



The Lion's Den

Saint Leo Magnus Parish Sesquicentennial Monthly Newsletter
1874 "Building God's Design in Unity for 150 Years!" 2024

NUMBER 7

111 Depot Street + Ridgway + Pennsylvania + 15853

JULY 2024

.....Upcoming

+ PARISH ORGANIZATIONS APPRECIATION +

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024 – 10 a.m. Mass

Let us thank our parish organizations!

At the 10 am liturgy on July 28th – we will honor the two main organizations that have served our parish for over a century: The Catholic Daughters of America (founded here in 1919); and the Knights of Columbus (founded here in 1908). The women and men, who are members of these important service organizations, will be present at the mass – many of them resplendent in their respective order's regalia – so we can pay tribute to their dedication here at Saint Leo and ask for God's continued blessing upon them and their activities! Please join us.

To preserve and promote History, Heritage, Holiness!



Previously.....



↑ **FOUNDER HONORED** – 150 years to the day – June 10, 1874/2024 – when our first resident pastor, Msgr. Michael Meagher, was appointed, over 30 people gathered at his tomb to celebrate mass, and tour his family crypt.



↑ **ALL SMILES** – On June 15th, three of our Faith Formation students: Luca LaBenne, Kinsee MacDonald, and Frankee Shuttleworth celebrated their First Reconciliation. This coming year they will be preparing for their First Holy Communion.



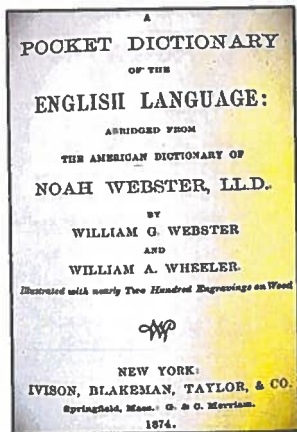
← **RIDGWAY AT 200** – On Saturday, June 22nd, members of our parish and school families participated in the Bicentennial parade along Main Street. Pictured at left on the float are William "Moe" MacDonald as Saint Leo the Great, Father Justin, complete with baretta, and altar boy, Simon Tettis.

150 Years...150 Stories

Each month we will share ten little facts about the history of our parish. If you have any memories or interesting facts, please call Father Justin (814.772.3135). Let the countdown begin!

- #100:** Forty-two priests have served as parochial vicars, weekend assistants, or residents here at Saint Leo since 1908.
- #99:** William O'Hern was assistant priest here from 1908-1910; and Alfred Fischer was assistant from 1910-1914.
- #98:** John Nolan was assistant priest here from 1914-1916; and Thomas Kennedy was assistant from 1916-1920.
- #97:** Maurice Salmon was assistant priest here from 1921-1923; and William Coyle was assistant from 1923-1924.
- #96:** William Moore was assistant priest here from 1924-1927; and James Moriarty was assistant from 1927-1932.
- #95:** James McTague was assistant priest here from 1932-1939; and George Hickey was assistant from 1940-1942.
- #94:** John Coleman was assistant priest here from 1951-1964; and John Buzga was weekend assistant from 1962-1964.
- #93:** J. Leo Anderton was vicar assistant priest here from 1964-1964; and Daniel DeVillars was weekend assistant from 1964-1966.
- #92:** William Driscoll was weekend assistant priest here from 1964-1968; and J. Daniel Dymaki was assistant from 1966-1970.
- #91:** William "Max" Karg was weekend assistant priest here from 1967-1971; and John "Jocko" Lynch was assistant from 1970-1976.
- #90:** Walter Packard was resident priest here from 1971-1972.

Different Time – Different Meaning



In 1921, Frederick Barnard famously quipped: "A picture is worth a thousand words." However, words – and their meanings – often change throughout time. Each month we will look at some words as they were defined in 1874 – the year our parish was officially established by the Bishop of Erie. These definitions are taken from "A Pocket Dictionary of the English Language." By William G. Webster & William A. Wheeler, the title page of which is at left.

Kip'skin, n. Leather from the skin of young cattle.

Lack'ey, n. A footman.

Lamp, a. A vessel with a wick, for giving light.

Lard'er, n. A room where meat is kept.

Lex'icon n. A dictionary.

M... To cover with broken stones

Pope Leo Speaks Again

In the past 2,000 years of the Catholic Church – we have had thirteen popes who have been called Leo. The first – Pope Leo the Great – is our parish patron. The last, Pope Leo XIII reigned from 1878 until his death at age 93 in 1903. Each month we will share images of these two important shepherds and quotes from their prolific writings.



"But it is not only the martyrs who share in his passion by their glorious courage; the same is true, by faith, of all who are born again in baptism. That is why we are to celebrate the Lord's paschal sacrifice with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

~ Saint Leo Magnus

"The family was ordained of God that children might be trained up for Himself; it was before the Church, or rather the first form of the Church on earth."

