

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

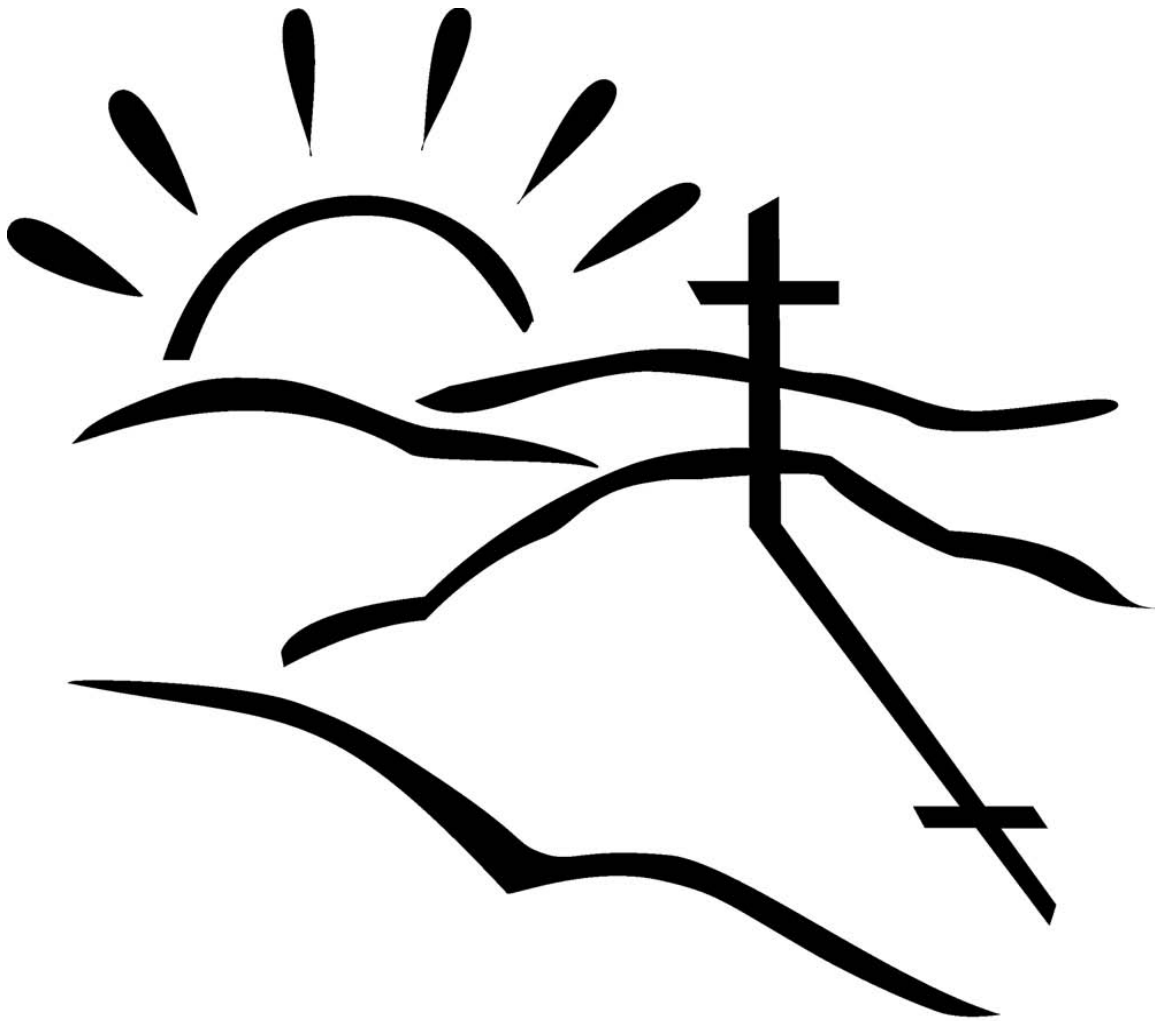
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Rejoice!

