

Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church

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

July 4, 2021 The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Mass Intentions	Lector Schedule
St. Leo Church	9:00AM
Sunday, July 4 9AM	July 4 Petra Miranda
	July 11 Denise Duke



Last Week's Offertory

6/27/21 St. Leo \$1,832.00

Welcome, Fr. George Maniangattu!

This Sunday, July 4th at 9 am, is Father George's first Mass with us at St. Leo the Great. Please come and join us and help us give him a warm welcome to our Parish community!

Meet Father George!

Most churchgoers don't know, or even wonder, why a clergyman dedicates his life to God. Parishioners attend services, pay their tithes and try to grow in their faiths. Maybe they get to know the man who stands before them every Sunday morning. Maybe they don't. At crucial moments - funerals, tragedies - they look to priests for wisdom and grace. How can these men do it, time after time?

Father George Maniangattu has been a Catholic priest for 31 years. He was ordained in India and spent a decade serving there, followed by seven years in the Caribbean. He serves with an inner joy and bubbling personality. He is a stocky, pleasant man, with black hair and wire glasses. He sports an ever-present smile to go with a laugh that quickly turns into a gentle cackle. He has a way of comforting people.

Father George grew up in a deeply religious family, and among his relatives are 16 priests and 17 nuns. None was more revered than his maternal great-great aunt. He first visited her tomb as a child, holding the hand of his mother. It was a rite of passage for him and countless others in his homeland. "There's something special there, a sort of holiness that you can feel," he said. "Your mind is elevated to God. "

In India, Father George said, the population is about 80 percent Hindu, 13 percent Muslim and 7 percent Christian. All faiths are inspired by Sister Alphonsa, he said, but for him it is more personal. "She made me aware of my commitment to Christ," he said. "She carried my cross."

Years ago, when he was barely 15 and fresh off his commitment to the priesthood, he experienced a time of doubt. One rainy summer day, he and about 40 other seminarians went to visit the tomb of Blessed Alphonsa. It was a long journey, about 5 miles. The rain grew more intense, and the wind and water hit Father George in the face. He remembers the water rising past his ankles. But they kept walking. "We felt protected," he said. He kept wondering: Did I make the right decision? Could I give my life to God and serve as a priest? They reached the chapel that holds the tomb. Father George stood in front of the white casket that holds Blessed Sister Alphonsa's remains. In front of it was an altar and large, wall-length crucifix. The room was quiet and serene. His doubts soon diminished. The young man, soaked with rain and shivering from the cold wind, felt warm and comforted. He knelt, bowed his head and prayed. "I was feeling peace of mind, and I could feel her presence," Father George said. "She is the same blood as I am. In India, families are very close. She is part of my family and religion, and she brought me peace." (Information found in an article on OCALA.com)

Welcome to our Parish community at St. Leo the Great Father George Maniangattu!

Hispanic Bible Study on Wednesdays

We will be offering a Hispanic Bible study on Wednesdays. The study will start on July 2, at 4 pm until Wednesday, July 28th.

New Lector Schedule

Since the Mass schedule has changed, a new lector schedule will need to be composed. Please email the office at office.stleo.info if you would like to be a lector at 9am Holy Mass.

YA Movie Night and Discussion

Mary Hays will be hosting a movie and discussion of *The Chosen* on Wednesday, July 7 @ 6:30. *The Chosen* is a TV series that follows the ministry of Jesus Christ and the calling of His disciples. If you are a high school graduate and are interested in joining the Young Adult Group, please contact Mary at DRE@stleo.info.