Merry Christmas



Mystic Nativity (1500) by Sandro Botticelli,The National Gallery, Londor



Parish Staff

All staff members can be reached through the parish office phone at 336-724-0561. To contact a staff member through email, please visit our website at stleocatholic.org.

Fr. Christopher Gober, Pastor

Fr. Felix Nkafu, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Bob Desautels, Deacon

Rev. Dr. Ralph D'Agostino, Jr., Deacon

Beth Burch, Director of Finance

Gary Callus, Principal - 336-748-8252

James Clements, Facility Director

Bethany Fischer, Youth Minister

Lauren Garner, Director of Faith Formation

Julie Gunnell, Finance Assistant

Susan King, Administrative Assistant & Baptism Coordinator

Sr. Larretta Rivera-Williams, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Stephen Stringer, Director of Sacred Music and Liturgy

Ed Tuck, Maintenance Technician

Mary Margaret Yodzis, Bulletin Editor

Mary Beth Young, Pastoral Assistant

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR PARISH

Visit our website at: www.StLeoCatholic.org

Follow us on:

Instagram: @stleocatholic

Facebook: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

YouTube: https:// www.youtube.com/ StLeotheGreatCatholicChurch



Mass Intentions

Friday December 24— Mass of the Day 8:00 AM, Church Matt Gfeller † Friday December 24—Christman Friday

riday December	· 24—Christmas Eve	
4:00 PM, Church	People of the Parish	
4:00 PM, <i>BBPC</i>	Marco Camastra †	
6:00 PM, Church	Nan & John Sweeney †	
8:00 PM, Church	Dorothy † & Edward Langan †	
	and Shane Gover †	
12 Midnight, Church	Deceased members of the	
-	Manzari & Ferragamo families	
aturday December 25—Christmas		

Saturday, December 25

:00 AM, Church	Sr
10:30 AM, Church	De
	Bi
12 Noon Church	Li

. Catherine Cook † eceased members of the lek & Bobek families † Living & deceased members of the Ruiz & Ivy families †

Sunday, December 26 –

Feast of the Holy Family Living & deceased members of

the Kantor & Black families †

Rose Marie DeSando †

People of the Parish Richard M. Gooley †

Deceased members of the

Ostafin & Tierney families †

7:30 AM Church

9:00 AM Church 10:30 AM Church

10:30 AM BBPC

12 Noon Church

Monday, December 27 8:00 AM, Church Steve McGuire †

Tuesday, December 28–

Feast of the Holy Innocents

8:00 AM, Church Alessandra & Joseph Carrella Wednesday, December 29

8:00 AM, Church Alicia Echeverry

Thursday, December 30 8:00 AM, Church

George Thomas McNeil & family Friday December 31— New Year's Eve

8:15 AM, Church

Noon, Church

Living and deceased members of the Keaton Family The Matheson Family

Saturday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

8:00 AM, Church 5:30 PM, Vigil

Janet Farraina † Langan & Gover families

7:30 AM Church 9:00 AM Church 10:30 AM Church 10:30 AM *BBPC* 12 Noon Church

Sunday, January 2 — The Epiphany People of the Parish Kathy & Mike Minnelli The Obendorf Family Omaira Rua Martinez Pauline Bowen †

> To schedule a Mass Intention, please call the church office at 336-724-0561.

When writing donation checks to St. Leo Church, please use dark blue or black ink so the check will scan properly for our online deposit system.

Welcome to



www.stleocatholic.org

355 Springdale Avenue Winston-Salem, NC 27104 (336) 724-0561

Out of an abundance of caution, Masses at the following times require masks for attendance: 4:00 PM, Christmas Eve in parish center; 12 Noon on December 25, 26 & January 2.

PARISH INFORMATION

New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish family! Please take time to register online through our parish website at www.stleocatholic.org.

Hospitalizations: Please call the parish office if you or a family member enter the hospital, or if you would like an appointment with a priest to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Privacy laws prevent our priests from knowing when you are in the hospital.

Baptisms: The Sacrament of Baptism is held twice a month on Saturdays at 11 AM by appointment only. Baptism Preparation Class, offered once each month, requires the attendance of both parents. Please contact the parish office for specific dates, to register for the class, and to schedule a baptism. To complete a Baptismal Information Form, please visit our website at stleocatholic.org.

Marriages: Couples must contact a parish priest at least six months before the proposed wedding date. Also, couples must be registered with the parish for at least three months before marriage preparation can begin. Weddings are only held on Saturdays at 11 AM or 2 PM.

