

May 23, 2021

From Fr. Jim . . .

Welcome to Everyone at home, watching live stream and to those who can be present in church with us as we continue to battle the pandemic. Whether from your home or in church, it is right and just that we gather to celebrate the Eucharist on this last day of the Easter Season and the birthday of the Church of God. Our church community resembles the first Pentecost. I feel about this Feast like I do the Feast of the Epiphany. If we did not bear the name St. Leo the Great, these two Feasts are so appropriate for being our parish feast days.

How evident are we of belonging to the Lord, of being filled with the Holy Spirit, of being sent to proclaim the Good news to all the nations, and of having different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit? Are there different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone? Are there different forms of service but the same Lord? Are we not the one body of Christ and doesn't this one body have many beautiful parts? Do we not speak in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God? Whether African, African – American, Guatemalan, Hispanic, Latino, European, European-American or American, in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body. Whether black, white or brown, male or female, we were all given to drink of the one Spirit. Praise be to God and thanks be to God now and always!

It is incredible that I can write to you, today, just like St. Paul wrote to the Corinthian community and use his very words. How close is our celebration to the first celebration of Pentecost? But no matter how we celebrate, the message remains the same for all of us and for the entire universal church. We are blessed to be a microcosm of the universal church whenever we gather. May we discover this blessing and appreciate it more and more each time we come together in prayer and in service especially as our mission statement directs us with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Thanks for being and living as the church of God and professing your faith so well and so generously. Let the church all say: "Amen!"

Happy Pentecost, everyone and may you be on fire with the love of God for all of God's people and God's church!

An end in sight?! Beginning with the weekend of June 5 and June 6, the Bishops of Ohio have reinstated the obligation to attend Sunday Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass and Mass on Holy Days. I believe on June 2, Governor DeWine is removing the restrictions of social distancing and wearing masks for those who are fully vaccinated. After the statewide mandate is lifted, there will be no mask mandate for churches of the archdiocese. However, there will still be one section in church reserved for those who still need to social distance and wear masks. I continue to encourage everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine to do so, for your own health and everyone's freedom.

As has always been the case, those who have a serious reason are exempt from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. This includes those who are ill, have significant health risk factors or care for someone who is immuno-compromised, or ill, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety of contracting coronavirus in a large group of persons.

We will be working hard at St. Leo's to restore our liturgies back to its fullest expression and to welcome you back with great joy and eagerness.

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/secebook.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

Our youth group would really enjoy side walk chalk, bubbles, soccer balls, or any outdoor activities to be used during the summer months. We also are in need of 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.

ONE WEEK AWAY HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!! JOIN OR DONATE TO OUR TEAM ST. LEO PANTRY PARTNERS- Support St. Leo Food Pantry by supporting the 2021 Hunger Walk! The walk will be virtual this year on May 31st. Your support is VERY important! ALL money (even shirt money) designated for St. Leo Food Pantry goes to our account. To JOIN or DONATE to St. Leo's Team go to <https://cincinnatihungerwalk.org/2021> Then Click on JOIN TEAM, SCROLL to find St. LEO PANTRY PARTNERS, CLICK on it. From here you can JOIN OUR TEAM or DONATE. Paper registration forms can be find in church, all registration and money needs to be turned into St. Leo's by Sunday May 22. If you need help please call Amy at 921.1044.

SAVE THE DATE-This year's Hunger Walk will be at St Leo's. Join us on May 31, 2021 from 9am-10am to walk and clean up the neighborhood around St. Leo's. Call or Text: Judie 513-767-8088 or Rodrigo 513-284-2391