

**April 11, 2021**

**From Fr. Jim . . .**

**Alleluia! Jesus Christ is Risen.** His grace and peace be with you. How great it was to celebrate Holy Week and Easter with people gathered at church again as opposed to last year when we could only transmit it to your homes. Thanks to all who were able to celebrate with us in person and thanks to all who celebrated with us online. I am so grateful to our crew who faithfully transmits our service to your homes. Social distancing is still necessary, and we cannot fill our church to full capacity yet. The services of Holy Week are so central to our faith and their communal nature is paramount for a good and appropriate celebration. It is a blessing for all of us to be able to share our in-person celebrations with those who for any reason are unable to make it. But how great it will be when we can all return to church again and gather around the eucharistic table together. I deeply miss being with you. As we get closer and closer to herd immunity hope increases that we can open our churches completely to everyone for Mass and meetings. I long for that day.

**A lot is happening while you are away!** The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is again planning for the future of the church. This is mainly because the number of priests who are retiring and/or dying is greater than the number of active priests. We are unable to provide a pastor for all the parishes who need pastors. It is becoming increasingly difficult for a priest to be a pastor for more than one parish. Many of our parishes are restricted to maintaining the current structure at the expense of mission, service, and living the Gospel. The plan is called "Beacons of Light." It is designed to create parish vitality around a main operating principle or goal: there will be one pastor and one parish per region. The deans are coordinating this process. A professional company has been hired to assist us and facilitate the planning process in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Office of Parish Vitality. Phase One is currently in process. The Office of Parish Vitality has collected data from all the parishes and deaneries to evaluate the pairing of parishes within regions. Regions are now being called "parish families." St. Boniface and St. Leo are both in the Cathedral Deanery and it will become our task to plan to become a parish family together as one parish with one pastor. I call your attention to the insert in this week's bulletin, and it is posted on our parish web site. It is a summary of the entire planning process with all phases and a timeline showing when each phase begins and ends. Please familiarize yourself with this process and most importantly hold it in prayer. There is a website to keep you up to date on the process and it has suggestions for prayer. I will also keep you informed.

Pope Francis has declared this year: The Year of St. Joseph. St. Joseph pray for us now and always.

"Let us never tire of seeking the risen Christ who gives life in abundance to those who meet him. To find Christ means to discover peace in our hearts." ~~ Pope Francis

Sunday Mass:  
10:30am, limited  
seating available, or  
join Fr. Jim as he  
livestreams Sunday  
Mass at 10:30am at:  
RCC St. Leo Church  
Cincinnati  
[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH_BOX)



You can read the Sunday bulletin at: [www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin)

You can read Fr. Jim's letter at:

[www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim)

Our youth ministry group is looking to get Domino's Pizza gift cards donated to help provide lunch for their summer activities. We are still in need of Toddler size (1 year, 2T, and 3T) bibs for the Sacrament of Baptism. We also are in need of gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider Staples, Amazon, Kroger, or Home Depot when donating. You can see our latest needs on our Amazon Wish List Link [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share). Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.

**THANK YOU-** Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to THANK YOU! [Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl this weekend!](#)

**SAVE THE DATE- May 31st, 2021 Virtual Hunger Walk-** Support St. Leo Food Pantry by supporting the 2021 Hunger Walk, ALL entries are online this year! JOIN OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM! Make sure to pick St. Leo Church Pantry as your community agency.

Your support is VERY important! ALL money (even shirt money) designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. Be on the lookout for more registration details for information visit <https://freestorefoodbank.org>

Next Week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)