

# ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



#### So Much to Be Grateful For...



With the ongoing COVID pandemic, increasing natural disasters, uneasy peace in so many countries, and deepening divisions in our own nation, many would say there's not much to be thankful for—and yet, as St. Leo's marks its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary this November the opposite is true. We have been and continue to be abundantly blessed.

From the German immigrants who founded the parish in 1886, to the current diverse faith family of Anglo, African American, Latino, and African parishioners, belief and trust in God has resulted in blessing upon blessing.

From the very beginning, things at St. Leo often weren't what parishioners thought they wanted but they learned that God was working anyway—and powerfully so. While the first immigrant parishioners dreamed of having a beautiful church like the ones they attended back home in Germany, the only place they could originally find to worship was a room above a carpenter shop on what is now St. Leo Place. The first parish building was completed in 1888 with church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and school rooms and pastors' quarters on the first. Parishioners continued to scrimp and save and labored to build the church, celebrating each step they made along the



way. When the undercroft was completed in 1904, Mass was celebrated there while construction on the church continued. What joy there was when it was finally finished in 1911 and dedicated that November! Their dreams had materialized but not as quickly as they had hoped. Yet the journey, they learned, had been a blessing. They had grown in community as they held on to their dream and pooled their money together. Some who were masons had literally built parts of the church. Many helped in other ways. They discovered that God could be present in a dusty room above a carpenter's shop, in a multi-purpose building, and in an unfinished church basement, as well as in the beautiful church they had always envisioned.



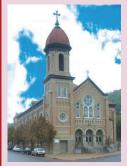
Along the way, they started a school that educated hundreds of students for more than 75 years until it closed in 1979 and St. Boniface became the school for the parish. Former students still often call and share memories of their time at St. Leo school and many continue to be strong supporters today. The faith and determination of their parents and grandparents live through them as a gift to the parish today.

Today, a new generation of immigrants is rebuilding the parish. This time, it's not a physical structure but a family of faith grounded in praying the Eucharist and getting to know and love each other and celebrate their unique diversity. The task is no less daunting than building a church from the ground up but coming together in prayer each week, singing in multiple tongues, celebrating baptism, first communions, confirmations, marriages and grieving those who have died, has grown, as one parishioner said "into the privilege of being brothers and sisters in Jesus."



Though they may look and speak differently, there's a strong current of faith that unites the founders of 135 years ago with parishioners today. It's the conviction that God is present and leads the way and though the desired goal may not be achieved, what result is always better "than anything we could ask or imagine."

And so we give thanks—for the legacy of faith we share, for the daily surprises God puts in our lives, and for the unexpected and sometimes even undesired gifts God gives that enrich our lives and give us cause for much rejoicing. ~ Angela Anno



CELEBRATING 135 YEARS!



## 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 the numerous groups who have been able to volunteer at the Food Pantry and Church. Thank you to Saint Leo's Youth Group, American Heritage Girls Troop #1313, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Moms prayer group of the West Side, and Saint Ignatius Loyola Church just to name a few.



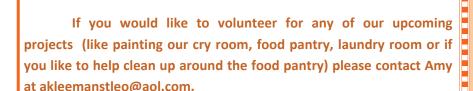








Many, many thanks to our courageous, dedicated volunteers who were able to help maintain our community garden: Mercy McAuley high school youth group, and the many church and community volunteers.



Many thanks to our
Monthly Overhead Sponsor
for September

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sunrise Treatment Center** 

## iGRACIAS! 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 . . .

November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church. St. Leo the Great is the patron saint of our parish. Not only do we celebrate our parish feast day on November 10<sup>th</sup>, but we also celebrate the anniversary of the day in which St. Leo the Great Parish was founded. It is hard to believe that we are 135 years old this year!

St. Leo was the first Pope to be given the title "the Great." From what I have read about him, he was the "complete package." He did all his papal responsibilities very well. He was a great administrator, preacher, reconciler, teacher, and defender of the faith against the heresies of his time. He was gifted in bringing reconciliation to disputing groups of Christians. He was well known for having met Attila, the Hun, on horseback, just outside of Rome, and persuaded him not to ransack and attack Rome. This is depicted on the center wall of the sanctuary in our church.

As much as he was wise and scholarly, he was also pastoral and a servant of the people. He believed fully in the heart of the Gospel message of who Jesus is, of who we can become in Christ as we cooperate with grace, and he practiced what he preached and taught. He inspired and fostered charitable works in places affected by famine, refugees, and poverty. St. Leo believed embracing the fullness of the Gospel theologically and living it in a world filled with hurt, suffering and needs. His preaching was deeply spiritual that reached the everyday needs and interests of his flock.

