



*ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018*



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR 10:30 MASS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
FOLLOWED BY A
**BLESSING,
DEDICATION AND
OPEN HOUSE
AT THE
FOOD PANTRY.**

**BISHOP BINZER,
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF
CINCINNATI, PRESIDING.**

**OUR CELEBRATION,
DEDICATION
AND OPEN HOUSE
WILL NOT BE THE SAME
WITHOUT YOU.
BRING OTHERS WITH YOU.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

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 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Holy Spirit Youth Ministry, who sent two teams of high school youth to do service projects at St. Leo's.

One team took down the Reconciliation Room and completely rebuilt a slightly smaller version further back along the outside wall, opening up a heating vent to help keep the church warmer during the cold months, and made room for additional benches to accommodate our growing parish. In addition, they painted the sacristy among other clean-up and spruce-up projects around our campus.

The second team helped plan, prepare and present "A Mighty Fortress," a three-day Vacation Bible School program, complete with stories, costumes, music, art, games and service projects for 40 children here at St. Leo's.

We simply can't thank them enough for sharing their skills, knowledge, energy, enthusiasm, and just plain hard work!

¡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 . . .

Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and king;
I will bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you;
I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and worthy of much
praise, whose grandeur is beyond
understanding.
One generation praises your deeds to the
next and proclaims
your mighty works.
They speak of the splendor of
your majestic glory,
tell of your wonderful deeds.
They speak of the power of
your awesome acts and
recount your great deeds.
They celebrate your abounding goodness
and joyfully sing of your justice.
The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in mercy.
The LORD is good to all,
compassionate toward all your works.
All your works give you thanks, LORD
and your faithful bless you.
They speak of the glory of your reign
and tell of your mighty works,
Making known to the sons of men
your mighty acts,
the majestic glory of your rule.
Your reign is a reign for all ages,
your dominion for all generations.
The LORD is trustworthy in all his words,
and loving in all his works.
The LORD supports all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look hopefully to you;
you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire
of every living thing.
The LORD is just in all his ways,
merciful in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon
him, to all who call upon him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he destroys.
My mouth will speak the praises of the
LORD; all flesh will bless his holy name
forever and ever.



The Lord has been blessing the work of our hands at St. Leo Parish in so many ways and now it is time to celebrate. **Please join us on September 9, 2018 for Mass at 10:30am and following Mass a blessing and dedication of our Food Pantry. Bishop Joseph Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, will preside at the Eucharist and offer the blessing for the dedication of the Food Pantry.**

I anticipate that the blessing, dedication and Open House of the Food Pantry will begin sometime between 11:45 and noon. As soon as Mass is finished, we will process right down the street to the Food Pantry and begin the dedication. The Church is on Baltimore Ave. 45225 and the Food Pantry is just a little past the end of our parking lot, across the street, on the corner of Carll St. and Baltimore.

Although our food pantry has been operating in this new location for several years now, we have never formally dedicated it and thanked the Lord for the many wonderful volunteers for the generosity of their time, talent and treasure. The Food Pantry has a little more than half the space of the building and the other half is now remodeled into offices and meeting rooms that are ready to use. The parish can certainly use this space but it can also be used by other groups for meetings and by businesses that may want to have a satellite office in the neighborhood to offer social services of some kind.

A program will be explained that will help the parish pay the rent on this building and perhaps serve the need for more volunteers. We are inviting any interested group or company to donate one month's rent and also to invite their staffs and co-workers to volunteer in the pantry.

We are celebrating the hard work of many volunteers – parishioners, friends and professionals – who want to help us do the good work that the Lord wants us to do.



Cleaning the building from ceiling to floor and wall to wall, pulling up the old carpet, stripping the floor of carpet glue, refinishing the floor, painting the entire space, building the food pantry area and the office spaces and meeting rooms plus the supplies, tools, equipment and materials such as refrigeration, doors, trim, paint, electric, drywall, partitions, cubicles, chairs, blueprints, gondolas, shopping carts, installation of HVAC were either donated or discounted labor and materials.

