

Pray AT ALL TIMES

St. Leo's Parish Community



2020 Stewardship Renewal

PRAYER

Cultivating a Sustainable Relationship with Christ

“Our Father, who art in heaven...” “Hail Mary, full of grace...” “Bless us, O Lord, for these, thy gifts...” These are the opening lines to a few prayers familiar to many Catholics. For some, these prayers sum up what it means to pray. But prayer can be so much more. Prayer is a gift given to us by God as a way to praise Him, seek His help and ask His forgiveness. Prayer is, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 2565).

Prayer is a foundational component of the stewardship way of life. During this year’s Stewardship Renewal, as we commit the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure, our parish is paying special attention to prayer, and how each individual parishioner can grow in his or her prayer life.



STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Nurturing a Healthy Prayer Life

Before any fruit-bearing plant can yield a harvest, it must be nurtured and cultivated. The same is true for a healthy prayer life. A deep and lasting relationship with God does not happen overnight. It takes work, persistence and struggle before yielding a reward.

If you are new to prayer, start with small steps. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to set aside 15 minutes every morning to pray.

- Spend 5 minutes praising God, thanking Him for the blessings you have in your life.
- Spend the next 5 minutes asking God for His help and blessings on those you love.
- Finally, spend the last 5 minutes listening to Him. Read the daily Scriptures found at uscgb.org/bible/readings or on a Catholic phone app, such as iBreviary, Evangelizo, Magnificat or Divine Office, and be sure to listen to whatever God might be trying to tell you through those words.

For those with an already healthy prayer life, continue to find new ways to communicate with God. Stick to the “tried and true” methods of prayer — the types of prayer you are most comfortable with — but don’t be afraid to venture into new territory. Practices such as Lectio Divina, Liturgy of the Hours or praising God through song are beautiful opportunities to step outside of your “comfort zone” in prayer.



STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

Incorporating Prayer Into Daily Life

Prayer becomes much more effective and meaningful when it's tied to a part of daily life. Discern which methods of prayer align most closely with your individual talents and gifts.

Prayer doesn't have to be audible, it doesn't have to follow any rules — in fact, prayer doesn't even require words. St. John Chrysostom, Doctor of the Church, once referred to prayer as “a partnership and union with God.” Throughout each day, strive to enter into union with God. Some situations lend themselves perfectly to prayer — the morning and evening commute, waiting in line at the store or time spent preparing a meal. Arrange your day around opportunities for prayer, rather than squeezing prayer times in between your other activities. In just a short time, prayer will become an integral component of your daily life.

Incorporating Prayer

- Are you a natural-born public speaker? Consider becoming a lector and participate in a meaningful way in the celebration of Mass, the Church's most important prayer.
- Are you a compassionate person? Join a prayer ministry at our parish, praying for the intentions of those in our parish and community.
- Exercise the grace you've been given through the sacraments to share your faith with others, praying with them in their times of need.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Finding Prayer in Financial Aspects of Life

Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with Christ — not just the time spent at Mass on Sundays. Prayer is the best way to do that. Even mundane tasks, or things that seem to have no connection to God, can be approached with prayer in mind. Our treasure is a great example of this idea.

We should approach everything in life — even our finances — with Christ in mind. How can we use our treasure to give glory to God? Does our monthly budget reveal areas of our lives that need adjusting? Has money become an idol? During this year's Stewardship Renewal, prayerfully consider the ways in which you can share your treasure with the Church and all of God's people.

Find the "Treasure" in Treasure

Like every gift God gives to us, our finances come with responsibility. We must use our money wisely and in ways that reflect our love for Christ. At St. Leo's Parish Community, we invite all parishioners to consider using their financial resources to support the Church according to the scriptural tithing in the following way:

5% TO THE OFFERTORY AT ST. LEO'S

1% TO THE DIOCESE

4% TO CHARITY



MINISTRY LISTINGS

Particular Church Groups

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Any man 18 years and older may be a Knight of Columbus. Council #10387 is a Catholic men's organization dedicated to serving the Catholic Church, priests, brother Knights and their families, as well as the larger local community. All names received will be forwarded to the membership director.