Annulments: For information, please contact Dick and Mary Ellen Foley at 336-766-6294.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for the Week of DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family

Sir 3:2-14/Ps 128:1-5 /Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52 Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1-8 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18 Saturday : Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 Next Sunday: The Epiphany Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Please Remember in Prayer:

James Schwartz, Margaret Ferencz, Diane Ferrelli, Bill Means, Myles Harris, Enriko, J. Denise, Audrey E., Karen Publick, Richard Boswell, Bruce Sanchez-Barkey, Joanne Kohl, Judith Erwin, Sarah Schrodt, Chris Stoehrel, Elaine Schrenk, Katie James, Scott Morton, Neal McInerney, John, Francisco Arguello, Leslie Richard, Roger Krupel, Ann Gardner, Mary O'Sullivan, Teresa O'Connor, Jimmy Lasecki, Michael Keaton, Dixie Keaton, Paul Morrison, Timothy & Crista, Eddie Munoz, Leone/Zemon Family, Wayne Meredith, Tyler & Allayn Gover, Mary Ann Maynard, Paudie O'Shea, Mary Ann Huton, Mark Price, Marilyn Benack, Nick Patella, Zachary Taylor, Diana Beauchamp, Alex Cruz, Mayre Beauchamp, Manolo Mendoza, Caraline Lilly Christensen, Gregory Maldonado, Finley Price, Selena Vazquez, William & Dorothy Publick, Kelly Boyette, Cecile Esko, Rod Rockefeller, Jennifer Bolles, Eric Paswater, Betty Graves, Kimberly Lucado, Michael Leo Edwards, Melissa Publick, Sheila Johnson, Chris Puliselic, Evie Wiggins, Brian Almond, Andy Mazzo, Della Seay, Suzanne Faulk, Abbey Faulk, Lee Garner, Gail Gessner, Cindy & Robert Brown, Jeff Lineberry, Nina & Nicholas Fingar, Andrew Hayes, Jack Grantham, Christina Ruiz Grantham & Family, Mark Boone, Donald Smith, Robert Posodos, LaDonna Jensen, Gina Kim, Mariann Carothers, Lorraine Haendel, Georgia Mae Brady, Peyton Holland, Robbie Brewer, Tom Publick, Elaine Kincaid, Ryan Gover, all others who are ill, their caretakers, and those we hold dear.

Have a prayer request? Please email info@stleocatholic.org or call the church office: **336-724-0561**. Names remain on our prayer list until you request their removal. Please let us know if there is healing or resolution.

Simplify your offertory with Online Giving. Sign up on the parish website at stleocatholic.org

Weekly Schedule

Tuesday, December 28—Holy Innocents Holy Hour immediately following 8:00 AM Mass for Innocents lost to abortion
Cursillo Group—4:00–5:30 PM, St. Cecilia Room Rosary Group—6:00 PM, Church
Wednesday, December 29
Eucharistic Adoration—after 8:00 AM Mass—5:00 PM Scriptural Rosary—11:30 AM, Church
Choir Rehearsal—7:00-8:30 PM, Church
Thursday, December 30
Men's Gospel Group—7:00–7:45 AM, St. Cecilia Rm.
Friday, December 31
Men's Cursillo—7:00—8:00 AM, BBPC
Saturday, January 1— Solemnity of Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)
Sunday, January 2 — The Epiphany

Eucharistic Adoration



Wednesday after the 8:00 AM Mass Benediction at 5:00 PM

Vivere, non vivacchiare!

— Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

(We should never just get by; we should live!)

FRASSATI YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

A young adult group inspired by Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Women's Group

Mondays at 7:30 PM. New members welcome! Contact Bethany at bethany.fischer23 @gmail.com.

Men's Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at **8:00 PM.** For information, email Michael at hubbard.mc427@gmail.com.



Frassati Christmas (Season) Party

January 8, 7:00 PM at Bethany's Our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring a dessert to share and a gift you have received.



Please contact the parish office to register for a Baptismal Preparation Class and schedule a Baptism.

NOTE: You must register before the class and date of Baptism. You may also visit our website at stleocatholic.org for more information and to complete a *Baptismal Information Form*.

Upcoming Baptism Times, 11:00 AM

January 22 & 29 • February 19 & 26 • April 23 May 21 & 28 • June 11 & 25 • July 23 & 30 August 20 & 27 • September 10 & 24 October 22 & 29 • November 12 & 19

Baptismal Preparation Classes, 7:00 PM

January 11 • February 1 • March 1 • April 5 • May 3 June 7 • July 12 • August 2 • September 6 October 4 • November 1 • December 6

Please remember in prayer all who have died in 2021 from our parish.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Charitable IRA Gifts to St. Leo

Don't miss the chance to make a charitable IRA gift this year! If you are 70¹/₂ years old or older and own an IRA, consider making a charitable rollover gift **before December 31.** You can give up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to our parish. Your gift will:

- not be included in your taxable income.
- satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year.
- reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.
- not be subject to the 50% limitation on charitable gifts.
- help the work of the Church.

