

ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

REMEMBERING TO THANK GOD ...

A quote from Pope Francis:

"To be able to offer thanks, to be able to praise the Lord for what He has done for us: this is important! So we can ask ourselves: Are we capable of saying 'thank you'? How many times do we say 'thank you' in our family, our community, and in the church? How many times do we say 'thank you' to those who help us, to those close to us, to those who accompany us through life? Often we take everything for granted! This also happens with God. It is easy to approach the Lord to ask for something, but to return and give thanks..." ~ Pope Francis



Pope Francis on Gratitude



Pope Francis reminds us of how important it is to give thanks to God for the many ways we are blessed every day. "Often we take everything for granted!" he said. "This also happens with God. It is easy to approach the Lord to ask for something, but to return and give thanks... This is why Jesus so emphasizes the failure of the nine ungrateful lepers: "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was no one found to return and give praise to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Speaking another time the pope said, "If we can realize that everything is God's gift, how happy will our hearts be! Everything is his gift. He is our strength! Saying 'thank you' is such an easy thing, and yet so hard! How often do we say 'thank you' to one another in our families? These are essential words for our life in common."

"And our gratitude should extend beyond relationships", he said. "Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude."



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 a mutual blessing.

AND SO WE THANK YOU ...



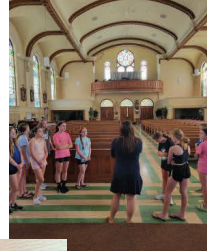
Many, many thanks to the Better Day for Kids (BDK Fund) for joining our youth group this summer for a day of service painting pots for plants and working in the community garden.



Many, many thanks to 2060 Digital for helping with many tasks and serving our clients at the Food Pantry! 2060 also had an internal food drive to help stock our shelves.



Thanks to our volunteers from Our Lady of the Visitation Girl Scout Troop #45135 who were able to make more of the birthday kit bags for our parishioners and food pantry clients. The Girl Scouts also received a tour of the food pantry and church to learn more about St. Leo's and our history.



A huge thank you to the Anna and Ron Bisher Group of Coldwell Banker Realty for helping serve our clients at the food pantry and being such great supporters of St. Leo's and our mission.



Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor for October is Good Shepherd Catholic Church

¡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 . . .

The season of fall is one of my favorite times of the year. Liturgically, the church gathers during this time to celebrate some great feasts and occasions: All Saints, All Souls, and Thanksgiving Day. Also, the memorial of St. Leo the Great, the patron Saint of our parish, is November 10th. We are 136 years old this year!

If we take a picture of our parish community on Thanksgiving Day gathering to celebrate Eucharist and to share a Turkey dinner, would we see our Lord and Savior in the picture? Would it be like taking a "selfie" with God? If we could take a picture of all the Saints and all Souls, would we see God in the picture? Would, this, too be like taking a "selfie" with God?

Scripture tells us that disciples, apostles and followers of Christ make up the Body of Christ in the world today and we all have been made in the image and likeness of God. When we look at each other and all others, we are to see the face of God and when God looks at us, God wants to see God's own image. So much God's great love forms, shapes, and transforms us. So much of God's love joins and unites us together as one. How important is it for everyone to live in the created image and likeness of the Savior? What difference will it make for how we treat each other and for bringing peace to the world? What implications will it have for the healing of hearts and minds? When others look at us, will they see the Lord? In whom do we see the Lord ever so clearly?

Similarly, there is a church in Rome that is dedicated to the service of the poor who live on the streets. In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, there are black and white pictures of parishioners and street people caring for one another. The implication is that the Lord is seen in the pictures of God's people on the street and in those who care for them imagines the

presence of God in the Eucharist and vice versa. Nearby this chapel, is a burnt cross with a burnt corpus of Jesus without hands, legs and feet. The caption on the wall reads: "You are my hands and feet."

The season of fall begins with the Church celebrating two feast days: The Feast of All Saints on November 1st and the Feast of All Souls on November 2nd. Both of these feasts could be entitled: "Jesus takes a selfie." Both of these feasts remind us that we are all to be "picture perfect" as we live in the image and likeness of God on earth only to share eternal life and glory with God in heaven. As we live in God's image, God will make us perfect as God is perfect and bring us all to perfection one day.