Leo died on November 10, 461. In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV proclaimed Leo a Doctor of the Church and his Feast Day is in the liturgical calendar on the day he died, November 10. I believe the first Mass for our parish was also celebrated in November and therefore we celebrate not only our Feast Day but the anniversary of the founding of the parish in November also.

In our 135<sup>th</sup> year, the parish of St. Leo the Great, in the name of the Lord and St. Leo, will continue to fight the injustices and evils of our time by living and sharing the Catholic Church's Social Teachings and living with forgiveness and reconciliation for the disputes that still live among us. We will strive to live the Gospel fully theologically, pastorally, and spiritually with outreach to the immigrant, refugee, and all those affected by poverty, discrimination, and prejudice. We will continue to meet the everyday needs and interests of the flock with your help and prayers. And we will keep giving thanks to God for the new life and growth he has given us. We will always thank God for you and those who partner with us to do the Lord's work, serve God's people, and become all that we can be in Christ as we cooperate with grace.

Please share our joy with us this year. Keep us in prayer as we pray for you. The following is a song written by our music director, Rick Nohle for our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It can be used each year by changing the year. It tells our story and expresses our thanks.

Please enjoy! St. Leo, Pray for us now and always!

St. Leo Anniversary Song
Words & Music by: Rick Nohle

One hundred thirty-five years ago, In the place where we now stand,

A small band of struggling immigrants, When You took them by the

They did not have much money, But they gave You all they could, And You multiplied their sacrifice, And we see that it was good. It was good!

From Germany and Italy, they traveled, From elsewhere in Europe, they came,

With various cultures and languages, But their hopes were much the same.

They set to work building an edifice, With mortar, brick, and stone, And as a result of their laboring, St. Leo Church was born! It was born!

Would You lead us in the future, As You've led us in the past? Give us faith, and hope, and charity, The only things that last. In the love poured down from heaven, By the Father and the Son, We invite the Holy Spirit, To unite our hearts as one.

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 Señor!
Everyone praise the Lord!
Gott sei dank!
Grazie a Dio!
Everyone thank the Lord!

Let us show the works of mercy, That we ourselves receive.
Let us mirror godly kindness, Until everyone believes,
In the love poured down from heaven, By the Father and the Son,
And invite the Holy Spirit, To unite our hearts as...

One hundred thirty-five years ago, St. Leo Church was born! One hundred thirty-five years ago, St. Leo Church was born! One hundred thirty-five years ago, St. Leo Church was born!

#### **Gratitude for Summer Events: By Sister Tracy Kemme, SC**

Despite the pandemic, we've found ways to continue living our mission vibrantly, together! Here are just a few of the experiences that we count among our summer blessings:

Health Fair with Su Casa: We are grateful to Su Casa for conducting a health fair at our parish on July 11. Parishioners and community members received free food, masks, diapers,



World Refugee Day Prayer Service:
On Tuesday, June 15, St. Leo and
OLV gathered on Zoom to pray in
anticipation of World Refugee Day.
Sister Caroljean Willie, PhD gave a
wonderful presentation. Bill Tonnis
played an original song called "We

are the Church," and St. Leo parishioners Claudette Murekatete, Octavia Igaba, Tom Migely, and Sr. Sandy Howe helped staff lead the prayer. We also watched a video created by our Burundian youth! Everyone who attended committed to some action in solidarity with refugees. Even virtually, it was a moving experience. You can watch a video of the prayer service on our website.

**Culture Fest:** The annual parish Culture Fest on Sunday, July 3, was a terrific success, with the most people ever in

attendance! There were games, music, food, and a beautiful liturgy celebrated in the parking lot. What a joy it was to celebrate the richness of our diversity together! We look forward to next year.



Health Fair with Su Casa: We are grateful to Su Casa for conducting a health fair at our parish on July 11. Parishioners and community members received free food, masks, diapers, toys and other products. In addition, the Cincinnati Health Department offered COVID-19 vaccines in the vicinity. We're all about loving our neighbors and keeping each other healthy!

Holy Hour for Vocations: The charismatic group at St. Leo

holds adoration the first Thursday of every month, after the 7:00pm Spanish Mass. On August 5, we held a special holy hour for vocations complete with song, scripture, words from Pope Francis, and a reflection from Sr. Tracy. We pray that all of our parishioners continue to answer and remain faithful to God's call through life-long discernment and accompaniment.



Catholic Social Teaching Webinars: Pope Francis frequently reminds us that media is a powerful tool for evangelization. Since we haven't been able to gather in person, our community has taken adult faith formation to Facebook Live! For seven Mondays in a row, Sr. Tracy explored the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching with our Spanish-speaking parishioners, plus guest speakers from Chicago, Alabama, Texas, and Mexico! You can find the videos on the Facebook page "RCC St Leo Church Cincinnati."

