

# THE LION'S PRIDE

## NEWSLETTER

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

February

Saint Leo the Great Catholic School

2025-2026

### Greetings from Mrs. Miller

We had a snowy start to Catholic Schools Week, and it looks like the cold weather is here to stay for a little while. Even so, the best part of my day is going in and out of the classrooms and seeing the children learning about their faith, reciting psalms and poems, and sharing so much joy and laughter as they walk the halls.

We also had a wonderful time ending Catholic Schools Week with our talent show. It was such a joy to see our students shine!

This month, we begin our Lenten journey with Christ. Please join us on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, for 9:00 am Mass, and for Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent in the church at 2:15.

I pray you have a happy and healthy month.

*Blessings,  
Mrs. Jennifer L. Miller*



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

### Important Dates

#### February

- 2/4 Spirit Day
- 2/7 Free Lunch Friday
- 2/12 Net Ministry Retreat Grades 7 & 8
- 2/13 12:00 Dismissal
- 2/16 No School - President's Day
- 2/19 Ash Wednesday - 9:00 Mass
- 2/21 Stations of the Cross 2:30
- 2/25 Spirit Day
- 2/27 Virtue Recipient Mass 9:00 | Stations 2:30



### Staff Spotlight

#### Mrs. Sharon Hoover

During the past 25 years, St. Leo's school secretary, Mrs. Sharon Hoover, has witnessed countless changes at the school, but one aspect of her job has remained the same. "I look at the students' faces and I see joy," Mrs. Hoover said. Now,



Mrs. Hoover is beginning a new chapter of her life that still very much includes St. Leo's, but also involves spending more time with her family.

Beginning in January, Mrs. Hoover moved to a part-time position as a school secretary to assist Mrs. Elizabeth Duvall, who joined St. Leo's last year. Mrs. Hoover, who began working at the school in 2001, said it has been, and will remain, a privilege to be a part of such a special community. "I am very blessed," Mrs. Hoover said. "I love every minute of it." The St. Leo tradition runs deep in the Hoover family as her four children attended St. Leo's. Three of her grandchildren are current students.

In semi-retirement, Mrs. Hoover plans to spend more time with her husband, Jim, who retired in December, and her grandchildren. The Hoovers also plan to travel to Italy in 2027. "I'm looking forward to slowing down, enjoying long weekends and going to my grandchildren's activities," Mrs. Hoover said.

While she may not be in the office quite as much, Mrs. Hoover said, she will remain involved in several aspects of the school community because St. Leo's is so dear to her heart. "Everyone here is a family," she said. "There is so much love and kindness and support no matter what. St. Leo's has been a big part of my life that isn't going away."

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### News Around Campus

#### Fruit of the Spirit of Patience



\*Not pictured Zoey Kauffman & Natalie Kiss

As we begin a new year, our school community reflects on the virtue we embraced in December - the Virtue of Patience. During the season of Advent, students were invited to slow down, prepare their hearts, and wait with hope for the birth of Christ.

Patience, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, teaches us to trust in God's timing, remain calm in challenges, and treat others with kindness and understanding. Through classroom lessons, prayer, and reflection, students practiced patience by listening, taking turns, supporting classmates, and responding with grace.

We proudly recognized students who exemplified this virtue through their thoughtful choices and gentle actions. Their example reminded us of Christ's love and inspired our community.

As we move forward, may we continue to practice patience, trust in God, and grow together in faith.

*"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him."  
Psalm 37:7*

#### Employee of the Month

The focus for December was Joy and Spirit, and this month's Employee of the Month beautifully reflects both. To know this honoree is to know joy. She radiates positivity and greets everyone with a genuine smile, even in the busiest moments of the day. Her joyful spirit is felt throughout the school, creating an atmosphere of warmth, encouragement, and hope. She is always willing to help others, stepping in wherever she is needed with kindness and a can-do attitude.



She is one such a spirited member of our faculty, bringing energy and enthusiasm into everything she does. She is constantly dreaming up creative ways to make each day more meaningful and magical for her students, and she dives into activities with wholehearted excitement. Her passion lights up the classroom and inspires both students and colleagues alike.

Beyond the classroom, she shares her joy and spirit by coaching cheerleading and enthusiastically leading our Catholic Schools Week Committee, helping to plan fun, engaging activities that bring our entire school community together.

With heartfelt gratitude, we are proud to announce our Employee of the Month for December... Mrs. Kristin Dusablon!

