

8100 Cloy Road,
Centerville, OH 45458
937.435.3626



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

COME *Grow* WITH US
St. Leonard Faith Community

<http://www.stleonardfaithcommunity.org>

<http://www.facebook.comstleonardfaithcommunity>

Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome!

December 8, 2013

Presiding Today:

Fr. Larry Mick

December Announcements

Darryl McGill - Council

In Today's Mass We Pray For:

Aline Stritch
by: Jim Stritch

Proclaimers of the Word:

Sam Bickett and
Lawrence Corbett

Sunday Readings:

December 8, 2013

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

December 9, 2013

**The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Luke 1:26-38

December 15, 2013

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

“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.”

Collection December 1- \$ 4,161.00 Weekly Budgeted Collection - \$3750.00

YTD Collections: \$68,181.75

YTD Budget \$67,500.00

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

December CLOW Schedule:

8-Family Sunday - No CLOW!
 15-Alberta Guise
 22-Christmas Break - No CLOW!
 29-Christmas Break - No CLOW!

December PREP Schedule:

8-Class in Session
 15-Advent Activity Day; Class in Session
 22-Christmas Break - No Class!
 29-Christmas Break - No Class!

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 12-2:30 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.



Sign Up for Christmas Caroling. Students in preschool through 12th grade, and their families, are encouraged to participate in a Christmas Caroling Service Opportunity scheduled for **December 15th after Mass** at the St. Leonard Health & Rehab Center. Students and their families will meet in the vestibule after Mass and will then walk to the Health & Rehab Center, where they will sing Christmas carols for the residents. Students who own Santa hats and jingle bells should bring them. Please consider joining us to bring some cheer to the St. Leonard residents! Signup sheets are in the vestibule.

Walking Sticks and Canes Needed. We are looking for walking sticks and canes that can be used as shepherd staffs during a special children's entrance procession at the Christmas Eve Mass. If you have a walking stick or cane that we can borrow, then please contact Meghan Neumeier at [937.435.3626](tel:937.435.3626) or slfc.dre@gmail.com.

Parents' Corner December 2013

Are you looking for a way to make this Advent meaningful for your family? Consider performing a random act of kindness on each day of Advent as a way to count down the days until Christmas. Here are some service ideas:

- Pay for someone's parking meter
- Take donuts to the local fire station and police station
- Bring in your neighbors' trash cans
- Leave notes and treats in your mailbox for the mailman
- Write a letter to a grandparent



For more service ideas, check out the following websites:

<http://erikandkellyahlander.blogspot.com/2011/12/24-acts-of-service.html>

<http://www.thedatingdivas.com/kids-korner/santas-secret-service/>

<http://todaysmama.com/2011/11/printable-service-jar-slips/>

Do you have other service ideas for Advent? Share them on our Facebook page!

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

“Is Your Heart Open to Christ?”

Advent is a four-week time which includes prayer and our 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 it in 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 straight for Him in our hearts as we await His coming.

Second Week of Advent

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: Baruch 5: 1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship. Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne, aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God’s command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of His glory, with His mercy and justice for company.

Candle Lighting

Light last week’s candle, and an additional purple candle.

As we light these candles, 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.

God of peace and justice, You faithfully led your people to a life of new possibilities. When we doubt Your presence, remind us that we are never alone. Help all of Your people feel Your unending love and presence. Even when times are difficult, help us to be a people of joy. Lead us to that holy place, a simple stable, where we will find freedom from all that binds us. We pray this in the name of the Christ Child. Amen.

Some Saints of the Season, Week Two

December 9: Immaculate Conception is Celebrated

Activity: Pray the rosary as a family this evening.

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimages in North America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left her picture impressed upon his cloak. This devotion to Mary has continued to increase and today Mary is considered the Patroness of the Americas.

God of power and mercy, you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac with the presence of the Virgin Mary at Guadalupe. May her prayers help all men and women to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Through Your justice present in our hearts may your peace reign in the world.

Activity: Pick a Christmas card you’ve received this week and pray for the person(s) who sent it. Continue this for other cards if you wish.

Retirement Fund for Religious—TODAY

Please give to those who have given a lifetime!



