



# St. Leo the Great

## Roman Catholic Church



**Pastor:**

Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel, S.T.D.

**885 SWEET HOME ROAD AMHERST, NY 14226**

[www.stleothegreatamherst.com](http://www.stleothegreatamherst.com)

**Senior Pastoral Vicar:**

Rev. Joseph C. Gatto, S.T.D.

**Masses:**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekdays and Saturday: 8:00 am

**Holy Days:** See bulletin or website

Parish Phone: (716) 835-8905

Parish Fax: (716) 835-8997


**Parish Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Masses may be viewed live online

**Confessions:**

Saturdays: 3:00 pm

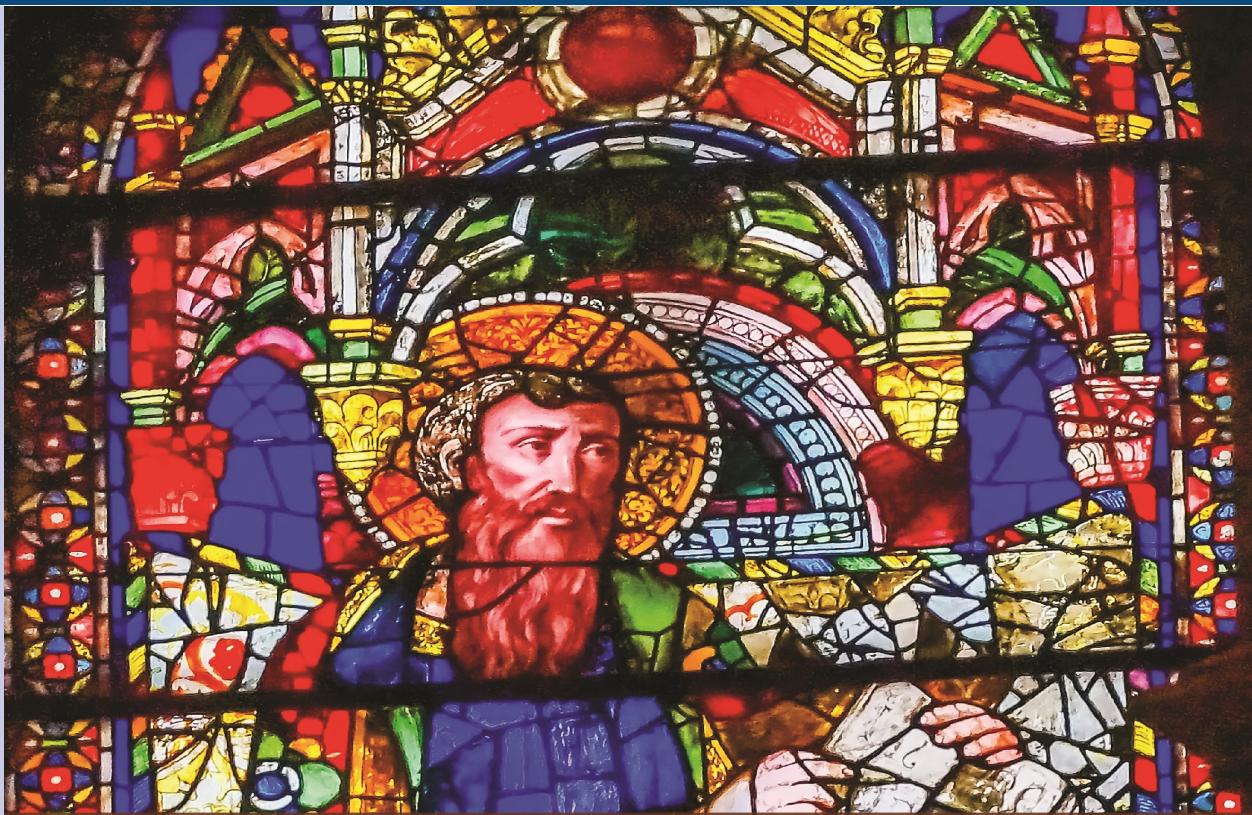
and by appointment

Our campus is fully accessible 

May 15, 2022

[www.facebook.com/stleothegreat](http://www.facebook.com/stleothegreat)

Fifth Sunday of Easter



THEN I, JOHN,  
SAW A NEW HEAVEN  
AND A NEW EARTH.

