

# Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2017



The Roman Catholic  
Community of

Saint  
Leo  
the  
Great



*"Take  
courage,  
it is I;  
do not be  
afraid"*

MT 14:27

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m.

### DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday, 8:00 a.m.  
Novena Prayers following 9:00 a.m. Mass  
Monday – Miraculous Medal  
Tuesday – Saint Anthony  
Wednesday – Saint Jude  
Thursday – Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Friday – Sacred Heart

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** See Bulletin

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



50 HURLEY'S LANE  
LINCROFT, NEW JERSEY  
07738-1406

## PARISH CENTER SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY through THURSDAY  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
FRIDAY  
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon  
SATURDAY  
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon  
SUNDAY  
Office is closed

Follow us on Twitter - @SLGLincroft \* Facebook - facebook.com/ChurchofStLeotheGreat

**BULLETIN DEADLINE - FRIDAY AM**

***Parish Statement of Vision & Purpose***  
*With charity, joy and missionary enthusiasm the  
 Roman Catholic Family of Saint Leo the Great, Lincroft,  
 commits to giving ourselves unconditionally in service to the People of God  
 in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior*

**Directory**

***Pastoral Center***

Parish Center 732-747-5466  
 Fax 732-219-5181  
 Email [parish@stleothegreat.com](mailto:parish@stleothegreat.com)  
 Website [www.stleothegreat.com](http://www.stleothegreat.com)  
 Convent 732-741-3430

***Pastoral Staff***

<i>Pastor</i>	Reverend John T. Folchetti, D.Min.
<i>Weekend Assistant</i>	Reverend Rocco Cuomo
<i>Weekend Assistant</i>	Reverend David X. Stump, S.J.
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. Edward H. Wilson
<i>Deacon</i>	Mr. Richard Tucker
<i>Deacon Candidate</i>	Mr. John Senkewicz
<i>Pastoral Associate</i>	Sister Jeanne Belli, S.S.J.
<i>Parish Trustee</i>	Mr. Michael Lee
<i>Parish Trustee</i>	Dr. Joelle Zabotka
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Ms. Julie C. Olski
<i>Pastor's Liaison</i>	Mrs. Gloria Harter
<i>Communications</i>	Mrs. Joan Kret
<i>Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Carmel Grassano
<i>Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Elizabeth Barca
<i>Evening Receptionist</i>	Sister Marlene Cunningham, R.S.M.
<i>Saturday Receptionist</i>	Mrs. Joan Gittens

***Parish Administration***

<i>Director</i>	Mr. Joseph A. Manzi
<i>Bursar &amp; HR Director</i>	Mrs. Maureen Leach
<i>Controller</i>	Mr. Carmine S. Giambrone, CPA
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Mrs. Sharon Kret

***Pastoral Ministries***

***Saint Leo the Great School***

School 732-741-3133  
 Website [www.saintleothegreatschool.com](http://www.saintleothegreatschool.com)

<i>Principal</i>	Mr. Cornelius G. Begley, M.A.
<i>Vice Principal</i>	Mrs. Deirdre Senkewicz, M.S.
<i>PTA President</i>	Mrs. Roseann Leibrock

***Office of Parish Faith Formation***

Office 732-530-0717  
 Email [FaithFormation@stleothegreat.com](mailto:FaithFormation@stleothegreat.com)

<i>Pastoral Associate</i>	Mr. Mark G. Russoniello, MAPT
<i>Coordinator, K-5</i>	Ms. Margaret J. Lang
<i>Coordinator, 6-8</i>	Mr. Jeffrey Scales
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mrs. Karen Ann Lenahan

***Worship & Liturgical Ministries***

<i>Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors</i>	
<i>Moderator</i>	Deacon Edward Wilson
<i>Sacred Music</i>	Mrs. Elvira Major, Director
<i>Sacristan</i>	Mr. Michael Bosch

***Catholic Youth Ministry***

<i>Director</i>	Mrs. Joan M. Kret
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***Buildings & Grounds***

<i>Manager</i>	Mr. Kevin Mocik
<i>Custodian</i>	Mr. John Kersey

***Evangelization & Spiritual Formation***

<i>Coordinator of R.C.I.A.</i>	Mrs. Janice Campbell
<i>CLOW</i>	Mrs. Patricia Hicks
<i>Reflection for Mothers'</i>	Mrs. Patricia Hicks
<i>Senior Spirituality</i>	Sister Jeanne Belli, S.S.J.

