

September 11, 2022

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

The story of the Prodigal Son is one of the most well-known parables in Scripture, the third of a trilogy of parables in today's Gospel in which Jesus shows us the power of recovery, redemption, and God's enduring mercy. Each parable represents God's endless quest to bring even one lost soul back to His loving arms, and heaven's exultation upon the return. No one is forgotten, no one is beyond pardon, no one is alone.

It is the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, and we are again blessed to realize that God is always with us, no matter how we may falter, reject, or forget His unconditional love for us. We may return to Him at any time, circumstance, or manner of choosing. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who relentlessly will "find" us, no matter how far we have strayed. He will guide us back, joyfully, to the fold and help us through any duress or dark days ahead.

In 1772, the Anglican clergyman and poet John Newton composed a gorgeous poem/hymn, known as his spiritual autobiography, "Amazing Grace," that many of us find surprisingly inspirational and life-affirming; people seem to stop in their tracks when they hear its haunting melody and beautiful words of God's forgiveness and mercy. It is an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States, where it is used for both religious and secular purposes.

I ask you to consider Newton's words as we ponder their significance for our own lives today:

"Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed! Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease; I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine; but God, who called me here below, will be forever mine. "

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.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromthePastor'sDesk

If you are having items shipped to Saint Leo's please have them shipped to Saint Boniface. We are having a lot of issues at Saint Leo's with deliveries. Please send any deliveries to: St. Boniface - Attn: Saint Leo -1750 Chase Avenue-Cincinnati, OH 45223

Upcoming Dates to mark on your Calendar:

September 17th and 18th – Sacrament sign-ups for all sacraments.

September 18th – After mass join St. Johns West Chester

Knights of Columbus with their tool box project.



ITEMS NEEDED: We have a family in need of a twin mattress. The food pantry is also in need of security cameras and flood lights. 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.**

PARISH FAMILY NEWS: Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 9th, for a get-acquainted party with other members of our parish family. Little Flower will be hosting us beginning at 1:00 p.m. We are asking people to bring a dish to share. Bring your own beverage. If the weather is nice, we will be outside on their beautiful grounds. There will be soccer and volleyball for the kids and adults. Or we can enjoy the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other. If the weather isn't nice, we will be in the parish undercroft.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – Sept. 21st to Oct. 19th - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Do you want to experience God's love, power and presence? The **Life in the Spirit Seminar** is a life-transforming experience where you will discover Christ's personal and unconditional love for YOU. Listen to dynamic teachings and experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This seminar will take place on 5 consecutive Wednesday evenings at St. Ignatius Parish in Loyola Hall, 5222 North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45247. **For more info or to register call Mary Ann at 513-378-4431, Lighthouse Renewal Center at 513-471-5483, or visit our website at www.LRC1.org.**

You're Invited!!! Join our partner parish Our Lady of the Visitation on Friday September 16th at Strickers Grove from 5:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. There will be FREE rides, mini golf, soft drinks, ice cream, and food. Please bring with you an easy side dish or dessert to share. Rides are open from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Strickers Grove is located at 11490 Hamilton Cleves Road (Route 128) Hope to see you there!

The 18th annual Blue Mass Celebration is Sunday September 25, 2022! All Greater Cincinnati Police, fire, and public safety personnel are welcome to join at The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains. The blessing and procession begin at 10:45 a.m. with mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by a reception. For more information please call 513.421.5354.

September 16th -18th join hundreds of single Catholics from across the country at the 21st National Conference for Single Catholics at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, VA. The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, mass, adoration, opportunities for confession, fellowship, food and more. Visit www.NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information and to register or call 512.766.5798.