REVELATION 21:1

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

MAY 15, 2022

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Vigil Mass for May 15th: Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00p Confirmation Mass

4:00p Alfonso Alongi req. Maryann Alongi, children & grandchildren

Ray & Betsy Daigler req. family & friends

Carmen Preto req. Alfonso family

#### Sunday, May 15th: Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00a Mother's Day Novena Intentions

11:00a Rita Preto req. Juliet

Mary Jo Streicher III req. George Streicher III

#### Monday, May 16th: Easter Weekday

8:00a Mother's Day Novena Intentions

#### Tuesday, May 17th: Easter Weekday

8:00a Rose Walker req. Tom Pera

#### Wednesday, May 18th: Easter Weekday

8:00a Raymond Daigler req. Linda, Michael & Maureen

#### Thursday, May 19th: Easter Weekday

8:00a Maria Porter req. Mary Porter

#### Friday, May 20th: Easter Weekday

8:00 Parishioners of St. Leo the Great req. Msgr. Zapfel

#### Saturday, May 21st: Easter Weekday

8:00a Living & deceased members of the Pera family req. Tom Pera

3:00p Confessions

#### Vigil Mass for May 22nd: Sixth Sunday of Easter

4:00p Thomas & Jennie Ligotti & daughter Anna req. Angelo Ligotti

Rose Marie Miller req. family

Joseph Preto req. Alfonso family

#### Sunday, May 22nd: Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00a Richard & Donna Trzaska req. Michael Trzaska & family

11:00a Corry Olkowski req. Mary Lambrix

Rev. John T. Naber req. family

### PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you know someone - a family member or perhaps a neighbor or friend - who would be comforted by a shawl made with loving prayer by a member of our Prayer Shawl committee?

Prayer shawls are free - yours for the asking. Choose one for someone you care about.

Our selection of prayer shawls are available in the parish office 716-835-8905.

### STEWARDSHIP OF THE PARISH

Collection \$ 8,661.00

Online Giving \$ 1,966.00

### OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

#### COME HOLY SPIRIT...

Fill the Hearts of the young men and women who will be confirmed this weekend from our parishes. We need them to be enlivened with Your spirit of love. Let them be called forth in service to our faithful community, sending Your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

This weekend Bishop Fisher will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our parish communities. Thirty-three of our fellow parishioners will be confirmed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Just stop and think of the graces that will come upon them and all of us as they come to live a full life in the Holy Spirit.

I ask that you please pray for our candidates for Confirmation, throughout these coming days, that they will set our world on fire with the power of Christ's Spirit of love.

**Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of all of us!**

### IN YOUR CHARITY

Please remember in your prayers Walter Roman, Rev. Joseph P. Janaczek, Lisa Siofani, Grace Neureuther, and all the souls of the faithful departed. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### SANCTUARY LIGHT



In memory of  
**Sherrilann Malesky**  
req. Mom, Bill & Jody



**Congratulations to our Confirmation Class!**

Confirmation of our 10th grade students will be held at the 4:00 pm Mass at St. Leo the Great on Saturday, May 14 with Bishop Michael W. Fisher. Please keep the young people from St. Leo the Great and St. Benedict in your prayers.

Kaitlyn *Veronica* Acquisto    Vondin *Paul* Henderson  
Gavin *James* Biondi        Aaron *Peter* Loehle  
Philip *Ciro* Bumbaco        Isabell *Philomena* LoGrasso  
Mallory *Macra* Evelt        Nathan *Peter* Rosado  
Isabelle *Elizabeth* Heine    Aline *Catherine* Yowa  
Anton *Anthony* Jayakodiarachchige

Catechists: Mr. Joe McCarthy and Mr. Michael Ruzsala

**PARISH HEALTH CARE MINISTRY**

We are happy to announce that in the coming weeks organizational planning will begin for a joint Parish Nursing Ministry at St. Benedict and St. Leo the Great.

This ministry will strive to provide wholistic health care to the individuals affiliated with our parish communities. All services provided will begin with spiritual care while identifying the health needs of our parish communities; offering health education and promotional materials; supervising parish volunteers in health-related concerns.

If anyone is interested in being a part of the organizational phase of this new and vital ministry, please contact Fr. Gatto through the parish offices 716.835.8905.



**NOW IS THE TIME  
TO GET INVOLVED  
IN THE  
WORLD-WIDE SYNOD  
CALLED BY  
POPE FRANCIS**



Our effort, *Listening in Love and Hope*, aspires to reach and listen to the many and varied voices within the Church. I urge you to engage with us, and to perhaps invite someone who may feel disenfranchised, so that we can hear how you feel about the Church and what we wish it to be going forward.