“Whatever needs doing, whether it’s scrubbing floors or teaching children, I’m happy to do it,” says Sister John Margaret Walsh, 76. Serving others has been a way of life for her since she entered the Congregation of Divine Providence some sixty years ago. Though retired, Sister John Margaret’s days remain filled with prayer and ministry—whatever needs doing. “Do all you can,” she says, “and leave the rest to God.”

A lifetime of prayer and service unites Sister John Margaret with nearly 34,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Like Sister John Margaret, they often ministered for little pay, resulting in today’s shortage of retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.



There will be 2 collections today. A regular weekly collection and a Retirement Fund collection. Collection baskets are marked accordingly.

JOIN “WAVE OF PRAYER,”

ARCHBISHOP SCHNURR URGES

Prayer is powerful. Pope Francis and Caritas Internationalis, along with Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services, later this month are launching a prayer offensive against world hunger. Archbishop Schnurr strongly supports this initiative. Here is his statement:

“Every day in our communities, and around the world, some members of the human family go to bed without enough food to sustain them. This is intolerable. As Pope Francis has said, ‘It is a scandal that there is still hunger and malnutrition in the world.’ Caritas Internationalis, a world-wide confederation of 165 Catholic organizations working in humanitarian emergencies and international development, is working to end global hunger by 2025 through a new campaign called ‘One Human Family, Food for All,’

“I urge the faithful of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to support the launch of this important effort with their prayers. Please join Pope Francis, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, and Catholics around the globe in an international ‘wave of prayer’ beginning at noon in each time zone on Dec. 10. Parishes, schools, agencies, institutions, and individuals are all invited to set aside at least half an hour at that time to pray that in our one human family, there is food for all.”

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Our Advent Reconciliation Service for the Community is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM. At this Service we will also be celebrating the First Reconciliation for several of our children. Please consider supporting them by attending this Service.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

PRAYER AND WORSHIP CHAIR

Last fall Anne Romer graciously accepted the responsibility to Chair the Prayer & Worship Ministry and has done an outstanding job. Since then other responsibilities have developed for her and she has indicated the need for her to resign effective January 1st. As you are aware, Prayer & Worship is a significant Ministry for our Community and it is very important that this position is filled. If you feel drawn to Chair this Ministry or would like further information, please contact Fr. Larry or Aurelia. Your prayerful consideration of this responsibility will be appreciated.

COMMUNION

Gluten free hosts available for those who cannot receive Communion Bread.

Please contact Fr. Larry or a Sacristan on that day if you need gluten free.



Social Justice

When doing your Christmas shopping (or shopping at anytime during the year), look to internet sites that provide quality products, which when purchased also gives back to the artisans and farmers who produce the goods (FAIR TRADE).

www.serrv.org The fair trade arm of the Catholic Relief Services, to help their work in developing countries where you can buy fair trade crafts, coffee and chocolates.

www.womensbeanproject.com An enterprise in Colorado that employs chronically impoverished women, giving them social and business skills and helping towards self-sufficiency. They sell dry soup mixes, cookie and brownie mixes, dip mixes, and jewelry.

www.novica.com Beautiful art, jewelry, clothing, and house decorations made by artists from around the world.

www.globalgoodspartners.org A nonprofit organization that sells handmade, fair trade products to improve the economic status of women in marginalized communities around the world. They sell jewelry, bags, scarves, products for the home and stationary.

www.cardsfromafrica.com This organization provides employment for orphaned youth in Rwanda. They sell beautiful handmade cards for all occasions.

www.africabags.org 100% of the profits go to the villagers of Malawi. They sell reusable grocery bags, beach bags, and African bags.

www.prosperitycandles.com This organization provides a means of support for women in and from conflict areas. They sell handmade candles and body lotions.

www.ssekodesigns.com An enterprise for talented young Ugandan women to earn money to go to college. They sell stylish high-end leather bags and sandals.

www.toms.com/marketplace For every pair of shoes or sunglasses purchased, Toms gives a pair of shoes to a child in need. At the marketplace, different brands work within developing communities to provide a sustainable income for artisans or directly help the community. They sell jewelry, apparel, bags, and accessories.

www.lindyandcompany.com Lindy and Company at 823 Wayne Ave., Dayton is a source for delicious handmade dog and cat treats while providing a work-readiness program for homeless youth in Dayton.

www.madecasse.com Purchase chocolate bars made in Madagascar from cocoa and vanilla grown in the same area to provide a means of income for the poor people of north-eastern Madagascar.

www.kazuriamerica.com Beautiful beaded jewelry made by women in Kenya.

www.fabindia.com Fair trade clothes and home decor made in India to provide support for the local people.

www.shopmayu.com Beautiful alpaca scarves and accessories made by women in the Peruvian Andes.

St. Leonard Faith Community

Income Statement

Compared with Budget for the Five Months ending: November 30, 2013

Revenues:	Actual	Budget
Contributions:	\$67,712.00	\$70,833.00
Archdiocese Assessment:	<u>6,847.00</u>	<u>7,154.00</u>
Total Contributions less Assessment:	\$60,865.00	\$63,679.00
Other Donations & Income:	<u>6,622.00</u>	<u>4,304.00</u>
TOTAL Revenue:	\$67,487.00	\$67,983.00

Expenses:

Salaries: Office, Administration & Committees	\$58,915.00	\$61,652.00
Outreach:	<u>6,087.00</u>	<u>6,368.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$65,002.00	\$68,020.00
Net Income:	\$ 2,585.00	\$ -37.00

*Does not include two one-time special bequests totaling \$5,500.00.

The above is the financial statement for St. Leonard Faith Community for the five months ended November 30, 2013.

As you look at our financial statement, you can observe that we have a Net Income of almost \$2,500.00. Our net contributions are under-budget by almost \$3,000.00, but we were able to also keep our expenses about \$3,000.00 under-budget.

The reasons we were able to keep our expenses under-budget are because not all salaried positions are filled and some of our expenses are not spent evenly throughout the year.

THANK YOU for your continuing support, and I will continue to keep you informed of our financial situation.

Philip H. Vorher

Chairman, Finance Committee



Outreach Christmas Project

Help to make it a brighter Christmas for someone. Help with the Outreach Christmas gift drive.

On December 1st and 8th, cards will be available with gift suggestions for people in need. We ask you to return your wrapped gift(s) **no later than December 15.**

ATTENTION

all MEN

A Great Way To Start 2014

Join us at the Bergamo Center in Beavercreek on **January 10-12, 2014** for our annual men's retreat. This year's theme is "**GOD IS LOVE.**" Father Earl Fernandez, Dean of the Athenaeum of Ohio will direct the retreat. He has directed retreats in Cincinnati, Toledo, Tulsa and Springfield. You are invited to participate in the 37th annual men's retreat for the parish of St. Francis of Assisi. **Cost:** Single room- \$160; Double room - \$125; commuters -\$80. For details contact Bill Moroney 937.885.7649.



HOUSE OF BREAD. November 24th, eight members of our community served 255 guests at the House of Bread in Dayton. About 25-30 children were among the guests. Please consider joining us next time! Contact:

Maureen Josenhans at mjosenhaus@woh.rr.com.



Christmas Flowers

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.

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.

NEWS OUTSIDE THE PEWS:

St. Charles Borromeo Live Nativity

Bring the whole family and friends on **December 8th**, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, for our 6th Annual Live Nativity at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Kettering. There is plenty of parking, and it's easily accessible for all. Live animals, indigenous to the Middle-East, including camels, will be present. Children are allowed to pet the animals. Christmas carols will be sung throughout the evening. Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served in the Atrium. Alter's Girls Basketball Team will be selling meat-ball subs.

St. Leonard Living Community Employment Opportunities

Currently, there are employment opportunities in Nursing, Dietary and Security. Please visit stleonard.net/employment or contact Human Resources at 937.439.7125 for more information.

There is a variety of volunteer opportunities at St. Leonard. You can contact the Volunteer office at 937.437.7147.

Thoughts on Today's Readings

The last line of this Sunday's Gospel tells us, "He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." We may have trouble realizing that this event is as close as our last day. But despite the warnings, we put off making any changes in our lives.

A recent cartoon showed a tall, robed and bearded man carrying a sign that read: "The End Is Near." The next frame showed a short, robed and bearded man carrying an unexpected sign that read: "The End."

