

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 12, 2025

The Roman
Catholic Community of
SAINT LEO THE GREAT



Worship with us!

*"Stand up and go;
your faith
has saved you."*

LK 17:19

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m.
Novena Prayers following 9:00 a.m. Mass
Monday – Miraculous Medal
Tuesday – Saint Anthony
Wednesday – Saint Jude
Friday – Sacred Heart

HOLY DAY MASSES: See Bulletin

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



50 HURLEY'S LANE
LINCROFT, NEW JERSEY
07738-1406

**PARISH CENTER
OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY through THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

Office is Closed

SATURDAY

Office is Closed

SUNDAY

Office is Closed

Follow us on **Facebook** - facebook.com/ChurchofStLeoTheGreat and **Instagram** - [@churchofsaintleothegreat](https://instagram.com/churchofsaintleothegreat)

BULLETIN DEADLINE - THURSDAY AM (one week prior)

Parish Statement of Vision & Purpose
*With charity, joy and missionary enthusiasm the
Roman Catholic Family of Saint Leo the Great, Lincroft,
commits to giving ourselves unconditionally in service to the People of God
in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior*

Directory

Pastoral Center

Parish Center 732-747-5466 - Option 1

Email parish@stleothegreat.com

Website www.stleothegreat.com

Saint Leo the Great Early Learning Center

732-333-7362

Email nursery@stleothegreat.com

Director Ms. Junell Wells, BA

Pastoral Staff

<i>Pastor</i>	Reverend John T. Folchetti, D.Min.
<i>Weekend Assistant</i>	Monsignor Cajetan Salemi
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. Edward H. Wilson
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. Richard Tucker
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. John Senkewicz
<i>Parish Trustee</i>	Mr. Lawrence Durso
<i>Parish Trustee</i>	Mr. Thomas Gioia
<i>Executive Asst./Office Mgr</i>	Ms. Julie C. Olski
<i>Pastor's Liaison</i>	Mrs. Gloria Harter
<i>Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Carol Blaney
<i>Friday Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Joan Gittens

Parish Administration

<i>Director</i>	Mr. Robert A. Pellicone
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Mrs. Sharon Kreft
<i>Bursar</i>	Mrs. Colleen Esposito
<i>Human Resources/Payroll</i>	Mrs. Siobhan Smith

Pastoral Ministries

Saint Leo the Great School

School 732-741-3133

Website www.saintleothegreatschool.com

<i>Principal</i>	Ms. Caroline Fitzgerald, MA, MA Ed
<i>Vice Principal</i>	Mrs. Julia Chrobocinski, MA Ed
<i>Vice Principal</i>	Mrs. Maria Waldman, MA
<i>PTA President</i>	Mrs. Stephanie Dotzler

Office of Parish Faith Formation

Office 732-747-5466 - Option 2

Email FaithFormation@stleothegreat.com

<i>Coordinator, K-5</i>	Ms. Paula DeStefano
<i>Coordinator, 6-8</i>	Mr. Gary Arkin
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mrs. Karen Ann Lenahan

Worship & Liturgical Ministries

<i>Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors</i>	
<i>Moderator</i>	Deacon Edward Wilson
<i>Sacred Music</i>	Mrs. Diane Testa, Director
<i>Sacristan</i>	Mr. Robert A. Pellicone

Catholic Youth Ministry

<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Joan M. Kret
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Buildings & Grounds



Religious Store

908-770-1989

Email store@stleothegreat.com

Evangelization & Spiritual Formation

<i>Coordinator of R.C.I.A.</i>	Ms. Paula DeStefano
	Mr. Gary Arkin
<i>CLOW</i>	Mrs. Elizabeth Grimaldi
<i>Reflection for Women</i>	Mrs. Patricia Hicks

Christian Service Ministries

<i>Social Concerns</i>	Deacon John Senkewicz, Coordinator
<i>Lunch Break/Feed A Friend</i>	Mrs. Eileen Scoles