For more information about how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer, or Beth Burch in the parish office at (**336**) **724-0561**.

A Message from Our Pastor



Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of Fr. Felix, Deacon Bob, Deacon Ralph, and the parish staff, I wish you every blessing this Christmas. Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and support throughout the year. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones.

May the Christ Child bring you His peace, joy, and consolation.

Yours in Christ, *Fr. Gober*



Reflection for Christmas Morning

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life.

The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition.

Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

- Pope Saint Leo the Great

The Tempi Madonna (1508) by Raphael Alte Pinakothek, Munich, Germany

The Octave of Christmas

Western culture encourages Christmas decorations in the fall and busy shopping days in the lead-up to the Nativity. But the Catholic Church invites us to be counter-cultural. In contrast to a month of holiday madness and consumerism, the Advent season, observed properly, is a time of reflection on "waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

When Christmas arrives, one day is simply not enough to take it all in, so the Church offers an eight-day feast, from Christmas Day to New Year's Day — the Octave of Christmas. Although the famous song details "Twelve Days of Christmas," that practice ended in the Catholic Church in 1970. The Octave has been in place for more than half a century, and how we celebrate each day of it depends on where Christmas falls on the calendar. Here is the plan for this year:

1. Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day: We enter into the joy of the Nativity, when Our Savior was born

in the most humble of settings in Bethlehem.



2. Sunday, December 26, Feast of the Holy Family:

This feast is celebrated on the first Sunday after Christmas. This year, it falls on the day after Christmas, so it supersedes the Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, normally celebrated on this calendar date. The Church's primary purpose in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

(At left, portion of *The Doni Tondo (1507)* by Michelangelo, Courtesy of the Uffizi, Florence, Italy.)

3. Monday, December 27, Feast of St. John the Evangelist: We celebrate Our Lord's beloved friend, whose writings in scripture focus on the divinity of Jesus and invite us to believe in the Incarnation — God, made man.

4. Tuesday, December 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents:

Afraid the Messiah sought by the Magi would one day dethrone him, King Herod ordered the slaughter of boys aged two years and under in the area around Bethlehem. An angel told Saint Joseph, in a dream, to flee with the Holy Family to Egypt, but the little boys who were there became martyrs, having died in Christ's stead

5. Wednesday, December 29, Feast of St. Thomas à Becket:

This Archbishop of Canterbury was murdered in the cathedral for standing up to the King of England for religious liberty. Today we pray for courage in the struggle to preserve our freedom of religion and religious expression.

6. Thursday, December 30, Octave Day of the Nativity

7. Friday, December 31, Feast of St. Sylvester

Although New Year's Eve now means gaiety, it is really a day for serious reflection. Take time to pray and give thanks for the gifts and blessings from God in the past year and to pray for necessary graces in the upcoming calendar year.



The Feast of the Holy Innocents is a day to reflect upon the dignity of each person and on respect for life. Join us for a Holy Hour immediately following the 8:00 AM Mass on December 28 to pray for today's Holy Innocents, the victims of abortion.

Holy hours are a devotional tradition of spending an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the life of the Church and the world.



Adoration of the Christ Child (1621) by Gerard von Honthorst, Courtesy of the Uffizi, Florence, Italy

The Te Deum: A traditional prayer for New Year's Eve

You are God: we praise you; You are God: we acclaim you; You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father, of majesty unbounded, Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, And the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the king of glory, The eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free

You did not spurn the Virgin's womb. You overcame the sting of death, And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come, and be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, Bought with the price of your own blood, And bring us with your saints To glory everlasting. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance. Govern and uphold them now and always. Day by day we bless you. We praise your name forever. Keep us today, Lord, from all sin. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. Lord, show us your love and mercy; For we put our trust in you. In you, Lord, is our hope: And we shall never hope in vain Amen.



Madonna and Child (1633) by Simon Vouet National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Christmas Octave Day 8: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

This year, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation because it falls on a Saturday — and whenever it falls on a Saturday or Monday, the bishop may abrogate the obligation to attend Mass. While we are not obliged to go to church on Saturday and then return again for Sunday Mass, the day is a solemn one set aside to honor Mary as the mother of our redeemer and her role in salvation history. It is the final day of the Octave of Christmas, and Mass starts at 8:00 AM at St. Leo Church.

In the words of Pope Saint John Paul II: "Mary, Mother of Jesus who was born in the Bethlehem cave, is also the mother of every man and woman who comes into the world. How is it possible not to commend to her the year that is beginning, to implore a time of serenity and peace for all humanity? On the day when this new year begins under the blessed gaze of the Mother of God, let us invoke the gift of peace for each one and all."

