

# St. Leo's

## PARISH COMMUNITY



## ST. LEO'S OUTREACH

### *Good Samaritans to Those in Need*

Throughout the Gospels, Christ makes it clear that an intrinsic part of discipleship is helping those in need. Just as Jesus spent much of his earthly ministry comforting the poor and healing the sick, we Catholics are each called to do our part to help our suffering neighbors.

"This is what St. Leo's Outreach endeavors are all about," explains parish coordinator Donna Douglass. "If you think about it, reaching out to those in need is really the heart of stewardship," says Donna. "It's becoming the Good Samaritan, who stepped out of his own boundaries in order to help others. It doesn't matter who the person is or where they come from. If you have the means, then you are called to share them with others because God gave them to you."

St. Leo's Outreach works to facilitate this by providing parishioners with ample opportunities to help those in need throughout the year. Focused primarily on "filling the gaps," the ministry operates in a wide variety of ways: from coordinating monthly food collections for St. Mary's Pantry and the annual Coat Drive/Giveaway, assisting local and national agencies such as the Salvation Army, Crisis Center, and Hope Harbor, to promoting community programs such as hospice volunteer trainings, its goal is to tangibly spread the love of Christ to those in need.



*Parishioners prepare lunches for those in need as part of St. Leo's Outreach program.*

OCTOBER 2019

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## GOOD STEWARDSHIP *of Our Social Media*

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**W**hen we are talking about the idea of stewardship and how we care for the tools and gifts we have been given, it is not often that we stop to have a conversation about how we are caring for and using the gift of social media to positively spread Gospel values. However, this is an appropriate topic for us to consider when we are talking about the many young people, as well as adults, who gather online on a frequent basis. Therefore, it is important for us to think about how we are using the amazing gifts of technology.

If you are frequently online — especially on Pinterest — there is a popular acronym that you may have already come across. While it is used in many different contexts, it seems very appropriate to follow as we find ourselves posting statuses and pictures on various social media sites. The acronym is T.H.I.N.K., and it invites us to consider what we are saying and sharing, and whether or not it should be said!

Is what we are posting:

**True?** Are we sharing factual information or a rumor that we heard, and if we think our information is factual, what is our source? Is it trustworthy?

**Helpful?** Is the information we are sharing something that can be useful to another person? We don't need to over-examine all of our content to consider its "educational factor," but is the content we are posting going to help someone

learn about us, learn about a place or an activity, think about the world, reflect on life, engage us in laughter, and so forth?

**Inspirational?** There is certainly no requirement to be a poet or an artist, but social media has become a wonderful outlet for positive self-expression. "Positive" is the key word — are we posting to inspire others about the good in our world, or are we posting to cut someone down or to simply rant?

**Nice?** Have we considered the feelings of others when we include them in a status or post a picture of them? Will they be embarrassed? Are we using social media to humiliate and intimidate others, or are we using it to try to better the world and the lives of others?

**Kind?** What a great tool to compliment, show gratitude, and build the self-esteem of those you care about!

People often speak of social media in a negative way because of the content they see posted. T.H.I.N.K. is a great way for us to remind ourselves that we can be good stewards of our own social media use. A major part of living out the Gospel has to do with the positive way we approach this life and bring God's light and love to others — and we can do just that by sharing an uplifting status on Facebook, a Tweet of gratitude to a friend, or a beautiful image of God's inspiring creation on Instagram. What a great way to build the Kingdom of God!

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*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# MAKE OCTOBER A SPIRITUALLY FULFILLING MONTH

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Dear Parishioners,

Through the centuries, the Church has developed and established a theme and devotion for each month of the year. Officially, October is the month of the Rosary, highlighted by the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7.

The Rosary and its importance to our prayer lives is a fixture of our Catholic faith. It is satisfying and affirming for me to see people with rosaries at church.

However, this is not as prevalent today as it was one generation ago.

A family praying the Rosary together was once the norm. Since October is the month we highlight this devotion, there is no better time to bring it back to the forefront of our faith lives.

So, this month, I invite you to do two things. First, find your rosary. If you don't have one, ask your friends in the parish who might have one you can use, or you can also check the local Catholic shop or find one online for purchase. And, second, make a concerted effort to pray the Rosary this month — either individually, or more importantly, with your family.


Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis has consistently emphasized the importance of the family to our Church. One of my favorite



quotes from the pope about family is this: "People should take Sundays off so they can be with their families. Turn off the television during family meals and set aside time to play with or to talk with your children." Of course, we all understand this can be difficult given the busy and complex world in which we live. But in addition to praying the Rosary, I would recommend that our families make an effort to heed Pope Francis' words.

