

The Church of St. Leo the Great

ST. LEO PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"St. Leo the Great Catholic Church is a welcoming parish which is strengthened by the Eucharist, and which keeps Jesus Christ at its center. We are a community of faith characterized by prayerful worship, community involvement, evangelical discipleship, and vibrant stewardship. We are an ever-growing resource for spiritual renewal and Catholic teaching in the Hilton-Parma area. Our parish strives to be financially stable. Our parish collaborates with the Diocese of Rochester and other faith communities to develop dynamic programs that address the needs of the parish and the greater community."

A Stewardship Parish which gathers at 167 Lake Avenue, Hilton, New York 14468

West by Northwest

A Cursillo Ultreya Center
of the Rochester Diocese

Ultreya meets last
Saturday of each month

December 4, 2011

SCRIP IS GROWING LIKE CRAZY!

There are a lot of great things happening with SCRIP! New companies include Buffalo Wild Wings, Taco Bell, Groupon, and Restaurant.com. Many cards are available almost instantly, through ScripNow! And reloads on-line, so you don't have to wait to get your cards. You can print them out right after ordering and paying for them. There are dozens of companies that offer ScripNow! Or Reloads. For a list of these, as well as companies offering Holiday Bonuses, stop by the SCRIP table after Mass.

Advent is just beginning, and people are preparing for the Christmas season also. Make your shopping easy by buying SCRIP each week and using it like cash. SCRIP cards are in stock for many retail stores, restaurants, movies, gas stations, even online stores. Check out the SCRIP table after Mass, buy SCRIP now or take home an order blank to do your "shopping" and bring it back for next week. This is the last chance to order non-stocked cards to insure delivery by December 11. St. Leo's gets a percentage of each card; you get the full face value—everybody wins!

ST. LEO CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY

Got plans for this afternoon? Going shopping? Start your shopping at the **Shops on West Ridge** (formerly Antique Co-op) on Ridge Rd. today, Sunday, December 4. Our St. Leo Festive Choir with Patty Gorman on the accordion, will be entertaining shoppers with Christmas carols from 12-2 PM. Stop in and say Hello!

SENIOR CITIZENS INVITED TO CHRISTMAS STORY

Over 55? Want to hear the Christmas Story? Join other Seniors as the St. Leo Youth Group recalls the Nativity Story on Sunday, December 11, and share special memories of your Christmases with the Youth Group. You are invited to attend the 6:00 PM Mass, the story begins after Mass. Call Michele Pechie at 392-2710x6 to reserve your spot!

CYO BASKETBALL TEAMS

St. Leo's has a boys and a girls CYO basketball team this year. Our home games are played in the gym at St. Jude's on Lyell Rd. The December schedule is:

Girls

12/10 - 12:30 PM vs. St. Jerome @ St. Jerome, 130 East Ave., E. Roch.
12/11 - 1:00 PM vs. St. Joseph @ Aquinas Field Hse. #3, 1127 Dewey Ave.
12/17 - 3:00 PM vs. St. Lawrence @ St. Lawrence, N. Greece Rd.

Boys

12/11 - 5:00 PM vs. St. Lawrence @ St. Jude's, Lyell Rd.
12/17 - 5:00 PM vs. St. John, Roch. @ St. Jude's
12/18 - 5:30 PM vs. Holy Trinity @ Aquinas Field House. #3, 1127 Dewey
The schedule for the remaining games will be posted in the New Year. Take time from your busy schedule to support our teams. They need a cheering section!

THANKS FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank everyone for your donations of money, gift cards, turkeys, baked good and food for our Thanksgiving baskets. Because of your generosity 22 families received baskets.

THIS WEEK AT ST. LEO

Daily Masses: Mon.-5:30 PM, Fri.-8:30 AM DMC
Communion Service Tues.-Thurs.- 8:30 AM DMC
Divine Mercy Chaplet - Monday - Friday - 3:00 PM

MONDAY - December 5

5:30 PM Mass, Divine Mercy Chapel
6:00 PM Junior Bell Choir, Room 2
6:00 PM Group Reunion. Room 4
6:30 PM Stewardship, Room 5
6:45 PM Group Reunion, Room 3
6:45 PM Children's Choir, Room 1
7:00 PM Senior Bell Choir, Room 2
7:00 PM Building & Grounds, Sacristy

TUESDAY - December 6

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Second Time Treasures
7:00 PM Direction for Our Times, Chapel