***Parish Council***

<i>Chairperson</i>	Mrs. Michele Massaro-Linzalone
<i>Vice Chairperson</i>	Mr. John Senkewicz

***Christian Service Ministries***

<i>Social Concerns</i>	Mr. John Senkewicz, Coordinator
<i>Lunch Break</i>	Mr. Gary Krall, Coordinator

***Parish Organizations***

<i>Carnival</i>	
<i>General Manager</i>	Mr. Joseph A. Manzi
<i>Holy Name Society</i>	
<i>President</i>	Mr. Stephen Mercadante
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Thomas Dogas
<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	Mr. Donald Listing
<i>Saint Joseph's Society</i>	Mr. Donald Listing

***Community Outreach***

<i>Bereavement Support</i>	
<i>Bereavement for Parents</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dwyer
<i>Caregiving Friends</i>	Mrs. Mary Lee
<i>AA - 8:30 a.m. Saturday</i>	

***Parish Athletic Activities***

<i>Director &amp; Coordinator</i>	Mr. Anthony Biancaniello
<i>SLG Athletic Association</i>	Mr. Christopher Montalvo

***BAPTISMS:***

Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:00 p.m. Please call the Parish Center for information.

***MARRIAGES:***

Please call the Parish Center one year in advance PRIOR to making any other arrangements.

***HOSPITAL & HOME COMMUNION CALLS:***

Call the Parish Center

***SPONSOR CERTIFICATES / LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY:***

Must be: a registered Parishioner, a faithfully practicing Roman Catholic, over the age of 16, if married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage, and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion & Confirmation. (cf. Canon Law)

*Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 13, 2017*



**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, August 12**

5:30 p.m. - The People of the Parish  
+Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bonacci, r/b Fran Byrnes

**Sunday, August 13**

7:00 a.m. --Randy Dougherty, r/b Margaret Lang  
+Janet Kon, r/b Cevasco Family  
8:30 a.m. --Dorothy Allen, r/b Alice & David Payne  
+Benedetto Martinelli, r/b Charlie & Kathleen Sarcone  
10:00 a.m. --Stella DeLorenzo, r/b Ruzich Family  
+Janet DiCristino, r/b Marirose & Anthony Sparber  
11:30 a.m. --Concetta Pino, r/b James & Jenny Pietrofesa  
+Peter Maneri, r/b Rainey & Paul Alwell & Family

**Monday, August 14**

9:00 a.m. --Edmund Kardauskas, r/b Bill & Pat Kohl

**Tuesday, August 15**

9:00 a.m. - The People of the Parish  
12:10 p.m. --Douglas Sidun, r/b Fr. John & St. Leo the Great  
7:30 p.m. --Pat Gentile, r/b Primiano Family-  
+Lillian Svizeny, r/b Denise & Paul Denk

**Wednesday, August 16**

9:00 a.m. --Charles Daalder, r/b Connolly Family

**Thursday, August 17**

9:00 a.m. --Charles Burden, r/b Madeline Normoyle

**Friday, August 18**

9:00 a.m. --Charles Burden, r/b Pam & Tom Rossano

**Saturday, August 19**

8:00 a.m. --John Russian, r/b Barbara Russian  
5:30 p.m. --Rose Tamburri, r/b Roseann Scarpati  
+Jerry Rizzo, r/b Mary Beth & Tom Stoddart

**Sunday, August 20**

7:00 a.m. - The People of the Parish  
+Elizabeth Dondero, r/b Margaret Lang & Mark Russoniello  
8:30 a.m. - I/O Roman Devlin, r/b Carole Placenti  
I/O Joseph Placenti, r/b Carole Placenti  
10:00 a.m. --Stella DeLorenzo, r/b Jeff & Patty Scales  
+James Dooley III, r/b Mary Elaine & Howard Hayden  
11:30 a.m. --Ronald Istivan Jr., Ruzich Family  
+James J. Dooley III, r/b Donald & Mary Ann Listing



**Liturgical Assignments - August 15—Feast of the Assumption**

<u>Mass</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>12:10 p.m.</u>	<u>7:30 p.m.</u>
<b>Lectors</b>	J. Waters	1 Needed	1 Needed
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. DeGregorio E. Brasco T. Waters	M. Russo M. Lang C. Russo	3 Needed
<b>Altar Servers</b>	3 Needed	D. Russo 2 Needed	C. Ailor 2 Needed