Contact: Brent Keenports, Grand Knight, 308-384-6532, brentkneb1@gmail.com

LADIES OF LEO'S: (LOL) LEADERSHIP BOARD

Every registered woman of the parish 18 and older is considered a member of LOL's. The volunteers to the Leadership Board will fulfill the elected offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, along with the other at-large board members. These women will conduct the regular meetings and, in general, facilitate the activities of LOL's throughout the year. Service is for a three-year commitment that can be renewable. Officers serve a

year's term that can be renewable. The Ladies of St. Leo's have several subcommittees — funeral meal helpers, serving at vigils, help with meals for social events, once-a-month Donut Sunday, and coordinating with the Liturgy Committee to supply flowers and plants for special occasions.

Contact: Ruth Armatys, 308-384-9884, 6jrarmatys@q.com; KayLynn Hayes, Ghayes_58@msn.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Married couples participate in a weekend experience of prayer and conversation — starting on Friday night until Sunday evening, with lead couples and a priest — to discover and enhance the beauty of marriage. Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled three or four times a year in various locations around the diocese. Names collected will be forwarded to the Marriage Encounter leaders for follow-up communications and support.

Contact: Steve and Jodi Stauffer, 308-370-2988, 402-886-2988, sjstauffer@gmx.com



Christian Faith Formation

CONFIRMATION

PREPARATION

During Confirmation preparation at St. Leo's Church, high school juniors are invited to explore, question, challenge and experience their faith as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. "Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that 'the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1306). "Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit" (*CCC*, 1309). Those who participate in the St. Leo's Confirmation preparation program very often say that they became closer to God and their faith increased.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org

EMPOWER YOUTH, SIXTH TO 10TH GRADE

Empower Youth on Wednesday nights is an interactive faith formation program for all sixth through 10th-graders. Empower Youth uses meaningful and interactive activities to build a faith community, foster the faith of young people, participate in service projects and involve them in the life of our

parish. Empower Youth meets the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., from September to April. Supper is provided for ninth and 10th-graders.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org

EVANGELIZATION TEAM

Volunteers will work with the pastor to plan and facilitate opportunities for evangelization of the parish to continue their personal and communal formation. Must be able to work with others and be service-oriented. It will provide experiences throughout the year that offer opportunities for adults to nurture their faith formation through book study groups, audio/video presentations, retreats and missions.

Contact: Kathy Boroff, 308-227-6295, kjbtoroff@gmail.com

M.A.D. CAMP

M.A.D. Camp is a three-day overnight summer service retreat for youth entering seventh through ninth grades. Youth experience what it means to be called to serve those in need. They will lend a helping hand at several community service agencies and enjoy interactive fun activities in the evenings. The camp ends with a powerful prayer experience after a celebration at Island Oasis.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a process by which adult persons interested in Baptism are prepared for new life. It is also the process used for those who have already been baptized to prepare for a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church and enter into full communion. The weekly gatherings are held on Thursday evenings from September through May. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Church is also welcome. The process is yearlong and interested persons are invited to contact the parish at any time. Sponsors, leaders, presenters and hospitality help are also needed.

Contact: Fr. Don Buhrman, 308-382-4753, frbuhrman@stleos.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, PRE-SCHOOL TO FIFTH GRADE

This religious instruction introduces a child to the Catholic faith and offers practical ways in which it can be lived daily. Classes are typically held on Wednesdays and Sundays through the school year.

Contact: Jodi Stauffer, 308-382-4753, jodi@saintleos.org

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Volunteers participate in a Bible study using materials based on the weekend readings. Meet weekly in the Gathering Room after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Contact: Rita Olsen, 402-849-2854, olsens@hamilton.net; Chris Wissing, 308-391-0915, cdbkjt@charter.net



TOTUS TUUS (TOTALLY YOURS)

A developing ministry — this weeklong gathering held in the summer invites children to come to learn about God in a fun way through various activities and music. First through eighth-grade students gather from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ninth through 12th-grade students gather from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Contact: Jodi Stauffer, 308-382-4753, jodi@saintleos.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is a week-long extravaganza during the first full week of June. Children in kindergarten through fifth grades enjoy fun centered around biblical themes.

Contact: Jodi Stauffer, 308-382-4753, jodi@saintleos.org

Family Life

BROTHERS IN CHRIST

An interactive men's program focused on the development of Catholic men in the modern world. It combines the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop a vision of authentic men, capable of transforming themselves, their families and the greater society. Men gather on Friday mornings to share breakfast, watch a DVD, and discuss its presentation in small groups. Gatherings are at the St. Leo's

Parish Hall in the fall and at the St. Mary's Parish Hall in the spring. Breakfast is at 5:30 a.m., the DVD begins at 6 a.m. and discussion is targeted to end at 7 a.m.