~ Pope Leo XIII

Oremus

LET US PRAY: A Monthly Offering From Our Hearts

A Prayer for Soldiers

Thank you for the men and women that protect this nation! Father, as they protect us, protect them as well! Lord, You know where they will be today and I pray that You will be there with them to guide them through whatever challenges and trials they face this day. I thank You for these men and women, Lord! I love You!

Amen!



Thanks for the Memories

Saint Leo Parishioners recall the past of our parish's story

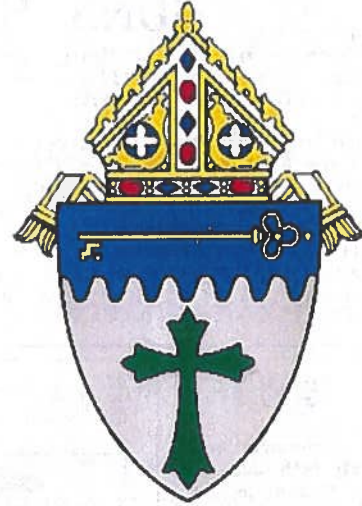
"When I was newly ordained, I was first assigned to teach at Elk Christian High School, with residence at Saint Leo Rectory. It was the year 1971, and there was a television program at the time called 'The Streets of San Francisco.' One week on this show was a storyline about a serial killer, murdering priests in the confessional! With that in my mind, I went to hear confessions in a much-darkened St. Leo Church one Saturday evening as Msgr. Olmsted and Fr. Lynch were elsewhere. It was the old confessional – or as we called it 'The Box' with heavy velvet curtains. As I sat there in the dark – having memories of that serial priest killer on TV – I fell asleep. A penitent came in. When I did not answer, they yelled, 'Father!' I never heard that confession, because I jumped up, tore the velvet curtain off its rail, and ran – as fast as I could – through the church, past the parking lot and half way to the courthouse! Needless to say, I prefer the bright confessional rooms of today, not to mention less violent television viewing before I hear confessions!"

Father Walter E. Packard
Retired Priest of the Diocese of Erie

Thirteen Counties – One Body in Christ

Let us remember the People of God throughout the Diocese of Erie as they celebrate their parish's feast day this month.

Jul. 3 –	St. Thomas, Corry
Jul. 15 –	St. Bonaventure, Grampian
Jul. 16 –	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie
Jul. 25 –	St. James: Erie, Driftwood
Jul. 26 –	St. Anne: Wilcox, Marienville



Requiescat in Pace

Please remember in your prayers the souls of all the dead, in particular those below listed priests who served the Diocese of Erie, and whose death anniversaries are recalled this month of JULY –

- 1 - Rev. Robert G. Fin (2007)
- 2 - Rev. John A. McAndrew (1946)
- 2 - Msgr. Richard J. Sullivan (2016)
- 5 - Rev. Charles Hocking (1983)
- 5 - Rev. Joseph J. Grode (1992)
- 6 - Rev. Patrick F. Maloney (1895)
- 6 - Rev. Thomas Graham (1911)
- 6 - Rev. Daniel J. Prez (2021)
- 8 - Rev. Eugene Danielson (1983)
- 9 - Rev. John M. Hickey (1968)
- 11 - Rev. Francis J. Kaltenbach (1962)
- 11 - Msgr. John W. Murphy (1964)
- 12 - Rev. Timothy B. Sullivan (1957)
- 14 - Rev. David Hartnett (1960)
- 14 - Msgr. James Hopkins (1957)
- 14 - Rev. Anthony Misukiewicz (1962)
- 14 - Rev. Gilio L. Dipre (2015)
- 15 - Rev. Frank A. Hartleb (1958)
- 16 - Rev. John S. Cizmar (1996)
- 18 - Bp. Edward McManaman (1964)
- 18 - Rev. Robert A. Pudlo (1986)
- 19 - Rev. Louis J. Smelko (1924)
- 20 - Rev. John C. McEntee (1895)
- 20 - Msgr. John M. Gannon (2002)
- 21 - Rev. Patrick M. McGrath (1882)
- 22 - Rev. Joseph Malloy (1974)
- 24 - Rev. Joseph H. Diamond (1941)
- 25 - Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie (2022)
- 25 - Rev. Robert F. Bower (2020)
- 26 - Rev. Joseph Simon (1910)
- 27 - Rev. Charles J. Liebel (1953)
- 28 - Msgr. John H. Heibel (1944)
- 29 - Rev. John F. Behan (1952)
- 30 - Rev. John B. Kuehn (1882)
- 31 - Rev. Robert J. Bowes (1954)

**ETERNAL REST
GRANT UNTO THEM
O LORD – AND
PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON THEM!**



Saint Leo Magnus Parish

+ + + + +

Building God's Design in Unity for 150 years!

**WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS,
JOYFULLY PROCLAIMING, SHARING, AND
WITNESSING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE OF JESUS
CHRIST HERE IN THE HEART OF ELK COUNTY
SINCE 1874.**

*The Sesquicentennial
Sweepstakes begins!*



The Second Annual Yearlong 50/50 Raffle tickets are out and about! As of this beginning of this month our winner will receive –

\$5,500

The Back Page of Front Pages Past

Each month we will travel back in time every five (to ten) years throughout the past 150 years to read the headlines both locally and within the Church from old newspapers. Now let us go back to...

July 1909 & June 1914

From *The Cameron County Press* - July 15, 1909

BIG RAILROAD GUNS HERE.

A number of the leading officials of the Pennsylvania R. R., visited Emporium Tuesday evening, remaining here several hours. The party included the head officers of the road, in addition to several of the directors as well as Div. Supt. We understand they decided upon improvements at Emporium in the very near future, especially improvements in depot facilities, both at Emporium and the Junction—the latter to be done this fall.

From *The Catholic Chronicle (Erie, PA)* - July 11, 1914

RELATIVE OF BISHOP YOUNG.

Grandnephew of Erie's Second Bishop Just Ordained a Jesuit.

Rev. Louis J. Young, S. J., grandnephew of the late Rt. Rev. Josue M. Young, D. D., second Bishop of the Diocese of Erie, Pa., and of Rev. Edmund Young, S. J., of Santa Clara, Cal., was ordained to the priesthood in the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Woodstock, Md., on Monday of last week. Father Young will celebrate his first Solemn High Mass in the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, Sanbornville, N. H., near his native village, Acton, Maine, on July 18. His parents are still living at the historic old homestead in Acton.

Rector For 35 Years

Father Meagher Announces on Sunday the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of His Coming to St. Leo's.

From *Ridgway Daily Record*, July 7th, 1909.

The Rev. Father Meagher, Rector of St. Leo's Parish, announced to the members of his church on Sunday last, that that day was the thirty-fifth anniversary of his pastorate at St. Leo's. During that time Father Meagher has won for himself such a place in the community and in the hearts of his parishioners as to make the anniversary one of real significance.

The Rev. Father Meagher has accomplished practically all of his life work thus far, right here in the local parish. He came here as a young clergyman of twenty-two years of age and for thirty-five years he has been the head and leader of the splendid advancement made by his church during that time.

He was born in Ireland, September 8, 1852. He was educated for the priesthood from his early life, beginning the preparatory studies while yet in Ireland. At the age of nineteen he came to America and entered St. Michael's Theological Seminary, in Pittsburg, where he studied for several years in preparation for the work of the church.

On December 19, 1872, he was ordained a sub-deacon, and about the middle of the following month he was ordained deacon of St. Vincent's College, Westmoreland Co., Pa. The next



REV. FATHER MEAGHER, Rector of St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ridgway, Pa.

summer he was ordained priest at the Cathedral of Erie, by Bishop Mullon, and was at once placed in charge of the congregation at Titiloute, Pa. The following December he was sent to Curry, where he became assistant priest in that field.

While in Curry, Father Meagher was appointed rector of the united parishes of Ridgway and Emporium and in July, 1874, he moved to Ridgway. At this time there was only a score of families living in this place who were of the Catholic faith. In the thirty-five years of his pastorate Father Meagher has been instrumental in building up, from this small beginning, the largest congregation in Ridgway. Previous to the coming of Father Meagher, the mission (formerly known as the Sacred Heart of Mary) was in charge of priests from St. Marys, the Roman Catholic Church having been established at that place at the time Benzinger township was founded, in 1842.

Terrribly gored about the face by a vicious cow, Gertrude, the 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fehrenbach, of Windfall road, is lying in a critical condition and will, even if she recovers, bear the scars of her wounds through life. Gertrude and several other children were playing in a field adjoining the Fehrenbach farm and which belongs to F. A. Frey. Mr. Frey was pasturing a herd of cattle, among them being one which had a reputation for viciousness. The cow attacked the child, one of the horns entering Gertrude's mouth and tearing away the nose and a large portion of the cheek. It required 28 stitches to close the wound.

WORLD-WIDE ADORATION.

Suggested for Hour of Eucharistic Congress Procession at Lourdes.

An admirable way of making the chief ceremony of the Eucharistic Congress at Lourdes a world-wide observance is suggested by a correspondent of "America." The great procession of the Blessed Sacrament, he reminds us, will take place on Sunday afternoon, July 26, at 5 o'clock. In our Eastern belt that is high noon. On the Pacific Slope it is 9 o'clock. As the Eucharistic Congress is ending at Lourdes, therefore, we could have in this country an Hour of Adoration, or a Mass of Exposition, followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

Miss Ellen Auchu went to Williamsport last Saturday, where she is the guest of friends and relatives.

P. D. Larry, of Ridgway, called on friends at this place last Sunday afternoon, between trains.

Mose Harris, our hustling young clothing man, was a business caller at Buffalo this week.

*Next month - August 1919 & August 1924