**Liturgical Assignments - August 19/20**

<u>Mass</u>	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>	<u>11:30 a.m.</u>
<b>Lectors</b>	C. Gisondi	Mark Fallon	D. Anderson	D. Szostek	K. McCarthy
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	A. Ryan J/T Waters M. Potenziani M. Sparber J. Bornemann	C. Manzi J. Flatley J. Manzi E. Brasco	S. Portera C. Lore J. Campbell J. Kret A. Grimm K. Meara	J. Gillen P. Scales I. Nibot C. Morris B. Black M. Federico	M. Rizzolo M. Lang D. Listing P. Barber Mike Fallon J. Krall
<b>Altar Servers</b>	I. Potenziani A. Koopman O. Koopman	M. Lawson S. Lawson	C. Yurcisin E. DeLuca E. Dougherty	B. Prefer E. Prefer K. Prefer	C. Ailor T. Mannino W. Dodds
<b>CLOW</b>			T. Hicks D. Senkewicz M. Hicks	B/D Laux K. Farrell K. Klinger	

## WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

**MONDAY, August 14**

9:00 a.m. Mass w Novena / **Chapel**



**TUESDAY, August 15**

***Feast of the Assumption***

Parish Center Closed

9:00 a.m. Mass / **AAC**

12:10 p.m. Mass / **AAC**

7:30 p.m. Mass / **AAC**



**WEDNESDAY, August 16**

9:00 a.m. Mass w Novena / **Chapel**

**THURSDAY, August 17**

9:00 a.m. Mass w Novena / **Chapel**

10:00 a.m. Bible Study / P.C.



**FRIDAY, August 18**

9:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

**MISSION APPEAL WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY, August 19**

8:00 a.m. Mass / **Chapel**

8:30 a.m. A.A. / P.C.

4:30 p.m. Confessions / Church

5:30 p.m. Mass / **Church**



**SUNDAY, August 20**

**Masses:** 7:00, \*8:30, \*10:00 & 11:30 am/**Church**

\*8:30 & 10 a.m. Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word

## Offertory



Thank you for your continued support!

You may also donate electronically via [www.ParishPay.com](http://www.ParishPay.com) or using your financial institutions electronic bill pay.



## Your Prayers Are Requested

**Remember Our Men & Women who are serving in the MILITARY** *Military here and overseas.* Pray for their safety and for their families.

**Remember Our Sick, Home Bound, Hospitalized,** especially Residents of Luftman Towers, The Pavilion & Sunrise Assisted Living, Suzann Price, Helen Garvey (sister of Gene)

**Remember Our Deceased,** especially Anna Hickey, Paul Gaglio (brother-in-law of Joe Manzi), Hugh Monahan (father of Susan Cusat & Maureen Mazzaccaro)

**Remember Our Newly Baptized** Autumn Kelly Butler, Luke Laurence Mannarino



**Remember Our New Parishioners and Their Families**

**Welcome!**

## FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

**Tuesday, August 15th**

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

**Masses**

9:00 a.m., 12:10, 7:30 p.m.

**All will be in the AAC**

## BISHOP'S ANNIVERSARY BLESSING October 8 – Ocean/Monmouth



All couples celebrating their **1st, 25th or 50+** Wedding Anniversary during the **2017** calendar year are invited to gather with family and friends to share the Eucharist, renew your sacred wedding vows, and receive Bishop O'Connell's Episcopal Blessing. Anniversary Couples from Ocean and Monmouth Counties may register through their Parish Office to attend the **Sunday, October 8, 2017** Mass and Blessing at 3:00 pm at **Saint Aloysius Parish in Jackson.**

***The registration deadline is September 10th.***



## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE



**Our Target: \$90,000**  
**Pledged to Date: \$76,286**  
**Paid to Date: \$68,892**

To donate, go to

[www.dioceseoftrenton.org/catholicappeal](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/catholicappeal)

**Thank you for your contributions!**

## News Around the Diocese

**ALUMNI GATHERING:** Saint Ann's, Keansburg is having a gathering for ALL alumni on **September 29th** at 6:00 p.m. with a Mass honoring all Sisters of Mercy that served in their school, followed by a buffet and dance. Tickets are \$40/p.p. To purchase, call Denise Metta - 732-801-4190