WEDNESDAY - December 7

9:00 AM - 8:25 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:30 PM Girl Scouts #481, Basement
6:30 PM Pastoral Council Meeting, Room 2
7:15 PM Festive Choir

THURSDAY - December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8:30 AM Mass
2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Second Time Treasures
6:30 PM Girl Scouts #193, basement
7:00 PM Mass
8:00 PM IT Committee, Room 4

FRIDAY - December 9

8:30 AM Mass, Divine Mercy Chapel

SATURDAY - December 10

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Leo Resale Shop
3:30 PM Confessions
4:30 PM Rosary
5:00 PM Mass

SUNDAY - December 11 Social Hour after Masses

8:00 AM Mass
9:00 AM Religious Education
9:15 AM Group Reunion, Room B
10:30 AM Mass and Children's Liturgy
10:30 AM Religious Education
12:00 PM
6:00 PM LifeTeen Mass
7:00 PM Senior Citizens Program by Youth Group
7:00 PM Mother Angelica Bible Study, Room 5

From our Youth Minister, Michele Pechie:

LifeTeen Mass begins at 6:00 PM

7:00 PM Sunday, December 11
"The Christmas Story"

Be a Friend! Make a Friend! Bring a Friend to Jesus!



ST. LEO'S IS GROWING

St. Leo Faith Community warmly welcomes Deborah Liana; Michael, Kelly, Carter and Ella Clark to our faith community.

MILITARY SERVICE BOARD

Our Military Service Board will soon be moved to a new location in the Ambulatory to be more visible for us to remember those who are serving their Country. Dennis Bates, a Parish Council Member, has some new ideas to refurbish our board. We are looking for pictures of your loved ones presently serving in the Military. Put your name, address and phone number on the back of the picture and identify any people in the picture. Please bring or send them to St. Leo's and give them to one of the ushers or Sharon Prince, Patty Gorman or Dennis Bates.

The photos that have been taken down from the old board may be picked up. Call Patty Gorman or Sharon Prince at 392-2710 or see them after Mass.


CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE & MITTEN TREE

The little tree is in the rear of the Church waiting to be filled with your donations of mittens, hats, scarves, home-made or bought. They will be put in the Christmas food baskets so all sizes are needed.

The Giving Tree is in the Ambulatory with ornaments on it with suggestions for helping a family have a nice Christmas. Take an ornament or two, purchase the item, wrap it, place the original tag on it (for identification purposes) and return it to the alcove in Church. If your gift is for the Women's Care Center, please do not wrap it, just put it under the tree. Your usual generosity will brighten Christmas for so many people.

HILTON EAST DRIVER THIS WEEK

Tom Ganley is the driver for Thursday, December 8, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Jim Seifert is the driver for Sunday, December 11.

<p>Our Sanctuary Candle in Church burns in prayer this week in memory of Grace Mulroy. From: Her Family ***** Our Sanctuary Candle in the Divine Mercy Chapel burns in prayer in memory of Max Patterson. From: His Wife, Kathy</p>	
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IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mary Ann Amos | Kyle Bishop | Floyd Blodgett |
| Meresa Boyatzies | James Boyce | Regina Boyce |
| Rossi Ciulla | Cynthia Crooks | Mary Ellis |
| Lu Ess | Bob Flannery | Katherine Foster |
| Laurie Gavigan | Alice Gears | Gail Hughes |
| Fred Korzenieski | Liz Loizzo | Bessie Marino |
| Dee Marlatt | Mary Marshall | Katie Moore |
| Cathy Miller | Rick Nersinger | Nicholas |
| Dale Nichols, Sr. | Joe Paris | Bob Peter |
| Ellie Reyner | Gabriel Stolt | Marlyn Surash |
| Lisa Tydings | Noreen Tymkin | Ann Wenzel |

and all others in need of our prayers.

Stewardship: You always know you have been in the presence of a Christian by the trail of light they leave behind. *John Ruskin*

Talent: Thanks to the stewards helping at Second Time Treasures! They "leave a trail of light" for others to see!

Stewardship...Live It!

Treasure for November 26 and 27, 2011

Parishioner households using envelopes contributed:	\$5,248.33
Visitors & Others contributed:	\$262.00
8 Children using envelopes contributed:	\$2.16
0 Children's good deeds were given to God	
Miscellaneous Additional Funds:	\$940.35
2nd Collection for Catholic University:	\$482.00
Weekend Attendance:	661

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR DECEMBER

General—That the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect, may grow in harmony and peace.