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### 3rd Grade Retreat - Let's Get to Know the Saints!

Third Grade had their grade retreat on Wednesday, January 21st, when they spent special time learning all about the Saints and how each of us in our own lives are called to strive to live lives of holiness, just like the Saints, in all that we do! We talked about various qualities of Saints that we are all called to exemplify in the way we live, such as being humble, loving, compassionate, merciful, forgiving, prayerful, pious, obedient, selfless, holy...just to name a few!

The students tested their "Saints knowledge" by playing a fun game about various Saints and the symbols known to them - they truly had a great base of knowledge from their Saints Project they did for All Saints Day in November! They then created their own stained glass window for a craft depicting what their own stained glass window will look like, including their picture and the symbol that will be known to each of them uniquely, when they become a Saint! They all did a beautiful job and we filled the windows in the Weber Center with their beautiful stained glass art!



It was a beautiful retreat day, also filled with special prayer time in Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel, and an interactive talk in the church with Fr. Kappes - such a blessing!

As we all strive to live our own life everyday like a Saint, in holiness and dedication to God, we remember the special intercessors that Our Blessed Mother and all the Saints are for us, calling upon them to pray for us in this vocation given to us all - All holy men and women, pray for us!

Blessings,  
Spiritual Life Committee

### Fruit of the Spirit of Kindness



During January, we focused on the beautiful virtue of Kindness - choosing to act with compassion, empathy, and care through our words and actions. We are incredibly proud of our Virtue Recipients, who consistently showed kindness by including others, offering help, demonstrating respect, and spreading positivity throughout our school community.

As Scripture reminds us, "Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ" (Ephesians 4:32). Our January Virtue Recipients lived out this message each day through their caring words and thoughtful actions. Your kind hearts help create a school environment rooted in love, respect, and Christ-centered values. Congratulations to each one of our recipients for being a shining example of Kindness in action!

*Enroll Now!*  
**K-8**

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CATHOLIC | EXCELLENT | AFFORDABLE



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### Catholic Schools Week 2026

Not even 12+ inches of snow could stop Catholic Schools Week at Saint Leo the Great during the last week of January! While two snow days required some specially planned events to be rescheduled for February, our school community still found meaningful ways to celebrate all week long.

On Wednesday, students had the joy of honoring our local first responders by welcoming them to lunch. Parents of our third, fourth, and fifth graders were also invited to join their children for this special lunchtime celebration. Our middle school students spent time making Valentine's cards for veterans, while our younger students created heartfelt thank-you cards for local police officers, firefighters, and paramedics.

Thursday was all about LION pride, with students proudly wearing green and gold! The morning kicked off with exciting games of bingo and fun prizes, and the afternoon wrapped up with our highly anticipated pep rally. Featuring Leo the Lion and student-led games, it was a loud, energetic, and joy-filled celebration of school spirit.



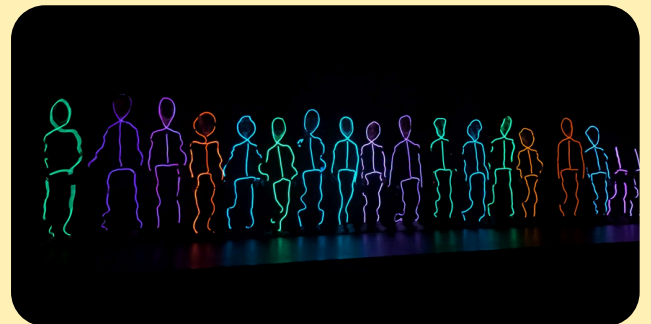
Bravo! Bravo!

St. Leo's annual talent show capped off our Catholic Schools Week celebration in a big way!

Our students took the stage in Parish Hall and shined brightly! We are blessed to have many talented singers and dancers that kept us grooving! We were equally spellbound by our pianist, violinist, and martial arts master as well!

In the show's finale, Eighth graders took the show to the next level with their heartfelt memories of St. Leo's. Class of 2026, you are amazing!

Also, amazing are the parent volunteers and staff who made this wonderful production possible! Thank you for all of your hard work!



A very special thank you goes to Mrs. Kristin Dusablon for her incredible planning, beautiful decorations, and flexibility in rearranging events due to the snow days. Her dedication and hard work truly brought Catholic Schools Week to life for our students and staff.

Despite the snow, Catholic Schools Week at Saint Leo the Great was a beautiful reminder of our strong faith, vibrant community, and LION pride. 🦁❤️