

St. Leo's

PARISH COMMUNITY



FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP FORGE A SPECIAL BOND:

The Thursday Morning Bible Study

Though involved in many parish ministries and events, one in particular stands out to parishioner Carol Woodward — the woman's Thursday Bible Study. Having been part of it now for approximately 30 years, Carol describes the study as her "favorite thing to do" because of its content and the fellowship that feeds her soul.

"I love the people that are there," Carol says. "They are just truly lovely women and I thoroughly enjoy my Thursday mornings."

The group meets weekly following the 9 a.m. Mass in the Family Room, with the exception of first Thursdays, when the group meets off-campus. "The topics studied have varied over the years," Carol says, "from Church doctrine and video studies, to designated books. Each one helps build upon its members' knowledge of Christ and His Church, strengthening their commitment to the faith while also fostering a deep sense of camaraderie amongst the women."

"It increases your commitment to the Church because you are getting to know and understand it so much better," Carol says. "Then, too, there is the camaraderie which is so important. It allows us to form a truly



Members of the Thursday Morning Bible Study discuss God's Word together.

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NOVEMBER 2018

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GOT TALENT? BRING IT TO THE SPOTLIGHT!

The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills.

While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked — and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren’t so obvious or don’t garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians. “There are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the Lord. Yet, others shudder at the thought of a classroom full of 5-year-olds, and instead

seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks — cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not guided by the discipline of prayer, just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadows behind a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.

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A Letter From Our Pastor

NOVEMBER:

A Time of Faithful Celebration and Sharing in Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

As I look over the calendar for November, my mind is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look towards it with happy anticipation — more than that, they are thoughts filled with a variety of reasons for why we should be thankful.

The month begins with a great celebration that should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us — All Saints' Day. This is a great feast celebrating the great company of Christians now in heaven — a company we shall eventually join, whether or not we're formally canonized, if we remain faithful to Christ.

And the communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and we are aided by their prayers.

And then, the very next day, we celebrate All Souls' Day. Although this day commemorates all the faithful departed who are being purified in Purgatory, it is natural for us to concentrate on the members of our own family and our friends who have died. While we pray for them, that they may soon experience the joys of heaven, at the same time we also are thankful for the love they



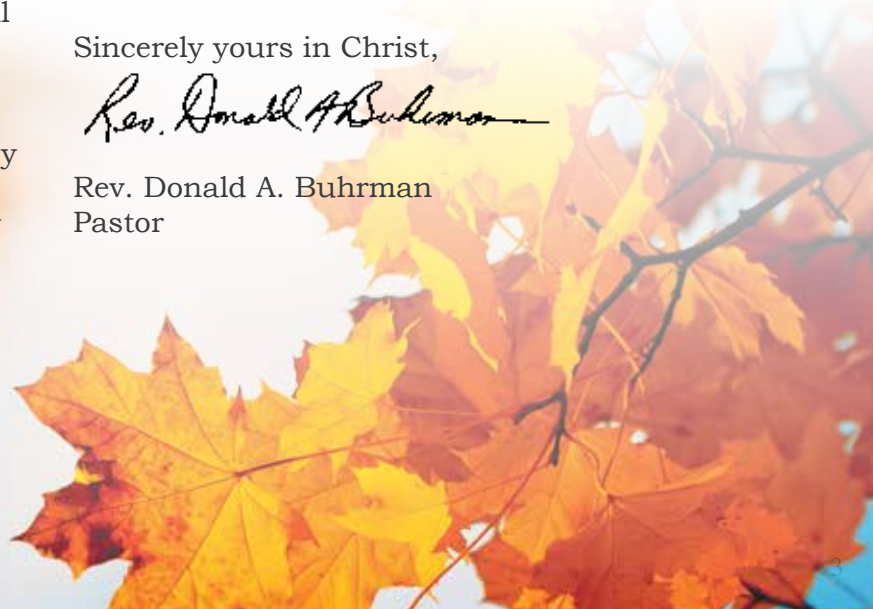
gave us and for the faith they passed on to us.

Then, later in the month comes Thanksgiving Day, the national holiday celebrating all the things for which we are thankful. The fact that it comes toward the end of autumn reminds us that it was originally a harvest festival. For Christians today, it's a wholesome reminder that we should thank God for everything we receive, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Why not participate in the Church's Great Thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist, on Thanksgiving Day? It's the ultimate way to give thanks.

A reminder — while much of our attention this month may be drawn to the often contentious goings on in our country, we need to remember that God is in charge of the universe, even though He has given us free will. If we trust in His loving care, demonstrated by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us, we can withstand the troubles of life. It's a good principle to follow in this month of thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Donald A. Buhrman
Pastor



ST. LEO'S HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE AIMS TO "LIVE OUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH"



The Human Concerns Committee hosting a Habitat for Humanity Build Day.