Parish Organizations

<i>Carnival General Manager</i>	
<i>Holy Name Society</i>	
<i>President</i>	Mr. Thomas Dogas
<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	Grand Knight Anthony DiSpirito

Community Outreach

<i>AA - 8:30 a.m. Saturday</i>	
<i>Bereavement Ministry</i>	Ms. Paula DeStefano

Parish Athletic Activities

<i>Director & Coordinator</i>	Mr. Anthony Biancanello
<i>SLG Athletic Association</i>	Mr. Patrick Bruno

FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on scheduled Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Please see our website for information.

FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGES

Please call the Parish Center one year in advance PRIOR to making any other arrangements.

FOR HOSPITAL & HOME COMMUNION CALLS:

Call the Parish Center

FOR SPONSOR CERTIFICATES / LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY:

Please note the following requirements

Must be: a registered Parishioner, a faithfully practicing Roman Catholic, over the age of 16, if married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage, and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, & Confirmation. (cf. Canon Law)

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, October 11

5:30 p.m. --+Ralph Anzalone, r/b Lou & Sue Anne Locascio
+Antionette Leone, r/b Lori Davidson & Family

Sunday, October 12

7:00 a.m. -People of the Parish
+George Kochman, r/b Margo Thornton
8:30 a.m. --+Remo Tozzi, r/b Tom & Roberta McKenna
+Albert Capito, r/b Zani Family
10:00 a.m. --+Gerard Bush, r/b McLaughlin Family
+Harold & Mary Karaka, r/b Kennedy Family
11:30 a.m. --+Salvatore DiFazio, r/b Phyllis DiFazio
+Don Duff, r/b Kinsella Family

Monday, October 13

9:00 a.m. --+Philip Gittens, r/b Gittens Family
+Kathleen Pruehnik, r/b Art & Anne Germain

Tuesday, October 14

9:00 a.m. --+Lorraine Connolly, r/b Bennett Family
+Josephine Cracchiolo, r/b M/M James Cracchiolo

Wednesday, October 15

9:00 a.m. --+Jennie Carlucci, r/b Occhipinti Family
+Timothy Lutz, r/b Patricia Lutz

The Vigil Light, which is located beside the tabernacle, informs us that the Blessed Sacrament is present and is also a devotional candle. Each week we will post a notice in the bulletin for whom the candle burns; a deceased loved one, someone that is ill, an anniversary or other occasion.

The offering for reserving the candle for the week is \$25.
Please stop by the Parish Center Office to reserve a candle -
either Church or Chapel.

Also available on a weekly basis is Altar Bread.

Thursday, October 16

9:00 a.m. --+Nick & Maureen Parlotti
+Nancy O'Donnell, r/b Maureen O'Mallery

Friday, October 17

9:00 a.m. --+Lenore Popovich, r/b Popovich Family
+Philip Gorman, r/b Gittens Family

Saturday, October 18

8:00 a.m. --+Thomas F. & Nora Quinlan
Souls in Purgatory, r/b Mary Soyka
5:30 p.m. --+Joanne Kashansky, r/b Madeline Crockett
+Despina LaTorre, r/b Jeanmarie & Charles Tommolino

Sunday, October 19

7:00 a.m. --+Maurice Lospinoso, r/b Louise & Jay Krall
+John Ignatius McCaul, r/b Rose Canavan & Family
8:30 a.m. -People of the Parish
+Peter & Frances Pulomena, r/b James & Jenny Pietrofesa
10:00 a.m. --+Casey Daversa, r/b Kennedy Family
+Richard Kovachs, r/b Deacon Ed Wilson & Dorothy
11:30 a.m. --+Dolores Esposito, r/b Holt Family
+Lucille Schito, r/b Lauren Crupi

Church ~ Tabernacle Vigil Light

Week of October 13th





In Memory of
Judy Gallo

Requested by:
Anna Costanzo

Liturgical Assignments—October 18/19

Please arrive 15 minutes early.

