We, the parish family of St. Leo the Great Church in the heart of Little Italy, are united in our Catholic faith and rich in our heritage. We see the face of Christ in all of God's people and welcome new members. In answer to our baptismal call we reach out in the areas of liturgy, devotion, education, needs for the poor, evangelization and advocacy. Our stewardship of time, resource and talent go beyond the parish boundaries to hospitals, schools and nursing homes. Thus we strive to follow Christ, who is the "Light of the human race." (Jn 1:4)
It would be great to have a clear indication, a proof, that our faith is true, that it expresses reality. Sounds good. But would it actually work?

The Pharisees, the High Priests, and others who plotted Jesus’ death did see signs. Instead of believing, they determined to kill him. They thought they had succeeded, too. Miracles did not work in this case. The signs fell on blind eyes.

Hard to accept this but the evidence is there. We have an incredible capacity to get used to things. What we think at first would be so compelling, so convincing can quickly be dismissed especially if it might require a change of mind or conversion.

More than this, with decades of TV, movies, computer-generated images the line between reality and fantasy gets blurred. We become numb to the wonderful.

In Jesus the full reality of God entered into our lives. Exciting, impressive at first. Then comes the crunch. How do I respond? What do I do now? If I am not ready to change I try to dismiss the whole deal. Maybe it’s a trick, Who knows what really happened? Where’s the scientific proof?

The issue for us is how willing are we to grow or change? Can we let God touch our lives and change them? We have an incredible capacity to get used to things. What we think at first would be so compelling, so convincing can quickly be dismissed especially if it might require a change of mind or conversion.

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The issue for us is how willing are we to grow or change? Can we let God touch our lives and change them? When even one of the hand-picked Apostles was ready to deny it all, why would we fare better? Thomas and the others had been through a lot already. Now this. Maybe they were seriously considering returning to their former ways and chalk this up to a learning experience.

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Cardinal Newman of England wrote: “in another world it might be different, but in this world, to grow is to change and to be perfect means to have changed often”. Easter challenges us with a most special event – a unique sign. I believe it. I celebrate it. But what does it do to change me?

- Father Bernie.
Joy is very infectious; therefore, be always full of joy.

Always find a reason to laugh. It might not add years to your life but it will add life to your years!

It’s been a little over a month since the dinner but we are finally getting closer to some of the financials of the event. This event is still considered open as we are waiting for the last couple invoices to come in. Also we are still selling ravioli and meatballs, so we will apply those sales to this dinner. Thank you to all of those who make these events possible.

Income: $30,523.50
Expenses: $11,251.81
Profit: $19,271.91*
"Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.'" Peter is a favorite apostle for many people. I wonder if it is because of his flawed, relatable humanity. Today's Gospel takes place after Jesus appears to the disciples and breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. And yet, Peter finds himself returning to his old way of life, to comfortable habits he formed long before following Jesus. Is something still lingering in him? Is something still lingering in us? Lent is over, and we should be rejoicing! But do you feel like you're still holding onto something? Or perhaps you had an excellent Lent. You encountered Jesus in a new way and grew in faith. But as the weeks since Easter have slipped by, some of your newfound devotion has begun to waver. The closeness you felt in your Lenten commitments has given way to humdrum status quo or turn-of-the-season busyyness.

"Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter has endured so much in his walk of discipleship! But something is still weighing on him. In today's Gospel, Jesus confirms Peter's devotion three times, a redemption of his earlier threefold denial. The call of the Lord must come again, as if heard anew for the first time. So often, this is the pattern...for a while. Even the Apostles were no strangers to the cyclical nature of spiritual growth. Our disappointments or frustrations should not be cause for giving up. Like Peter, we too can recommit and start anew. This Sunday and every day of our lives, Jesus is waiting to say again, "Follow me."

**SCHOLARSHIP NEWS FROM LITTLE ITALY LODGE OSIA #2286 FOUNDATION, INC.**

**EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED IN 2019** - The Little Italy Lodge OSIA #2286 Foundation, Inc. will be awarding educational scholarships totaling $12,000 (2 for $4,000 and 2 for $2,000) for the 2019-2020 academic year. These awards assist individuals of Italian descent in furthering their education. Eligible Little Italy Lodge members, their spouses and certain family members may apply. Applications which explain the requirements and information needed to be considered are available at the Lodge and on its website [www.littleitalylodge-osia.org](http://www.littleitalylodge-osia.org) and Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/sonsoflittleitaly](http://www.Facebook.com/sonsoflittleitaly).

**TASTE OF ITALY FUND RAISING EVENT** - This major fund raising event for the Foundation is scheduled for April 28, 2019. It is usually a sellout so mark your calendar: Details will be made available at a later date.

**PASTOR'S LITURGICAL WISH LIST**

Though there is much to do at this time of year, maybe an extra contribution to replace the funds used on the Air Conditioning System and the Audio System could be made to put us in better shape for the New Year. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated!