We are so grateful to every volunteer, company, business, friend or parishioner who volunteered the generosity of their time, talent, and treasure. There are special plaques in the pantry that honor the generosity of their devotion to this project. I especially want to thank Jim Kokenge who is my right hand for the move and remodeling of the Food Pantry. Jim organized all of the donors for the labor and materials and also helped with the physical labor. He truly was the “brains” behind this operation and his support, guidance, knowledge, leadership, and



perseverance were invaluable to our success and completion of the project. We are also very grateful to Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio who first came to us with the idea of moving and redeveloping our food pantry and who sponsored the move and acquired the building for us and who helped us get started in the new building and helped us serve and feed our clients. God has truly blessed us through the work of the hands of all of our volunteers and donors. Please come and celebrate with us on September 9th.

— Fr. Jim

A LONG HISTORY OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY . . .

For close to 50 years St. Leo's parish has made food available to those struggling to make ends meet in the North Fairmount and surrounding communities. Once a thriving neighborhood with its own Kroger's, bakery, neighborhood shops and a bank, North Fairmount has been a "food desert" for many years with little access to healthy affordable food.

To address this need in the late 1970's neighborhood residents in collaboration with the late Lois Broerman, St. Leo's pastoral minister at the time, and the North Fairmount Community Council started a food co-op and thrift shop at 1828 Baltimore Avenue. Fresh produce and shelf stable food were sold at 10% above cost. Sale of items at the thrift shop helped defray the cost of food to customers.

The food pantry started in the mid 1980's by volunteers from the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society and later was headed by parishioner Henry Robison, also known as the "St. Joseph" of the parish for his ability to repair just about anything. Shirley Cade began volunteering at the pantry as a way of giving back to the community since her parents had benefitted so much from the North Fairmount Senior Center in their latter years. When Henry retired, Shirley became the food pantry director and served in that post for nearly 20 years. Her dedication to making

sure the pantry got the most food for its money was evidenced when she fell on a slippery floor at the Food Bank breaking her hip. She refused to let the EMT's tend to her until the food was safely loaded in the pantry van. During Shirley's time at the pantry it became an affiliate of the Free Store Food Bank and was able to offer both produce and meat to the growing number of people coming to the pantry. Numbers were up but storage space was tight. The pantry needed a larger location.

The former Kroger building on Carll Street was available but it would take a lot of hard work to get the building in shape to house the pantry—a daunting task which was accomplished through collaboration with Catholic Charities and many generous

people who donated, money, materials, time and labor.

The pantry moved in 2016. The new site is handicapped accessible and much larger which makes it possible to become a choice food pantry giving customers the dignity of choosing what they like depending on family size and food availability. Stephanie Sepate, St. Leo business manager is currently director of the pantry aided by many faithful volunteers, many from our partner parishes Our Lady of Visitation and St. Ignatius. St. Leo's is so grateful for their dedication and service. Without them it would be impossible to provide this important ministry.



PRAYER FOR ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Lord Jesus, who multiplied the loaves and fishes and called us to feed the hungry, be with us today as we serve those you send to us. Open our hearts to see the gift of you in each person who comes to the pantry. Open our ears to hear their joys and struggles. Open our mouths to speak words of caring and respect. Give strength to our arms when we are tired, patience to our spirits when lines are long and things are confusing, and joy in our hearts for the privilege of serving you. Today and every day may we glorify you with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COME AND EAT . . .

Have you ever not known where your next meal was coming from? Did your stomach ever gnaw and growl and your energy sap because there was nothing to eat?

Our seminarian Ben gave me some insight into what this might be like one day when I grimaced in disgust about a very over-ripe banana on the kitchen table. He picked it up and told me that he always weeps when he sees people wasting food. "I remembered how I cried as a child when there was no food," he said. In the area of Kenya where his family lives there is often only enough food for one meal a day. He said that once children were about age 12 they had to forage on their own and work for food. That's something that many of us might find hard to imagine. Yet there are many people not far from St. Leo's who may have something to eat today but are food insecure—are not sure where they will get food for the rest of the week or month.

St. Leo's food pantry is a true blessing for them. As a choice pantry, it offers them an opportunity to choose food their families like to eat based on family size and food availability. The goal is to provide two weeks' worth of food, including shelf-stable items, meat, dairy, bread, and produce. An army of volunteers—many from our partner parishes Our Lady of Visitation and St. Ignatius—bless us as they work together to pick up food, shelve it, and serve pantry guests with dignity and respect. There's no way we could do it without them.