If you are unable to serve at the time scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Thank you!

<u>Mass</u>	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>	<u>11:30 a.m.</u>
Lectors	R. Pellicone	M. Fallon	K. Schleimer	J. Koury	M. Fallon
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M. McGee M. Centrone	M. Sparber	A. Grimm C. Lore	L. Suky J. Cizin	T. Waters A. Fernandez V. Hallisay
Altar Servers	M. Nolan E. Crowther C. Crowther	B. Shibles C. Shibles	W. Battista B. Hughes M. Condron	M. Feuer A. Nesci J. Dorflor	V. Hallisay M. Alfonso O. Alfonso
CLOW			P. Hicks M. O'Donnell	E. Feuer E. DeMaio K. Rienzi	

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

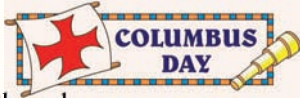
MONDAY, October 13

COLUMBUS DAY

School & Parish Center Closed

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**

9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**



TUESDAY, October 14

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**

9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

4:30 p.m. Rel Ed Grades 1-6 / School

5:45 p.m. Rel Ed Grades 7-8 / School

7:30 p.m. Baptism Preparation Class / MR



WEDNESDAY, October 15

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**

9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal / Church

6:00 p.m. Bereavement Series / PC

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal / Church

THURSDAY, October 16

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**

9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

6:00 p.m. OCIA Class / PC



FRIDAY, October 17

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**

9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

**2nd Collection for World Mission Sunday
Loaves & Fishes**

SATURDAY, October 18

8:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

8:15 a.m. Feed A Friend / Café

4:30 p.m. Confessions / Church

5:30 p.m. Mass / **Church**



SUNDAY, October 19

World Mission Sunday

Masses: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. / **Church**

* 8:30 a.m. & *10:00 a.m. CLOW / Church

*10:00 a.m. Family Mass



Offertory

Thank you for your continued support! You may also donate electronically via our website (click on E-Giving) or using your financial institution's electronic bill pay.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Remember Our Men & Women who are serving in the Military here and overseas. Pray for their safety and for their families.

Remember Our Sick, Home Bound, Hospitalized, especially Residents of Luftman Towers, The Pavilion, Sunrise Assisted Living, Ann Brown

Remember Our Deceased Family & Friends of Saint Leo the Great

Remember Our New Parishioners and Their Families

Welcome!



Join Us For
**ADORATION OF
THE MOST
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Daily in the **CHAPEL**
Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.

Followed by Daily Mass at 9:00 a.m.



SLG RELIGIOUS STORE RE-OPENING IN OCTOBER

POSITION AVAILABLE: PART-TIME SALES ASSOCIATES: Saint Leo the Great Religious Store is seeking **two part-time Sales Associates** to join our team. Positions are **Tuesday–Thursday, 9:30 AM–3:00 PM**. Responsibilities include assisting customers, light lifting, and occasional offsite parish visits (at least once per month). If interested, please email Siobhan@stleothegreat.com

See OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY in theaters October 23rd

How did we get here? For generations, the Bible and prayer were part of public education. But decades ago they were systematically removed, leaving schools without the foundation that shaped so much of our culture. The new documentary **OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY** hitting theaters on October 23 exposes how a biblical worldview has influenced every aspect of our society, and that removing it was like pulling the wrong piece from a Jenga tower — it has destabilized everything.

But here's the surprise, an obscure 1952 Supreme Court ruling paved the way to bring it back. This solution has been sitting right under our noses for 70 years and it allows students to study the Bible—legally—during the public school day.
Head to the theater on October 23rd!

Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings! All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

LOVE POEMS FROM GOD: Monday, October 13, 1:30 – 4:00 PM. Enjoy some of Daniel Ladinsky's *Love Poems from God* as a means of entering more fully into the mystery of God's unique love which is beyond our understanding. This afternoon retreat promises to be a doorway into deep consolation, peace, and confidence in God's love for you personally. Is this what you need at the moment? Donation: \$20.

LORD, WHEN DID I SEE YOU? Tuesday, October 14, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Using the parable of the separation of the sheep and the goats in Mt. 25 as a starting point - as well as many stories from life - we will explore the world, the church, and ourselves as we look for Jesus. We will sharpen our focus and truly SEE the Lord, so as to serve Him better, become the

BEREAVEMENT SERIES



This group provides opportunities for the bereaved to receive support while working through the changes in their lives by sharing their stories in a Faith community.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted" ~ Matthew 5:4

"A Way Forward"

Our next **six-week guided grief session** for adults is

***Corrected Dates

***October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19
at 6:00 p.m.**

Held in Saint Leo's Parish Center,
50 Hurleys Ln, Lincroft

These sessions provide a safe space to share what you are experiencing with others who are also grieving the loss of a loved one. This is not therapy. Our hope is that by providing a safe and prayerful space we can accompany you on your journey.

If you need to speak with a Bereavement Minister, or if you have any questions, please email PaulaDestefano@stleothegreat.com or call her at [732-747-5466](tel:732-747-5466) Option 2.

Sign up at

www.stleothegreat.com/bereavement-support

salt and light He wants us to be, and, in the process, become transformed. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

TIME OUT FOR BUSY PARENTS: **In Person ONLY** - Saturday, October 18, 10:00 AM – Noon **OR** Wednesday, October 22, 10:00 AM – Noon. Is your calendar packed? Are you constantly on the go? Do you need an occasional time out to reconnect with God and yourself? Join us on either one of the mornings listed above that will be dedicated to busy parents. There will be time to listen God's voice, find Him in our day, and spend time on the beautiful grounds of Francis House. Donation: \$20

SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT WEEKEND: 6:30 PM Friday to 1:00 PM Sunday, November 21 – 23. This weekend includes Sunday Liturgy, spiritual direction and optional Centering Prayer periods and delicious meals of course. Donation: \$200/\$100 non-refundable deposit with registration. Balance is required 2 weeks in advance of the start date.

Around the Diocese

VIRTUAL GROUP FOR CATHOLIC PARENTS:

The Diocese of Metuchen, Office of Family Life is sponsoring a virtual group for parents led by Director, Cristina D'Averso-Collins. The group will meet via Zoom on 2 Friday evenings a month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings will include watching a brief video on a topic particular to Catholic parenting and discussing as a group. Topics will include desiring holiness for your child, child temperaments, family culture, strong marriage, and being an effective witness, among others. The group is intended for those with children in the home and new parents are particularly welcome! If interested, please contact Cristina at cdaverso@diometuchen.org

HOLY INNOCENTS SOCIETY—Diocese of Trenton, is selling Boscov's 25% off coupons to raise funds. The full \$5 price goes to the Holy Innocents Society. The Shopping Day is Wednesday, **October 22**. To purchase your coupon before Shopping Day, please contact NORMONHIS@gmail.com. Thank you for Supporting the Holy Innocents Society, Diocese of Trenton!

PERFORMANCE: The Society of St. Cecilia at the Oratory Church of St. Anthony of Padua presents pianist **Mary Klein performing works of Bach, Beethoven & Mendelssohn** on Sunday, **October 26 at 3:30 pm** in the Oratory Church, 27 Oratory Way (use the Chestnut St entrance) Red Bank. (732-747-0813) Admission is a Free Will Offering. Church is handicapped accessible.

