

# Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church

Very Reverend Justin L. Ward, S.T.L, Administrator

## April 18, 2021 The Third Sunday of Easter Year B

Mass Intentions		Lector Schedule	
<b>St. Leo Church</b>		8:00AM	10:00AM
Sunday April 18	8AM †Reginald Thomasson 10AM <i>Pro Populo</i>	April 18	Casey Trusler Denise Duke
<b>St. Francis Church</b>		April 25	Marti Waters Joyce Weiss
1PM	Connie Compton	May 2	Marti Waters Brian Sellers
Please call the Church Office to submit your Mass intentions.		May 9	Casey Trusler Joe Veres

### Welcome Collins Hess!

To the parishioners of St. Leo the Great, Happy Third Sunday of Easter!

My name is Collins Hess and I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Birmingham. I am currently a Pre-Theology student at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH, and I will be completing my first year of philosophical studies online in these last few weeks of April. Upon completing my semester, I will then begin my summer parish assignment here in Demopolis! As some of you might remember, I spent 2-3 weeks with Father Ward this past July of 2020 before I left for seminary, and I've been eager to return to the wonderful town of Demopolis and the newly and beautifully renovated St. Leo's.

As a bit of background on myself, I was born in Huntsville and was raised in the Madison area my entire life. I attended Bob Jones High School and upon graduation I began studying software engineering at Auburn University. During my time at Auburn, I was involved in the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, participated-in and led a few bible studies, and grew in relationship with the Lord through prayer and a community of friends. In those four years at Auburn, the Lord continued to set my heart afire for Himself and He slowly began drawing and attracting me to the Roman Catholic priesthood.

In May of 2020, after much prayer and discernment, I applied to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Birmingham. The Lord has abundantly blessed me in my first year of seminary, most especially through fraternity with my seminarian brothers and meeting the wonderful people of the diocese. St. Augustine was right in saying, "To fall in love with God is the greatest of loves, to seek Him the greatest adventure, to find Him the greatest human achievement." I am excited to meet you all throughout the coming weeks and I have great hope that the Lord will bless our time together!

-Collins

### Last Week's Offertory

4/11/21 St. Leo \$1,773.00

4/11/21 St. Francis \$1,555.00



## *STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In their 2000 pastoral letter *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*, the bishops of the United States called the faithful to embrace an approach to criminal justice that takes into account the dignity of crime victims and their families, communities, and offenders.

The Catholic Home Missions-funded Diocese of Santa Rosa is answering this call for an approach that upholds justice and healing in its six counties of northwestern California, stretching from Napa in the south along the coastline to the Oregon border. The diocese's Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries program ([www.restorejusticesantarosa.org](http://www.restorejusticesantarosa.org)) works to fulfill the bishops' vision through various activities that include support for inmates reentering society, as well as pastoral ministries for crime victims and their families, justice system personnel, and inmates. The program's broad range of goals are being implemented, expanded, and refined yearly with financial assistance from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. When you participate in the appeal, you join in the Church's healing mission of mercy to all.

Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica  
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama