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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM– 4:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fr. Larry Mick

Chaplain/Moderator
lmick46@gmail.com
937.434.4689

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St. Leonard Faith Community

<http://www.stleonardfaithcommunity.org>

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First Sunday of Advent

Welcome!

December 1, 2013

Presiding Today:

Fr. Larry Mick

December Announcements

Darryl McGill - Council

In Today's Mass We Pray For:

Jeanne & Laurence Bauer

Proclaimers of the Word:

Mike & Teresa Bickett

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” —
Matthew 24:42

Sunday Readings:

December 1, 2013

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

December 8, 2013

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

“St. Leonard Faith Community is a freely formed Catholic community sharing in the Franciscan heritage. We are committed to creating, through active worship and the offering of our individual and collective gifts, a spiritual environment which opens us to the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit. Through a variety of ministries, we reach out to respond to the needs of others, with love. Our mission will be to live our Christian Faith, to grow spiritually, and to be actively involved in the community and Saint Leonard Faith Community.”

Worshiping with us for the first time? During the preparation of the gifts we follow the gift bearers to gather around the altar to receive Our Lord as a Community. If you would like to learn more about our Community with the possibility of becoming a member, information packets are available at the back pew.

Fellowship: Refreshments are served after the liturgy. Fellowship helps to promote a sense of community. We invite everyone to join us as we continue our celebration in friendship and love.

Collections: We do not pass a collection basket during the Liturgy. Collection baskets are available on the ledge behind the back pews/chairs for donations that will assist in the operation of the Faith Community. Please make checks payable to “St. Leonard Faith Community.”

Weekly Budgeted Collection - \$3750.00

CCHD Collection \$1,432.00

YTD Budget \$71,250.00

PHILIPPINES Total Collection \$1422.00

YTD Collections: \$71,775.75

Two bequests totaling \$5,500 are included in the YTD collection total.

St. Leonard Faith Community:

Faith Formation, 9:00AM (September– May)

Sunday Mass, 10:30AM

Senior Living Community Mass:

Tuesday- Friday, 9:00AM, Saturday 4:00PM and Sunday 9:00AM Communion Service, Monday 9:00AM

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

“Is Your Heart Open to Christ?”

Advent is a four-week time which includes prayer and preparation as we look forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ among us. This time fills us with joy and love in the Lord, and calls us to share those feelings with others. As our hearts open in prayer during Advent, may the “Good News” of Jesus be heard throughout the world so hearts are turned to love and peace.

Advent offers the opportunity for renewal. God invites us to let Jesus come into our hearts so that we can be more like Him. We live expecting the fullness of joy to come. We set out to love God each day and live out our baptismal call by loving and serving others. This is the way Jesus wants us to make room for Him in our hearts as we await His coming.

Praying With the Advent Wreath

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of evergreens, signifying continuous life. The circle of the wreath, having no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The light signifies the light of Christ. Four candles are placed in the wreath, three purple and one rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and good works performed during Advent. The rose candle, lit on the third Sunday, symbolizes rejoicing at the midpoint of Advent when our preparations are half over.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

First Week of Advent

On the first Sunday of Advent, gather the family and bless and light the Advent wreath. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are coming says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah, in those days, in that time, I will raise us for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Jerusalem shall dwell securely. And this is what they shall call her, “The Lord our justice.”

Blessing of the Wreath

Invite everyone to extend a hand in blessing.

Loving God, the time of Advent has arrived. Prepare our hearts for the promise of the Christ child. As we bless this wreath, we ask you to bless us that we may seek to do Your will during the Advent season.

Candle Lighting

Light the first purple candle.

As we light this first candle let us give thanks for the Child whom we celebrate this Advent season—the child who came to earth as an infant, died, and rose as our Savior, and for whose coming again we wait with anticipation and love. Good and gracious God, increase our strength and desire for doing good. Help us to reach out to those in need, those who long for justice in our world. Give us a heart that is open to our baptismal call to serve all of your people, especially those in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dress for Diversity 12/8

Our next Family Sunday is scheduled for December 8th. This is also the day of the Faith Community's Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. Our theme for Sunday, December 8th, will be "diversity." To illustrate this theme, we ask that children and teens dress in outfits that represent their cultural heritage. Children and teens will process into the chapel at the beginning of Mass, dressed in their diverse outfits.

First Reconciliation Retreat and Service. This is a reminder that the retreat for First Reconciliation students and their parents is on **Sunday, December 8th, from 12:30 PM** in the Knights of Columbus room. At least one parent should attend. The First Reconciliation Service is on **Tuesday, December 10th, at 7:00 PM** in the Chapel. Students and their families should arrive by 6:45 PM at the latest.



