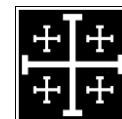


# ST. LEO'S JOYFUL NOISE



FALL 2020 EDITION

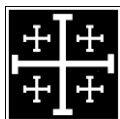
## PASTOR'S CORNER

Hope you and your family are still staying safe and healthy during this pandemic, social and political upheaval in our country, especially as we gradually approach the election session. Before I pivot to the main focus of our newsletter (*A faith-based response to the social and racial tension in a country*) I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to our parish staff and volunteer teams, who have worked hard, made innumerable sacrifices and commitment by organizing, cleaning and sanitizing our worship space, so that we can continue to gather and worship safely in our parish church. Also, our parish family continues to remain grateful to our generous benefactors and donors, who have continued to support us with their prayers, financial contributions and continue to provide us with the needed non-alcoholic/non-bleach cleaning and sanitizing wipes for cleaning and sanitizing our pews. The outpouring of love and support our parish family has received during this pandemic has made me happier and more delighted not only to be your priest, but also, a fellow parishioner. I pray God's manifold blessings on us as we strive to serve Him here in our parish and community.

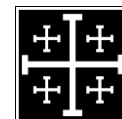
Given the political tensions in some parts of our country, especially the cry for racial justice, I was wondering what we, as individuals and community of faith, are thinking about these upheavals and what our faith-based response to this unrest could be. I am aware our Bishop, Mark Brennen, has made some valuable remarks on the racial upheaval enjoining us to have a thorough and sincere self-examination, study, change of mind and heart on how we treat and regard people of different racial or ethnic background, who might look or act different from us. Also, as the election session draws near our Bishop reminds us that regardless of our political affiliations and views, we are first and foremost disciples of Jesus Christ, who owe each other love and respect. Hence, he maintains that "it is simply wrong to despise a brother or sister in the faith because of his or her political views". The Church is apolitical. That is to say, because of conflict of interest, the Church does not endorse one party or candidate over the other.

In keeping with the Church's position on politics, I have not endorsed any candidate or party over the other in any public forum and I will not start with this election. I understand there are some serious issues and concerns on the line in this election. I am also aware that there is no one party or candidate whose overall position on issues is better than the other. Choosing to remain independent/neutral does not mean that I do not care about elections in general or who gets elected into a particular office. As an American citizen with the rights to vote, I care about election issues and concerns. Aside from being a priest, I am also a member of the community, and just like everyone in the community, I have both moral and social responsibilities to care, know and study what is going on around me before delving into the issues. The duty of care about the electoral issues and concerns requires us to be sensitive and charitable with our words when discussing with people whose political views or affiliations that might be different from ours; respecting a fellow citizen's choice and right to vote, and treating fellow citizens with respect and dignity as required by Christian charity. The duty of studying and understanding the issues and concerns so as to make an informed decision enjoins us to refer our fellow brothers and sisters (seeking the Church's directive on election) to the valuable document of the American Bishops – *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which is available on [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) website. Parts One and Two of the document are highly recommended.

The racial and political tensions have ushered in a tumultuous time in our country. As a people of faith, we can easily be suckered into the cynicism, harsh rhetoric and violence of the popular culture if we allow hate instead love or racial division instead of unity to consume us. To overcome present political challenges, we must learn to listen to another, pray and work with each other as brother and sisters in Christ. Serving you as your priest has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Thanks so much for your prayers and thoughtfulness and be assured of my thoughts and prayers. Continue to stay safe and healthy.  
Remain blessed. – Fr. Alfred Obiudu



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## FEATURED MINISTRIES

### **Boy Scout / Cub Scout**

Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 have been active as the COVID-19 situation allowed. BSA Troop 234 conducted a local week-long summer camp after the original camp was closed. The Scouts worked on advancement and skills for the first several days and then conducted a C&O Canal hike, swimming event, and a day long trip to Gettysburg NMP in PA. Cub Scout Pack 23 completed a miniature golf event at War Memorial Park and is planning a hike on the C&O Canal. Regular meetings are held weekly behind the KoC Hall in the picnic area for the Troop (every week) and for the Pack (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks) on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. For further information, contact John Phillips at [jrpsps@yahoo.com](mailto:jrpsps@yahoo.com).

### **Gift Card Program**

Gift Cards are still available in the office Monday through Thursday by contacting Joe. Please consider what your gift card needs might be for Christmas and start ordering NOW. Place an order by emailing the office or emailing Melanie at [nesselrodmelanie@gmail.com](mailto:nesselrodmelanie@gmail.com). Orders are placed every 6 weeks and available for pickup in the office. Planning is important!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

We received a check for \$158.46 for the 2nd quarter for the months of April, May and June from **Amazon Smile**. If you using Amazon for purchases, log into [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and help the church at the same time.

### **NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Got some scoop? Email the editors of **Joyful Noise**, Sheri Lincecum and Karen Bageant, at [joyfulnoise@stleo.com](mailto:joyfulnoise@stleo.com).

## NEW PARISHIONERS

St. Leo's is delighted to have the following join OUR parish family: Marco Santiago and Ruth Peterson. The Parish also received the Swartz family into the Catholic Church. Welcome Renee (Confirmation), Michael (Baptism, Eucharist), Shawn (Baptism, Eucharist), Shane (Baptism, Eucharist), Shaylee (Baptism, Eucharist), Samuel (Baptism, Eucharist), Sadie (Baptism), and Seth (Baptism). Jared Wilberger (Baptism, Eucharist) and Benjamin White (Baptism) joined the parish on September 26.

### **CONGRATULATIONS LITTLE ONES!!**

Paisley Ann Paulett was baptized on July 11.

### **NEWLY CONFIRMED**

Congratulations to the following youth members who made their Confirmation in August: Julia Burton, Pia-Marie Bui, Declan Hall, Maggie James, Tyler Kitner, Patrick Mangino, Jojo Mesich, and Nathan Pitzer.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RECIPIENTS**

Congratulations to the following who made their First Holy Communion: Fiona Hall, Hudson Smith, Dominic Snyder, Aeryn Keysor, Shaun Alexander, and Isabella Duncan.

### **VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

The 10 o'clock mass on Sunday, November 8, will recognize all members of the Armed Forces, both present and past. Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniform. A special blessing will be given for those present. Please adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines regarding social distancing and wearing of masks.