

Double dress down days

for double prayers!

- Show God's love toward others by helping a parish family
- Dress down days are on March 17th and 18th
- You may wear **green** on **March 17th** for St. Patrick's day, and **red** for St. Joseph on **March 18th**.
- **REMEMBER:** you must bring a dollar or more each day in order to dress down
- Let's ask our neighbors, friends and fellow parishioners to pray for the Barbato family.



GOD BLESS!!!

About Baby Leo Barbato, written by his mom Bridget

As many of you know, Michael and I welcomed our beautiful son, Leo Barbato, into the world on January 16th, 2020. Leo was born with several serious, complex and extremely rare congenital heart defects.

Little Leo's heart has captured ours in more ways than we could have imagined. ♥ We have loved him since the day we discovered we were pregnant. He is a part of our family and has already changed all of us for the better. We don't know what the future holds but hope there's some happiness in the cards for us...for him. I think Leo chose us to be his family for a reason. I don't know exactly why at this time, but I have faith that more will be revealed. Perhaps we were meant to be his advocates, and for countless other children like him. There is no cure for Leo's heart defects, only repairs that come at great risk to his life.

To backtrack a little – Michael and I learned we were expecting our Leo on Mother's Day, 2019. We first learned of Leo's diagnosis when I was 20 weeks pregnant at our anatomy scan. Words cannot describe the devastation. I honestly wasn't sure I was capable of handling any more sadness. It was the lowest point in my entire life. We were absolutely heartbroken.

Our entire world changed that day.

We were given three options: to terminate immediately (within a couple of weeks), to carry him full-term and put him in comfort care (hospice), or to pursue surgical treatments and go 100% in, and do everything within our power to save his life. We agonized with the idea that maybe he would suffer immensely and would never have the semblance of a normal life. Many were not optimistic about his outcomes. We were in the most uncharted territory of our lives. We prayed every day. We begged for answers and to be led in the right direction. We have never experienced more heartbreak and agony in our entire lives. The next couple of weeks after our diagnosis were unbearable. We were living in our greatest nightmare imaginable. It was a living hell. I took several weeks off from work to seek answers from every resource imaginable.

After weeks of hardly being able to get out of bed to care for my toddler, Michael and I decided to take the biggest leap of faith imaginable. We chose to have our baby – this baby we so desperately wanted – we chose to have him, and to find the best medical team in the world to help him.