#### Welcome Mr. Ebert

St. Leo parishioner Paul Ebert is new principal of St. Boniface, which has been St. Leo's parish school since 1979. He brings a wide range of experience as an educator most recently at DePaul Cristo high school where he served many students from St. Leo's parish family as well as graduates of St. Boniface school.

"The calling to work with young children dates all the way back to when I was in sixth grade running
Vacation Bible School at my church," Mr. Ebert said. "I have always believed that children are our greatest hope as they often remind us of our call to be light and love for one another." He describes feeling "incredibly grateful for the opportunity and blessing" to serve as the new principal.

Mr. Ebert, who likes to be called "Mr. Paul", believes communication with families is key. He sees it as a two-way street and is utilizing a variety of ways to stay connected. He will be updating the website each week with news about the week ahead. Every Sunday evening families will receive an "All Call" automated phone call from him. Thursday Folders are another way to stay up to date with what's going on and provide valuable information regarding a student's life at school. As part of his desire for healthy communication, Mr. Ebert wants to be

accessible and is open to questions and feedback from families.

Over the years many St. Leo families have benefitted from the caring and nurturing education offered at St. Boniface school. Pictures of early St. Leo students can still be found on the cafeteria walls. Most recently youth from families fleeing war and genocide in Africa have joined Anglo and Hispanic parishioners and have benefitted from the attention, challenge and encouragement they have received at St. Boniface. Mr. Ebert is anxious to develop the support networks and resources of our families at St. Boniface, most fundamentally, translators at all school activities and in future written correspondences.

Most St. Leo students who have attended St. Boniface school have gone on to Catholic high schools and several are in college studying for careers in such fields as engineering, business, and medicine.

For many, St. Boniface has become like family, a safe place to learn and grow and so it is fitting as the school year begins for Mr. Ebert to welcome students" back home" to St. Boniface!





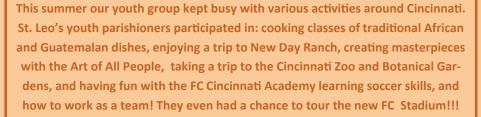
























#### Behind the Scenes Heroes; A Retirement of Giving...

Parishioner Diane Steele has always had a heart for helping people. She spent two years in the Peace Corps in Malaysia after getting her master's degree. While there she taught math, formed relationships and got involved in the every-day life and culture of her students. She says a sense of adventure and seeing the world was part of her reason for being a volunteer, but wanting to help others also played a big part in her decision.

After she retired from working at General Electric in

2001, she began to get more involved in volunteering, much of it in helping people learn to speak English. She first began tutoring in Winton Terrace where one of the first people she tutored was from Afghanistan. She found she really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about another culture while working one-on-one helping her students grow more comfortable in speaking a language not their own.

She and her husband Bob, whom she reconnected with at her 10-year high school reunion, were parishioners at another parish when a man teaching English to Guatemalan immigrants on Sunday afternoons asked for volunteers to help him. Without hesitation she soon began helping teach English and found herself falling in love with the people, their culture, and their deep faith.

She followed them to St. Leo's when their community found a parish home. Many of her initial students are now in leadership roles and their English is especially good. They had a good teacher!

She and her husband joined the parish which was then becoming more and more diverse with the arrival of refugees from Africa. She felt like she was joining a family. When her beloved Bob suddenly died, her family of faith grieved with her.

Her love of helping people, especially children, to improve in English and do better in school led her to volunteer at a Tuesday evening tutoring group and later at the Monday evening ESL class combined of adults and older children. She recalls working with them on a project to make home-made pizza utilizing their English skills.

ESL classes changed to Saturday mornings and Diane continued to volunteer. Though classes have been on hold because of COVID, she is looking forward to the time when they resume. She admired her sisters who were teachers and has discovered she is just like them though in a less formal way.

In addition to tutoring, Diane has also helped out driving immigrants to appointments and aiding other parishioners in understanding and negotiating governmental systems. When there was a need for a van driver to pick up parishioners in Millvale, Diane volunteered for the job. She enjoyed making those connections. In fact, one year she sent a picture of her driving the St. Leo van as part of her Christmas greeting.

Diane is also a lector and member of St. Leo's pastoral council. She describes the parish as her family where she feels welcomed and at home. She enjoys being godmother to her Guatemalan godchildren.



## Jake's Jabbers

Life is way too short so for me! One year is equal to your seven so it's really short. When there's much ado about mine and yours, right and wrong, his and hers, blah and bleh, let's get back to loving one another. What's it to me if you're different or have different ideas. You want to go for a walk around the block? Go for it! Just don't mind if I choose to stay and take my afternoon nap. An old dog can't judge and love at the same time.