**BIRTHRIGHT OF RED BANK** is participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser on Tuesday, **October 17th**. Tickets cost \$5 ea. All proceeds received from the ticket sales go to Birthright. *Everyone who purchases a ticket receives a 25% discount shopping pass for purchases made on October 17th & they are eligible to win fabulous door prizes.* If you would like to tickets for this event, call Karen Fitzgerald at 732-747-4240 OR send your request with the amount of tickets and your check made out to Birthright, P.O. Box 202, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

**COMEDY NIGHT** – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual - Thursday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>**, hosted by Saint Gabriel's Altar Rosary Society. All NEW line-up of hilarious New York City Comedians! Held at The Reception Center at St. Clement, Matawan. Includes dinner, gift auction, 50-50 raffle and a FUNtastic show featuring three All New Comedians. Doors Open at 7PM. Email [lorri827@optonline.net](mailto:lorri827@optonline.net) to reserve your seat at \$45 p/p.

**GOLF CLASSIC:** Sisters of Mercy 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Classic - Tuesday, **September 26<sup>th</sup>**, Spring Lake Golf Club. Benefits our retired Sisters. For info, call Linda Cavallo at 908-756-0994 ext. 4006 or email [lcavallo@mercymidatlantic.org](mailto:lcavallo@mercymidatlantic.org).

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT:** Upper Room Spiritual Center, Neptune NJ. Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. **Friday, August 25 – Sunday, August 27 - Arrival – 7:00 pm, Friday - Departure: 4:00 pm, Sunday - Fee: \$130.** To register call (732)922-0550 or email [office@theupper-room.org](mailto:office@theupper-room.org) at least one week in advance.

**FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICE,** Bath Ave., Long Branch - [www.fcsmonmouth.org](http://www.fcsmonmouth.org)

**HEALTHY BUDDIES PROGRAM:** Volunteer opportunity for adults who love children and have the desire to help teach them about the importance of healthy eating. Help teach students in 3rd Grade during

school hours for one hour, twice a month at a school near you. No experience necessary. Training is offered and material supplied. Call 732-222-9111 x 151.

**READING BUDDIES PROGRAM:** Family & Children's Service in Long Branch has a meaningful volunteer opportunity for adults who love children and books. Committed volunteers will read to K-1st grade students during school hours for one hour, once a week. We serve 18 public schools in Monmouth County and need volunteers in your area. No previous teaching experience is required; training provided. Please share your time—call 732-222-9111 x 151 for information.

### New to Saint Leo's!

Join us in this ministry of love!

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY!



Saint Leo's is starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry - where compassion and the enjoyment of knitting or crocheting are combined into a spiritual practice that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

If you are interested in sharing your skills to enfold someone in needed warmth or a powerful prayer hug, go to [stleothegreat.com/prayer-shawl-ministry](http://stleothegreat.com/prayer-shawl-ministry) or complete the form below and return it to the Parish Center.

Our first meeting will be held on Monday, **September 11th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center

### Prayer Shawl Ministry Attn: Penny Marzec

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you . . . \_\_\_\_\_ Knit \_\_\_\_\_ Crochet

Do you read knitting/crocheting patterns?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

## News from the Parish Staff

### News From the Office of Faith Formation . . .



*Have you felt the call to share your Catholic Faith and respond to the invitation of Jesus to go out and spread the Good News? Then consider being a Catechist (Teacher) in our Faith Formation Program.*



The Parish Faith Formation Program is looking for Catechists (Teachers) for the Fall 2017/2018 Program.

Please contact the Office of Parish Faith Formation at 732-530-0717 for information or email [faithformation@stleothegreat.com](mailto:faithformation@stleothegreat.com)

### Did You Know? You can find a Saint of the Day

Coloring Page on our website under Children's Corner? Go to <https://www.stleothegreat.com/childrens-corner>

## SAINT LEO'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

We are offering a nine week guided Bereavement Series for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one in the past year.

The series begins on **Wednesday, September 27th** from **10:30 a.m. until 12:00 Noon** in **Saint Leo's Convent**. Dates - Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22). A commitment for the entire time is recommended. **The cost to cover materials is \$20.**

To register, please go to [www.stleothegreat.com/bereavement](http://www.stleothegreat.com/bereavement) or mail your information below to Sister Jeanne Belli, Church of Saint Leo the Great, 50 Hurleys Ln, Lincroft, NJ 07738. The deadline to register is Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Attn: Sister Jeanne

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_



## SAINT LEO'S MISSION APPEAL WEEKEND

**August 19/20—Second Collection**

**The Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy** will be speaking at all Masses the weekend of August 19/20. They dedicate their lives to Jesus through their work in service of seniors, the sick, and the disenfranchised. Today they operate missions in over 13 countries worldwide. Their works are directed to one aim: caring for the sick and those in need.