Contact: Mike Kalvoda, 308-379-2261, mkalvoda@grandislandpt.com

CATHOLICS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (CEC)

CEC is a weekend retreat for those who, although living a Catholic life, wish to enhance it. This national ministry teaches that the Gospel can penetrate all areas of the secular world through the lives and examples of one another. Men's and women's weekends are held each spring and fall. The CEC experience is a structured three-day weekend beginning on Friday evening and concluding on Sunday evening at Camp Comeca outside Cozad, Neb. During this weekend you will experience how God's grace works with you and how you can share this grace with others, and become effective evangelizers. This is accomplished through song, prayer, and talks presented by clergy and laity that inspire, educate, and motivate. There are separate weekends for men and women in the spring of each year.

Contact: Sue Kohles, 308-382-4753, office@saintleos.org

FERTILITY CARE

This ministry, under the direction of a certified fertility specialist, reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the beauty of children. Issues regarding fertility and infertility, adoption, and reproductive health care are of particular importance.

Contact: Andrea Mack, 308-390-8857, fccgi@hotmail.com — Creighton Model Fertility Care;

Mary Dey, 308-384-8472, maryldey@hamilton.net — Natural Family Planning International

HIGHER GROUND

Higher Ground is a week-long retreat offered by the Diocese of Grand Island for adolescents in middle school through high school. It is an experience in community building in which one fosters a relationship with God and the Catholic community. Various levels are offered.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org



MARRIAGE PREPARATION: FULLY ENGAGED LEAD COUPLES

Marriage preparation is the responsibility of the community. Married couples are trained on how to lead engaged couples using the instrument “Fully Engaged.” Married couples who are interested are recommended to be married more than 10 years.

Contact: Fr. Don Buhrman, 308-382-4753, frbuhrman@stleos.org

THEOLOGY ON TAP

A faith experience inviting young adults in their 20s and 30s to discover how faith can give you a sense to your everyday lives. We invite a dynamic speaker to inform and challenge us in a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC)

TEC is a three-day retreat offered by the Diocese of Grand Island for teens in their junior and senior year of high school. It is an opportunity to grow in one’s relationship with God and to meet and share faith with other youth from the diocese.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org

Parish Ministries

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

Church Environment volunteers seek to create a liturgical space which is conducive to both prayer and worship. Artistic creativity is certainly welcome.

Contact: Chris and Rhonda Riha, 308-381-7006, r3560@charter.net

GOLDEN GEMS

Golden Gems meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month for lunch in the Parish Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share, as a main dish is provided. It is a fun social setting that includes a program and a meal. Our Parish Nurse, or another health care professional, will be in attendance to check blood pressures beginning at 11:15 a.m.

Contact: Julie Gortemaker, 308-382-4753, julie@saintleos.org

HEALTH MINISTRY (PARISH NURSE)

Health Ministry addresses the healthcare needs of both the acutely and chronically ill in the parish via a parish nurse. In addition, health education and support is provided. Emphasis is on preventative healthcare.

Contact: Julie Gortemaker, 308-382-4753, julie@saintleos.org

HUMAN CONCERNS

Meets once a month on the fourth Monday. This committee helps the parish with awareness of our Catholic Social Teachings by discussing social needs and concerns.

Contact: Donna Douglass, 308-382-4753, donna@saintleos.org

JAIL MINISTRY (WOMEN)

Regular visitation to the female inmates — training and screening are provided.

Contact: Chris Wissing, 308-391-0915, cdbkjnt@charter.net

JAIL MINISTRY (MEN)

Regular visitation of the male inmates — training and screening are provided. This is a ministry with St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island.

Contact: Dick Hoffman, 813-784-7541, hofflutz4@charter.net

LAUNDERING OF CHURCH LINENS

This ministry cares for the altar linens, cloths, and, if needed, liturgical vestments.

Contact: Sue Kohles, 308-382-4753, office@saintleos.org

NEWCOMERS

A developing ministry — volunteers work with the parish secretary to provide hospitality to new members and introduce them to the parish. Good social skills and creativity needed.

Contact: Sue Kohles, 308-382-4753, office@saintleos.org

NEW LIFE LADIES

New Life Ladies are widows of the parish and local area who gather for social events and activities on a monthly basis. All widows are welcome to participate.

Contact: Beata Nabity, 308-227-1141, abnabity@hotmail.com

OFFICE SUPPORT

Volunteers will be called upon to assist the parish secretary and staff with regular and special projects throughout the year, such as preparing mailings, stuffing bulletins with inserts, answering the phone, etc.