Sure , you can have opinions and observations. Impressions. Discernment. These do not necessarily mean judgment. Loving means *not* judging. Judging is so...final. Close the door final. Won't hear anything else final. All you need is love and then it's easy to accept things—and others—we don't quite understand. Or as my mother would say, "consider the source", accept, and move on. What used to be disappointment of whatever or whomever has been transformed to an understanding and acceptance of the situation, or of a person's personal behavior.

Look at things for who and what they are-not what they should be. I mean, you can't put 16 ounces of water in an 8 ounce glass so just enjoy the nourishment of the water. A dog is a dog and cat is a cat and, while there are running jokes and anecdotes about each, we all yip, laugh and enjoy each other's attributes. We're all pets. Well loved, wanting to love and wanting to be loved. God is Love, right?

So why can't all different races, genders, religions, and any other category of being or acting different be akin to us pets? Isn't every one of you a human being, created in the image and likeness of God?

Oh, and don't put a round peg into a square hole. Just enjoy the shapes of life. Shape your life into love.

### Jake's Jokes

Knock, Knock. Who's There? Repeat. Repeat who? Who, Who, who, who, who...

Where did the pencil go on vacation?





How do you make a skeleton laugh?

Fow do bees get to school?



# 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: Wednesday 11;30 a.m.

Thursday 7:00pm

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 513-921-1044x22.



# OFFICE CLOSED Monday October 11th

#### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

**∅ES**L

Cancelled during COVID until further notice.

**COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS** 

North Fairmount Community Center/ Referral Services: Linda Klems: 513-921-5889

Housing: 513-921-5889; Hopple Street Neighborhood Health and Community Center: 513-517-2700; Literacy Network: 513-621-7323, GED online class referral: CPS: 513-363-6100

**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 for hours: 513-407-7902.

#### 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 Amy Kleeman, Development Director, at akleemanstleo@aol.com. If you'd like to receive St. Leo's Newsletter, call 921-1044x22 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!

May Winners: Laura Caldwell, Kim Smith, Dawn

Pennekamp

June Winners: Denise Riley, Brent Himmelman, Elmer

**Bollinger**, Nancy Fellers

July Winners: Alice Craig, Pat Froehle

#### THANK YOU AGAIN!!!!!

## WISH LIST



A Dining/Kitchen Table that is able to fit 8 chairs

Gas Cards for our 3 vans

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

## Cash to Cover Operating Expenses is Essential!

**iGRACIAS! MURAKOZE! THANK YOU!** 

### Easy Unline 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:

htts://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 September Sunrise Treatment Center

In August the Food Pantry served 492 individuals, in 151 households, including 183 children and 65 seniors.

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#### **NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER**

Bar Soap, Body Lotion, Shave Cream, Dish Soap, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Razors, Deodorant, Diapers, Gallon Size Storage Bags, Quart Size Storage Bags, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Reusable Tote Bags, Rolling Luggage, Pull Carts,

**FOOD PANTRY IS CLOSED:** November 24th

at 2:30 p.m.—November 26

## UPCOMING EVENTS



<u>September 17th</u>— Join our partner parish Our Lady of the Visitation for a fun filled night at Strickers Grove from 5:00 P.M. –10:00 P.M.

November 30th – iGiveCatholic stay tuned on ways you can give on National Giving Tuesday

<u>December 5th</u>—Save the Date for Toy and Clothing Drive, more details to come!

December 8th-Office Closed



## ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY OVERHEAD SPONSORSHIPS

We are seeking individuals and organizations that would be willing to "Sponsor" one month of our operating costs of \$2,300.00.

Sponsor's name will be recognized in the food pantry foyer, on St. Leo's website, in St. Leo's monthly newsletter and in St. Leo's weekly Sunday bulletin during their month; and if interested, the organization's members would be welcome to volunteer by working in the pantry serving our clients.

If interested, please contact Amy Kleeman at 513-921-1044 x 22, akleemanstleo@aol.com, or mail to: Amy Kleeman, St. Leo the Great

## 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
OCTOBER					1 Food Pantry Open	2 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
3 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com /RCC-St-Leo-Church -Cincinnati	4 Food Pantry Open	5	6 Food Pantry Open	7 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	8 Food Pantry Open	9 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
10 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com /RCC-St-Leo-Church -Cincinnati	11 Food Pantry Open Office CLOSED COLUMBUS DAY	12	13 Food Pantry Open	14 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	15 Food Pantry Open	16 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
17 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.c om/RCC-St-Leo- Church- Cincinnati	18 Food Pantry Open	19	20 Food Pantry Open	2.1 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	22 Food Pantry Open	23 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
24 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com /RCC-St-Leo-Church -Cincinnati	25 Food Pantry Open	26	2.7 Food Pantry Open	28 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	29 Food Pantry Open	30 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/RCC- St-Leo-Church-Cincinnati
31 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com /RCC-St-Leo-Church -Cincinnati				Laile	Mési bba	<b>(2)</b>