### Worldwide missions include:

- ♦ Care for the sick and the elderly in Hospitals, Medical Clinics, Assisted Living Centers and Home Health services.
- ♦ Provide homes and education for orphaned and homeless children
- ♦ Conduct empowerment programs for women and families
- ♦ Operate rehabilitation centers for those afflicted by addiction
- ♦ Provide medical care to those suffering from leprosy
- ♦ Offering food, clothing and education to families in need
- ♦ Giving a loving and safe home to juvenile victims of human trafficking
- ♦ Spreading the love of Jesus through Faith Formation and Evangelization

Their missionary service extends around the world, in addition to the United States of America, they have missions in Italy, Switzerland, Poland, India, Philippines, Madagascar, Nigeria, Cameroon, East Timor, Indonesia and Vietnam.

**Your support through prayers and your generous contributions are greatly appreciated.**



### HIS WORD TODAY

"Then the Lord said to him. 'Go outside and stand on the mountain before the Lord, the Lord will be passing by.' A strong heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the Lord – but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake – but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire – but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak...' Lord, if it is you command me to come to you on the water'. He said 'Come.'"

Last week we were with Peter, James and John for the Transfiguration. We return to the mountain today with Elijah. The Lord wishes to reveal himself to us again. Where shall we find Him. The natural disasters of hurricane's, earthquakes and wild fires show power and cause great devastation. Perhaps such events force us to call out to the Lord in desperation.



God's presence was revealed in the tiny whispering sound, teaching us to listen closely, sense His presence and like Peter ask – if it is you bid me to come. The call of the Lord is constant and consistent. We need to seek a quiet silence to hear him. The noises of blasting car radios, or construction equipment become a hindrance for us to hear Him speak. The psalmist urges us 'Be still and know that I am God.' Do you hear Him speaking?

### PRO-LIFE CORNER +

In this liturgical season, Jesus delivers several lessons using parables. They are challenges to those with hard hearts. He accuses the crowd of hearing and seeing but not changing their lives by his teaching. We should allow ourselves to be open and to be challenged by the word of God and change our thinking and our lives because of it.

### Daily Readings for the Week

**Monday** - Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27

**Tuesday** - Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16, 16:1-2;  
1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

Day: Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27;  
Lk 1:39-56

**Wednesday** - Dt 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20

**Thursday** - Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Mt 18:21—19:1

**Friday** - Jos 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12

**Saturday** - Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15

### A VOCATION VIEW . . .

"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid." By keeping our eyes set on Jesus, we are able to do marvelous things. Trust that he will not allow you to stumble or fall.

(Matthew 14:23)



*How little faith we have!*



### Bible Study / Reflection

Thursdays - 10:00 a.m.

Parish Center

All are welcome to attend

### TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 20, 2017

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7**

The Lord wants all people to love and honor his name. He says that those who honor him by obeying all of his laws will be "made joyful in my house of prayer."

#### **Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32**

Paul describes his hopes that his fellow Jews will follow the example of the Gentiles he has been preaching to. He claims that just as God has mercy for their disobedience, he wishes to show mercy to the Jews as well.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28**

A Canaanite woman begged Jesus to help her daughter, who was being plagued by a demon. Jesus at first refused her and said that "My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." The woman was so persistent that Jesus said she had great faith and then he healed her daughter.

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## Four Pieces of Advice to New College Students

By Dr. Andrew Swafford ~ July 5, 2017



It's that time of year when high school graduation parties are over and many students are eagerly awaiting the commencement of their college careers—some going off to big state universities, others to Newman Guide Catholic campuses, technical colleges, and still other countless options. In ten years of teaching college students, what follows is my advice for keeping one's faith while living in a new college environment.

First, recognize now that you could lose your faith: this happens all the time, but for a great many they could not even have imagined it just six months prior; our faith is precious and if we don't "practice" it, we'll lose it—yes, it can happen to us all.

