



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2024

Public Invited to Saint Leo University Christmas Celebrations, Concerts

► *Campus will Host Christmas Village, Campus Lighting, Blessing of Manger, and More on Thursday, December 5*

► *'A Saint Leo Christmas' Concerts to be at Holy Name Monastery, Abbey Church*

ST. LEO, FL - Saint Leo University invites the local community to celebrate the Christmas season at its campus! All events are free and open to all ages. Saint Leo will kick off the holidays on Thursday, December 5, with its Christmas Celebration and its *A Saint Leo Christmas* concerts (4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at two locations).

The schedule is as follows:

A Saint Leo Christmas – holiday concert

4 p.m., Benedictine Sisters of Florida's Holy Name Monastery, 12138 Wichers Road, St. Leo, FL 33574 (across the County Road 52 from the university).

Christmas Village

5 – 7 p.m., Saint Leo University Student Activities Building loggias and clock tower courtyard

The holiday "village" is co-sponsored by the town of St. Leo and will feature local vendors, food, activities, special guests from the North Pole, and Christmas decorations

Campus Lighting and Manger Blessing

5:45 p.m., Saint Leo University walkway by Leo the Lion sculpture

This is the annual blessing of the university's Nativity scene and throwing the switch to light Saint Leo's campus.

Christmas Carols

6:45 p.m., meet at Saint Leo University lion statue walkway

Walk to the Saint Leo Abbey Church by candlelight and sing along to popular Christmas carols

A Saint Leo Christmas – holiday concert and sing-along
7 p.m., Saint Leo Abbey Church

Concert Information

With *A Saint Leo Christmas* concerts being held in the beautiful spaces of Holy Name Monastery and Saint Leo Abbey Church, Dr. Cynthia Selph, director of the university's music program, is making selections "that will fill those hallowed spaces with gorgeous music that celebrates both the sacred and cultural meaning of Christmas," she said. Highlights will be choral music including *O Magnum Mysterium* by Morten Lauridson, *What Sweeter Music* by John Rutter, and *Ave Maria* by David MacIntyre, in addition to familiar Christmas carols in a sing-along with the audience.

The Saint Leo Rhythm Machine will feature some jazz arrangements of familiar Christmas tunes such as *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. The string ensemble also will be featured in the concert, and Dr. Kyle Cherwinski will share some Christmas music on the marimba.

There is no charge for the concerts, but donations are welcome to help send some Saint Leo students to perform at Carnegie Hall in March. Donations may be made [online](https://onthestage.tickets/saint-leo-university/campaigns/support-your-arts-pride-at-saint-leo-university-4190) (<https://onthestage.tickets/saint-leo-university/campaigns/support-your-arts-pride-at-saint-leo-university-4190>). A QR code for donations will be available at the concerts.

Seating is first come, first served with the Holy Name Monastery being a smaller space for the 4 p.m. concert. For more information about the concerts, email chantelle.macphee@saintleo.edu.

Christmas Celebration Information

Saint Leo University is at 33701 County Road 52, St. Leo, FL 33574. Free parking is available in surface lots and in the campus garage.

Those with questions or who need more information may email heidi.dambrosio02@saintleo.edu.

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Photo cutlines/captions:

A Saint Leo Christmas in 2023 featured students singing Christmas classics.

In 2023, Saint Leo University lit up the campus and hosted its Christmas Village. Guests gathered for the lighting ceremony and enjoyed local vendors.

About Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University is a Catholic Benedictine university dedicated to helping learners of all backgrounds and ages gain the competence and courage to be more. Offering more than 60 degree programs to more than 14,190 students each year, the nonprofit university is known for providing a values-based education in the liberal arts tradition and a community of belonging for those who seek a greater purpose in life. Saint Leo is regionally accredited and offers a campus in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, regional education centers, and several online programs. The university is home to more than 106,000 alumni. Learn more at saintleo.edu.

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