

January 3, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

This Feast celebrates another aspect of the Incarnation: Christ's coming into the whole world as light and salvation for all. In the darkness of winter, we can celebrate that our light has come to us. The love of Christ is light for the world's darkness. The familiar story of the three kings following the star to the manger and presenting gifts to the Christ-child signifies that the light of God's love shines on all people. No one is to live in darkness anymore. Where do we still need to "see" Christ in the world today? What part of our lives needs to be "illuminated" by Christ's love? What gifts/talents do we have that we can place before our king in order to celebrate and acknowledge his presence with us through whom the light of Christ's love will shine?

On the Feast of the Epiphany, the blessing of homes has been traditional custom in various ethnic groups, and a fine reminder that Christ is incarnate in the love and care we manifest to each other in our ordinary, daily lives. One custom is to trace crosses, the initials of the "kings" and the numerals of the year over the doorway with chalk, 20 +C+M+B +21. Legend names the kings, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. However, the initials were long ago reinterpreted by northern European Protestants who love the custom but not the legend. CMB became Christus mansionem benedicat. This is Latin for: "May Christ bless this House." This prayer of blessing for a home is taken from the Book of Blessings, the Roman Ritual, p.685:

*Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live in it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Let us ask the Lord to bless the house that is our parish family! Let us ask the Lord to bless the houses that are our partner parishes and the universal church. Let us ask the Lord to bless the houses and families of all nations.

"Saint Stephan is the first martyr, the first of a host of brothers and sisters who continue to bring the light into the darkness – while he was on the receiving end of the stones of hatred, reciprocated with words of forgiveness. He thus changed history."  
~~ Pope Francis

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](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rcc%20st%20leo%20church%20cincinnati&epa=SEARCH_BOX)

You can read the Sunday bulletin at:  
[www.saintleo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin](http://www.saintleo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin)  
You can read Fr. Jim's letter at:  
[www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromtheDeskofFrJim)

St. Leo's is in need of Amazon Gift Cards for our wish list items and office needs. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.

## WELCOME GUESTS!

If you are visiting with us today, we want you to know how welcome you are, whether you have come from another parish here

in the Archdiocese, from across the river, or from further reaches. Thank you for praying with us. Feel free to join us as often as you can! REGISTER PLEASE! If you are attending St. Leo regularly and consider us "your parish," please register yourself and your family. Call the office at 513-921-1044 to register.

### 2021 Contribution Envelopes and Calendars

We have prepared the 2021 contribution envelopes and calendars. Since many of you are joining mass through Live Stream, please contact the office if you would like your envelopes to be mailed. If you have not received envelopes in the past, and would like to receive them please let us know. If you would like to make your contribution online instead please contact Amy Kleeman at 513-921.1044 ext. 30.

Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations: WCPO-Channel 9, WKRC-Channel 12, WXIX-Channel 19. St. Leo Food Pantry will be CLOSED for inclement weather when Cincinnati Public Schools are closed.