Mission—That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that their dignity may always be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

STT IS SWAMPED!!

Second Time Treasures is swamped with items and has run out of room. How can you help? Two ways:

Please hold off bringing things to the store until after Christmas.

If four (4) people could devote two (2) hours weekly to this Ministry much important work could be accomplished. There is a need for people to sort and get items ready for sale. Call Anna at 392-8377 to share your time and talents!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Advent has begun and we have all become busy with preparing for Christmas. Hopefully we will take time to look for the real meaning of Christmas. Here is a story of a favorite Second Time Treasures customer as told by one of the store's stewards.

"We had a physically disabled shopper who had moved in with a family member. She would spend hours just looking around, only occasionally buying something. Over a few weeks I had several conversations with this woman. I found out that she had escaped an abusive relationship, had virtually no skills so no job and couldn't drive. She was always so grateful for what she did have. This customer ended up buying Christmas presents for her family from us. She was so excited about each item, and she took the time to explain why each item was going to that person. After Christmas, she came back in and told me in detail about each person's reaction to the gift she gave. It was like I was there on Christmas morning! I could see the pride in her, that she was able to finally give something to her loved ones. The woman ended up getting an apartment in the city, so she moved away. She sent her sister in one time to give me an update. She's gotten some job training and is doing well on her own. I hope she learns to drive, so she can come out to visit her sister, and hopefully stop in and say Hi to us too."

Serving at Second Time Treasures gave this steward an encounter with a person who touched the steward with the Spirit of Christmas. Volunteering at the shop can be more rewarding than you expect. If you would like to be part of this ministry during the Advent/Christmas season or at any other time during the year, please **call Anna Summa at 392-8377.**

THE MAJESTY OF CHRISTMAS

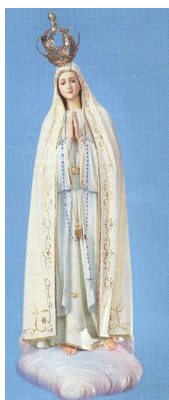
Looking for something to do **tonight**? The Greece Performing Arts Society is presenting their annual **Christmas Concert** featuring the Greece Choral Society, the Greece Symphony Orchestra, The Bach Children's Choir and the Mozart Choir in a free concert. This concert will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave at 7:00 PM. The doors will open at 6:00 PM. Donations welcomed.

REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT

Come enjoy a morning with Sr. Carole Proia, SSJ, as she gives us time to reflect on Advent on Tuesday, December 13 at the Notre Dame Retreat house, 5151 Foster Rd., Canandaigua. Call 585-394-5700 to make a reservation for this day. The fee is \$20.00 which includes conference and lunch. The day begins at 9:00 AM with refreshments and concludes with Mass beginning at 2:00 PM.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8

A Holy Day of Obligation



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been dogma in the Catholic Church since 1854 and confirms the election of Mary by God even before her birth. In fact, the Church holds that, alone among humans, the Virgin Mary was conceived without Original Sin in keeping with her future role as Mother of the Savior. This mystery has been the subject of enormous popular involvement over the course of the history of the church. As early as the 11th century, the feast of the Conception of Mary was celebrated in England and Normandy, and the Council of Basil declared it an article of faith in 1439.

In art, Mary is depicted following the description given in the twelfth chapter of the book of Revelation: the woman, identified as Mary, is clothed with the sun and crowned by twelve stars, she stands on the moon and crushes a snake under her heel.

Saint Nicholas December 8

Nicholas was born in Lycia (in modern-day Turkey) in the 3rd century and while still a layperson was acclaimed bishop of Myra. Ordained a priest, he led the diocese with charity, dedication, and full respect for orthodoxy. He died in the opening of the 4th century. His cult spread first in the Byzantine Empire beginning in the 6th century and then to Europe following the transportation of his relics to Bari in 1087. The miracles attributed to him include that of having saved three girls from prostitution by given each a bag of gold as dowry and having brought back to life three boys who had been murdered by a butcher and placed in a brine tub.

The name Nicholas is of Greek origin and means "Victorious among the people."