The way they work together reminds me of a Sesame Street segment of a banquet table laden with food where the guests are having difficulty eating. Some have short arms that can get the food on a fork; the others had very long arms that couldn't use a fork. Nobody was eating until those with short arms gave the fork to those with long arms who fed them. Then the ones with short arms speared the food so the ones with long arms could eat. The punch line at the end was "we call that cooperation."

It seems that God often uses others to help us feed each other. When my daughter Sara got married, the entire St. Leo family came. As one of the African community said, "When there is a wedding everyone comes. There are no invitations." This was a totally foreign concept to me who had given the caterer a specific head count. Somehow, I have no idea of how it happened, everyone was fed and there were leftovers.

It sounds like a story from Scripture coming to life. And maybe it is. After all, it's said that the Bible is the living word of God personal and relevant in every age. So it shouldn't be a surprise that these kinds of events seem to be regular occurrences at St. Leo's. Often when we plan a potluck meal the table looks pretty bare but by the time people line up for food, there are more plates on the table and more than enough food to nourish the assembling crowd.

In recent weeks we've been listening to John's gospel about the bread of life. The apostles' meager offerings are multiplied and twelve baskets are filled with leftovers and they are invited to eat the living bread and never hunger and thirst again. When we, like them, bring ourselves with our gifts, hungers and brokenness to the Eucharistic table each week we are fed with that everlasting bread of life and as we become what we eat we find ourselves more willing to be broken and shared with others and are empowered to trust and not be afraid as we step out in faith to risk and support others who are hungering.

The food of the Eucharist is multiplied in our feeding others through the food pantry as well as in other ministries that we and our partners are involved in which promote the common good of all our brothers and sisters. And through God's grace our efforts are multiplied in ways we can't even ask or imagine.

Come then, let us eat, be broken, and shared.

—Anagela Anno



The St. Leo Food Pantry is located in a former grocery store in the center of North Fairmount on a bus line. The food pantry currently occupies about half of the available space in the building. The remaining space includes 5 offices, a board room sized meeting room, and a larger meeting/event space. The St. Leo community hub project will provide space to facilitate collaboration with community groups; opening the space for community meetings and events, and creating a culture of inclusivity and mutuality that will lead to new and deepened relationships. The hub will more intentionally bring together faith and community based organizations to address community stated needs like access to education and job training.

CLANCY'S CLICHÉ'S



Gardening is something St. Leo does very well and not necessarily in cookie cutter ways. Yes, the community garden on St. Leo still thrives, yet it takes more than a seed and some water to create a garden. All the micronutrients, rays of sunshine, temperature levels, insect and 4-legged invasions, and so many other considerations come into play.

Then, there are other types of "seeds" falling all around us requiring different kinds of nourishment. It just takes a bit of sleuthing to discover when something is a seed then acknowledging it and cultivating it. Seeds showing themselves around St. Leo get planted with vision, faith, and hope, rather than being tossed aside as weeds. Many of the ministries are the result of this careful genesis.

For example, as young families grow, space is needed for youth group activities, children's classes, and young adult formation - we build onto and even repurpose existing areas. The food pantry is now able to provide a "choice" selection with the increased space across the street. Needs are being met by connecting neighbors and community agencies. Of course, my favorite is Dog Therapy for those who just want a gentle reminder that life is simply breathing in the goodness of life and breathing out those worries and pain.

All of this requires a heart of *intention* and *attention* to the seeds that present themselves when a situation arises. With patience, and with the many hearts - your hearts - beating in unison with our vision, faith, and hope, we are able to bring the many opportunities to serve others to fruition. We may not know how all the lives we touch turn out or how they, in turn, will germinate others with the bounty of their being, but isn't that the real faith of gardening? There's a "kernel" of truth in all this, isn't there? Enjoy the harvests!

Howlin's hootn'; Growlin's not gooten! - Clancy



Clancy's Cackles



What is a gardener's favorite novel? **War and Peas!**

Why was the book in the hospital? **Because he hurt his spine!**

Where do you put smart hot dogs? **On honor rolls!**



Why did the M & M go back to school?

Because he wanted to be a Smartie!



