

December 18, 2022

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

If you think back on the early days of your life, with an open heart and fresh eyes, you might see in your mind's eye a man whose presence meant everything to you. Why did you look up to him? Was it his quiet strength and dignity, consistent work ethic, faithfulness, devotion to family or to you, or even his sense of humor? I would venture to say he presented an entire package of what it means to be a role model—a true father figure. He was your rock star! And whether he is still living or has passed, he will always remain a part of you and guide the trajectory of your life.

It is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and next week we will celebrate Christmas, as the birth of Jesus Christ enters the hearts of all people who look toward Bethlehem with a shared sense of joy and awe. As a precursor to this blessed event, we reflect today on Matthew's Gospel, which describes a young man, Joseph, whose faith, thoughtfulness, goodness, humility, and consistency of purpose, were the impetus for God to call him to participate in the mystery of the Incarnation of His son Jesus Christ. Because he was an authentic man of faith, St. Joseph, descendent of David and a simple carpenter of Nazareth, he could accept God's plan, not question it, and carry the challenging responsibilities as foster father of Jesus. He is the ultimate role model and father figure for the entire world. St. Francis de Sales has said, "Truly, I doubt not that the angels, wondering and adoring, came thronging in countless multitudes to that poor workshop to admire the humility of him who guarded that dear and divine child, and labored at his carpenter's trade to support the son and the mother who were committed to his care."

And so with us, as we think back fondly on a man or men in our lives who have made such a difference to ours, we might consider comparing their qualities to those of St. Joseph. Are these parallels the reason these men have meant so much to us, and why we might subconsciously emulate their lives? It's certainly something to ponder...

Saint Joseph, our father and lord, is a teacher of the interior life. Place yourself under his patronage and you'll feel the effectiveness of his power. --Saint Josemaria Escriva

Yours in Christ,
Father Rudy

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

You can **read Fr. Rudy's letter** at: www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromthePastor'sDesk

Special Collection this weekend-Religious give THANKS- A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund

for Religious collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.



Upcoming Dates to Mark on your Calendar:

December 18th- Festival of Lights – FAMILY NIGHT, please see Judie on how to sign up or use this link

<https://forms.gle/28xtZfcu1shwwxE8A>

ITEMS NEEDED: The food Pantry has an urgent need for larger diapers size 5 and 6. Don't forget the Food Pantry is in dire need of items we hope you can help! You can see our latest request 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.**

Volunteers Needed- St. Leo's Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help serve our Community. The Food Pantry is open M-W-F from 1: 00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. and we ask volunteers to arrive around noon to help set-up. If you are interested in volunteering please call 513.921.1044.

JOIN US FOR A PILGRIMAGE TO FOUR RELIGIOUS SITES IN

EUROPE- June 6-16, 2023 travel from the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat and the cave at Manresa, to the grotto at Lourdes where St. Bernadette met "the Immaculate Conception," to Lisieux to celebrate the centennial anniversary of St. Therese's beatification, to Tours, home of St. Martin. Please call and schedule an information meeting to answer your questions, contact Greg Niehaus at 513.541.5560.

Congratulations to the Week 16 4 Grand Winners: 124 - Mick Schindler; 332 - Skip Fellingner; 490 - Paul Ebert

The Ultimate Guide to Advent is HERE!!- Love. Peace. Good tidings. Comfort and joy. This is the dream of Christmas and the promise of an Advent spent preparing for the coming of Jesus. We love to look back at past Christmas and remember the special moments and the loved ones we shared those moments with. If you want to have a truly unforgettable Christmas you have to prepare for it. **The Ultimate Guide to Advent** is free, beautiful and filled with stories that will inspire you and fill you with wonder. A new issue of the Guide is emailed right to your inbox each Sunday during advent. Sign up at the catholictelegraph.com/advent2022.

Another great Toy and Clothing Sale for 2022.... there are so many churches, families, organizations, volunteers, parishioners, donors... the list goes on... to thank for making this event run smoothly every year it couldn't be done without the generosity of everyone!! THANK YOU SO MUCH!! We were able to collect over \$1,350 for the St. Leo Food Pantry!