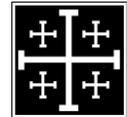




ST. LEO'S JOYFUL NOISE



SUMMER 2020 EDITION

PASTOR'S CORNER

A lot of things have taken place around us and in the world since our last publication. Hope you and your family are safe and staying healthy. Your prayers and thoughtfulness, especially most treasured gifts of food, masks, gloves & other PPE have kept me safe and healthy. Thanks so much for token of affection.

Living through the extraordinary phenomena and upheaval of the past few months (the COVID-19 pandemic, shutdown of social, economic and religious activities, tragic death of George Floyd & the ensuing national & international protests for racial injustice) has given me a wonderful opportunity to devote more time to prayer, reflection and trying to understand what God is trying to teach me, as an individual, and we as the Church the Body of Christ. Like most people, the lockdown was really hard for me as a priest because prior to the lockdown I enjoyed the public celebration of Mass with our parish family. You can only imagine how hard it was celebrating one of my favorite seasons in the Church's calendar – the Sacred Triduum, alone. As strange as it was in the beginning, Faith in God, enhanced prayer life, celebrating the Liturgy alone and livestreaming it to our people via our Facebook and website platforms during the pandemic "was" and still "is" what keeps me focused and challenges me to maintain constant connection with our people.

One of the blessings of the lockdown is that the exigencies and uncertainties of the pandemic brought out the best in us and I am thankful to God for the opportunity to witness first-hand some of our parishioner's genuine devotion to Christ present in the Eucharist. Not being able to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist was hard for a lot of people. My heart melted each time I saw some parishioners drive up to the church, especially on Sundays, sit inside their cars and facing the direction of the tabernacle spent some time in silent prayers before the Eucharistic Lord. At first I thought the parked cars were for people who were walking around our property until one of our parishioners informed me.

"I have been coming here during this lockdown because I need to talk to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is the only peace & stability I have right now. Without Him, I will go crazy". Faith in Jesus present in the Eucharist is what kept this parishioner going. What actually keeps you and your family going?

Though we have reopened some aspects of our economic, social and religious life, great caution still needs to be maintained. Our Bishop has not lifted the Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation. If you are elderly, sick, not feeling well, showing some feverish symptoms, or have compromised immune system, please stay home. We continue to livestream the Masses (weekdays, except Tuesdays, and weekends) for our parishioners. I understand that the repetition of the safety protocols of social distancing, wearing of masks (especially in public, even at Mass) and washing of hands is beginning to sound cliché, but this virus is not over. Adherence to the directives from our local, state and federal health officials is one of the best ways we can combat the scourge of this deadly virus. May you and your family continue to be safe & healthy. Thanks for your prayers and thoughtfulness. Remain blessed.

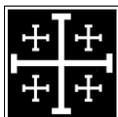
– Fr. Alfred Obiudu

IMPORTANT MILESTONES

Congratulations to Deacon Brian & Marie Crim on their 40th Wedding Anniversary on June 21 and Karen & Butch Bageant on their 30th Wedding Anniversary on June 3. Having an anniversary? Please email the newsletter team with names and dates.

NEW PARISHIONERS

St. Leo's is delighted to have the following families join OUR parish family: Garren, Amy & Braelyn Henry and Dorothy & Ronald Atkinson.



ST. LEO'S JOYFUL NOISE



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FEATURED MINISTRY

Homeless Ministry

If you received the June 5 edition of *The Catholic Spirit*, there was a great article about St. Leo's Homeless Ministry. Monica Cressin, the head of the ministry, spoke of her involvement with the homeless and the work the St. Leo's group is doing to help. In the midst of the pandemic, this ministry recently provided meals at the Bunker Hill Methodist Church. They also provide meals at the Immanuel House on the first Monday of the month. If you would like to help out monetarily, a contribution is always welcome. Contact Joe Ash at business@stleo.com to purchase a gift card for this very important ministry. If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Monica Cressin at homelessministry@stleo.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

We received a check for \$96.63 for the 1st quarter for the months of January, February and March from **Amazon Smile**. To date, St. Leo has received \$1,005.85. If you using Amazon for purchases, log into smile.amazon.com and help the church at the same time.

2020 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates! Best wishes on your new endeavors.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Got some scoop? Email the editors of **Joyful Noise**, Sheri Lincecum and Karen Bageant, at joyfulnoise@stleo.com.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the year wraps up for the Pastoral Council, the members share a recap of what they accomplished over the past year.

Several social events were held to bring our parish family together. An *Oktoberfest* in the Fall and an *Epiphany Dinner* in January were held. The Council also teamed up with the Knights of Columbus for a *Veteran's Day* celebration.

The Council initiated the hosts being memorialized monthly, offering another way to help support the church by defraying costs, and also set up the *Meal Train* program. In addition, Thank You notes are now being sent to those who sign our Guest book to welcome visitors to the parish.

The *Joyful Noise* newsletter was started by Council members as a way to keep the parish informed of the 'positive' news going on at St. Leo's. A plan was put in place for visiting priests who help in our weekend celebrations so they would not be left on their own. An agenda was also set up for a *New Members* meeting to be held bi-annually to welcome those joining St. Leo.

The *Christmas Cookie Give-Away* was approved by the council and the *Liturgical Ministry Schedule* was developed along with the completion of an *Emergency Plan* for the unexpected.

A couple members were in contact with Bishop Brennan, answering questions about St. Leo. The parish still needs to elect the Vicariate Council members who will work with the Bishop on the Diocesan Council once details are provided.

While many things were cancelled due to the pandemic, the council looks forward to helping bring back the 'normal' to the parish with their continued dedication. Stay safe!