Near the end of November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. How often, do you think, when God takes a picture of God, it turns out to be our families sharing a meal together and giving thanks for the life and love that is found among family and friends? How often, do you think, it turns out to be the Church of God celebrating Eucharist and giving thanks for the life, love, and salvation that is found in the dying and rising of Our Lord, Jesus Christ? Jesus takes a "selfie" with us or we take a "selfie" with Jesus. It is meant to be that we are the image of each other – Jesus and us; us and the Lord.

Have fun taking pictures of you and others and of our God at prayer, work and play. Don't forget to share your pictures with everyone and rejoice at the presence of God in our midst. Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God for being the Body of Christ. May God continue to shape and mold us more and more into his image now and forever.

— Father Rudy

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SAINT JOHN'S J&P COMMISSION

The Saint John J&P Commission sponsored a Tool box project on Sunday, September 18 at Saint Leo's after the 10:30 AM Mass. The group cut enough material for 24 tool boxes to be built on site at St Leo's. In addition, the group had a tool drive at their parish to collect basic tools to go in the tool boxes. A group of 10 people from St John's signed up to help build the boxes along side St Leo youth, young adults and their parents. The project was a tremendous success! In sharing their time and their talents, the everlasting treasure of friendship and community was the end result - along with a really cool tool box!



WHATS HAPPENING AROUND ST. LEO

Archdiocesan Laudato Si' Recognition Award

SAVE THE DATE!!! St. Leo's will be recognized as a Laudato Si parish by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at a ceremony at Earth Connections on the feast of St. Francis Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm

Each parish to be honored at the event will receive a banner recognizing the parish for its commitment to protecting the earth and those who are most vulnerable. The banner also includes a quote from Pope Francis reflecting the message of Laudato Si "May the power and light of the grace we have received also be evident in our relationship to other creatures and to the world around us."

In order to become a Laudato Si parish, St. Leo had to have a minimum of 10% of parishioners who go to Mass complete a household survey which was offered in both English and Spanish. A total of 20 % of parishioners completed the survey.

Those responsible for energy use in the church facilities also had to complete a survey indicating how much energy was being used and what steps were being taken to reduce energy use.

Eucharistic Ministers' Training

More than 40 people, including representatives of all five of the churches in our family of parishes took part in a Eucharistic ministers' training at St. Leo's Sunday, August 28. The day included prayer and song together and classes in both English and Spanish.

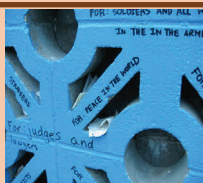


YOU'RE INVITED—

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 9th, for a get-acquainted party with other members of our parish family. Little Flower will be hosting us beginning at 1:00 p.m. We are asking people to bring a dish to share. Bring your own beverage. If the weather is nice, we will be outside on their beautiful grounds. There will be soccer and volleyball for the kids and adults. Or we can enjoy the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other. If the weather isn't nice, we will be in the parish undercroft.

Food Pantry Mural

Thank you so much to University of Cincinnati's DAAP students and parishioners for coming together on such a massive project! The mural on the food pantry looks absolutely outstanding!! We couldn't appreciate all your time more!!!



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, 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.

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE...

Sometimes I imagine how I would respond if I were there 2000 years ago sitting on a grassy hillside and hearing Jesus tell one of his parables. Would I get it? Would I see how bountiful and overflowing God's love and generosity are? Probably I wouldn't.. it would seem too good to be true. There had to be a catch somewhere, I'd tell myself.

Take the parable of the weeds and wheat. Why doesn't the owner want to pull up the weeds like any respectable farmer would? Why does he let the wheat grow with the weeds, maybe crowding it out? Or maybe he believes the weeds, like our flawed and broken selves, may diminish and the wheat grow more abundant. What great patience he has.

And what sense does it make for the sower to spread his seed on all kinds of ground trusting that some can take root even in unwelcoming soil? It seems such a foolish wasteful chance, yet we are told the seed can blossom and flourish thirty, fifty, to one hundred fold..

What about the landowner who pays the same amount to those who worked just a few hours and those who labored for hours in the heat of the day? Is he being unfair or generous? I know that if I worked the full day in the broiling sun, I'd feel like I deserved more. It seems it's not the amount of time but the showing up that counts.