The first line of the Gospel tells us that John the Baptist appeared preaching in the desert of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" John was right then, and he is still right for us today: The end is near, and before we know it, it will be upon us.

When life gives you
more than you
can stand...



Kneel



Special prayers are requested :

Mary Andrew, Mike Aschenbrenner, Cay Barton, Gunner Beery, Pam & Tim Botkins, Paul Brunk, Ann Louise Burr, Herb Ceder, Conor Crippen, Terrie Dawson, Anastasia Debernardi, Jen Fahey, Debbie Glass, Barbara & Ed Gravel, Mary Ellen Hagan, Charlotte Hey, Kamman Family, Kelly King, Amy Konstantelos, Jo Krymow, Wanda Kuba, Brandon Le and family, Kathleen Lewis, Virgil Link, Jeremy McGrath, Gerard Mullen, Greg Murill, Anita Nelson, Louise Nelson, Bob O'Donnell, Fred Pottschmidt, Christine Sabick, Maureen Samuelson, Kenneth Shelton, Veronica Shedan, Hugh Skees, Tracy Steffen, Richard Sterban, James Stritch, Sherrel Wendeln, Sandy Werner, Ronald Whisman, Fr. Sam Zebron and Hannah.

A prayer list is published in the bulletin to inform the Community of those with special needs. Persons may be placed on the prayer list by calling the office and will remain on the list until the office is notified to remove them. Hospitals do not notify our office when a parishioner is admitted. Please contact the church office if you would like to make it known that a family member is in the hospital.

St. Leonard Faith Community Staff

- Chaplain/Moderator** Fr. Larry Mick
937.434.4689
lmick46@gmail.com
- Pastoral Administrator** Aurelia Palcher
937.435.3626
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- Office Manager** Linda Parks
937.435.3626
slfc.office@gmail.com
- Webmaster** Pat Cruise
937.435.3626
slfcwebmaster@gmail.com

Ministries Of The Church

Ministry	Chair	Council Liaison
Membership	Mary Beth Firestone	Renee Clement
Worship	Anne Romer	Pat Schug
Justice & Service	Bob Niehoff	Alphonse Karangwa
Faith Formation	CeAnn Chalker	Jim McGee
Community Life	Open	Bonnie Benge
Pastoral Care	Judy Lamers	Darryl McGill

DECEMBER

8-Religious Retirement Collection

8-Sunday, Guadalupe Brunch, after Mass, auditorium

8-Sunday, First Reconciliation Retreat, 12PM

10-Tuesday, First Reconciliation/Advent Service, 7PM

10-Tuesday, WAVE of PRAYER, 12:00PM

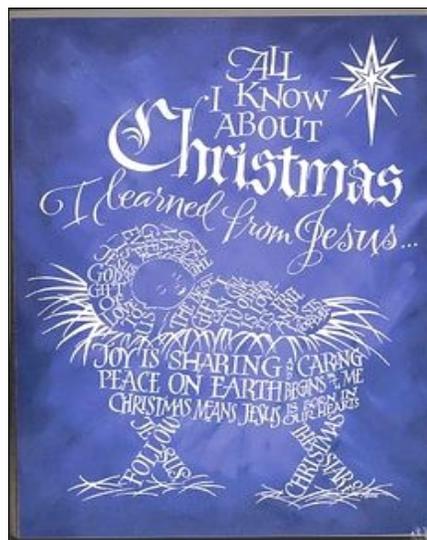
15-Sunday, Kettering Children's Choir, 2PM & 4PM

15-Sunday, Prayer and Worship Meeting

JANUARY 2014:

10-12, Men's Retreat, Bergamo Center, Beaver creek

12-Sunday, FAMILY SUNDAY



Pastoral Care Services, Sacraments and Funerals:

Requests for pastoral care services, Sacraments or any other needs should be made to the Community Office. If the office is closed and you have a pastoral care need, please call Aurelia Palcher at 937.885.7158.

Scheduling Mass Intentions: Requests for Mass intentions may be made by contacting the Community Office @937.435.3626.

Bulletin announcements:

St. Leonard Faith Community Office
8100 Cloy Road, Centerville, Ohio 45458
937.435.3626 or email:
slfc.office@gmail.com

Bulletin information must reach our office no later than 11:00 AM on TUESDAY.