Please seek out an upcoming Synodal Listening Session on the Diocesan website [www.buffalodiocese.org/synod](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/synod) during May to get involved. The Synodal journey for our Diocese will continue with listening sessions in our Parish Families during the summer and fall.

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
*Bishop Michael W. Fisher*  
*Bishop of Buffalo*



**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY  
PARISH MAY CROWNING**

Parish May Crowning of our Blessed Mother will take place on Sunday May 15<sup>TH</sup> during the 11:00 am mass.

Please join this year's First Holy Communicants and the ladies of the Rosary Altar Society for the crowning Ceremony. Praying of the Holy Rosary will be after mass. All are welcome to join us.

**St Leo the Great Annual Mother's Day  
Baby & Infant Collection  
May 7th - 29th  
to support the  
Gerard Place  
Healthy Mom & Baby Program**

Items need are:

Diapers (all sizes, especially newborn)  
Diaper bags  
Diaper rash ointments  
Baby shampoo/bath  
Baby towels  
Bottles  
Formula  
Baby food  
Bibs  
Baby thermometers  
Child Protection Lock Kits (outlet plugs etc)  
Breastfeeding supplies (pads, storage bottles)



Thank you very much for your support!

**Communion to the Homebound**

We would like to bring Communion once again to the homebound. There will be a one-time training session for anyone interested.

If anyone is interested in bringing Eucharist to those at home or to a nursing facility, please contact the parish office to provide your name, phone number, and email address.

In addition, if you would like to have Communion brought to you or if you have a relative or friend who would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office 716.835.8905.

**Altar Server Training**

Any youth who have completed their First Communion are welcome to join Monsignor Zapfel for an altar server training on **Saturday, June 4th at 12 PM.**

We are in need of altar servers.  
Please consider this ministry for our parish!

**MARRIAGE BANNES**

Christian Veress  
&  
Amanda Weselak



Young at Heart next general meeting is  
**Wednesday, May 25 at 1:00 pm**  
in the Parish Center

Our program will be 'Senior Scams'  
with Beth Nelson from UB Express

All are invited!

Questions? Contact our president,  
Giovanna Ferraina 716.912.0874



**Youth Program Results:  
Operation Rice Bowl**

20 children and youth of the parish donated a total of \$318.34 to Operation Rice Bowl by Catholic Relief Services this past Lent!

75% goes to relief programs around the world and 25% stays right here in Western New York. Thank you for caring about all God's children!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Meetings**

*Our St. Leo the Great / St. Benedict Prayer Shawl Ministry is restarting!*

Are you a knitter or crocheter who would like to comfort those in need, bring joy into the heart, and clothe the bereaved with your care and compassion, all done with prayerful love?

*Then our Ministry is for you!*

Even if you don't know how to knit or crochet, yet want to learn, we will teach you. We have donated yarn, or you can use your own.

Our first meeting will be Monday, May 23rd from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM in the St. Monica Room in St. Leo the Great Church.

Questions? Call Joan Banas at 716-632-9494  
Please join us!

**MOTHER'S DAY  
NOVENA OF MASSES**

**May 8-16**

*The following are lovingly remembered in our prayers during the Novena Masses:*



- |                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Kathryn Adams        | Mildred Hulme        | Bailey Papaj         |
| Olive Adams          | Margaret Johnson     | Kerry Papaj          |
| Charlotte Allegretto | Anne L. Knox         | Maria Porter         |
| Teresa M. Bahne      | Anna Koslowski       | Betty Purvis         |
| Julia Barrett        | Anne Marie Kozlowski | Regina Purvis        |
| Irene Baum           | Clara Krajewski      | Veronica Quigley     |
| Bertha Benzino       | Julia Lefko          | Pauline Schultz      |
| Christine Benzino    | Lillian Levey        | Dorothy Severson     |
| Felicia Borowska     | Grace Lewis          | Rita Smith           |
| Gertrude Brennan     | Elena Lipome         | Sophia Spirawk       |
| Dolores Brick        | Della Malesky        | Florence Striewing   |
| Susan Brick          | Geneviève Manyonga   | Eleanor Usiak        |
| Eleanor Costa        | Paula Maruk          | Jenny Walsh          |
| Clara Daigler        | Mary McGowan         | Beatrice Wenham      |
| Angelina DiDonato    | Bertha Meyer         | Alfreda Wiertel      |
| Evelyn Downey        | Elma Moore           | Olga Wnuk            |
| Virginia Espersen    | Louise Mowitz        | Katherine Wojtowicz  |
| Ginger Farwell       | Frances Murek        | Philomène Yowa       |
| Sally Harvester      | Mary Nies            | Doris Zuefle         |
| Helen Hasara         | Kathleen Olewniczak  | Karen, Sharon,       |
| Natalie Homjak       | Katherine Paladino   | Cris, Joanie, Cassie |
| Carol Hulme          | Angela Papaj         |                      |