Finally, I would like to suggest a couple words and one phrase that would make our relationships with one another stronger and more comfortable, whether in our families, or right here in our faith family. The words are "please" and "sorry," and the phrase is "thank you." It is amazing what these words might mean to someone. I do not think we can say them enough. As we approach our busy fall season with all the joy it brings, let us keep in mind how the Lord has gifted us, and respond with the heart of a generous steward.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Rev. Donald A. Buhrman  
Pastor

## WELCOME TO *The Sacrament*

Setting up the nursery. Installing the car seat. Stocking up on diapers. The to-do list as you prepare for a new baby can be both exciting and exhausting. Sometimes, in the midst of washing tiny clothes, writing shower thank you notes and choosing a name, it can be easy to forget the most important thing that you, as a Catholic parent, will do for your child.

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life,” the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us (CCC 1213).

The Church has always taught the necessity of Baptism for salvation, that is, welcome into heaven. It is the call and duty of Catholic parents to make every effort to aid their children in experiencing a relationship with Christ, here



*Nathan and Kayla Keep recently baptized their son at St. Leo's.*



*Daniel and Taylor Olsen, along with their two older daughters, recently celebrated the Baptism of their twins.*

on earth, but also, for eternity in heaven. Baptism is the first step in this journey.

“Through Baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God. We want (our son) to know that he is a child of God and can share in the mission of the Church,” says parishioner Kayla Keep, who, along with her husband Nathan, recently had their infant son baptized. “One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is sharing our faith with them. We hope that raising our son in the church will help him to develop his own relationship with God.”

In order to help Catholic parents prepare for this joyous occasion, as well as a life of Christian parenthood, St. Leo's asks those who would like to have their child(ren) baptized to attend our two-part Baptism preparation. The first part of the preparation is attending a session with our Director of Children and Family Ministries, Jodi Stauffer, which takes place on the second Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. The second part of the preparation is a private meeting with our Pastor, Fr. Don Buhrman, which includes setting the date for the child's Baptism.

The first session is designed to help parents

# THE FAMILY: *nt of Baptism*

understand the signs and significance of the Sacrament of Baptism, as well as the importance of the commitment that they are making to raise their child in the faith.

“Becoming a parent is an awesome responsibility,” says Jodi Stauffer, who facilitates the class. “Parents are the first teachers of their children; and during Baptism Prep we discuss passing on the faith and what a responsibility it is. Yet, we want them to know they are not alone in this responsibility... their Church is here to help as well.”

For many parents, preparing to have their child baptized is an opportunity to reflect on the gifts and graces of the Sacrament.

“The class was so good at breaking down each step of Baptism and why each step is important,” says Nichole Bubak, who, along with her husband, Nick, recently baptized their second daughter. “It made me appreciate what my parents did for me as a baby!”

“The videos we watched at the baptism prep class were nothing short of amazing,” says Taylor Olsen, who, with her husband Daniel, recently baptized twins. “Because I didn’t grow up Catholic, I’m in a constant state of learning about the faith. The priest in the videos did a great job of comparing components of our faith to real world experiences.”

“We learned so much that evening,” agrees Taylor’s husband, Daniel.

Couples who recently have baptized a child encourage other parents to take seriously this

opportunity to pass on the faith to their child, and welcome them into the family of God, through Baptism.

“Baptism is a way to introduce children into our faith, knowing that they will always have God’s love, no matter what,” says Nick Bubak.

“Baptism for a new baby or child is a powerful way to start their lives — no matter what, God is always there for us!” adds Nichole.



*Nick and Nichole Bubak have enjoyed celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with their daughters Nora and Nellie.*

For more information on the Sacrament of Baptism or to register for an upcoming Baptism class, contact our Director of Children and Family Ministries Jodi Stauffer at 308-382-4753.

If you are an adult who has not been baptized and would like to learn about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, please contact Fr. Don Buhrman at 308-382-4753.

## ANNUAL COAT GIVEAWAY SPREADS WARMTH

For St. Leo's Coat Drive and Giveaway Coordinator Jean McFarland, seeing the smile on a child's face when trying on his or her new coat for the winter is one of the greatest rewards of her ministry.

"There is nothing like the look on a little person's face when she has a new coat, hat and gloves, a scarf, and boots, and she is walking out with those," Jean says.