The father who is constantly awaiting the return of his wastrel son who turned his back on him and squandered his inheritance on frivolous things is another example. He runs to his son, embraces him and throws a party. Who would do that? I know that if I were that son I'd melt in that embrace and soak up that love. Unfortunately I'm more like the elder brother who kept the rules and can't understand such seemingly foolish love.

As one who often doubts and struggles with faith, it seems that having a tiny mustard seed of faith that can move mountains is just ridiculous. Yet that is exactly what the Scripture says and I've had times in my life when I made choices that seemed foolish that turned out to offer new opportunities and moved my life in a direction I never would have imagined.

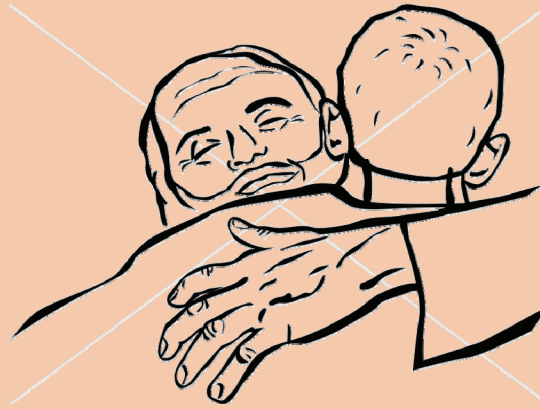
To put it simply, more often than not I just don't understand God's way of thinking. I'm very much like Jesus' followers—I get it and then quickly forget.

The older I get, the more I want to be more merciful and forgiving, and I'm finding that I'm also becoming more grateful and aware of God's goodness and overflowing love—grace on top of grace as the first chapter of John's gospel says.

I'm also beginning to believe—really believe that God desires good for me—a future and a hope (Jeremiah 11:29) And I agree with St. Paul who tells us that God's power now at work within us can do infinitely more than we ask or imagine. I've seen God's bountiful, unearned love.

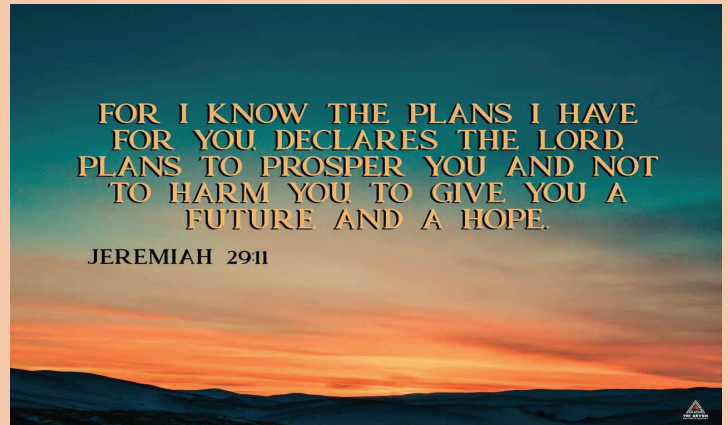
If there were a time-back machine I'd like a chance to go back to Jesus' time and listen—really listen as he talked. Maybe I'd get it this time.

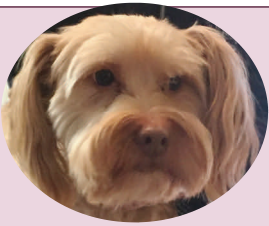
By: Angela Anno



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE
FOR YOU DECLARES THE LORD
PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT
TO HARM YOU TO GIVE YOU A
FUTURE AND A HOPE.

JEREMIAH 29:11





Jake's Jabbers

The autumn leaves of the rectory tree will shortly begin to fall! This will allow me to reflect on The Tree of "Life", I love trees. They remind me of humans-tall, with limbs, and each with a different shape, persona, and placement in the forest of life.



A tree grows up toward the vast, expansive sky. It grows down deep into the nutritious, fertile soil. Its limbs grow out to the sides like a big, welcoming hug. As days, months, and years pass, a tree needs to break out of its protective bark and create new rings within and regrow new layers of protection. Even in the winter months, something deep inside is occurring.

And such is life for us all!!!

It reminds me of life's boundaries we must respect of others and of our own, self-imposed expectations. Some protective layers we may finally shed over time. Our comfort zone may expand and we grow ever outward. We may harden a particular area of our life, yet open other avenues of acceptance. The core of our being is solid even while the elements of life toy with our outer covering. And there are always "Nutrients" to be had for our evolvment when we open our hearts to the love of family and friends.