**ROSARY ALTAR & HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

**The Night of Recollection dinner** will be a combined event between the Rosary Altar Society and the Holy Name Society of both St Leo the Great and St Benedict. The dinner will be held on **Monday June 6th at 6:00 pm sharp**. The evening will begin with Mass to be celebrated in church, followed by dinner catered by Gary Felong and then our guest speaker. This year our guest speaker will be Fr Shawn Paul Fleming who is the Rector of St Joseph's Cathedral.

**The cost of the dinner will be \$25 and a reservation is required.**

Payment should be sent to the parish office prior to the dinner. **RSVP to the parish office or to Barb Connelly at 432-1074 or by email at [babsconne@aol.com](mailto:babsconne@aol.com). RSVP's are due no later than 06/03/22.**



**Thank you!!**

Our Polish Heritage Night celebration was a huge success last Saturday.

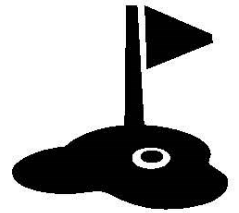
Everyone had a great time dancing the night away and our guests were treated to delicious homemade food.

We would like to thank Anita Murphy and Linda Naples for co-chairing the event, Gary Felong and the kitchen staff who prepared the food, our dessert makers and everyone who volunteered their time and energy to make this event possible.

# It's Back for 2022



## St. Leo the Great Parish Annual Memorial Golf Tournament



The tournament is open to all golfers and everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy a great day of golf and food.

**PLEASE JOIN US AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!!**

**Place:** Dande Farms Golf Club  
13278 Carney Road Akron, NY  
**Date:** Saturday, June 4th  
**Time:** Scheduled Tee Time Starting at 8:00AM  
**Cost:** \$130 (all inclusive)

Your package will include 18 holes of golf with cart and lunch featuring grilled 12 oz. NY Strip Steak.

Please return the attached registration form along with your non-refundable fee.  
If the golf course closes due to weather, a rain date will be established.  
The completed form can be mailed to the parish office at  
885 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, NY 14226.  
Please make checks payable to St. Leo the Great Parish.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**CHICKEN BAR-B-QUES**

Friday, June 3  
Friday, July 8  
Friday, August 5

**PARISH PICNIC**

Saturday, August 27

More details to follow

**Cardinal Dolan: Human Rights Begin in the Womb**

In a politically and culturally divided society, the one thing that seems to unite all sides, Cardinal Dolan wrote, “is the worry that our world has lost a basic respect for life.”

The first step to ending all forms of violence in society— whether related to crime, racism, or poverty— is ending the violence of abortion. “I propose [violence] will not end until we stop the presumed untouchable radical abortion license that seems to have captivated a segment of our society.”

“If conveniences, ‘choices,’ or ‘my rights’ can trump the life of the baby in the womb, what human life is unthreatened?...When the law allows vulnerable life to be destroyed, forces health care workers to do it against their consciences, and demands that our tax money subsidize it, what message are we giving about the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of life?”

Cardinal Dolan urged all men and women, with faith or without, to speak up for the “defenseless” unborn babies and to denounce the “right” to abortion as “inhumane, violent, and contrary to human rights.”

National Catholic Register  
October 24, 2021

Prayer changes things!  
St. Leo the Great Respect Life Committee

**A SUMMER TO REMEMBER**

*While Honoring God in the Children confided in our care at Camp Turner*

**Camp Turner** is located within the 65,000-acre Allegany State Park, south of Buffalo, NY. Our Summer Camp program serves children ages 7-16 ... of all religious affiliations.

**For more information or to register your child, visit [campturner.com](http://campturner.com), 716-354-4555,**



**[campturner@olvcharities.com](mailto:campturner@olvcharities.com)**

**FORMED**

PICK OF THE WEEK

May 15, 2022

**WATCH**

**CITY OF SAINTS**

In this series, award-winning director Charles Francis Kinnane tells the true stories of God's grace through the ministries of the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey. This influential Catholic film series has inspired over 1.2 million people worldwide.