**Life of Mary Vestments** - The chasuble orphreys are beautifully printed images with eight panels illustrating the life of the Blessed Mother. The images are inspired by the Gospel of Luke.

- **Deacon’s Dalmatic and Stole** - $750.00*Paid - Sodality
- **Paschal Candle (Easter 2018)** - $400.00*Paid - Parish Maintenance

**Repairs and updating** Heating and Air conditioning system $50,000.

**Repairs and updating** of sound system in Church $44,000.

Generous people have all but completed our search for new vestments. It would really be helpful if we could concentrate on paying off the repairs and updates. We do not know how soon we may be faced with the need of repairs or improvements. Getting these things paid off will leave us in good shape.

If you would like to contribute in Memory of your family or loved ones, please call the parish office at 410-675-7275.

Thanks to the loving generosity of some good people, all the vestments have been bought and paid for. They have already begun to enhance our celebrations of the Eucharistic Liturgy. Still remaining is to "catch up" on the payment of the AC and Audio systems. These are perhaps even more important for a prayerful celebration of the Sacraments. Good to be able to hear what is happening and to be cool/warm in Church despite the weather outside. We've managed them, but need to recoup the funds expended before something else comes up, as it often does. Please consider a gift to the parish to defray some of these costs and to prepare us better to face the future. Thank you and God bless everyone for your prayers and your generosity!

- Fr. Bernie

**Weekly Laugh…..Hopefully!**

Why do Momma Kangaroos hate rainy days?
Due May 30, 2019. Deposit of $45.00 is due by April 30, 2019. The balance is due May 30, 2019. Please make checks payable to St. Leo’s Church with Sodality Bus trip on Memo Line. Checks can be sent to: Jodi Weyer, 12390 Boncrest Drive, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136. ALL MONEY NON-REFUNDABLE.

3 hour cruise includes local steamed crabs, Maryland crab soup, fried chicken, clam strips, fresh local corn on the cob, coleslaw, dessert, coffee and soda. Cash bar on board. The cruise will be aboard a reproduction turn of the century paddle wheeler on the Choptank River.

On our return trip we will stop at a roadside stand to shop. Round trip charter bus from St. Leo’s departing at 9:00 am returning at approximately 6:30 pm. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jodie Weyer 410-371-1980 or Sandy Wright 410-256-1433.

Sodality Bus Trip
Suicide Bridge Crab Feast Cruise and Roadside Stand
Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Cost: $90.00 (includes Tax and Gratuity)
HELP MAKE THIS A SUCCESS. PLEASE RSVP
By March 30, 2019 to Jodi Weyer 410-371-1980. A deposit of $45.00 is due by April 30, 2019. The balance is due May 30, 2019. Please make checks payable to St. Leo’s Church with Sodality Bus trip on Memo Line. Checks can be sent to: Jodi Weyer, 12390 Boncrest Drive, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136.

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Sacrificial Giving
April 20 & 21, 2019
Attendance: 980 Offering: $9,877.00
April 27 & 28, 2019
Attendance: 270 Offering: $3,747.00

Little Italy Lodge and St. Leo’s Church

Sunday May 11, 2019
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Lodge Parking Lot and St. Leo’s School Hall on Stiles Street

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

Lodge Table Rental - only $15 for members, $20 for non-members. Contact Cindy caforcellise@aol.com (410) 746-3233.

Church Tables: $15 for parishioners & $20 for non-parishioners. Contact Rob Daniels at SaintLeosFacilities@gmail.com 410-675-7275 for information.

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Pit Beef and Pit Ham Sandwiches, Soda, Water, Cookies

Banns Of Marriage
April 27, 2019
April-Ann Marshall & Matthew Jovinelli
May 11, 2019
Jessica Amodeo & Alex Puleo
June 22, 2019
Christina Jackson & Thomas Bannister

August 3, 2019
Abbey Neuberger & Nicholas Budnick
September 21, 2019
Melinda McGuire & Paul Sullivan, III.
September 28, 2019
Alexandra Fitzgerald & Richard Armstrong
November 9, 2019
Kelsey McBain & Matthew Osgood

Saint Anthony Festival Resident Parking

The Saint Anthony festival is coming up very soon! We have one major announcement and a slight change to the festival this year. The one thing we are making is the streets will be closed THURSDAY MAY 30, instead of our usual Wednesday May 29. The one thing residents need to remember is that you will get one more day to park in the “festival limits” but it is critical that your car be moved on THURSDAY MAY 30 BY 7AM!!!!! Your vehicle will be towed at your expense if not moved. We are trying to accommodate the neighborhood while still being able to set up and breakdown on time while keeping the streets open as long as possible. If this can work we can move forward closing the streets later instead of a whole day earlier. I also want to reiterate that we hope that we don’t have tow anyone’s car but there have been times in the past even with closing the street on Wednesday , we still have cars on Thursday. I would also like to ask if you see your neighbor to please mention the change to them.

We will also try to pass out fliers prior to the event! Thank you!!!!

