

December 25, 2022

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

All of us, at one time or another, have imagined this compelling scene: As the moon rose to light their path, a young couple, perhaps a very young couple, are journeying far from home to find a place of safety to await the birth of their first child. Both the dark night and their fears surround them, but Mary and Joseph bravely venture forth, with Mary riding on a donkey and her husband walking beside her. With Mary in some distress, they stop in a town called Bethlehem, where this child, this wondrous child, so long awaited, is born in a lowly stable amid the sights and sounds of its sparse setting. It's not what one would have expected as the proper atmosphere for the birth of the Savior of the world, but it was the perfect location for God to send His son—to change hearts and lives, as Jesus did while on earth and until He comes again.

Yes, Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, is God's most extraordinary gift to the world and in whom the great covenant between God and His people *was* and *is* fulfilled. He brought us out of the darkness and into His light, and if we truly internalize this moment, we realize the significance and power of our faith in his birth, life, death, and resurrection, and through God's munificence, our lives can be transformed beyond imagination and toward our ultimate salvation. This little child captures our hope, our promise, and our unlimited capacity for love.

In 1868, American author Phillip Brooks composed a beautiful, yet simple poem to mark the birth of our Lord. His words were later set to music as a carol and have been a part of our Christmas celebration for over 100 years. Today, his words remain especially poignant:

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above

While mortals sleep, the angels keep, their watch of wondering love.

Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.

And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.

This Christmas season will soon be a lovely memory, but the essence of its meaning *can* and *should* remain alive within us. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to shine His light on your lives on this special day and always. Merry Christmas, my dear friends...

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

Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio are in need of Spanish translators to join their social enterprise, Accuracy Now to help translate in hospitals, businesses and schools. If you are interested please contact Mary Anne at 513.672.3714 for further information.



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 Week 17 4 Grand Winners- 155 - Mary D Schweitzer; 368 - Rita or Bill Becks; 412 - Wanda McNeil

Deepen your understanding of the mass- Archbishop Schnurr would like you to join him for a special study of **The Mass** video series from Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Ministries. Each Sunday from January 8th – February 12th, Archbishop Schnurr will email you one episode of the series along with his own brief insights, which you can watch on your own time and at your own pace, to explore the wonder of the Mass. Each episode of the series is only about 25 minutes. This is a great way to join fellow Catholics across the archdiocese to deepen your understanding of the Mass and experience it in a whole new way. Visit Catholicaoc.org/theMass to sign up for free.

Mark your calendar for the 2023 E6 Catholic Men's Conference, which will be taking place on Saturday, February 18th 2023, at the East Central High School Performing Arts Center in St. Leon, IN. We cordially invite every man to attend this 8th annual event. Please join us for inspiring talks, confession (available all day), celebration of the Holy Mass and fraternity with fellow men of Christ. We pride ourselves on presenting a quality, substance-driven, inspirational and faith-filled event that will change men's lives and help equip them to be the man Christ calls them to be. **Do not miss this!** More details and tickets are on sale now at www.e6cmc.com.