Participation in activities like the Habitat for Humanity Build Day is just one great way to put our faith into action.

During his pontificate, our beloved St. Pope John Paul II continually emphasized the value and dignity of the human person. For this reason, in the 1980s, Fr. Don Larmore first spoke about forming a committee at St. Leo's devoted to human concerns.

"We are called to be the eyes, ears and hands of Christ on earth," says Donna Douglass, St. Leo's Outreach Coordinator. "This committee is just one way to try to be like Jesus and make a difference!"

The Human Concerns Committee began as an educational committee with service-orientated outreach projects. When Donna started working at the parish in 2002, Fr. Jack Rademacher decided to create an Outreach Department, and part of the department's purpose has been revitalizing this committee.

"We re-chartered the committee this year, and the committee addresses needs in our community and world, and looks for ways where our parish can help," Donna says. "The Human Concerns Committee is a catalyst for ideas and projects our parishioners can do, as well as an advisory board for the Outreach Coordinator."

Donna explains that the purpose of the Human Concerns Committee is still twofold, as it serves to both educate parishioners and to provide opportunities for them to "live out our Catholic responsibilities."

Committee members meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to discuss needs in the community. They also discuss items to share with the community in the next month's bulletin related to current events, community projects and Catholic social teaching.

"We'll discuss bulletin entries on things happening in the world and how we as Catholics can address them and help, such as providing support and relief to the victims of hurricanes," Donna says. "If we have an event coming up, we discuss that as well."

The committee is involved in many different events and ministries that serve others and collaborates with different agencies in the community including the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grand Island, Habitat for Humanity and others.

They reach out to members of the community through thoughtful actions such as sending flowers to our parish's

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE CATHOLIC RESPONSIBILITIES”

homebound as well as cleaning, mending and distributing coats and other warm winter items during the fall.

“Our parishioners are awesome,” Donna says. “We also have had one-time projects such as helping settle a refugee family in Grand Island and helping families move to Grand Island after the hurricanes in Puerto Rico.”

The committee absolutely welcomes new members; and during the re-chartering process, the committee stipulated that input and involvement can be offered in-person but also through email or text.

“Your input is valuable, and the more people we have, the more ideas we have,” Donna says. “Try to come to a meeting or two. We do this as a group and have very open discussions. Our meetings are confidential, so one can feel free to share real thoughts and opinions.”

If you have ever wanted to put your faith into action, consider becoming involved with St. Leo’s Human Concerns Committee and its work promoting the dignity and value of each individual.

“This committee helps me keep my heart where I hope Jesus wants my heart to be,” Donna says. “We really work hard to fill the needs and fit the gaps in our community and area. We have an open-door policy to the community.”

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— DONNA DOUGLASS, ST. LEO’S OUTREACH COORDINATOR

If you would like more information about St. Leo’s Human Concerns Committee, please reach out to Donna Douglass at 308-382-4753, ext.13, or donna@saintleos.org.



St. Leo’s Human Concerns Committee and its work promote the dignity and value of each individual.



The Human Concerns Committee sponsors the Bottled Water Collection for the American Red Cross to help fire fighters and victims.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. LEO THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME, NOV. 10

Regarded as one of the best Administrators of the ancient Church, St. Leo the Great displayed tireless dedication as pope. From securing true Christian beliefs and settling doctrinal controversies as a Doctor of the Church, to defending Rome against barbarian attack and his commitment to the spiritually centered pastoral care of his people, St. Leo the Great provides a wonderful — and historically significant — example of a Church administrator who used his skills to reinforce the essential connections between spirit and structure. This resolute upholding of the faith earned him the title of “the Great.” Indeed, Leo himself held that everything he did as pope was to represent St. Peter, in whose place he acted, and to represent Christ, the head of the Mystical Body.

A native of Tuscany, Leo was believed to have been born around the year 400. The earliest known information about Leo is that he was a deacon under Pope Celestine I and Pope Sixtus III. During his time as a deacon, he was already recognized for his skills in mediation when the emperor designated him with the task of settling a dispute between the two highest officials in Gaul.

In the year 440, upon the death of Pope Sixtus III, Leo was unanimously elected by the people as the pope’s successor. Just weeks later, he would enter upon a pontificate lasting 21 years. This timespan would prove to be a crucial era for the centralization of the government in the Roman Church.

Importantly, Leo’s recorded papal letters and sermons have survived through the centuries, thus providing key historical sources regarding his career and personality. In fact, his particular



prose style — *cursus leonicus* — would have a lasting impact on ecclesiastical language.