### 1. Choose Your Friends Wisely

My first piece of advice may sound harsh: consider backing away now from friendships (or a significant other) that don't lead you to Christ. There may be a time when you can be good friends with someone very different than you—but when that time comes, they will have accepted you as a serious Catholic, and even come to respect it; whereas, if they're trying to lure you into areas that conflict with this central mission of your life, then this has not yet happened. Time sifts through a great many of our friendships—and right after graduation, we tend to "feel close" to lots of people.

Now is the time to cultivate serious, committed, virtuous friendships (or pray to find them in college). Virtuous friendships in a Christian context are those that take you closer to Christ—they want what is objectively best for you; and ultimately, that means they want God for you—they want you to have the Infinite Good, now and in eternity. If a high school friend (or a significant other) is pulling you in a different direction, it's best to start pulling away now; at first, it's really tough, but the more you set a precedent for who you really want to be, the more they'll expect this—and maybe even eventually accept it. But this takes time—and the more you send mixed messages, the longer it will take and the harder it will be.

This will be ultra-important once you get to college; in fact, I'd say the first two weeks are absolutely crucial: it's imperative that you hold the rope and seek out good friends then. In other words, if you fall into the wrong crowd early—and perhaps make a few mistakes—it becomes hard to remove yourself because people develop certain expectations of you; once expectations are set—say, for heavy drinking and sexual escapades—it becomes difficult to remove yourself from the environment. It's best to win this battle upfront before it starts.

It's been said, "Show me your five closest friends, and I'll show you your future." It may sound harsh, but there's a world of wisdom here. Again, there may come a time when you can be friends with people very different than you; but there will never be a time when it won't matter whether your negative influences significantly outweigh your positive ones. Since so much is in flux in college—and many are really settling into who they will be for the rest of their lives—now is the time to seek out people that you want to be like; now, virtuous friendships are more important than ever.

### 2. Keep a Good Prayer Life

Second, seek to develop a realistic and consistent prayer life now. If you don't pray now, it will be much harder to jumpstart it in college; and if you pray now, you'll be more likely to continue to do so when you come home for break (breaks, by the way, can be notorious moments of regression from a thriving faith life in college). But you also want to instill practices that you can realistically continue in college. So, going to bed at 9 and waking at 5 a.m.—at least for most students—is not realistic.

It's great to seek out spontaneous prayer, but it's best also to be committed to forms of disciplined prayer—first of all the sacraments: college students who do really well stay close to the Eucharist and confession. The

Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or perhaps a modified form of the Liturgy of the Hours are wonderful ways to channel your spontaneous prayer—and even allow your spontaneous prayer to enhance these traditional practices. The danger with spontaneous prayer by itself is that it's all too easy to “pray only when you feel like it”—or “pray only as long as you feel like it.” There is something about the discipline of prayer—over the long haul—that roots the Faith deep within the soul. From what I've seen, college students who develop both of these aspects—spontaneous *and* disciplined prayer—do really well.

### **3. Start Honing Virtues Now**

Third, as a general point, firm up your resolution now, while your spiritual strength is high, as to what you want your first two weeks of college to look like. Expect the Evil One to attack you at your weakest spot, and preemptively prepare now. These attacks put us on our back when we're unsuspecting; but if we consider how the attack is likely to come beforehand, we're much less susceptible.

Resolve now to resist temptation vigorously in the *beginning*; for if we let it linger, temptation tends to snowball and grow in strength. Let's say someone has a fall with respect to chastity: don't get upset with yourself just over the fall, but really look at what led up to it—realize that the battle was lost some ten steps earlier and resolve to win the battle *there*, before it gets to a point of no return. To use an analogy a priest friend once gave me: don't get mad that you didn't wake up to your alarm clock—get mad that you didn't go to bed on time.

Consider also the virtue of prudence—the virtue by which we make good moral decisions: if we're ever doing something we don't want anyone else to find out about—especially the people we respect the most—we're probably not acting prudently. Make each decision as if that decision were an answer to this question: *who do I want to be?* If we do that, we'll live life with a lot less regret. We need to realize that our moral decisions are forming ourselves into a certain kind of person—that is, what we do now *matters*: it directly affects the kind of person we're becoming and who we'll be in five years.

We also need accountability (say, with good friends), and especially the sacrament of confession and spiritual direction. As my wife likes to say, the devil wants to twist, divide, and isolate—we must counteract this.