Lillian Rose

I just want to let everyone know that Lillian Rose Daniels arrived safely April 18, 2019 at 12:11am, weighing in at 6 lbs 15 oz and 20.5 inches. Brittany is also doing very well. I am very proud of Brittany and I have a whole new love for her—she is going to be a fantastic mother! I just want to thank everyone for their unbelievable love and support. I am very grateful for all of the love and support from this community. I would never ever thought that I would be this lucky! I cannot wait to bring her around so that everyone gets a chance to meet Lillian! Again, I cannot even begin to thank everyone for EVERYTHING they have done for my family and I! ~ Rob

Bread & Wine For the Month of May
In loving memory of Harry, Michele and Suzanne Stein from Eleanor Stein

Answer of the Week.
Because the little ones have to play inside!
SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

**Baptisms**
Parents must be registered and practicing members for at least three months. Parents are asked to call the parish office to register for Baptismal Preparation and discuss the date for the Baptism of their child. **Communion**
Classes are available for those wishing to receive this Sacrament. **Confirmation/RCIA**
We welcome all who wish to be Confirmed **Marriages**
In order to facilitate marriage preparation, couples seeking to be married in the Church are to make arrangements with the Pastor 1 year in advance of their intended wedding date. At least one of the engaged must be a registered parishioner and practicing member of the parish for one year. **Penance**
Confessions will be heard 30 minutes before every liturgy. If a different time is needed, please call the office. **Anointing/Visiting of the Sick**
Anyone in need of this Sacrament, please call the rectory office. **Rosary**
The Rosary will be recited immediately following the weekday Masses and thirty minutes before each weekend Mass.

SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

**Saint Vincent Pallotti/Union of Catholic Apostolate Cenaclle (1st Sunday)**
**Saint Gabriel Society (2nd Sunday)**
**Sodality of Our Lady (3rd Sunday)**
**Saint Anthony Society (4th Sunday)**
**Hands and Hearts Ministry**

**Please note that meetings are not held during the summer months. Meetings resume in September**

**Senior Program**
Tuesdays in the School Hall for camaraderie and prayer, coffee, lunch, card games, bingo, and birthday celebrations.

**Father Oreste Pandola Learning Center**
Offers many course in Italian language, cooking, baking, art, Bocce and many more subjects.

**Nursery School**
Nursery School for children on Sunday at 9:30 AM at the Church hall.

**Knights of Columbus**
Saint Vincent Pallotti Council # 14535.
Promotes Unity, Charity, Fraternity, and Patriotism and is open to Catholic Gentlemen age 18 and over.

**Knights of Columbus**
Saint Joseph Assembly # 3502 (Fourth Degree Knights)
The Visible Arm of the Knights of Columbus **Narcotics Anonymous- Twelve Step Program**
Meetings held every Wednesday at 7:30 Pm in Church Hall.

WHY DO WE DO THAT

**Question:** How do I bring God into the work of my daily life?

**Answer:**
Whatever your daily work, you have an opportunity to encounter God and to follow His commandments in love. In the New Testament, we see that most of the Apostles didn't have a previous religious position. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and political activists. St. Paul was a tentmaker. Among the saints, we have doctors, lawyers, farmers, and stay-at-home moms. No matter your daily tasks, God can be present there!

One way concerns behavior. Start with an examination of conscience. Look at areas where you tend to struggle to imitate Christ at work. Do you gossip? Does brimming frustration become impatience at home? Pick one sin you struggle with, then choose a virtue to strengthen that area. If you tend to speak poorly of your co-workers, resolve to stop and to say one kind thing a day instead.

Another way relates to perspective, particularly your perspective of others. Jesus' incarnation reminds us of the value of every human being. Jesus is God, and each of us is created in God's image. When you encounter another person, you have an opportunity to see God in a new place and a new way - in that person in front of you. Genuinely listen to them and be present to their concerns. Loving your neighbor is loving God! Our relationship with God and the love He inspires in our hearts shouldn't remain only at church on Sunday. We can - and should - let our faith animate our lives!

Third Sunday of Easter

If you really want to get to know someone, invite them to dinner. Sharing a meal with someone opens up the door to a deeper, more intimate, and more authentic encounter. When we gather around a table, we are more vulnerable and are reminded not only of our need for food and sustenance, but also the love of friends and community. We are meant to be together. Meals can be opportunities not only for authentic meetings, but for healing relationships, for understanding one another better, and for renewal. Jesus invites us to dine with him once again at today's Eucharist. He receives our pain and blesses our wounds. We are forgiven, set straight, renewed, and reconfirmed in our task of discipleship. Love is celebrated here again. May we bring that love to those who need it most, especially those we may find difficult to love and to those who have hurt us. Share with them the bread of compassion and the wine of mercy.

Word of the Week.

*Insipid – without flavor; tasteless*

*If you think you can or think you can’t. You’re Right!*

Never give up. Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine!

*"In the life of every Christian there are countless resurrections." - Caryll Houselander-er*