A major priority during Leo’s papacy was to sustain the unity of the Church — he was devoted to combating the heresies that threatened this unity. He was also a tireless champion of almsgiving, fasting and prayer, while clearly and concisely expounding Catholic doctrine. Leo put much of what he said and wrote into action as well, as he invited and encouraged bishops to meet and consult with him in person. These committed efforts took place largely in the shadow of the Western Empire’s approaching collapse, and

Leo would serve as a steadfast representative of lawful authority during this turbulent era.

Indeed, a crucial point of Leo’s papacy occurred during the invasion of Italy in 452. As Attila and his forces made their way to Rome, having already overrun several cities, the ruler of the Huns demanded a dowry from the reigning emperor. As a result, three envoys were sent to negotiate with Attila — one of which was Pope Leo I. While the exact nature of the envoys’ negotiations with Attila are not known, historians often credit Leo with compelling Attila to withdraw from invading Rome. And while the Vandals would sack the city of Rome just three years later, it is believed that Leo’s assertiveness and influence also helped to repress murder and bloodshed during this invasion.

Even as he maintained courage in the face of such challenges, Leo continually worked to address the everyday needs, concerns and interests of his people. He died in the year 461, most probably on Nov. 10 — which is celebrated in the Catholic Church as the feast day of St. Leo the Great.



DONUT SUNDAYS *Promote Hospitality and Offer Parishioners a Wonderful Chance to Share in Fellowship*

We do quite a bit at St. Leo's to develop and build a sense of community. Some of these efforts fall under one of the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship — hospitality. In a hospitable parish, parishioners and newcomers alike feel that they belong and are part of the parish family. This sense of ownership and belonging helps us to connect with one another, and strengthens and grows Stewardship as a way of life.

One of these key hospitality efforts is our Donut Sunday, which takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The Ladies of St. Leo's arrange and put on the one on the second Sunday, and our Knights of Columbus Council takes care of the fourth Sunday.

"I have been at the parish for more than 20 years, and I know people look forward to these," says Kaylynn Hayes, who heads up the effort for the Ladies of St. Leo's. "Our efforts in stewardship as a parish have provided us with a core group of people who work and help out."

"Donut Sunday is a great way for our people to come together, visit and intermingle," says Jack Smolek of the Knights of Columbus. "It is more of a social event than anything else. It is good for people and good for the community."

The food and drink items are served from

7 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. or thereabouts.

"We use two crews — one before and after the 8:00 Mass, and one before and after the 10:30 Mass," Jack says. "The Donut Sundays are held in the kitchen and the hall behind the church. We set up and clean up. Because we have opted to use real plates, part of what we do is wash all the dishes and put them away. We begin to work on this three days before it is going to happen."

"We serve coffee, fresh fruit, juices, and donuts; although in October the ladies began something new by making and serving coffee cake also," Kaylynn says. "We really do feel this is a great way to build community. The way our Ladies of St. Leo's are set up is that all women in the parish are members automatically. We have a group of about 20 who handle the Donut Sundays."

Both groups purchase and prepare all the items offered. They each charge a free will offering, a donation of the people's choice.

"It seems we are able to cover expenses, and we donate any profits we may have back into the parish in various ways," Jack says.

So, please be sure to join us on Donut Sunday, and enjoy coffee and a treat while spending valuable time with visitors and fellow parishioners alike!

If you would like more information, please contact the parish office 308-382-4753.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

continued from front cover

special bond with each other as we grow in our knowledge and appreciation of the faith.”

“Over the years,” Carol says, “the members have become more like her sisters, supporting her during life’s journey. United by their love of Christ, there is a freedom within the Thursday Bible Study allowing the women to share their thoughts and ideas more openly with one another.”

“Any time you share your faith with others, with good friends and like-minded individuals, that also strengthens your relationship with Christ,” Carol says. “There is a freedom to that sharing — the knowledge that we’re all on the same page and that

whatever is shared won’t leave the room.”

Though the women are from all different backgrounds and stages in life, there is a unity amongst them because of their mutual love of God. “The result,” Carol says, “is that everyone ends up receiving something as each woman shares her own unique perspective and insights.”

“Some of us are fairly well educated in the faith, others are converts, and then others maybe just never had the opportunity to learn before,” Carol says. “We’re from all different circumstances, but everyone ends up receiving something.”

All women of the parish are invited to join the Thursday Morning Bible Study. For more information, please contact Carol Woodward at bobcarolw@gmail.com or 308-382-8442.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: 9 a.m., **Saturday:** 5 p.m., **Sunday:** 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Confession: Saturday 4 - 4:30 p.m. **Adoration:** First Friday of the Month, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Abide Adoration: Fourth Sunday of the Month, 7 - 8 p.m.