On the World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2018, Pope Francis implored us to help the poor among us, when he said, "Every day, the cry of the poor becomes louder, but it is increasingly ignored. Their cries are drowned out by the din of the rich few, who grow ever fewer and more rich."

Jean and the members of the Coat Drive and Giveaway Committee certainly aren't ignoring these cries. Each year, they do what they can to help.

Women from our church crochet and knit blankets and scarves. People donate coats and other winter clothing items throughout the year, and Jean makes sure to capitalize on 75-percent-

off sales at local stores, as well as finding items in good condition at area garage sales. Throughout the year, the committee keeps track of the coat inventory.

In October, as part of a community event coordinated by GI Evangelical Free Church, those in need are bussed to St. Leo's where they have their choice of coats and other cold-weather items, from hats to scarves to blankets. And as cold as our Nebraska winters can get, some warm clothes go a long way.

The community event at GI Evangelical Free Church also includes haircuts, tire changes and other services for needy people in our community.

"It's perfect. It's really perfect that we can do the giveaway in conjunction with that event," says Jean.

The St. Leo's volunteers gather the day before the giveaway to organize all the coats onto tables by size. Then, on the day of the giveaway, they are there to monitor and help with the distribution.

Jean has been working with this ministry for more than 10 years. She has even been called the "Coat Lady" by people who come to the giveaway.



*The St. Leo's Coat Drive and Giveaway Committee gathers to sort and setup all the coats they receive and purchase throughout the year.*

## **TO NEEDY** *About 1,500 Coats Distributed Each October*

“We make sure when people come, they don’t wander around and see where to go to get their size,” says Jean.

Those in need are also bussed to another local church which has free clothes.

“It’s almost like Black Friday when the people come in,” says Jean. “The families get to come in first and take one coat per family member.”

Jean says those that need a new size often

bring their coat from the year before to pass on to someone else. The remaining coats are passed on to another church for them to distribute.

“I always have a heart full of love when I am done with this,” Jean says.

The Coat Drive and Giveaway Committee will take any cold weather clothing, including coats, boots, gloves, hats, blankets and scarves, at any time during the year. Usually plus sizes and small children sizes are the most needed.



*Blankets that have been donated to give to children in need. Each child can choose one blanket.*

For information on how to get involved in this ministry, or to donate winter gear such as coats, hats, and gloves, contact Parish Outreach Coordinator Donna Douglass at 308-382-4753, ext. 13, or by email at [donna@saintleos.org](mailto:donna@saintleos.org)

A graphic for a parish retreat. The background is a close-up of hands holding an open book. The text is overlaid on the image.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

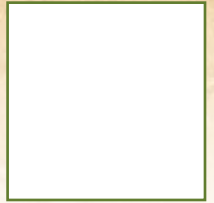
*Annual  
Parish Retreat*

*To Be a Christian Steward*

**Friday, November 1  
Saturday, November 2**

in the Parish Hall

*St. Leo's Parish Community*



## ST. LEO'S OUTREACH *continued from front cover*

Donna says being a part of that endeavor is a deeply rewarding experience.

"It always feels good to help someone," says Donna. "I believe we reap much more than we give when are serving others. As Florence Nightingale said, 'To be a fellow worker with God is the highest aspiration of which we can conceive man capable.'"

St. Leo's Outreach initiatives are planned and guided by the input provided by the Human Concerns Committee. This group of volunteers meets the fourth Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. for a working lunch. During this time they'll discuss the results of past initiatives, suggest new charities/causes for the Outreach program to support, and carefully evaluate assistance requests.

"The Human Concerns Committee really serves as the think-tank for what we do in terms of outreach," says Donna. "It's a very important process because

we want to make sure we're being good stewards of the funds given to us. We do a budget and work to maintain our accountability. We also spend a lot of time learning about what's going on in the person's life, just trying to really assess the level of need before actually distributing funds."

For Donna personally, being involved in the Outreach program has been a truly transformative experience. "For," says Donna, "when you devote yourself to God's work you are more apt to see the world with [His] eyes." Consequently, it helps the individual become more compassionate toward others, more aware of the needs outside of our community.

Parishioners can support St. Leo's Outreach through their continued tithes to the parish — the Outreach Ministry receives five percent each month — by participating in planned events and by becoming involved in the Human Concerns Committee.

For more information, please contact Donna Douglass at 308-382-4753, ext. 13, or [donna@saintleos.org](mailto:donna@saintleos.org). You can also visit the Outreach page on the parish website at [www.saintleos.org/outreach.html](http://www.saintleos.org/outreach.html).

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## 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.