So what potential might you be limiting or allowing to mature? Are you able to bend without breaking? What will the next season of growth bring for your own inner tree?

Oh, Look! It's time to make like a tree and leaf!



Jake's Jokes



How do you fix a cracked pumpkin?

With a pumpkin patch!

Why did the turkey cross the road?

Because the chicken had the day off.



How do you make a skeleton laugh?



Tickle its Funny Bone!

What do Math teachers do on Thanksgiving?

Count their blessings



ST. LEO PARISH AND COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION



Pastor: Rev. Rodolfo Coaquira-Hijale, MCCJ

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 in Spanish

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) and photo ID 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 513-921-1044x26.

OFFICE CLOSED— October 10th, November 1st, November 24th –25th, December 8th, December 23rd-26th

FOOD PANTRY CLOSED— November 23rd at 2:30 p.m.— November 25th, December 23rd— January 3rd

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 921-1044x26 and we'll add you (or anyone else you know) to the mailing list.

HOW YOU CAN HELP . . .

4 Grand

4 Grand Club replaces Treasure Chest as our Church fundraiser. This past Spring we had to discontinue our long running Treasure Chest fundraiser. In August, we joined St. Boniface in their longstanding fundraiser: The 4 Grand Club. For each St. Leo person who joins the club, we will get a percentage of the profits. The more St. Leo people who join, the higher the percentage. As of the middle of September, St. Leo will receive approximately \$5,500. Would you like to join and support St. Leo? Its not too late. Every week three names are drawn and each person wins \$25.00. Those three names go back into the hopper to have additional chances to win each week. There are no limits on the number of times a person can win. On the last week of the 4 Grand year, four names are drawn and each person wins \$1,000. The cost to join is \$48 per year. The year runs August to August. You can buy multiple memberships to increase your chances of winning. Its not too late to join. Please contact the parish office if you would like to join the 4 Grand Club.



Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for October
GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

In August the Food Pantry served 1064 People in 324 Households, including 414 children, and 123 seniors.

NEEDS FOR FALL

razors, **tampons**, body lotion, shave cream, shampoo, conditioner, dish soap, **women's disposable underwear**, bar soap, **mustard, ketchup, salad dressing (ranch)**, salt and pepper shaker combos, **cooking oil**, white flour, **sugar (smaller bags)**, hot sauce, **BBQ sauce**, jelly, **pancake syrup**, mayonnaise, **saltine and other crackers**, laundry detergent, juice (apple, orange, fruit punch), **toilet paper, paper towels**, individual snacks, ramen noodles, spaghetti, hamburger helper, **can tuna, can peaches**, tooth brushes, **baby wipes**, **reusable tote bags**, **rolling luggage**, pull carts

***ITEMS IN BOLD ARE HIGHEST PRIORITY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2– Youth meeting after Mass

October 9– Parish Family Potluck and games

October 23– Youth meeting after Mass

October 29– Service Project– Habitat for Humanity



November 6– Youth Group Meeting

November 13– Youth Group Meeting

November 19– Retreat– All Youth groups

December 3 and 4– Toy and Clothing Sale

December– TBD- Youth Prayer Service and Festival of Lights



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/>



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 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 26, akleemanstleo@aol.com, or mail to: Amy Kleeman, St. Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH
2573 ST. LEO PLACE AT BALTIMORE AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45225-1960

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>OCTOBER</i>						1 Mass in Spanish 6pm
2 Mass: 10:30am	3 Food Pantry Open	4 	5 Food Pantry Open	6 7:00pm MASS	7 Food Pantry Open	8 Mass in Spanish 6pm
9 Mass: 10:30am	10 Food Pantry Open Office—CLOSED	11 	12 Food Pantry Open	13 7:00pm MASS	14 Food Pantry Open	15 Mass in Spanish 6pm
16 Mass: 10:30am	17 Food Pantry Open	18 	19 Food Pantry Open	20 7:00pm MASS	21 Food Pantry Open	22 Mass in Spanish 6pm
23 Mass: 10:30am	24 Food Pantry Open	25 	26 Food Pantry Open	27 7:00pm MASS	28 Food Pantry Open	29 Mass in Spanish 6pm
30 Mass: 10:30am	31 Food Pantry Open <u>Happy Halloween !!!</u>					