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Monday - Advent Weekday

5:30 PM William R. Lenhart (St. Leo Staff)

Tuesday - St. Nicholas, bishop

8:30 AM Communion Service

Wednesday St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM Communion Service

Thursday - Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary A Holy Day of Obligation

8:30 AM For Priesthood Vocations

7:00 PM For the Youth who received their First Reconciliation last Saturday

Friday - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzlin

8:30 AM In memory of the victims of Pearl Harbor Day

Saturday - Advent Weekday

5:00 PM Virginia Murphy (Lynn Christodaro)

Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Twenty-fifth Anniversary of St. Leo Knights of Columbus Charter

10:30 AM In memory of the Muncie/Peter Families (Bob and Norene Peter)

6:00 PM Amy LeBerth (Eileen Jackson Lanzafame)

Parish Ministry Center

585 392-2710 - hstleoch@dor.org, 167 Lake Ave — P O Box 725
Hilton, NY 14468-0725

Web Site: STLEOCHURCH.ORG; Fax: 585-392-9254

Ministry Team

Rev. Dr. Joseph Catanise, Pastor

FCatanise@dor.org - Phone ext. 3, then press 1

Betty Murphy, Secretary & Assistant to the Pastor

BMurphy@dor.org - Phone ext. 3, then press 2

Dominic Salamida II, Director of Christian Formation

DSalamida@dor.org - Phone ext. 3, then press 3

Sandy Young, Christian Form. Steward, Phone 3, then press 8

Patricia Gorman, Director of Music & Liturgy

PGorman@dor.org - Phone 3, then press 4

Sharon Prince, Bulletin Editor

SPrince@dor.org - Phone 3, then press 5

Michele Pechie, Youth Minister

MPechie@dor.org - Phone 3, then press 6

Deacon William Lenhart

WLenhart@dor.org - Phone 3, then press 7

Pastoral Council Chair & Vice-Chair:

Carol Jones, djones31@rochester.rr.com

Maureen McManus, createagift@att.net

Finance Council Chair:

Brian Simpson, brians65@hotmail.com, 964-3664

Stewardship Council Chair:

Co-chairs: Monica Cosgrove, 392-8706

Barb Surash, rsurash1@rochester.rr.com 366-4238

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday : 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office, 392-2710, concerning the needs of the sick, hospitalized or shut-ins. Those unable to attend Mass regularly will have Holy Communion brought to their homes.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: Those who choose to worship regularly with us are invited and welcome to formally join our parish community offering your time, talent and financial support. Please call the Parish Office, 392-2710 to register.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION - On-going education for Pre-School through adults.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

(R.C.I.A.) Our faith community invites anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or wishes to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church by receiving Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Please contact at Mary Lou Rosien, mrosien@rochester.rr.com or 594-2621.

SACRAMENT OF MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD (HOLY ORDERS)

Interested in serving the People of God? To proclaim the Gospel, preside at Liturgies, see Fr. Joe. If interested in becoming a Deacon, see Fr. Joe.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Parish Office, 392-2710, as soon as you become engaged.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Contact Carol Steiger at 392-9558 or CSteiger@rochester.rr.com six months before the anticipated birth date. Parent class required.

WILLS: Please remember St. Leo Church in your will to ensure the future of our Catholic tradition.

SCRIPTURE CORNER

Do you want to spend time in prayer each day? A good way to begin is to read or reread the daily Scripture readings. Prepare for Mass by taking a few moments to read the Scripture readings

Readings for the week of December 4, 2011

Sunday: Is 40:1-5,9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Pray for our Seminarians and for priestly vocations

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Thomas A. Rohr

Attorney & Counselor at Law

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St. Leo Parishioner

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Fax: (877)775-4686

E-mail: taprohr@aol.com

No charge for first conference

Knights of Columbus



Meets 4th Tuesday 7PM
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Grand Knight
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SECOND TIME TREASURES MINISTRY AT ST. LEO!

Sat. 10 AM-4 PM Tues: 10 AM-4 PM
Thurs. 2 PM-8 PM
Stop in for some treasures!

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(585)865-0684 (585)366-4655

HILTON LOCATION
Mon & Fri. 7:30 AM-2:30 PM
Tues. 9:00 AM-5:30 PM

THE POWER OF MANY...STRONGER AS ONE!