ST. PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP: St Ambrose Parish, Throckmorton Ln, Old Bridge. Join us in prayer as we celebrate Mass in honor of St Padre Pio by Celebrant Fr. Jack C. Grimes. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, **October 18th** at 9:00 a.m. followed by veneration of a first-class relic of St. Padre Pio. 732-679-5666

ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL BELONG

Sensory Friendly

Sunday Mass

St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church

100 North Main Street

Marlboro, NJ 07746

October 26, 2025 2PM

REFRESHMENTS AND CRAFTS AFTER MASS

Families are welcome to attend this Mass adapted to accommodate individuals with autism or other sensory needs. Any questions email NORMONHIS@gmail.com

Saint Leo the Great Women's Morning of Reflection

Come, give yourself 90 minutes with other women of the Parish, as we learn to look within ourselves, share our experiences, and encourage each other to grow into the

women that God meant us to become.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 14th

9:45 a.m.

Lower Level of SLG Parish Center

Let us know you will be joining us

Sign up at

<https://stleothegreat.com/womens-morning-of-reflection>



September 24 to November 2, 2025
40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

HELP SAVE LIVES IN MONMOUTH COUNTY!

Protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide witness of prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils, and community outreach.

**Take part in 40 Days for Life in
Monmouth County**

Vigil Location: Planned Parenthood

69 E. Newman Springs Rd, Shrewsbury, NJ

Vigil Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm. Saturday / Sunday - at will.

Local Contact: monmouth4life@hotmail.com

Learn More... 40daysforlife.com/shrewsbury

Check our Resources for Educational Information, Prayer and Pregnancy Resources.

Come and Bring a Friend... or 2... or 3!

40 Days For Life/Shrewsbury is a peaceful, prayerful witness. There is no shouting, foul language or graphic signs. As always, stay on the sidewalk or public right of way. Do not go on private property, block driveway or park in Planned Parenthood lot.



Share the Warmth COAT DRIVE

Sponsored by SLG Social Concerns Ministry.

Saturday, November 1st

between 9am and 3pm at the AAC

Drop off new or gently used clean
Winter Coats, Hats, Hoodies,
Gloves and Scarves.



All ages and sizes needed
both Adult & Children's



**Knights of
Columbus**

**Charity. Unity.
Fraternity. Patriotism.**
*The four pillars of the
Knights of Columbus*

As members of the Knights

of Columbus, we receive a monthly magazine, "Colombia", a magazine put out by the Knights of Columbus. It is a useful tool, as it has articles about other councils around the world, new upcoming programs, as well as many insightful Catholic perspectives. A lot of what's there can be an inspiration, or a spark for some other idea. Sometimes it asks us to look inside ourselves. Here is a small piece.

"When we hear the Great Commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19), we rightfully think of courageous missionaries — including martyrs — who first brought the Gospel to our lands, as well as those serving far and wide today. Nonetheless, there remains an ever-present need for a new evangelization, or re-evangelization, all around us — in our own communities, Parishes and homes. If this task seems daunting, and we feel ill-equipped, that's a good sign, because it must begin with prayer and humility. It involves not proselytizing, but sharing one's experience of God's love, while spiritually accompanying others through friendship and invitation. Moreover, we are only vessels, for as St. Paul writes, "neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth" (1 Cor 3:7)" Blessed Michael McGivney (1852-90) – Apostle to the Young, Protector of Christian Family Life and Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Intercede for Us.

We invite ALL men of the Parish (18+) to join
KofC Council 6392 & Live Your Faith!!

www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html



Joan
Kret,
Youth
Minister

IGNITE Youth Group

We are off to a GREAT start for this year! We are looking forward to hanging out together, growing in faith and building lasting friendships!



Visit our webpage for upcoming events and service opportunities.



POSITION AVAILABLE

SACRISTAN: P/T - Church of Saint Leo the Great, Lincroft / www.stleothegreat.com

General Description

The Parish Sacristan must be an active member of the Catholic Church. Primary responsibility of the Sacristan is to prepare the Altar, ensuring that everything is ready for Mass

Applicant should be

Well-organized, responsible and conscientious
Serious about the importance of the Sacred Liturgy; with knowledge about the liturgy.
Willing to work weekends and Holy Days of Obligation

Responsibilities

Open and close the Church and turn on/off the lights
Check that the Church, Sacristy, Vesting Room are clean before & after Masses.
Prepare the Sacred Vessels and linens for the celebration of Mass
Check liturgical supplies and report any concerns

Applications should include cover letter, resumé as well as three references.

Applications will be accepted in **electronic form only** and sent to rpellicone@stleothegreat.com.

NO phone calls, please.

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 12, 2025**

“Jesus, Master, Have pity on us!”...Jesus said in reply, ‘ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?’ Then he said to him, ‘Stand up and go, your faith has saved you.’... “But the word of God is not chained.”

*One returned
to give
thanks*



As familiar as we are of the meeting of Jesus with the ten lepers, the word of God asks us to look at its meaning for us today. So often we fill the role of the ungrateful nine, but treat the healed leper as the ‘other.’ We can substitute the lepers with countless other people suffering today from addiction, loneliness, hate

and discrimination. We need to put a face on the ‘leper’ from which I suffer, and find others, seeking compassion and assistance and not judgement. May we be supported in our faith and understand more clearly what the Lord is calling us to do.



Wedding Banns

October 25, 2025

Susan Molzon & Bradley Bennett

Daily Readings for the Week

Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

Monday: Rom 1:1-7; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11; Lk 11:42-46

Thursday: Rom 3:21-30; Lk 11:47-54

Friday: Rom 4:1-8; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Lk 10:1-9

A VOCATION VIEW . . .

If faith can move mountains, it can remove hardness of heart. Faith does move mountains, so faith does remove hardness of heart.



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

Amalek and his people attacked the Israelites, so Moses instructed Joshua to lead some of the Israelites into battle the next day. While Moses kept his hands raised in prayer, the Israelites were winning. But when he put his hands down, they would begin to lose. So two others helped him keep his hands raised, and Joshua and the Israelites won the battle.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Paul tells Timothy that the Scriptures are inspired by God and are an excellent tool in teaching others about God's expectations of his people. Knowledge of the Scriptures, coupled with faith in Jesus, will lead many people to salvation. Paul urges Timothy to continue preaching the gospel, although this will sometimes be a difficult task.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus speaks about a corrupt judge who lacked respect for either God or man. A widow repeatedly asked him to settle a case in her favor. He finally settled the case, only because he grew weary of listening to her requests. Jesus points out that if even this corrupt judge eventually listened, then God, who is just, will certainly answer the pleas of his people.

PRO-LIFE CORNER +

**Pray the Respect Life Month Novena!
October 22-30, 2025**

Join thousands of Catholics across the country praying for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Download the novena or sign up to get the daily prayers by email or text message. Go to <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/respect-life-novena-080624.pdf>

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LIFE

Our Sign
of Hope



There is perhaps no more beautiful celebration than when parents bring their newborn child to the waters of baptism. Parents, godparents, family, and friends share in this sacrament with incomparable joy. For in baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and through the outward signs of water and oil, are made *children of God* and given the hope of eternal life with Him.

"The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope."¹ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious. "Hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring."² Because of this Christian hope, we can face the unknown trials of life with faith rather than fear.

We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus' mission on earth. Pope Leo XIV encourages us, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."³

Sadly, there is a devastating absence of hope today. We see this most profoundly in a sweeping disregard for human life in its most vulnerable forms and stages. Abortion and assisted suicide are products of

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5

hopelessness and despair. Yet even amid the increasing attacks on human life, we know that the "storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death."⁴

We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God's presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened. For "hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."⁵

Having been "buried with Christ in Baptism, we receive in his resurrection the gift of a new life that breaks down the walls of death."⁶ Confident of God's presence within us, may we share the Gospel of Life with those most in need of hope, knowing that "the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope."⁷

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confudit*, 20.

