

December 19, 2021

From Fr. Jim. . .

Gift Giving at Christmas Time: The best present that we have ever received is the presence of God's coming to us in human form and shape in the birth of God's son, Jesus Christ. Arguably, the best gift that we can give to another at Christmas is the gift of our presence. In her book, Out of the Ordinary 2000, Sr. Joyce Rupp suggests that we consider the "Present of Presence." This primarily involves "being with" someone rather than just "doing" for someone. There are two possible ways to be with another – physically be present with another and be present to another "in spirit" by deliberately sending prayer, compassionate thoughts, and kind feelings toward another person or group. She suggests giving the "Present of Presence" by: being with someone who needs you; being with a person who gives you hope; being with those who live in terror or fear; being with an older person; being with someone who has helped you to grow; being with one who is in pain; being with yourself; being with someone who has written to you; spending time with a child; being with someone who is terminally ill; being with a coworker; being with your loved ones. These are only some. She suggests more. What "Present of Presence" would you add to this list? We can be about "being with" in addition to just "doing for" because of God choosing to share our human form and dwell in us. We have the ability to warm the lives of others with our very presence because of this incredible Gift of Love.

On this note, I want to thank everyone who wants to create this presence through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and through expressions of solidarity with those who are most in need. You are not just providing for their physical and material needs but in ways that you are not fully aware, you are building a spiritual relationship with them. You are treating them as a brother or sister in Christ. You are giving them the present of Christ's presence and love. People know that they are not alone or have not been forgotten or that there are others who really care about them. They know that God is born to them and remains with them. Thank you so very much!

Welcome, Welcome and again Welcome! As the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all," they announced the coming of God to everyone. All of heaven and earth is joined together now as God has taken on our flesh. No one is excluded from God's salvation, no one. Our Church is open to everyone this year. Invite a friend and bring family or anyone who may be visiting you from out of town. Again, if you have not been fully vaccinated, for your care and care for others, please wear a mask. It will be good to have a full church again to celebrate this great Feast.

At St. Leo: Mass on Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 is 10:30am (NO 6:00 pm Mass). No Mass on Christmas Eve. Mass on Sunday December 26, Feast of the Holy Family is at 10:30am.

At St. Boniface: Masses on Christmas Eve, 4:00 pm and midnight in English (Fr. Jim) 6:00 pm in Spanish (Fr. Rudy). Mass on Christmas Day – 1:00 pm in Spanish (Fr. Rudy) and 11:00 am in English (Fr. Pat). No 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm o'clock Masses on Christmas Day. Masses on Sunday, December 26, Feast of the Holy Family, 9:00am and 12:30pm, Spanish (Fr. Rudy) and 11am, English (Fr. Pat).

On behalf of our entire staff, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and the blessing and gift of Christ's presence and peace for a joyous New Year. May the Lord be present to you in new, exciting and profound ways. May you experience God's love

and mercy like you never have before. God is truly with us! All Glory and praise be to God.



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_=w_l_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

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 sister, brothers, and religious order priests.

Holiday Mass Schedule for St. Leo and St. Boniface

St. Leo:

No Christmas Eve Mass; Christmas Day 10:30 am; Sunday December 26th 10:30 am.

St. Boniface:

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm (Spanish), Midnight; Christmas Day 11:00 am, 1:00 pm (Spanish); Sunday December 26th 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish).