



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

November

Saint Leo the Great Catholic School

2025-2026

Greetings from Mrs. Miller

As we begin the month of November, we are invited into a season of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance. This month begins with two beautiful celebrations in our Catholic faith, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, reminding us of our call to holiness and our connection with all those who have gone before us in faith.



November also gives us an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. As we look toward Thanksgiving, may we continue to recognize God's presence in our daily moments of joy. Let us be mindful of those in need and generous in sharing our gifts, time, and compassion with others.

I am deeply grateful for the spirit of faith, family, and community that shines through in our school. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students grow as disciples of Christ, in wisdom, faith, and love. May this month be filled with peace, gratitude, and God's abundant blessings.

*Blessings,
Mrs. Jennifer L. Miller*

Staff Spotlight

Welcome to our Saint Leo the Great Family Mr. Matthew Hummer

While Mr. Mathew Hummer is a new middle school Language Arts and Latin teacher at St. Leo his roots are deeply planted in our school and church community.

A former St. Leo student himself, Mr. Hummer fondly remembers walking through halls of the school and attending class (although the school looked a little different back then).

Mr. Hummer's expansive teaching career began at Lancaster Catholic High School where he taught English and Latin. He then went on to teach in local and regional public school districts. He holds a master's degree in Classics and Creative Writing.

As an athlete, Mr. Hummer, was part of St. Leo's school soccer team when it was the only Catholic Team in the area! He also coached youth and varsity soccer for more than a decade and was named the LL League Coach of the Year in 2009.

In addition to being a teacher at St. Leo, Mr. Hummer also teaches Latin and Classical Civilization at Alvernia University.

Mr. Hummer is married with five children and has two grandchildren. He said the main reason for him coming back to St Leo is his commitment to prayer. Plus, he said, "The kids are awesome!"

Important Dates

November

- 3rd - Picture Day / Winter Uniform Begins
- 4th - November Birthday Dress Down Day
- 5th - Spirit Day
- 7th - Free Lunch Friday
- 10th - Feast of Saint Leo the Great - Mass 9:00
- 16th - 21st - Discover Catholic Schools Week
- 19th - End of First Trimester
- 24th - 25th - Early Dismissal 12:00 / Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 26th - 30th - No School - Fall Break



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News Around Campus

Grandfriends Day

St. Leo school students welcomed their loved ones during Grandfriends Day on October 24.

During the morning festivities, students in each grade level gathered with grandparents and other special family members and friends to spend time together and celebrate God's love.



Hundreds of Grandfriends played Bingo in Parish Hall, enjoyed refreshments in the gymnasium, spent time on the playground and toured classrooms before ending the celebration with Mass.

Thank you to staff and volunteers for organizing this fun event!

A Field Trip Back in Time

Our 3rd graders took an exciting journey back in time on their field trip to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire! Students experienced what life was like during the time of kings, queens, knights, and castles.

They explored a recreated 16th-century English village filled with costumed performers, shops, and live demonstrations. The students learned about history, art, and culture through interactive shows, crafts, and games. They watched knights joust on horseback, met artisans creating pottery and blacksmithing, and even learned how people dressed and spoke during the Renaissance.

This hands-on adventure brought classroom history lessons to life and encouraged curiosity, creativity, and imagination. Students returned inspired – and maybe even speaking a little "Olde English"!



A Woman's Concern Baby Shower

Students in pre-K through eighth grade filled pack in plays with diapers, baby clothes, toiletries, bottles and more in Parish Hall on Oct 6 th during a baby shower for A Woman's Concern, a parenting and resource center for women in need.



Our students have supported A Women's Concern through donation drives for more than 20 years. Corrienne Sahd, chair of the school Spiritual Life Committee, which organized the event, said the shower is a way for students to give back. "It's a work of mercy and allows children to serve the community," Mrs. Sahd said.

About 900 women and men access services including more than 150 parenting classes provided by A Woman's Concern each year. Material donations are distributed through the center's boutique, located at 1102 Millersville Pike.

During the event, students, teachers, staff and guests prayed the Holy Rosary. At the conclusion of the baby shower, eight of our teachers split up into teams and competed in a race to dress and swaddle two baby dolls.

Mary Ann Albertini, the director of advancement at A Woman's Concern, said the organization depends on the generosity of schools like St. Leo the Great to help struggling families take a step forward. "This is about building strong families that cherish life," Mrs. Albertini said.



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Fifth Grade Retreat: Eucharistic Adoration

On Thursday, October 23rd, we had Fifth Grade retreat with the theme of Eucharistic Adoration. The focus of this retreat is to teach the students all about the real and true, substantial, presence of Jesus in the Eucharist: body, blood, soul, and divinity- and what an amazing gift it is to be able to receive Him in the Eucharist at Mass and spend time adoring Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic Adoration!

We started our day with Mass, and then Fr. Kappes lead us through a very special Eucharistic Adoration, including parts of a Holy Hour that many of the students may have never experienced before, including Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, and Reposition- it was beautiful and very special prayer time!

We also played a game and complete a prayer journal craft all emphasizing our theme of the Eucharist. We talk about transubstantiation, and how during the Eucharistic Celebration at Mass, through the words of Jesus that the priest speaks and the action of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine change in substance TRULY becoming Christ's body and blood- and how important it is to remember Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist!

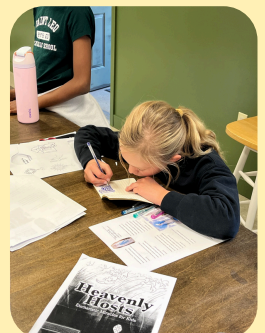


We read a story about Eucharistic Miracles and talk about how amazing these are to hear about and learn about- but we emphasize that although we may not see with our eyes the extraordinary, visible, signs of Christ's flesh and blood in the Eucharist as witnessed by those who have experienced these such miracles, we know by our eyes of faith and in our hearts that a Eucharistic Miracle happens at each and every Mass during the Eucharistic Celebration, when the bread and wine substantially become the body and blood of Jesus! We talk about how unlike Thomas, who had to see Jesus to believe, and did not believe the other disciples saw Him until he saw Him for himself- we believe in our hearts and by our faith that Jesus is TRULY present, body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist.

And in the words of Jesus speaking to Thomas and to all of us through scripture..."Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (John 20:29). Amen.

We had a beautiful (and fun!) day and hopefully stirred into flame the love of Jesus in the Eucharist in the hearts of the students!

Blessings,
Spiritual Life Committee



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All Saint Day Traditions

Our All Saints Day Parade is a beloved tradition here at St. Leo the Great Catholic School. Each year, our Pre-K through 2nd-grade students choose a favorite saint and dress up to honor them. We begin the day with a beautiful All Saints Day Mass, followed by a joyful parade around the school as all the classes line the halls, singing "When the Saints Go Marching In." New this year, our third grade classes researched Saints to create "Saint Cereal Boxes". This was a fun and creative way for the students to research and share about saints while practicing their writing, organization and presentation skills. Instead of a traditional report, students designed a cereal box that highlights important facts and fun details about their saint.

Thank you for helping us keep this wonderful tradition alive and for celebrating the saints who inspire us to live with faith and love each day.



Fruit of the Spirit Recipients



At Saint Leo the Great, we believe that character matters just as much as academics. The Fruit of the Spirit Award is a special way we recognize students who show the values found in *Galatians 5:22-23*; **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

These "fruits" remind us of how God wants us to live and treat others each day. When students show these qualities, whether by helping a friend, showing patience, or choosing kindness, they reflect the heart of Christ in our school community.

By celebrating the Fruit of the Spirit, we encourage students to grow not only in knowledge but also in character. It's a way to remind them that being a good friend, a caring classmate, and a respectful learner are all important parts of their education.

Each time we recognize a student with this award, we celebrate more than just good behavior...we celebrate the work of the Spirit growing in their lives!

Congratulations to our September recipients who demonstrated the Fruit of the Spirit of Love by showing kindness, care, and compassion toward others just as Jesus taught us to do.