### **4. Surround Yourself with Good Things**

Lastly, in addition to these spiritual disciplines and good friends, I would make a concerted effort now and in college to feed your mind and heart with good things. The ideas we surround ourselves with—whether from friends, TV, music, the classroom, social media—for better or worse will eventually wear on us. Some of this is good; but we're naïve to think it won't affect us. We need to resolve now to counterbalance these influences by good friends, good books, good talks, podcasts, or the like. We are constantly formed by our environment; and I'm afraid that if we don't tend to our faith, we're likely to lose it.

And if something does go wrong, rest assured this lie will fill your head: “Well, now it's too late—I can't turn back now.” It's *never* too late: Jesus will embrace you with open arms—especially in the sacrament of confession—no matter where you've been or how far you've fallen.

If your faith is important to you, don't neglect its growth—since a stagnant faith tends to die out. If our faith is growing, it's alive and we'll be able to weather the storms of life—even college life.

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#### **About Dr. Andrew Swafford**

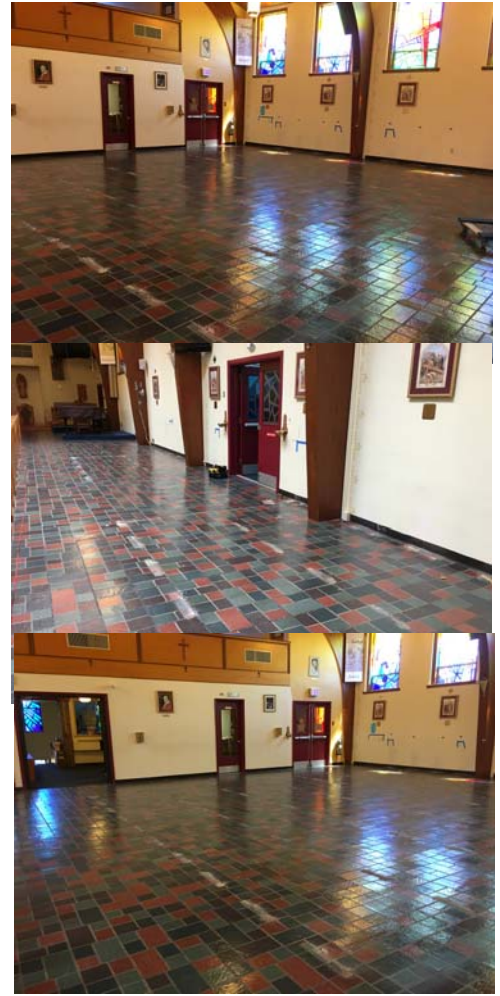
Andrew Swafford is associate professor of theology at Benedictine College, where he regularly teaches courses on Scripture and the Christian moral life. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and a master's degree in Old Testament & Semitic Languages from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is author of *Spiritual Survival in the Modern World: Insights from C.S. Lewis' Screwtape Letters*; *John Paul II to Aristotle and Back Again: A Christian Philosophy of Life*; and *Nature and Grace: A New Approach to Thomistic Ressourcement*. He is a contributing author to *Letter & Spirit* Volume 11; *Divinization: Becoming Icons of Christ through the Liturgy*; *30-Second Bible: The 50 Most Meaningful Moments in the Bible*; and *I Choose God: Stories from Young Catholics*. Andrew is also a senior fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. He lives with his wife Sarah and their four children in Atchison, Kansas.



## Church Renovations

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## Removal of Kneelers and Pews



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***A Parishioner is . . . one who belongs to the Parish Family. As such, she/he is **formally** registered with us and is committed to the Parish through participation in the life of the Parish Community - **spiritually, socially** and **financially**. If you have not formally registered as a Parishioner, please do so at the Parish Center Office.***

***Please note - we will not be able to issue Sponsor Certificates or Letters of Eligibility for Baptisms or Confirmation if you are not a registered participating member of the Parish for at least six months.***

**NOTE: FEDERAL PRIVACY REGULATION - HIPAA** (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability) prohibits all hospitals from informing churches of a patient's presence unless the patient gives permission for the hospital to do so. **If you're admitted to a hospital and would like a visit from us, please notify the hospital or call the Parish Office**

### **Remember Your Parish in Your Estate Planning**

Bequests are ideal for remembering those who will come to St. Leo the Great Church after us—in our Catholic Christian Mission. Or, you may wish to name St. Leo's as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or other financial instrument. The designation would be: Church of St. Leo the Great, 50 Hurley's Lane, Lincroft, NJ 07738. If in doubt, please call us and we will be happy to work with your attorney or financial advisor. ***Thank you for your consideration.***

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