

December 26, 2021
From Fr. Jim. . .

Please let me say thanks for all the ways you have gifted me and the pastoral staff this holy season with prayers, presents, cards, blessings and well wishes. Thank you so much.

Also, I want to thank all of you for your generous giving of your time, talent, and treasures to allow our parish to be and become the parish that God is calling us to be. God is truly uniting us in our diversity through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and through the Eucharist. Our prayer is strong and beautiful when we are all together and participating as fully as we can. Thanks for your welcome of each other and the sharing of your faith. Thanks for supporting the work we do here and for considering this faith community as not just "my parish" but "our parish."

We are all members of God's family. We are brothers and sisters in the Lord. Today, on this Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the joy of God taking on our flesh and dwelling in us and how we are made aware of this incredible gift in and through our families. Our nature is and can be a holy one. As God shares in our nature, we share God's holiness. As God used the Holy Family for the growth, development, and nurturing of God's merciful love, our Lord Jesus Christ, then all our families are most holy because all our families are places where God's mercy reigns – where mercy is received and given. I am so grateful for God's family that we are called to be and that we are truly becoming.

The Lord was born in human nature to bring the divine light of love to the whole world and to unite everyone with holiness and grace. As the shepherds accepted the Lord's welcome of them, they were no longer marginal people but members of God's family. As the kings, representing the nations of the world, followed the star and paid the Christ-child homage, God's mercy, holiness, and grace was to reign in the hearts of all people. Jesus was born to claim all of us as God's own family and to bring us together.

My brothers and sisters in the Lord, I truly believe that God is calling our family of parishes to be holy – that is to live together as brothers and sisters, to open our hearts to all others with genuine hospitality, to value each other, to respect differences, welcome diversity, to accept that we are all parts of the same body, the same family of the Lord and to appreciate that one part is never better or more important than any of the other parts. Also, we must acknowledge that one part cannot say to any other part, "You are not needed. "You are not wanted." We need each other to be church, to be God's family and striving to live as one family under God, we accept God's call to be holy and to be places where God's mercy reigns and God's unconditional love binds us as one.

As we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth, let us pray for ourselves and all the families of parishes to accept God's call to holiness by living together as God's family. How can we learn to pray Eucharist better and together welcome and respect the diversity that blesses our family of parishes? How can we better become the Body of Christ; live as the Body of Christ together? What will separate us? Where do we want God's mercy to reign? How are we to receive it and give it? How is God born in your life right now? How can we bear his presence to someone in our family?

May the angel's announcement to the Shepherds be more a reality for us in our planning and in our longing to live as God's parish family: "Peace on earth, good will (and holiness) to all!"



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.

Mass and Healing Service- On Wednesday January 5th at 7: 30 p.m. at St. Ignatius Church located at 5222 North Bend Road. This event is sponsored by Lighthouse Renewal Center, for more information please call 513.471.LITE.

2022 Cincinnati Men's Conference- "Actor Jim Caviezel (*Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ*) and Raymond Arroyo (*EWTN/ FOX News*) are coming to Cincinnati April 2, 2022 to speak at the Cincinnati Men's Conference. Go to www.CincinnatiMensConference.com to get tickets. Give the gift of spiritual uplift this Christmas season, your men will thank you!"