverbial blinders of their own world, let alone their own heart. Some go through the day not recognizing the beauty of the little things in life. What joy can be found in leftover crumbs from a dog treat from friends! Some cannot comprehend the situations others are in and, therefore, have uninformed perspectives. How wonderful when someone says, *"I've never noticed that before,"* or *"I hadn't thought about that."* Light bulb moments! It's the spark before embarking on any endeavor. Be a sleuth and sniff around for anything right in front of your eyes not noticed before and open up whole new worlds.

In this New Year will you join me in living in that state of Awareness with all your physical senses of sight, sound, taste, smell, touch, as well as your spiritual senses of presence, heart, blessings, grace and love? Looking up at the night sky, imagine the stars being every human on this earth. Let the twinkles and light shine back to you with an open heart full of awe and awareness. Go swim in the galaxy of Awareness.



## Clancy's Cackles

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Lettuce.  
Lettuce who?  
Lettuce in! It's freezing out here!



How do snowmen travel around? **! B! icicle!**

What has 2 legs but can't walk? **! A pair of pants!**

What do you give a sick bird? **! A tweetment!**



## ST. LEO PARISH AND COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION



**Pastor:** Rev. James R. Schutte

**Address:** 2573 Saint Leo Place,  
Cincinnati, OH 45225

**Phone:** 513-921-1044

**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.**

To volunteer, or for more info, call 513-921-1044x30.

### Snow NEWS!



Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations:

WCPO-Channel 9, WKRC Channel 12,  
WXIX-Channel 19

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

 We welcome all wishing to learn English. **FREE!**  
Saturday 10:00-Noon.

### COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

 North Fairmount Community Center/  
Referral Services: Linda Klems: 513-921-5842  
Housing: 513-921-5889,  
Healthy Moms & Babes: 513-591-5600  
Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500  
Literacy Network: 513-621-7323

**ANGELS' ARMS STORE**, 1882 Baltimore Ave. Accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Open Mon-Wed-Fri 9-3:00 and Tues-Thurs 10-3:00. **All Items Free!** Call Linda Klems at 513-623-9897.

### 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 Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225
- Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!

**November Winners:** Dolores Ritchie twice on the same number and once on a different number! Rick Linz and Barb Gruver.

**Thank You Again!**

## WISH LIST

**\$1,250 to purchase materials** to build new Missalette holders onto the backs of the pews in the church building.

**Costumes for our Youth Ministry:** Christmas, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals, Easter, soldiers, apostles, women, All Souls Day saints, etc.

**Snow Removal Assistance Needed.** We really need someone willing to help out with snow removal before events on weekends. Call Stephanie at 513-921-1044

**Gas Cards** for our 3 vans

**Uber Gift Cards** to assist St. Leo's parishioners who have no means of transportation to get to appointments.

**Gift Cards** for the continuing work and maintenance of the parish, and our Youth Group functions: Home Depot, Staples, Hobby Lobby, Kroger, Oriental Trading Company Priceless!

**Cash to Cover Operating Expenses is Essential!**

**¡GRACIAS! MURAKOZE! THANK YOU!**

## 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 #KC265 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/>



**Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for January  
A Kind Anonymous Donor**

**In November the Food Pantry served 861 individuals, in 320 households, including 326 children and 102 seniors.**

**CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20, 2020**

### NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

- Cereal; Boxed dinner accompaniments like Mac-n-cheese, Rice-a-Roni, scalloped potatoes, etc.
- Canned: salmon, tuna, chicken, hams, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, chicken noodle soup, applesauce, pineapple, carrots, spinach
- Vinegar, Salad dressing, tomato paste, salsa
- Shampoo, deodorant, men's razors, wet-wipes, Clorox Wipes, dish soap, tissues, paper towels
- Diapers: size 1, 2, 4, 5
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Sandwich/Gallon size Ziploc baggies

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Monday, Wednesdays & especially Fridays Noon-4:00pm**  
contact Stephanie Sepate at 513-921-1044 ext. 20

## Building the Kingdom of God

**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](https://www.facebook.com/StLeoTheGreatChurch) and on our Web Page at [www.saint-leo.org](http://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**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S.POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Permit No. 3402



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                                       | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>January</b>   |   |   | 1<br>Food Pantry CLOSED<br>10:30am Mass                          | 2<br>7:00pm MASS<br>Exposition of the Holy Sacrament following 7:00pm Mass | 3<br>Food Pantry Open<br>AA Meeting 7:30pm   | 4<br>Mass in Spanish 6pm;<br>English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon           |
| 5<br>Mass: 10:30am<br>Feast of the Epiphany<br>Parish Epiphany Potluck | 6<br>Food Pantry Open   | 7<br>  | 8<br>Food Pantry Open  | 9<br>7:00pm MASS   | 10<br>Food Pantry Open;<br>AA Meeting 7:30pm | 11<br>Mass in Spanish 6pm;<br>English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon          |
| 12<br>Mass: 10:30am<br>Youth Group/Bible Study                         | 13<br>Food Pantry Open  | 14<br> | 15<br>Food Pantry Open<br>Homework Help/<br>Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm | 16<br>7:00pm MASS  | 17<br>Food Pantry Open;<br>AA Meeting 7:30pm | 18<br>Mass in Spanish 6pm;<br>English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon          |
| 19<br>Mass: 10:30am<br>Youth Group/Bible Study                         | 20<br>Food Pantry CLOSED<br>Martin Luther King<br>Holiday Office CLOSED | 21<br> | 22<br>Food Pantry Open<br>Homework Help/<br>Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm | 23<br>7:00pm MASS  | 24<br>Food Pantry Open;<br>AA Meeting 7:30pm | 25<br>Mass in Spanish 6pm;<br>English as 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang. class 10-noon          |
| 26<br>Mass: 10:30am  | 27<br>Food Pantry Open  | 28<br> | 29<br>Food Pantry Open<br>Homework Help/<br>Tutoring 4:00-7:00pm | 30<br>7:00pm MASS  | 31<br>Food Pantry Open;<br>AA Meeting 7:30pm |  |