For the Lord is truly risen!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEVEN NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

BAPTIZED AND FULLY INITIATED INTO THE CHURCH

- JENNIFER DE GRACE
- KELLY HUGHES

RECEIVED INTO FULL COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH

- CORNELIS MALAN
- JACQUELINE MALAN
- CORINNE MALAN
- JOSEPH MCQUAT
- CORINNA MCQUAT

This Easter we are privileged to have had an RCIA process in our parish with seven people who came forward early last fall expressing a desire to become Roman Catholic. Two of them, Jennifer and Kelly, were not previously baptized so were seeking Baptism and full initiation in the Church, which means to have immediately been Confirmed and receive First Communion all at the same liturgy of the Easter Vigil. They were the first to be baptized in the new blessed waters of Easter. In effect, they received all of the Sacraments of Initiation that most Catholics receive over a span of 14 years in one evening liturgy.

Cornelis, and his wife Jacqueline and their daughter Corinne along with Joe and his wife Corinna had already been baptized in other Christian denominations but desired to become Catholics. At the Easter Vigil they were received into the Catholic Church, which meant that the Catholic Church, recognizing each of their baptisms as valid, received them into the Catholic Church after having had professed their faith in the Apostles Creed, the creed of all the baptized. Following their reception into the Church which made them in that moment, Catholics, they were then able to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion as Catholics.

It has been such a privilege and a real joy to have journeyed with this group as their catechist since last fall. We have had some wonderful conversations and questions about the Catholic faith. My sense is that while all of these individuals may not have known a great deal about Catholicism they were in many ways ready to come into the Church when we first started RCIA, so enthusiastic were they to become Catholic. They were at Mass with us each Sunday and though they could not receive the Eucharist worshipped the Lord who was already nourishing them with His Word and increasing their hunger and thirst for Him in the Eucharist. I am so proud of each of them and blessed to have come to know them.

For a few more weeks following Easter we will continue to meet to then unpack the wonderful things God has been calling them to and they have now celebrated in the Easter Sacraments. Please remember them in your prayers of thanksgiving. *(Fr. C.)*

TOTUS TUUS IS RETURNING TO ST. LEO SAVE THE DATES!

August 9-13 for students entering grades 7-12
August 10-14 for students entering grades 1-6

For the fifth year in a row our parish has been privileged to host the annual Totus Tuus week-long youth camp. Totus Tuus is a unique and fun-filled program featuring a team of 4 college-age students who will engage our youth with a week-long program focusing on the Catholic faith. The week is packed with skits, songs, Daily Mass and inspiring teaching. Registration information will be issued in April so save the dates now and prepare for your child to attend.



EASTER HUMOUR

There was always a practice in the Eastern Church to tell jokes on Easter Sunday in order to remind themselves that God, through the Resurrection of His Son, Jesus, has had the last laugh on sin, darkness and death. I'm not sure if I've ever published any jokes in the Easter season previously in the time I've been here at St. Leo the Great, but if I haven't I should have. I suffer from a pretty bad memory except for music and jokes. Once I hear a joke I never forget it and it gets saved in my memory in the spaces that should be filled with all the other things I should be remembering. The only time God laughs, as recorded in sacred scripture, is when humans say God doesn't exist. Our God has a wonderful sense of humour evidenced in the fact that He created me and, I suppose, a few of you as well. It is important to remember that when we laugh it is partly good for us because we don't take ourselves too seriously. Here are a few jokes for your Easter commemoration.

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: "Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How

do you feel?"

Slim says, "I feel just like a newborn baby."

"Really!? Like a newborn baby!?"

"Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants."

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man.

He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

BIBLE STORIES

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut a steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times "Now, asked the teacher, "Can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

LOT 'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot 's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, *"My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"*

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, *"I think I'd throw up."*

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "David, do you think

Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ?" *"No,"* replied David. *"How could he, with just two worms?"*

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" *One child blurted out, "Aces!"*

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. *"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."* "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. *"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"*

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

THE BIBLE

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. *"Only the Ten Commandments"* said the lady.

GROWTH OF FAITH

There are three stages of faith:

- (1) When we simply accept the teaching of the Church without reflecting upon it, or understanding why it is worthy of belief;
- (2) When our reason approves our faith;
- (3) When we experience inwardly what we have believed.... in this mystic experience the Christian comes into perfect union with God, a union mediated by both love and knowledge.


(Hugo of St. Victor)




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