What gives Mr. Bubbles nightmares? **Pop quizzes!**

ST. LEO PARISH AND COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION



Pastor: Rev. James R. Schutte

Address: 2573 Saint Leo Place,
Cincinnati, OH 45225

Phone: 513-921-1044

Parish Nurse: 513-862-4398 **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.**

Plan Ahead For Any Emergency: Give 9-1-1 the information they need to help you fast. Go to: <https://www.smart911.com/>

Once you've signed up for Smart911, first responders will be aware of important information you have provided that will help Police, Fire, and EMS locate and help you in an emergency.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

We welcome all wishing to learn English. **FREE!**

Thursdays, 9:30 – 12:30 am and Saturday 10:00-Noon.



COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/

Referral Services: Linda Klem: 513-921-5842

Housing: 513-921-5889, Healthy Moms & Babies: 513-591-5600

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.

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 Pl., Cinti., OH 45225
- **Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!**

July Winners: Pat Schnittker, Laura Caldwell, Rita Peter, Ray Siemer, Nancy O'Keefe, Sherry Baker, J. Scharff, Vickie Shipley, Tony Hughes, Bill Duchemin, Rosemary French and Bonnie Johnston.

WISH LIST

- **Wireless Doorbell** w/Flashing Light for Centennial Hall (\$30-\$%0)
 - **Toddler size Baptism Bibs** (about 20) and Baby sized Baptism Bibs (about 15)
 - **Matt for the baby changing table** in the rest room.
 - **2 Correll Seminar 96" Rectangular Training Tables**, Item: 1560623 Model: SP1896PX-15 \$272.69 Ea. Only Available Online at Staples: https://m.staples.com/-/product_1560623
 - **50" flat screen TV** (\$225-\$250) with **articulating wall mount** (\$65) for the community hub at St. Leo's
 - **TV wall cabinet** (\$250) for the community hub at St. Leo's
 - **12 8ftx30in lightweight folding tables**
 - **40 lightweight stacking chairs**
 - **5 new or gently used office chairs**
 - **Gift Cards** for the continuing work and maintenance of the parish, and our Youth Group functions: **Home Depot, Staples, Hobby Lobby, Kroger Priceless!**
- Cash to Cover Operating Expenses is Essential!**

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 NPO #28680 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/>



Pantry Press

In July the Food Pantry served 869 individuals, in 298 households, including 364 children and 94 seniors.

Needs for September:

Canned: baked beans, vegetarian vegetable soup, cream of mushroom soup, tuna, salmon, chicken, mixed veggies, spinach, pineapple, mixed fruit

Spices (cinnamon, onion powder, mustard powder), Parmesan cheese shake, Vinegar, cooking oil

Deodorant, shaving cream, ANY household or personal cleaning items

Spaghetti, egg noodles, 1-lb bags of rice

BAGGIES - quart size

Electric Bread Slicer-Sharpener/Commercial Grade=If anyone know anyone in the business, perhaps they might have a used one sitting around. These are very expensive, yet we receive several dozen of unsliced bread that are the last to be taken and a used bread slicer would help immensely!

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want something full of purpose now that the little - or a little bigger - ones are back in school? Consider sharing some time at the Food Pantry. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 4/4:30 are typical volunteer hours, but if you happen to only have a couple of hours to share on those days, we certainly can use extra help. "Many Hands Make Light Work", as they say! Some volunteers even leave early to carpool their children from school. Call 921-1044x30.

Volunteer Needed



3-4 hours each week to do light housekeeping at the rectory, including cleaning the restrooms and kitchen, vacuuming and dusting the offices and meeting spaces. If you are interested, please call 513-921-1044 ext. 20.



Building the Kingdom of God

St. Leo's is growing! 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/stleo) and on our Web Page at 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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER						1 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
2 Mass: 10:30am	3 Food Pantry CLOSED Labor Day Office Closed	4	5 Food Pantry Open	6 7:00pm MASS English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	7 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	8 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
9 Mass: 10:30am Food Pantry Blessing, Dedication and Open House immediately after Mass	10 Food Pantry Open	11	12 Food Pantry Open	13 7:00pm MASS English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am St. Leo's	14 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	15 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
16 Mass: 10:30am	17 Food Pantry Open	18	19 Food Pantry Open	20 7:00pm MASS English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	21 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	22 Mass in Spanish 6pm;; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
23/30 Mass: 10:30am	24 Food Pantry Open	25	26 Food Pantry Open	27 7:00pm MASS English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am	28 Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 7:30pm	29 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon