

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2026

The Roman
Catholic Community of
SAINT LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Worship with us!

*“They look
but do not see and
hear but do not listen
or understand.”*

MT 13:13

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*

Pastoral Center

Parish Center 732-747-5466 - Option 1

Email parish@stleothegreat.com

Website www.stleothegreat.com

Directory

Saint Leo the Great Early Learning Center

732-333-7362

Email elc@stleothegreat.com

Director Ms. Junell Wells, BA

Pastoral Staff

Pastor	Reverend Daniel F. Swift
Weekend Assistant	Monsignor Cajetan Salemi
Weekend Assistant	Reverend Joseph Tizio, C.Ss.R.
Weekend Assistant	Reverend Anthony Michalik, C.Ss.R.
Deacon	Mr. Edward H. Wilson
Deacon	Mr. Richard Tucker
Deacon	Mr. John Senkewicz
Parish Trustee	Mr. Lawrence Durso
Parish Trustee	Mr. Thomas Gioia
Executive Asst./Office Mgr	Mrs. Julie C. Olski
Receptionist	Mrs. Carol Blaney
Friday Receptionist	Mrs. Joan Gittens

Parish Administration

Business Administrator	Mrs. Colleen Esposito
Bookkeeper	Mrs. Sharon Kreft
Bursar	Mrs. Melissa DePalma
Human Resources/Payroll	Mrs. Siobhan Smith

Pastoral Ministries

Saint Leo the Great School

School 732-741-3133

Website www.saintleothegreatschool.com

Principal	Mrs. Caroline Fitzgerald, MA, MA Ed
Vice Principal	Mrs. Julia Chrobocinski, MA Ed
Vice Principal	Mrs. Maria Waldman, MA
PTA President	Mrs. Stephanie Dotzler

Office of Parish Faith Formation

Office 732-747-5466 - Option 3

Email FaithFormation@stleothegreat.com

Coordinator, 1-8	Mrs. Paula DeStefano
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Karen Ann Lenahan

Worship & Liturgical Ministries

Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors	
Moderator	Deacon Edward Wilson
Sacred Music	Mrs. Diane Testa, Director
Sacristan	Mr. Ariel A.

Catholic Youth Ministry

Director	Mrs. Joan M. Kret
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Buildings & Grounds

Director of Operations	Ms. Susan Dennebaum
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Religious Store

908-770-1989

Email store@stleothegreat.com

Evangelization & Spiritual Formation

Coordinator of O.C.I.A.	Ms. Paula DeStefano
CLOW	Ms. Paula DeStefano
Reflection for Women	Mrs. Patricia Hicks

Christian Service Ministries

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

Parish Organizations

Carnival General Manager	Grand Knight Anthony DiSpirito
Knights of Columbus	Mr. Timothy Andree, Chairperson
Parish Council	

Community Outreach

AA - 8:30 a.m. Saturday	
Bereavement Ministry	Ms. Paula DeStefano

Parish Athletic Activities

Director & Coordinator	Mr. Anthony Biancanello
SLG Athletic Association	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, July 11

5:30 p.m. -People of the Parish
+Robert Wilson, r/b Wilson & Rizzo Families

Sunday, July 12

7:00 a.m. -Souls in Purgatory, r/b Mary Soyka
+Yolanda Aurichio, r/b Pat Stronczer
8:30 a.m. -+Ralph Iazzetta, r/b Chiara Lore
+Michael Spero, r/b Doehner Family
10:00 a.m. -+Gloria Santulli, r/b Paula DeStefano
+Jack O'Shea, r/b Chip & Gloria Harter
11:30 a.m. -+Peter Dougherty, r/b Burniewicz Family
+Wayne Wildrick, r/b Ernie, Janet & Anthony Cifaldi

Monday, July 13

9:00 a.m. -+Nino Galiardotto, r/b Dolce Family
+Gustavo Rocha, r/b Rev. John T. Folchetti & Parish of SLG
+Lorraine Connolly, r/b Connolly Family

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 a.m. -+Thomas & Nora Quinlan
+Severina Toscano, r/b Karen & Marcos Puga

Wednesday, July 15

9:00 a.m. -+Anne Buonocore, r/b Melissa Johnson
+Jane Aldridge, r/b Laura Dinnocenzio

Thursday, July 16

9:00 a.m. -Our Lady of Mount Carmelo, r/b Raviele Family
I/O Ana Lucia, r/b Mary Lee

Friday, July 17

9:00 a.m. -+Tolentino Family, r/b Aurea Bandilla

Saturday, July 18

8:00 a.m. -Souls in Purgatory, r/b Mary Soyka
5:30 p.m. -+Kathleen Badyna, r/b Ellen & Robert Nash
+Helen Platt, r/b Susan Wasko

Sunday, July 19

7:00 a.m. -People of the Parish
+Souls in Purgatory, r/b Mary Soyka
8:30 a.m. -+Maryann Gowen, r/b Beth & Michael Pepitone
+Beverly Siverling, r/b Jack, Jennifer Perry & Family
10:00 a.m. -+Dusty DeStefano, r/b Paula DeStefano
+Christopher Shannon, r/b Shannon & Raineri Families
11:30 a.m. -+Eileen Ziesmer, r/b SLG Religious Store
+Robert Wilson, r/b Wilson & Rizzo Families

Church ~ Tabernacle Vigil Light



Week of July 13th

In Memory of

Gustavo Rocha

Requested by:

Saint Leo the Great Parish

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.

Liturgical Assignments - July 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	M. McGee	M. Fallon	T. Kinsella	S. Tan	J. Waters
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M. Potenziani M. Centrone	T. O'Donnell	G. Vasil D. Nason	T. Dogas R. Dogas	T. Waters M. Lang
Altar Servers	A. Murino C. Kouvel M. D'Alessio	C. Shibles B. Shibles A. Gardiner	W. Battista K. Mannarino C. Mannarino	K. Smith J. Dorfler E. Purdy	O. Alfonso M. Alfonso N. Foti
CLOW			J. Naughton M. O'Donnell	R. Dogas D. Perillo One Needed	

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, July 13

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**
9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**
10:30 a.m. Centering Prayer / Chapel



TUESDAY, July 14

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**
9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**
7:30 p.m. Baptism Preparation Class / MR



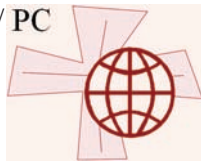
WEDNESDAY, July 15

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**
9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal / Church



THURSDAY, July 16

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**
9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**
6:00 p.m. Bereavement Series / PC



FRIDAY, July 17

8:00 a.m. Exposition / **Chapel**
9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

**2nd Collection this weekend for
Loaves & Fish**

Mission Appeal Weekend

SATURDAY, July 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, July 19

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



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.



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

Remember Our Deceased, especially Patricia Bloise

Remember Our New Parishioners and Their Families

Welcome!



GRAPHIC DESIGNER WANTED

Father Dan would like a brand developed for St. Leo the Great Catholic Church and School.

Graphic designers are asked to email Father Dan at father_dan@stleothegreat.com.



9AM July 4th 9am Mass

to see more pics, go to

saintleothegreatlincroft.smugmug.com/Fourth-of-July-Mass



MISSION APPEAL WEEKEND

JULY 18/19

at Saint Leo the Great

I am Father Renold ANTOINE, Redemptorist Priest, Rector and Superior of the Saint Clement Scholasticate in Haiti, especially at Port-au-Prince.

This Seminary belongs to the Redemptorist Province of Central America and the Caribbean. It is a newly constituted Province that brings together three Ancient Redemptorist Units from Central America and the Caribbean: (San Juan/Puerto Rico, Central America and Port-au-Prince/Haiti). The first objective we had was to have two Formation houses in the Province, but for immigration reasons, many of our seminarians cannot go to these formation houses that are located in San José/Costa Rica and San Salvador/El Salvador. This situation, which does not depend on our will, allows us to now have up to 5 formation houses, which represents an enormous expense for the Province.

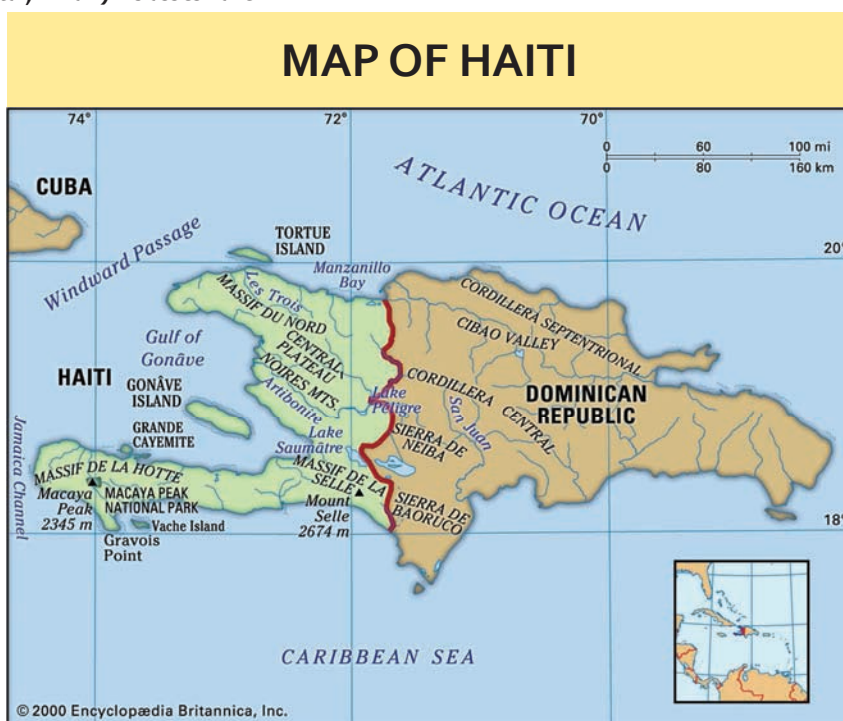
The Saint Clement's Scholasticate that we have in Port-au-Prince where the seminarians study philosophy lacks many computer materials to train the seminarians adequately to respond to the demands of the present century, since due to the security problems that exist in the Haitian capital, many classes are taught via the internet.

In fact, aware of this crucial problem, as Superior of the Seminary, I would love to get some computers and a reliable internet system, in order to solve this problem, but due to lack of funds, I am forced to go to you, with the objective of requesting a financial subsidy to be able to carry out this project for the community. This is why I am here to carry out this Appeal.

Your generosity to this cause is greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Father Renold Antoine



Around the Diocese

BEATITUDES: A Call to Holy, Humble Discipleship - In Christ. San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch. **September 25-27** - \$325. Acknowledging our baptismal call to ever growing holiness, we enter, on a more personal level, into the beauty and richness of the Beatitudes. In them, Christ calls us to deeper union with Himself and into loving relationship with God and one another. Presented by Fr. Anthony Michalik, C.Ss.R. sanalfonso retreats.org/2026-events-registration-form

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Diocese of Trenton. Serving Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth & Ocean Counties. Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to serve on their county advisory boards. To learn more about how we help the community, please contact Jennifer at jleip@cctrenton.org or call 609-394-5181 X1137

FERTILITY CARE WEBINAR: During this year's NFP Week, the Office of Family Life in the Diocese of Metuchen invites all to join Dr. Monika Potocki from The Gianna Center for a special webinar, *"What You Were Never Told About Fertility Care: Scientific and Ethical Approaches"* on **July 21st** at 7:00 p.m. On Zoom. Cost is \$10 Registration is required. Visit <https://diometuchen.org/events/nfp-webinar-2026> to register. Contact Cristina with questions at cdaverso@diometuchen.org

GOLF OUTING: A day on the greens to benefit St. Catherine Labouré Church, Middletown. Annual Golf Outing takes place on **Monday, August 3** at Pebble Creek Golf Club, Rt 537, Colts Neck. Individual Golfer: **\$200** | Foursome: **\$800**. Register at StCatherineGolf.com. Sponsorships are also available, contact the Parish Office for details.

RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE. Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held **July 31 - August 2, 2026** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. An additional program will be **October 2 - 4**. For more information, or to register, visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org or call 215-766-3944. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

SEPARATED OR DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP: Are you contemplating divorce, newly separated, going through the divorce process, recently divorced or divorced many years? You could have

been married 4 years or 40 years, it doesn't matter....this program offers hope and healing for anyone that attends! To learn more about our upcoming program beginning in September, please join us for an **INFORMATION NIGHT** on Thursday, **July 30th** at 7 p.m. Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Shrine Basement (St. Mary's) 24 Leonardville Rd, Middletown. Email Elaine at mailto:healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com. with your phone #.

WHY BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER: The simplest gifts are often the most profound. If you've got time, empathy, and compassion, you have the ability to support those nearing end of life. If you have been searching for meaningful ways to spend your time, we invite you to explore the role of hospice volunteer with VNA Health Group. Companionship visits in patient's homes or facilities in Monmouth County, administrative projects, or comforting phone calls from our Neptune office, are just some of the ways in which our volunteers support patients and their families. A Specialized 16-hour Training will be provided by members of the VNA Hospice Team, over the course of 3 weeks. For more information please contact: Pauline De Palma, BSW Director Volunteer Services 732-224-6933

WORLD YOUTH DAY: SEOUL, Korea, Travel Date: August 1-10, 2027. All Young Adult Catholics are invited to join the global celebration of *World Youth Day* with the Holy Father in Seoul, Korea in August 2027! Find more information about World Youth Day at <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/wyd2027>

OFFERINGS AT FRANCIS HOUSE OF PRAYER
Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Rd, Allentown. 609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net Check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY - IN-PERSON ONLY: Monday, **July 20**, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Not a series. Take a day away from the busyness of your life. Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Please bring a bag lunch. Come to as many as you can. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.

LET THE PSALMS SPEAK - IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM: Tuesday, **July 28**, 9:30 AM – Noon
Open your heart to the depth of the psalms! We will listen to and pray with several psalms that can draw us more intimately into the heart of God. The psalms can help us respond to the joys, sorrows and challenges of our daily lives. Led by Katherine Andrews. Donation: \$25.

ESTABLISHING A PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



Father Dan would like to establish a **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**. Therefore, he is asking parishioners to consider serving St. Leo the Great (SLG) as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for a three-year term. Some terms may be shorter or longer in order to provide the necessary rotation of members. Since serving on the PPC is a leadership position, below is information to help candidates discern whether or not they should be considered.

The purpose of the parish pastoral council is to **investigate parish matters**, to **consider them thoroughly**, and to **propose practical conclusions** about them. The council's task is, first of all, to study those matters brought to its attention and shed light on them. Its second task is to reflect on them thoroughly, to discern their true nature, to evaluate and to ponder them. Its final task is to draw sound conclusions. The council presents these conclusions to the pastor in the form of **recommendations**. This threefold task of the council – **investigating, considering, and recommending conclusions** – is called pastoral planning. After the pastor has accepted the recommendations of the council, he directs their **implementation with or without the help of the PPC**, depending on the matter at hand.

The scope of the council is pastoral matters. These may include **everything that pertains to the parish ministries**: proclaiming God's word, celebrating the sacraments, caring for the faithful, promoting the mission of the Church to the world, and being a good steward of parish resources. The scope includes all the practical matters of parish life. There is, in short, nothing about which the pastor may not consult the council, **apart from faith, orthodoxy, moral principles or laws of the universal Church**.

Pastoral council members are chosen, above all, for their ability to accomplish the main task of the council – the work of investigating, considering and recommending practical conclusions. They are baptized Catholics, in good standing with the Church, who reflect the parish's various neighborhoods, social and professional groups and apostolates. Finally, they are parishioners noted for their faith, good morals and prudence.

Seven elements form the essence of parish life: evangelization, worship, word, community, service, stewardship and leadership. These elements constantly interrelate in parish life, each nurturing and supporting the other. Knowing what the seven essential elements are and understanding their interrelationship is central to the functioning of the PPC. These elements are what make PPCs "pastoral." They keep councils on track as to what they should be praying, planning and deciding about. The agenda of the PPC is primarily to research, consider and propose for action those matters considered to be truly "pastoral," those matters that directly relate to the seven elements.

Parishioners who serve on the PPC must be those who have received a call to the ministry of leadership. Together with the pastor, these are individuals who are capable of reflection, discernment, visioning, reaching consensus and pastoral planning. The following is a list of the gifts necessary for the pastoral leadership:

- ◆ A desire for spiritual growth in oneself and the parish
- ◆ Enthusiasm about the future of the parish
- ◆ Eagerness to facilitate parish decisions about its direction
- ◆ Courage to work toward consensus
- ◆ Capacity to listen outweighing the need to speak
- ◆ Integrity in articulating what one has heard and what one believes
- ◆ The ability to inspire and empower
- ◆ A willingness to delegate
- ◆ Flexibility and openness with people and ideas.

PPC members ought to be individuals of faith who are capable of leading the parish in the discernment, expression and fulfillment of its mission. Ideally, they are **people of vision, open to the workings of the Holy Spirit in and through themselves, while having a deep respect and openness for the workings of the Holy Spirit in others**.

PPC meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the evening, as determined by the members and Father Dan. There will also be homework from time to time (i.e. investigating/research as mentioned above). If interested in serving on the PPC for a three year terms, please email Father Dan your curriculum vitae, outlining your involvement at SLG. If you have questions, please email Father Dan at father_dan@stleothegreat.com.

Church of Saint Leo the Great



LEADERS AND HELPERS NEEDED

CLOW takes place each Sunday at the **8:30 AM** and **10:00 AM** Mass during the *Liturgy of the Word*.

After the Opening Prayer, children between the ages of **3 to 8** are called to process to the front of the Church and are brought to a room by adult facilitators. During CLOW, they listen to the same Scriptural Readings made simple, and a reflection geared to their level. They are encouraged to participate and compose their own Prayer of the Faithful. The children return to the Church during the Offertory Procession to continue worship with their families.

This program is led by people just like you - Moms, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunts, and Uncles. A desire to lead our children closer to Jesus is one of the pre-requisite to join the group. A background check and VIRTUS completion is also required.

If you are interested, please go to <https://stleothegreat.com/clow> and complete the form.



Young Disciples Ignite

IGNITE Youth Group

Joan Kret,
Youth
Minister

TECH HELP



- Phones
- Tablets
- Computers
- Wi-Fi
- Email
- And More!

at Luftman
Towers
Monday,
July 20th at
10am

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

Father Dan would like to expand the Finance Council to nine members. The Finance Council is comprised of approximately nine parishioners with an expertise in finance to review monthly financial statements, approve the budget for the parish and the school, and provide oversight and on all financial matters and advise the pastor. The Finance Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month (as necessary) from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in serving on the Finance Council for a three year term, please email your resume with a curriculum vitae including your involvement at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church and School (SLGCCS) to Father Dan at father_dan@stleothegreat.com.



URGENT!

**We need YOUR Help for our
SLG FEED A FRIEND Ministry!!!**

Hunger doesn't take a vacation.

Please help us to help the hungry!



Do you have an hour to spare on a Saturday Morning???
Does your child need to fulfill Service Time requirements?
Volunteers are needed each Saturday morning from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. to help make sandwiches for those in

need. We have partnered with The Center and Mercy Center in Asbury Park in helping those in need.

NEEDED ARE:

SATURDAY

- **ONE** Adult will drive the sandwiches to Asbury Park on Saturday

- **TWELVE** Students/Teens EACH Saturday to set up the bags and make the lunches from 8:15am to 9:30am in the Saint Leo's School Cafeteria

- **ONE** Adult to pick up the Cold Cuts at ShopRite, Middletown on **Friday**

If you can assist, please go to <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/409044DA9A928ABFE3-help>

OCIA

*Are you or someone you know
interested in becoming Catholic?*

YOU ARE INVITED

If you are or know someone . . .