COLLECTION TO SUPPORT RETIRED RELIGIOUS

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 7-8 in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Now in its 26th year, the collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C., and benefits over 34,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Last year, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati contributed \$825,000.00 to this collection. That was the third largest amount in the country, behind only Chicago and Buffalo. In 2013, the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus, Monastery of St. Clare, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and the Ursuline Nuns received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Additionally, women and men religious who serve or have served in the archdiocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may benefit from the annual appeal.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$698 million. Over 93 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

"I am deeply grateful to the Catholics across the nation who faithfully support the Retirement Fund for Religious," said Precious Blood Sister Janice Bader, NRRO's executive director. "Their generosity allows our office to provide vital financial assistance to hundreds of religious communities each year."

The 2012 appeal raised \$27 million and enabled the NRRO to distribute \$23 million to 440 religious communities throughout the country. Communities utilize these funds to bolster retirement savings and to subsidize such day-to-day expenses as prescription medications and nursing care. The NRRO also allocated nearly \$3.6 million to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement and elder-care delivery.

Despite the generosity to the collection, numerous religious communities struggle to provide adequate care. In the past, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Of 548 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2012, only eight percent were fully funded for retirement.

The rising cost of care compounds funding difficulties. Last year, the average annual cost of care for senior religious was over \$38,000 per person, while skilled care averaged more than \$57,000. The total cost of care for senior women and men religious was over \$1.1 billion in 2012 alone.

At the same time, the number of religious needing care is on the rise. In 2012, 61 percent of the religious communities providing data to the NRRO had a median age of 75 or older. Accompanying the higher median age is a decrease in the number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry. By 2023, the NRRO projects that retired religious will outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one.

"As the number of wage-earning religious drops, so does income," said Sister Bader. "Our mission is to help religious communities prepare for the dramatic income reduction that will accompany this demographic shift."

Visit www.retiredreligious.org to learn more.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati is the 38th largest Catholic diocese in the country, with almost 500,000 Catholics, and has the sixth largest network of Catholic schools in terms of enrollment. The 19-county territory includes 213 parishes and 113 Catholic primary and secondary schools.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Brunch

A Community Brunch is planned for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on Sunday, December 8th following the Liturgy. The entire Community is invited but we do need sign up's to indicate the number of people who plan to attend and to assure that we have enough food. While bringing food is not a requirement for attendance, we do depend on the contribution of those who attend to supplement the hams that will be provided. Sign up's will be available before and after Mass today.

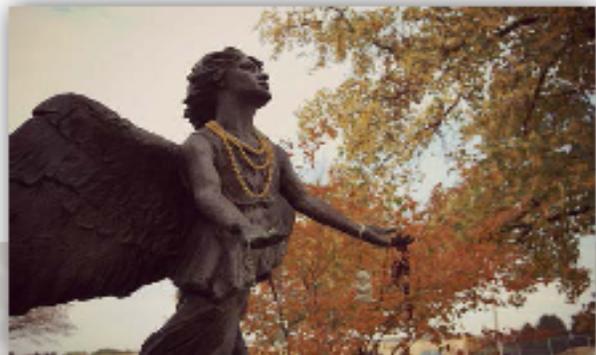
Christmas Flowers



Envelopes are available on the counter behind the last pew to be used for your \$10.00 donation and to indicate the name of your loved one. Please place the envelopes in the collection basket or return to the church office. This year we will be placing the name of each loved one in a plant and you will be invited to take this plant home at the end of the season if you so choose.

It has been the tradition of the Faith Community to offer the opportunity to honor the memory of your deceased loved ones by making a donation for the flowers for our Chapel Christmas decorations.

Christmas Box Angel



Christmas Memorial Vigil Inspired by Book

Angel statues have been constructed around the United States, inspired by the book *The Christmas Box* written by Richard Paul Evans, in which a woman visits an angel statue and mourns the loss of her daughter. Every year on December 6th, memorials are held at the various statues, acknowledging parents who have suffered such a loss and in memory of those children who have been lost.

The local celebration of the Christmas Box Angel Memorial Candlelight Vigil will be held **Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Leonard Franciscan Living Community Chapel. The service consists of sharing our stories of loss, words of healing and compassion, and the opportunity to heal our broken hearts by being present with those who truly understand the pain of a loss of a child. If you have lost a child please come and join us for this annual memorial service. Please share this with everyone you know who has been affected by the loss of a child. All are welcome!!

Christmas Box Angel Memorial Candlelight Vigil

Friday, December 6, 2013

Program Starts at 7:00 p.m.

St. Leonard Chapel

8100 Clio Road, Centerville 45458

Hot Chocolate Provided

For additional information please contact Anna-Bridgette Shorten at 937.436.6423 or shortena@stleonard.net.



St. Leonard

A FRANCISCAN LIVING COMMUNITY

home is here.