

March 7, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

The Scrutinies: This Sunday and the next two Sundays of Lent – Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Church celebrates the Rite of Scrutiny with those who were elected to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We do not have catechumens at Saint Leo who have been elected to receive the Easter Sacraments at this year's Easter Vigil, but we hold them in prayer as they continue their journey in faith to celebrate the Sacraments at next year's Easter Vigil. Normally, the Cycle A readings are used when celebrating the Scrutinies. Since we are not celebrating these rituals at St. Leo, we should be conscious of the reality that they will be celebrated in parishes with those who are elected to receive them. I offer the following explanation for reflection as they prepare to be received into the church and as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at the Easter liturgy.

The Scrutinies are based on the Gospels of the Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind and the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead. This week, The Elect examine or scrutinize their lives under the Gospel and Good News of the story of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at Jacob's well. As a crucial part of her conversion, Jesus helped the woman see the truth about herself and her need for living water as well as her need for the physical water that she was drawing from the well for herself and her family. She realized her internal thirst and her need to believe in Jesus and she leaves him and goes forth to tell others about him.

What light does this Gospel shed upon our own lives? Can we see the truth about our sinful selves? Do we need to ask Jesus to lovingly show us this side to ourselves? Can we ask for his help in accepting the truth about ourselves and then drink from the fountain of his unconditional love, grace, and abundant mercy? What changes can we make to show that we are drinking more of Living Water? Who can we tell and encourage to be drinking from the cup of Living Water? How can we share and live our faith more at home, in our parish, in the greater Church and in the world?

Let us continue to pray for each other as we journey together with the Lord through the desert, up the mountain of transfiguration, down the mountain, to the cross, into the tomb and lifted up to eternal glory.

"In this Lenten Season, accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. " ~ 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

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

One way to help with Lenten Almsgiving is to Donate!! Toddler size (1 year, 2T, and 3T) bibs for the Sacrament of Baptism. We also are in need of gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider Staples, Amazon, Kroger, or Home Depot when donating. Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.

Sustainability in El

Salvador- Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques- and a new generation of young farmers-are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more!



We HOPE you can Join Us for Healing the Racial Divide, on March 14th from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00p.m. We will hear from two individuals about their experience with racism. This special Zoom Listening session is hosted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Anti-Racism Task Force and our covenant partner parish Our Lady of the Visitation. To Register follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/SL-OLV-Listening-Session>