- Who has never been baptized
- Was baptized Catholic but did not receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation
- Who was baptized in a Christian Community but is interested in the Catholic Church

Come as you are and bring a friend.

Complete the form at

**<https://stleothegreat.com/ocia> or email
Paula at pauladestefano@stleothegreat.com**

Come to our Inquiry Night

on August 13th at 6:00 p.m.

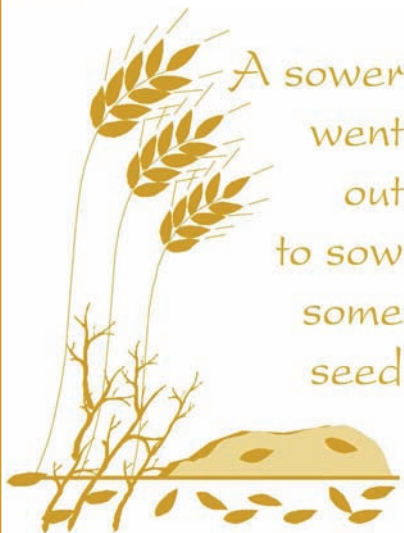
in Saint Leo the Great Parish Center.

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 12, 2026**

"I say to you... so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth, my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. Amen I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it... But blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears because they hear."



A sower
went
out
to sow
some
seed

We readily respond to the proclamation of the scripture at mass 'thanks be to God.' However, give it a second thought. Do I realize that I have just listened to my loving God, speaking to me, and expecting a personal response. The word is His message for me at this moment.

Perhaps as I sit to listen to the readings I can quietly ask myself, 'What does the Lord wish to say to me today?' When I stand to greet and receive the gospel, as I trace the cross on my forehead, lips and heart I can ask the Lord to give me the gift of understanding, speak what I learn and live what He asks of me.

Yes, my eyes and ears are blessed.

PRO-LIFE CORNER + This July we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. In anticipation of this milestone, last month, the U.S. Bishops consecrated our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Declaration of Independence boldly affirms that first among our inalienable rights is the right to life, given to us by the Creator. Yet despite being so solemnly proclaimed, the right to life is today threatened and often denied, particularly at the moments when life is most fragile. The laws of our nation should—first and foremost—protect life. For "there can be no true democracy without a recognition of every person's dignity and without respect for his or her rights" (*Evangelium vitae*, 101).

~ USCCB Respect Life



Wedding Banns

July 17, 2026

Allison Petruzzelli & Matthew O'Connor

Daily Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34—11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21



A VOCATION VIEW ...



The seed of a vocation seeks fertile surroundings. Sometimes it gets stepped on, sometimes it gets choked, sometimes it lacks depth. But other times it is nourished by loving and caring friends.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 19, 2026

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

This passage from the Book of Wisdom addresses itself to God, giving praise and thanksgiving for his mercy.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Paul indicates that since people are, in general, unaccustomed to the manner of praying, of speaking directly to God, the Holy Spirit will intercede for them.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

According to Matthew, Jesus speaks of the "reign of God" in three parables: the man who soweth good seed, the mustard seed, and the yeast. In each parable, Jesus demonstrates that once the "reign of God" had been established, it grew and spread.

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ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2026



Saint Leo's Goal: \$86,000 Your Gift Makes a Difference!

Our Parish has raised **\$41,924** toward our **\$86,000** Annual Catholic Appeal goal.

Donated by **145 (out of 2700)** generous families.
The Average Gift is **\$289.13**
Thank you!

PROTECTING LIFE

Your support of the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal strengthens Respect Life efforts across our Diocese — upholding the dignity of every person from conception to natural death. Through prayer, education, and community outreach, these ministries help ensure that every life is valued and protected as a sacred gift from God.

Please consider making your gift today at giveaca.org.

Thank you for your anticipated generosity!

OLD TOWELS NEEDED

Unload your used old towels to Saint Leo the Great and know they are going to good use!

If it rains during the Carnival, these towels will be incredibly helpful for wiping down tables, rides and booths.

If you have towels of any size that you no longer use, please place the clean, old towels in the bin at the main entrance of the Church.



Thank you!



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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