Sincere thanks to the people who have generously returned their pledges for this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. Our goal of \$51,929 can be reached with everyone's help! No pledge is too small. We are at 66.33% of our goal with a total of \$34,443.38 pledged from 186 donors. If your name does not appear here two weeks after you made your contribution, call the Parish Office at 392-2710. Pledges have been received from:

M/M John Adams	M/M Michael Agostinelli	M/M David Almeter	M/M David Amo
Mrs. Marie Aquilina	Mrs. Dorothy Baer	Mrs. Kathleen Baker	M/M Dennis Bates
M/M Michael Billitier	Mrs. Flora Bishop	M/M Floyd Blodgett	Miss Jody Blodgett
Mrs. Carlene Bowen	M/M James Boyce	M/M Donald Bradt	M/M Willis Bruton
M/M John Buckner	M/M Thomas Burger	M/M Patrick Buskey	Ms. Rita Cahill
M/M Carmey Carmestro	Mr. David Carson	M/M Daniel Childs	M/M Donald Christodaro
M/M Michael Cochrane	Mrs. Marilyn Coistek	Mr. John Corcoran	M/M Charles Cordaro
M/M Arthur Cosgrove	M/M Eric Craner	M/M Thomas Crumlish	M/M Edgar Cusenz
Ms. Elaine Delvecchio	M/M Joe V. DiBattisto	M/M John Duggan	M/M Les Eccleston
Mrs. June Edelman	Mr. Arthur Eichas	Mrs. John Eichas	Ms. Beverly Elliott
M/M Henry Fackelman	Mrs. Margaret Farrell	M/M Francis Ferris	M/M Richard Flanagan
M/M Edwin Foster	Mr. Stephen Gabriel	Mrs. Loretta Gammell	M/M Thomas Ganley
M/M Richard Giangrasso	M/M Richard Gloor	M/M John Gonyea	M/M Michael Gorman
M/M Joseph Gorse, Jr.	M/M Michael Goth	M/M Nicholas Hardie	M/M Thomas Harvey
M/M William Heeks	Mr. Bernard Heinsler	M/M Leo Henner	Miss Michelle Henner
M/M Raymond Hendershot	M/M James Hermance	Mr. Roger Hilfiker	M/M William Hobson
Mr. Walter Horylev	M/M Frank Hubbell	Mrs. Janette Hundley	Mrs. Geraldine Ingham
Mr. Greg Ingham	M/M Larry Ingham	M/M Roger Jestel	Mrs. Shirley Johnson
M/M David Jones	M/M Gerard Julien	M/M Robert Kanaley	Mrs. Mabel Kasper
Mrs. Elizabeth Keaty	Mr. William Keaty	M/M Randall Kent	Mr. John Kinane
M/M Ray Klitsch	M/M James Knapp	M/M Robert Kordish	M/M Gene Krist
Mrs. Nancy Kuhn	Miss Patricia Lamb	Mrs. Ursula Laszewski	M/M Salvatore LeChase
M/M Richard Lemcke	Deacon William Lenhart	M/M Douglas Lennon	M/M Douglas Lill
M/M Richard Link	M/M Charles Lissow	M/M Gerald Lord	Mrs. Suzanne Lorz
M/M Robert Luksich	M/M John Lynch	M/M Albert MacIntosh, Jr.	M/M William Maeder
M/M Michael Maksymciw	M/M Charles Mance	M/M James Merkel	Ms. Patricia Mance
M/M Paul Mance	Ms. Bessie Marino	M/M Kenneth Mattle	Mrs. Christine McCaffrey
Ms. Joan Michaelson	Mrs. Jackie Miesch	M/M David Miller	M/M Jay Murphy
Mrs. John Murray	M/M Donald Nealon	Mr. John Niziurski	M/M Joseph Noble
M/M John Norris	M/M Raymond Olszewski	Mrs. Joanne Onderdonk	Mrs. Kathleen Patterson
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M/M Russell Raimondi	M/M Noel Reyner	M/M John Richardson	Mrs. Jeanette Richardson
M/M Peter Rimkus	Ms. Judy Rist	M/M Jose Rivera	Mrs. Judith Rockafellow
M/M Daniel Rockafellow	M/M Igor Rosien	M/M Richard Ryan	M/M Dominic Salamida
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M/M Robert Snyder	M/M Thomas Soeder	M/M Peter Sorensen	M/M Guy Spada
Mrs. Phyllis Sperber	Miss Lisa Spall	M/M Glen Stanton	M/M John Stanton
M/M Charles Steiger	Dcn. & Mrs. James Steiger	Mrs. Joyce Stell	M/M Allan Stone
M/M Michael Strusienski	M/M Robert Surash	M/M Paul Teremy	M/M Thomas Tilebein
Mrs. Frances Valente	Mrs. Alicia VanBorssum	M/M Mark VanWuyckhuysse	M/M Charles Waffle
M/M William Walker	M/M Douglas Wall	M/M James Wanamaker	M/M Robert Weins
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Mrs. Elizabeth Yokobosky	Miss Kathleen Zins	M/M Raymond Zurick	M/M Russell Zurick
Mrs. Connie Westlake-Tresohlav			

VOCATIONS

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a priest when I grow up."