Contact: Sue Kohles, 308-382-4753, office@saintleos.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

Individuals who like to take photos are encouraged to sign up as event photographers for the different activities going on in our parish. Ideally, it would be nice to have many photographers, as not everyone is available for all events. If interested, please contact the office for more information.

Contact: Jodi Stauffer, 308-382-4753, jodi@saintleos.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Room. Everyone is welcome. If you don't know how to crochet or knit, we will teach you. There is yarn and hooks — we appreciate contributions — for everyone. The prayer shawls are a result of love and endless prayer. The shawl is given not to wrap up in as one prays, but to wrap up in because it's already full of needed prayer to let the wearer know he/she is not alone.

Contact: Karen Denne, 308-391-1425, denne@cccusa.net;

Elaine Janulewicz, 308-381-1313, elainejanul@gmail.com

VOCATION MINISTRY TEAM

This team strives to create a culture and environment where every person will be educated and prayed for the awareness that God is calling them to holiness as a priest, married couple, religious or single person.

Contact: Marv Rief, 308-390-2168, mlrief@charter.net



Liturgy

ALTAR SERVERS

Boys and girls in fifth grade or older serve at the altar during the regular weekend Masses. Servers will be assigned on a weekly basis. Training will be provided.

Contact: Jodi Stauffer, 308-382-4753, jodi@saintleos.org

COMMENTATOR

Volunteers will read announcements before Mass, as well as the Prayers of the Faithful.

Contact: Cheryl O'Curran, 402-460-8679, cherylaubery@yahoo.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Participation in this ministry requires mandating from the Diocese of Grand Island following a parish training session. Participants will be assigned to assist in Holy Communion distribution at Mass.

Contact: Dusty Hast, 308-379-2832, dusty4227@gmail.com

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Sometimes parishioners are not able to join us at church to celebrate the Eucharist due to illness or infirmity. We need Communion ministers who are able to visit parishioners at home or in the nursing homes to bring the Eucharist to those who cannot join us at Mass.

Contact: Arlene Schliecher, 308-379-0080

HOSPITALITY (GREETERS)

Greeters are the first representatives of our parish when people enter the church. This ministry is to provide a warm, friendly welcome, and to assist in directing new parishioners or guests. Greeters must also be available after Mass to wish parishioners and guests a good day and to answer any questions they may have at the moment.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org

LECTOR

Volunteers will proclaim the Sacred Scriptures during the Mass of your choice on the weekend or Holy Days. Lector is assigned weekly.

Contact: Cheryl O'Curran, 402-460-8679, cherylaubery@yahoo.com

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Members assist the pastor in training liturgical ministers and planning liturgies for each season and special occasions according to liturgical documents and local tradition. The primary role is to nurture the parish vision statement to "provide uplifting experiences where people gather to be nourished, to be given new hope, to be challenged by the Gospel and to be reenergized." Monthly meetings.

Contact: Fr. Don Buhrman, 308-382-4753, frbuhrman@stleos.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music is one of the most important ways of participating in our Eucharistic celebrations. All gifts are needed in this ministry, whether it is as a cantor or as a musician. Our liturgical prayer is all the more enhanced by this commitment.

Contact: Kristen Schutte, 308-382-4753, kristen@saintleos.org

STERILIZATION CHURCH MINISTRY

Using cleaning supplies provided, volunteers sanitize all surfaces potentially touched during the previous Mass or liturgical activity. This helps provide a safe environment for those attending the church service to follow.

Contact: Mike Stoneman, 816-589-2070, jmchlstone@gmail.com



Worship and Prayer

ABIDE ADORATION

This hour of praise and prayer with the exposed Blessed Sacrament for part of it will be offered on the last Sunday night of the month at 7 p.m. at St. Leo's Church. Upbeat praise Christian music will be shared, as well as a brief teaching and time with the Blessed Sacrament. Come Abide and Adore the Lord.

Contact: Rita Hemmer, 308-833-3873, rita@saintleos.org;

Kristen Schutte, 308-382-4753, kristen@saintleos.org

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Volunteers will spend at least 30 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer on days of adoration. Current time period is from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the First Fridays of each month. Goal is to have at least two persons present during all the hours of adoration. You determine which time period best accommodates your schedule.

Contact: Sue Kohles, 308-382-4753, office@saintleos.org

PRAYER CHAIN

Volunteers receive calls requesting prayers for a particular person or situation. Volunteers will pray daily or as often as possible until the request is ended. To protect privacy, only the name will be given, not information about the situation.

