

December 12, 2021

From Fr. Jim. . .

Prepare the Way of the Lord. John the Baptist is one of the stars of the Advent season. It is said that John came to testify to the light so that all might believe through him. He, himself, was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. As we prepare the way to celebrate the Feast of Christmas, it is good to imitate John the Baptist and to remember that Christmas is not about us. It is about the light that has come into our dark world. It is about the Word of God that has taken on human form and shape. It is about the love of God in and through Jesus who has come to save us and free us from sin and death. Like John, we are to witness to this light so all might believe in Jesus.

By remembering that Christmas is always about the light of Christ who has come into the world, then even our shopping, buying, giving gifts, decorating, cooking, sharing food, welcoming family and guests can be opportunities to witness to Christ's light so that all might believe through us. I believe this is best done by our actions and attitude more so than by our words. The best way to witness to the light of Christ's presence and love, especially during this time of the year, is by clothing ourselves with Divine presence and virtues and doing our best to wear them out. Kindness, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, loving without conditions, generosity, acceptance, understanding, patience, hope and humility will always brighten a dark world or home with the presence of God and an implied invitation to believe in the love of our Savior. We, too, are not the light but we testify to the light so that all can believe. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

What can I do this week in Advent? Light the third candle on the Advent wreath and think of someone who is longing for our savior's light and love and pray for that person; Pray for the sick in our parish. Call someone you haven't talked to in a while. Volunteer to help with any preparations. Have fun and enjoy doing what needs to be done. Reflect on the Christmas song, Silent Night. Watch a good Christmas movie with popcorn, of course! Pray for anyone who is alone and afraid.

Beacons of Light: It is official. Last Sunday, at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati, promulgated and made final the families of parishes, ending the first phase of Beacons of Light. Beacons of Light is the process of planning for the future to become parishes with renewed mission and purpose of evangelizing, building the kingdom of God, and actively living the faith. We are in the South Deanery and our family of parishes is St. Theresa, the Little Flower, St. Joseph, Ezzard Charles Drive, Holy Family, St. Leo the Great, and St Boniface. The next phase of Beacons of Light, the implementation of the new Families of Parishes, begins on July 1, 2022. Until then, the priests personnel board with the archbishop, will be calling all priests and discussing assignments of pastors and parochial vicars for the new families of parishes. Assignments will be determined and named sometime in March and start July 1, 2022. The Comboni Missionaries will be providing a pastor and two parochial vicars for our family of parishes which will be determined and announced hopefully in March. These are challenging and exciting times and, with Archbishop Schnurr, let us pray for each other and the process to be open to the Spirit

and embrace the call to become new. Thank you so much for your prayers and participation so far.



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

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin

You can **read Fr. Jim's letter** at:

www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim

We would love to receive 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. **Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**

MARCH FOR LIFE 2022- January 19th – 22nd in Washington D.C.-

SPONSORSHIP NEEDED: This trip gives you the full March for Life experience with the march itself, the opportunity to meet with Ohio representatives and opportunities for prayer, processing and learning. We are in need of sponsors for this event, the cost of each student to go on this trip is \$325. If you are interested in sponsoring please call the office at 513.921.1044.

Register today for 2022 Spring classes for Master's Degree, Graduate Certificates, and Certificates at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and School of Theology at: www.athenaeum.edu/apply

Help Aging Religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others- educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

"This is the attitude of a true apostle: to go confidently forward, preferring the uncertainty of unexpected situations rather than force of habit. This courage is born from confident trust in God's greatness who loves to work through our lowliness." ~~ Pope Francis