"That's OK with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to Church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

My Christmas Pledge

I promise

1. to make my Christmas a holy day with Christ—not a holiday without Him.
2. To observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ—not merely as a day to give and receive merchandise.
3. to remember that the real symbols of Christmas—are the star, the Stable and the Crib—not Santa Claus and his reindeer.
4. to teach my children that “Santa Claus” is the nickname of St. Nicholas, who gave to the poor in honor of Christ.
5. To help the one poor family, in honor of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family of Bethlehem.
6. To send Christmas cards, remindful of Him, the Infant Savior—not decorated only with candy canes, dogs, ribbons and wreaths.
7. To make room in my home for Him, Who found no room at the inn, with a Christmas Crib to remind me that He was born in a stable.
8. During this season, in a special way, to honor Mary, His mother, who kept the first Christmas vigil beside the manger.
9. To begin this day by leading my family to His table to receive the Bread of Life.
10. On this and every day, to give glory to God in the highest,” and to work and pray for “Peace on earth to men of good will.”

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CHRISTIANS OF THE HOLY LAND

Most of us are getting accustomed to the new language in the Roman Missal. In the Nicene Creed, we use the word **Incarnate**. This is a very Catholic word, meaning simply but not entirely, that Jesus was born. **Incarnate**, by the Holy Spirit; of the Virgin Mary. But, when and where? Well, two thousand and eleven years ago in **Bethlehem, at the Church of Nativity**. We are a pilgrim Church, with specific events that took place at certain locations and points in time. When St. Helena came to the Holy Land to build churches where Jesus ministered, it was easy to find these locations since the local Christians kept Vigil at these spots. We are blessed to have the **entire ministry of Jesus documented and commemorated by parishes**. We are equally blessed that until today, there remains a Christian Palestinian community bearing witness at these Churches against all the odds. These Christians are waiting to greet you, just like they greeted St. Helena. I ask you in a very special way to **remember in your prayers these First Christians**, who remain in the Holy Land. The Middle East is in true turmoil, and the Christians are a mere **2% of the population**. Please pray for Christianity to survive where it began. I wish you a very joyous journey through Advent and a very Merry Christmas. Next year hopefully in **Bethlehem!**



Peace, Rami Qumsieh,
a concerned Catholic Palestinian from Bethlehem

TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE



Have you heard about our Traveling Vocations Chalice? We recognize that every member of the Church is called to build up the whole body of the Church by faithfully living our vocation to marriage, priesthood, religious life, etc. Christ himself was a priest, and calls certain men to the priesthood. Every priest comes from a family where he is first formed by his parents care and goodness. We have a shortage of priests. How can we help? The Traveling Vocations Chalice is a Chalice that goes into your home, is put in a place of honor and sometime during the day/evening the whole family gathers and prays for Priestly vocations. Prayers for vocations will accompany the Chalice. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Ambulatory or call Sharon at 392-2710 to schedule a week

ADVENT-THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH YEAR

“Advent is the celebration of the three comings of Christ: His coming in the flesh, which is the primary focus of the feast of Christmas, His coming at the end of time, which is one of the underlying themes of Advent, and His coming grace, which is His spiritual coming in our hearts through the Eucharistic celebration of the Christmas-Epiphany mystery.”

(The Mystery of Christ, by Thomas Keating)

The first three weeks of Advent underline the aspect of Christ’s second coming. The last week th liturgy of Advent focuses more on the historical event of the birth of the Son of God. This waiting invites us to live in an atmosphere of fidelity and sacrifice. This same atmosphere helps us also to see much clearer our own faults and limitations, allowing the flame of faith and hope to kindle our lives so that we welcome Jesus’ coming with joy and trust.

SNOWBIRDS!

Each year a number of parishioners head south for warmer climates. If you will be away and wish to receive the parish bulletin, please complete the following and drop it in the collection basket or return it to the Parish Office. Help us save money on postage by advising us the begin and end date to avoid paying “postage due” for your envelopes. Think of us also while you are “basking in the sunshine.”

Name: _____

Address: _____

“Winter Address”: _____

I will be leaving on: _____

I will be returning on: _____

An 82-year-old Boston man went to the doctor to get a physical and came home to his wife and said, “The doctor told me I have a hot mama.”

His wife said, “I think he meant heart murmur.”