This prayer may be done anywhere.
Contact: Beth Clemans, 308-379-4442, Beth.clemans@gmail.com

Parish Leadership/ Administrative Ministries

FINANCE COUNCIL

Members represent and speak for the parish at-large, advising the pastor in various areas — growth, change, concern, need, etc. — of the parish as they relate to financial matters and temporal goods.

Generally, serves a three-year term. Monthly meetings.

*Contact: Steve Ryan, 308-390-2820,
steve.ryan@nm.com*

PARISH COUNCIL

Members represent and speak for the parishioners at-large, advising the pastor in various areas — growth, change, concern, need, etc. — of the parish on a broad range of matters. Generally, serves a three-year term. Monthly meetings.

Contact: Greg Fisher, 308-391-8836

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Members promote the mission of St. Leo's Parish by fostering stewardship as a way of life within all aspects of the parish community.

*Contact: Chris Stinson, 308-380-2818,
jchris8869@gmail.com*

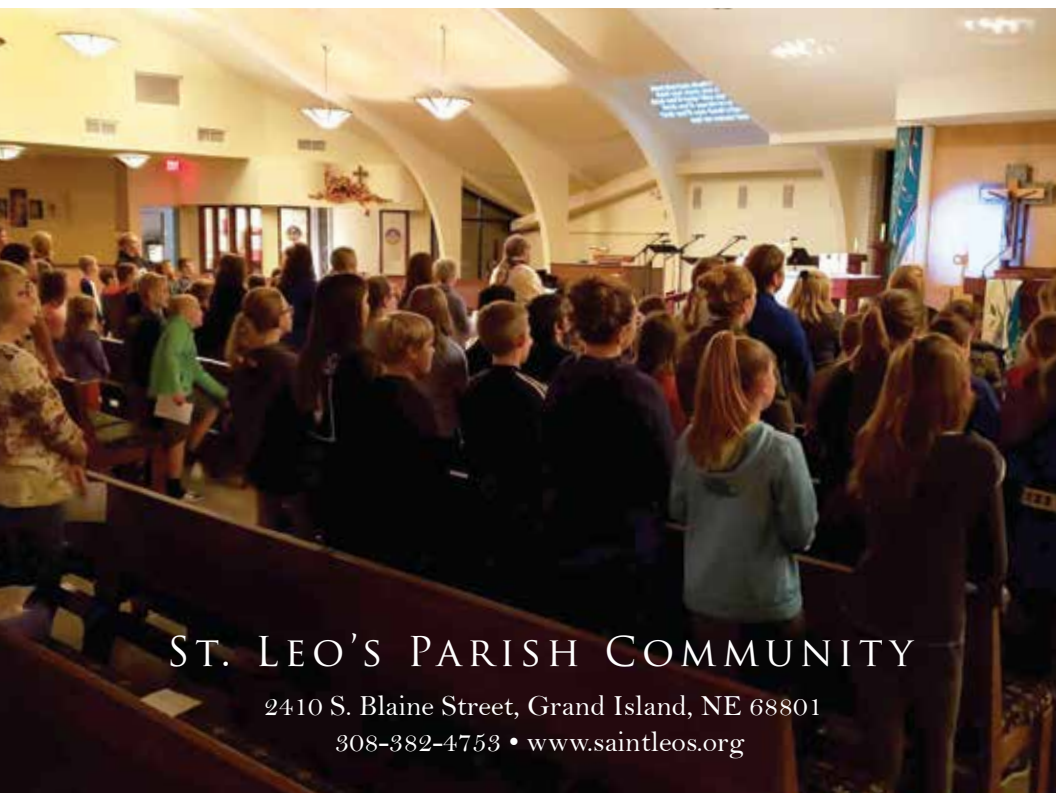


DEEPENING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH

Prayer

As we begin this year's Stewardship Renewal, ask the Holy Spirit to renew your heart and form it into a heart of prayer. Discover how a life centered on prayer leads to a deeper relationship with Jesus. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your time, talent, and treasure and commit to those actions through filling out a Commitment Card.

"He prays too little who only prays when he is on his knees. But he never prays who, while on his knees, is in his heart roaming the fields." — St. John Cassian



ST. LEO'S PARISH COMMUNITY

2410 S. Blaine Street, Grand Island, NE 68801

308-382-4753 • www.saintleos.org

Please keep until Fall 2021