

November 27, 2022

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Hope... The dictionary definition is “to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or be true,” and in this first week of Advent, as we await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our hearts are filled with the joys of what is to come. It is the time of beginnings, as we look forward to a new liturgical year and turn the page onto the season we love to celebrate—Christmas Day and the birth of the Christ Child. However, we must prepare our hearts and our lives to receive such a wondrous gift, so let us begin to think about what we must do to be truly ready.

In his apostolic letter for the celebration year of the new millennium, St. Pope John II, declared a central theme, restated from Hebrews 13:8: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* These same words appeared as the Vatican’s official logo for the jubilee year, and they are especially poignant when we consider our own relationship with Christ in terms of this Advent season. Matthew’s gospel today, interestingly, reflects not on Christ’s birth but upon his second coming. Jesus asks us to be *prepared, stay awake,* and realize there will be no advance warning when He comes again. Time is irrelevant; faith is the only constant.

Yet, human beings seem to love to organize themselves around time periods and calendar events: years, months, seasons, holidays, and many other representations of beginnings and endings. Yet Jesus Christ is continuous throughout time, and our readiness to see Him again should be steadfast, true, and something time can never exhaust. We should always be ready and looking forward to our ultimate home with the Lord.

As we begin this first week in Advent and start our preparations for the Christmas season, let us focus on how we can faithfully accomplish what Jesus is asking us to do in this Gospel. As you scurry around in preparation for the secular doings of Christmas, such as buying gifts and attending get togethers, could you also make haste in preparing yourself for the promise of Christ and the extraordinary presence of God in your life? Just begin... The most important thing is this: Jesus will come again to earth in a most glorious, triumphant and final sense, and we must prepare to meet Him.

The exhortation to be watchful resounds many times in the liturgy, especially in Advent, a season of preparation not only for Christmas, but also for Christ’s definitive and glorious coming at the end of time. It therefore has a distinctly eschatological meaning and invites the believer to spend every day and every moment in the presence of the One ‘who is and who was and who is come’ (Revelation 1:4), to whom the future of the world and of man belongs. This is Christian hope!”
—Saint Pope John Paul II

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.saintleo.org/Publications/FromthePastor’sDesk

Congratulations to our parishioners from Elder High School for making honors first quarter: Jenrui Velasquez-Arreaga, and Randy Velasquez-Arreaga.



Upcoming Dates to Mark on your Calendar:

November 19th – Retreat – All Youth Groups

December 3rd and 4th- Toy and Clothing Sale

December 18th- Festival of Lights – FAMILY NIGHT, more information to follow

ITEMS NEEDED: The food Pantry has an

urgent need for plastic bags. 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.**

We are in need of clothing racks and storage bins for the upcoming toy and clothing drive.

We would love to receive gift cards to help with our everyday needs, please consider [Meijer, Walmart, 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/3TZJLXNPGPQM?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.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development –Thank you for your generous support last week for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click “How to Give.”

Toy and Clothing Drive

Mark, your calendars for December 4th! From 1:00 p.m. -4:00pm in Centennial Hall! This is meant to be adult shopping only, please try and leave your children at home.

“Holiness is not a process of struggles and renunciations. It is above all the experience of being loved by God, of freely receiving his love, his mercy.” ~ Pope Francis