² *Ibid.*, 1.

³ Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.

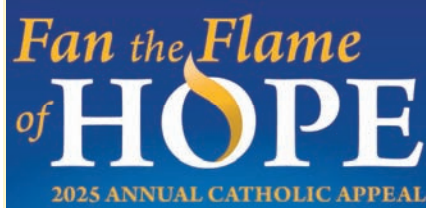
⁴ Pope Francis, *Spes non confudit*, 25.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2025



"Fan the Flame of Hope"

Saint Leo's
Goal: \$96,000
Pledged: **\$68,713**
72% of Goal

Average Gift: \$324.12
of Donors: 185 out of 2662 Families

Your help is needed

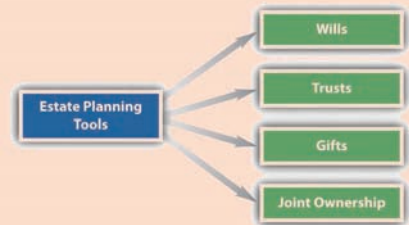
The Annual Catholic Appeal ignites paths of hope through comprehensive ministries that support vocational discernment, pastoral care, youth programs, and compassionate outreach.

We're seeking participation from our Parish Families. Your contribution helps fan the flame of hope across our Diocese. And remember, once we reach our Parish goal, 100% of every dollar donated over goal comes back to support our local Parish Ministries. Join your fellow Parishioners in strengthening both our Diocese and our Parish community. Please consider making your gift today.

Go to giveaca.org.

OCTOBER IS ESTATE PLANNING AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that more than half of U.S. adults don't have a will or estate plan? An up-to-date estate plan is a gift to your loved ones and an expression of your values.



As Catholics, thoughtful planning is an opportunity to be a good steward of the blessings God has entrusted to us. This October, consider:

- **Peace of mind:** Ensure your wishes are known and your family is cared for.
- **Faithful legacy:** Provide for your parish and the ministries that matter to you.
- **Good stewardship:** Reduce stress and potential costs for your loved ones.

For helpful resources or to include a gift to our Parish in your plan, please contact the Parish Office or visit <https://dioceseoftrenton.planned.gifts>

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

– Matthew 25:23

SAINT LEO THE GREAT Automated Giving An easier way to support our Parish

CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR ONLINE GIVING

To enroll, go to stleothegreat.com, click on our e-Giving link or scan the QR Code to the right. This will bring you to our PARISH GIVING page. From there, you will be able to set up a one time or recurring donation! It's that easy!



Please Support Our Advertisers

Each week the businesses on the back pages of our bulletin sponsor the printing and production of the bulletin. Please become familiar with these businesses/people and in time of need consider patronizing them. Let them know that you appreciate their support of Saint Leo's and that you saw their ad in our bulletin. Thank you.

A Parishioner is . . . one who belongs to the Parish Family. As such, she/he is **formally** registered with us and is committed to the Parish through participation in the life of the Parish Community - **spiritually, socially and financially**. If you have not formally registered as a Parishioner, please do so at the Parish Center Office.

Please note - we will not be able to issue Sponsor Certificates or Letters of Eligibility for Baptisms or Confirmation if you are not a registered participating member of the Parish for at least six months.

NOTE: FEDERAL PRIVACY REGULATION - HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability) prohibits all hospitals from informing churches of a patient's presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. **If you're admitted to a hospital and would like a visit from us, please notify the hospital or call the Parish Office**

Remember Your Parish in Your Estate Planning

Bequests are ideal for remembering those who will come to Saint Leo the Great Church after us - in our Catholic Christian Mission. Or, you may wish to name Saint Leo's as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or other financial instrument. The designation would be: Church of Saint Leo the Great, 50 Hurley's Lane, Lincroft, NJ 07738. If in doubt, please call us and we will be happy to work with your attorney or financial advisor. **Thank you for your consideration.**



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