**LECTIO: EUCHARIST WITH DR. BRANT PITRE**  
"The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ"—these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater context of Church teaching? In this program, discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral part of God's plan for our salvation.

**LEARN**

**LISTEN**

**THE FOUR LAST THINGS: DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, HELL BY FR. MIKE SCHMITZ**

In this exceptional presentation, Fr. Mike tackles four topics that many of us understandably struggle with: death, judgement, Heaven, and Hell. As you listen to this talk, you'll be reminded that God wants to welcome you into Heaven, your true home!



**Parish Staff:** 716-835-8905  
[office@stleothegreatamherst.com](mailto:office@stleothegreatamherst.com)

**Pastor**

Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel, S.T.D.

**Senior Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Joseph C. Gatto, S.T.D.

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**Music Director**

Melissa Herr

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Dave Ehrke x 116

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Nancy Loughran x 111

**Parish Secretary**

Deanna N. Pavone x 110

**Send your bulletin requests to:**

[bulletin@stleothegreatamherst.com](mailto:bulletin@stleothegreatamherst.com)

**Parish Lay Trustees:**

Michele Hector & Thomas Messana



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**OUR VOCATION VIEW**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

The book of Revelation tells us that all things end in glory, with God's Kingdom shining "like a bride" on her wedding day. What a great image!

Who would believe it when we look at this violent and broken world?

We need priests & religious to remind us that God's plan is active and alive.

If you feel this calling, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).

† **Sacraments** †

call Parish 716-835-8905 for

**Anointing of the Sick:**

Administered at home, in the hospital or long term care facility upon request.

**Baptisms:**

Celebrated on Sundays at noon by prior arrangement.

**Confessions:**

Saturdays at 3:00pm or by appointment.

**Marriage:**

Celebrated on Friday afternoons and Saturday noon & 2pm.

**Ministry to the sick, hospitalized, homebound:**

For emergencies and sick calls at night and weekends call 716-835-8905. To receive Holy Communion at home or on Sunday mornings or to report the hospitalization of a parishioner, please call the parish office.

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Available for sponsors upon request. Letters are given to those who are confirmed and who attend Mass regularly. Baptismal sponsors must be confirmed practicing Catholics in a sacramental marriage.

† **Parish Ministries** †

Contact parish office for more information: 716-835-8905

<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Paul Diegelman
<b>Holy Name</b>	Ken Meshlovitz
<b>Lectors</b>	Theresa Kolodziej
<b>Music</b>	Melissa Herr
<b>Prayer Shawl</b>	Patricia Wilkinson
<b>RCIA</b>	Rev. Joseph Gatto Michael Ruzsala
<b>Respect Life</b>	Frani Crimi
<b>Rosary Altar</b>	Barbara Connelly Monica Camp
<b>St. Vincent de Paul</b>	Karen Landsheft
<b>Ushers</b>	Tony Ricotta
<b>Youth Group</b>	Michael Ruzsala
<b>Young at Heart</b>	Giovanna Ferraina

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Our St Vincent de Paul Society is here to offer assistance to those who need help due to loss of job, illness, or any other situation. Please contact 716-800-8020 for assistance.

We have nine active volunteers currently, please consider donating a few hours a month for this important charity.

If you are interested in more information, **our next meeting is Monday, May 16 at 2:00 pm in the St. Monica room.**

Food donations of dry and canned goods are accepted in the gathering area in the back of the church during mass times.



**Youth Group Bottle Drive  
at Millersport Recycling**



Please support our upcoming youth activities by donating your empty bottles and cans at Millersport Recycling 803 Millersport Highway, Amherst.

Tell them you're donating your recycling to "St. Leo's Youth Group" - you don't even need to wait in line! Thank you for your support.

**New Parishioner Registration Form:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**WELCOME**  
 Please fill out and drop in collection or parish office

**HEARTS AND HANDS...**

is a not-for-profit organization which links volunteers with older or physically-challenged adults to help with basic services such as transportation to medical appointments, errands or social activities, light housekeeping, yard work and care-giver respite visits. Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement and supplemental insurance coverage. Take only the assignments which fit your schedule.

If you're looking to have a positive impact in your neighborhood, Hearts and Hands needs you as a volunteer. Please call (716) 406-8311. Thank you.

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**WHY IS IT?**

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