Catechesis: Mary as Mother of God

In the fifth century, Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, held that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God, that the Son of God lives in him as his soul, and that Jesus only has a human nature, closely united to the Divine Son. Mary, in the view of Nestorius, could only be the mother of the humanity of Jesus, so he rejected the title "Mother of God." Opposition erupted, most notably from Saint Cyril of Alexandria, who argued in favor of the title "*Theotokos*," which means "God-bearer" in Greek. The matter was settled at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D., and Nestorianism was condemned by the Church.

The orthodox Catholic teaching is that Jesus is the Son of God. As Saint John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

Jesus is fully human and fully divine. He has two natures in one Divine Person. These natures are unmixed; each is complete, yet both belong to the one Person of the Son. His Divine Nature has always been, yet His Humanity has not always existed. He assumed a human body made of the dust of the earth that was created in the beginning, and a human soul with a human intellect and will, which did not exist before His Incarnation. He assumed a created nature, yet Jesus is not a creature. He remains an Uncreated Person.

Everything Jesus does He does as God. In Him, God has a visible human face, and He reaches out with human hands. God preached, and God healed. Those who sought Jesus sought God. The friends of Jesus are the friends of God. The Mother of Jesus, then, is the Mother of God.

Mary did not create His Divine Nature; the Divine Son descended to become her Child. Mary is not only the Mother of the Humanity of Jesus but of His whole Person, of both His Humanity and His Divinity. So, with Saint Elizabeth, we can say, "And why is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43)

— J. Patrick Yodzis

FAITH FORMATION

Please note: No Faith Formation classes will be held on December 26 or January 2. Enjoy your break!

Upcoming Schedule:

- January 9 January 16 January 23 January 30
- Classes resume, 9:00 AM Class, 9:00 AM Class, 9:00 AM Class, 9:00 AM

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Reconciliation candidate interviews are Monday, January 10, 2022. Please attend one of the two offered sessions:

3:00-4:30 PM - OR - 6:30-7:30 PM.

Candidates will be required to review the Reconciliation information and assigned prayers.

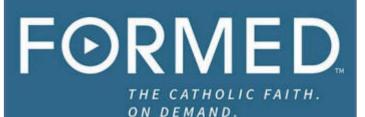
First Reconciliation Celebration Saturday, January 15, 2022, 10:00 AM



February 11-13, 2022

Space limited! Sign up at stleocatholic.org/life-teen

LIFE TEEN



Entertainment and educational television programming on Formed is free for St. Leo parishioners! Register at formed.org/signup Choose the "parishioner" option, enter St. Leo Catholic Church, then your name and email. Check your inbox for a link.

VOLUNTEEROPPORTUNITIES

Family Life Commission

St. Leo Church needs volunteers to join the Family Life Commission to plan and host events that will help us come together as a parish. In January, we need to start planning for upcoming Lenten, Easter Season, and Spring events.

For more information about the Family Life Commission, as well as other opportunities to share your time and talent with the Church, contact Mary Beth Young at **mbyoung**@ **stleocatholic.org** or call the parish office.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry, both Edge and Life Teen, are on Christmas Break! We will not meet again until January 9, 2022, our Spring Kick-off.

On January 10, registration for summer opportunities opens! Sign up for Steubenville Atlanta, our mission trip, and our Works of Mercy Weeks. For dates and more information, visit the **Life Teen or Edge** pages on the parish website, **www.stleocatholic.org**





Please remember St. Leo Catholic School in your year-end giving. Our 2021 donations will improve security, increase tuition assistance, and beautify the school grounds. Please give generously online at stleocatholic.com/donatetoday

Applications are now open for the 2022-2023 school year for Pre-k through 8th grade. Call to schedule a tour, (336) 748-8252, or come to our next open house, January 12, 9:00-11:00 AM.

Cancer Support Ministry

Please join us for supportive sharing in an environment of prayerful confidentiality

The next meeting of the group will be Tuesday, January 11.

We will then resume meeting on 2nd and 4th TUESDAYS 7:00 PM, St. Cecilia Room

Call or send prayer request to Sister Larretta: 336-724-0561 or lrivera-williams@stleocatholic.org

"Attending the CSMG has been a ray of hope for me"





The First Friday-First Saturday Vigil in honor of and in reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary will take place on **January 7-8** at **Our Lady of Grace** (OLG), Greensboro, and at **Holy Cross** (HC) Kernersville. Each vigil begins with First Friday Mass at 7:00 PM. **At OLG**, confessions follow Mass, then the rosary, the Nine Offices of the Sacred Heart, silent adoration, the Saturday Office of the Immaculate Heart and more, ending with 8:00 AM Mass on Saturday. **At HC**, confessions begin at 2:00 AM, with silent adoration until the 10:00 AM Saturday Mass. **First Saturday is January 1**, so the two observances are split this month. For more information, call Geri Breeding at 336-420-1430 or call the HC office at 336-996-5109.





2-D-4-2 For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com