

# ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH

*We are a welcoming Catholic Community  
called by God to live out the message of  
Christ in love and service to all people.*

*April 19, 2026*



Saint George/Feast Day April 23/Carlo Crivelli

28290 BEAUMONT ROAD, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134 • PHONE (239) 992-0901  
WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG • OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM  
DAILY MASS: MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8 AM • CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 2PM-3PM  
SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES: 3:30 & 5:30 PM • SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM & 5 PM

MISA EN ESPAÑOL DOMINGO - 3 PM Y LAS CONFESIONES ANTES DE LA MISA • MASS IN POLISH: 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - 1:30 PM

# Parish Staff

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rev. Jarek (Jaroslaw) Sniosek..... | Pastor                          |
| Rev. Gustavo Correa Garcia.....    | Parochial Vicar                 |
| Rev. Mr. Charles Ferraro.....      | Deacon                          |
| Rev. Mr. Dale Bacik.....           | Deacon                          |
|                                    |                                 |
| Juliana Alfano.....                | Musician                        |
| Dan Bardauskis.....                | Liturgy Assistant               |
| Anne Bellows.....                  | Communications Coordinator      |
| Hermilo Calderon.....              | Lead Maintenance                |
| Griselda Cisneros.....             | Receptionist                    |
| Maria Fernandez.....               | Religious Education Assistant   |
| Daniel Gonzalez.....               | Maintenance                     |
| Elsy Hernandez.....                | Operations Supervisor           |
| Marcin Malewski.....               | Director of Music               |
| Martha Mercado.....                | Maintenance                     |
| Gisela Meraz.....                  | Religious Education Coordinator |
| Henry Soto.....                    | Business Manager                |
| Milana Strezeva.....               | Musician                        |
| Marie Talley.....                  | Musician                        |
| Winter Talley.....                 | Musician                        |

# Parish Church Support

Thank you for your continued generosity!

April 11 & 12  
\$42,539

# Celebrating our Faith

## BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Baptisms of children under 7 years old are offered every fourth Sunday of each month in Spanish and every second Sunday of the month in English. Please visit our website or contact our office for details and requirements.

## CONFIRMATION

At confirmation we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and confirm and renew our baptismal promises committing to a life of maturity in the Christian faith. Unconfirmed Catholics wishing to receive the Sacrament should contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for suitable instruction. Unbaptized or non-Catholics can be confirmed at the Easter Vigil when they are baptized or received into the Church as a part of Order of Christian Initiation of Adult. To enroll in OCIA, please call Griselda Cisneros at 992-0901.

## EUCCHARIST

Parishioners who wish to bring communion to their spouses should contact the parish office to pick up a pyx with the St. Leo's inscription on it. Please use this pyx when approaching to receive a host for your spouse or a family member in the Communion procession during Mass. If you need to receive a gluten free host due to a medical condition please arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins and inform the Sacristan.

## RECONCILIATION

Individual confession with a priest is the principal means of absolution and reconciliation of grave sins within the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation frees us from sinful patterns of behavior and calls us to complete conversion to Christ. Confessions are heard at 1:30pm-3:00pm on Saturday in English during season and 2pm on Sunday in Spanish in the Church. You may also approach any of our parish priests to hear your confession at another suitable time.

## THE RITE OF ANOINTING

A person does not need to wait until the point of death to receive this sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient. The Sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after the anointing but becomes ill once again, or if, during the same illness, the person's condition becomes more serious. For those who are about to depart from this life, the Church offers the person Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and the Eucharist as Viaticum (food for the journey) given at the end of life. Contact the Parish Office at 992-0901 to be connected with the priest on duty.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

If you are a registered parishioner of St. Leo and plan to marry in our parish please contact our office at least six months prior to the tentative wedding date. Weddings cannot be scheduled until the marriage preparation process is complete and it is determined that the parties are free to marry.

## ANNULMENT - Reestablishing the freedom to marry.

An annulment is more accurately described as a declaration of matrimonial invalidity. It is an official determination made by an ecclesiastical court that at the time of the marital consent exchanged by the parties a specific component of the marriage was lacking or defective. Hence, the marriage failed to be a marriage as defined by the Catholic Church. If you wish to reestablish your freedom to marry in the Church, please contact a parish priest to be your advocate in presenting your case to the Tribunal.

## VOCATION

If you think that you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life please speak with one of our priests, or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations at 941-484-9548, visit [www.dioceseofvenice.org/vocations](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/vocations)

ONLINE GIVING  
[WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG)

# 2026 CFA

## Making Your Pledge to the Catholic Faith Appeal

Our new CFA goal for 2026 is \$664,000. Please consider making a pledge to help us pay our Diocesan tax directly. We encourage you to do this, as this is the best and most efficient way to help the parish. You may have already received a pledge card in the mail from the diocese, or you can pick one up at the doors of the church or in the Parish Office. The funds collected support numerous ministries throughout the Church.



Our Goal..... \$664,000

Contributions to date.. \$450,484

Goal Attained..... 70.99%

= 10% of Goal

# Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, April 25

3:30 pm Fr. Jarek

5:30 pm Fr. Jarek

Sunday, April 26

7:30 am Fr. Jack

9:30 am Fr. Jack

11:30 am Fr. Stan

3:00 pm-Spanish Fr. Gustavo

5:00 pm Fr. Stan

*Changes may occur without notice.*

# Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHEN HOPE WALKS BESIDE ME

"Were not our hearts burning within us...?" (Luke 24:32)

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus are not walking with confidence. They are walking with disappointment. They had hoped for something different, something clearer, something that made more sense. And like many of us, they are trying to process their confusion by talking it through, turning it over, and still not seeing what is right in front of them... which, if we are honest, is something we have all done at least once before breakfast. Then Jesus draws near, not with impatience, but with steady companionship.

That is often how the Lord works. He meets us while we are still sorting things out. He comes beside us when our expectations have collapsed, when faith feels dim, when life has not gone according to plan. He does not always solve everything instantly. Sometimes He first walks with us, listens to us, opens the Scriptures, and slowly rekindles what disappointment had nearly extinguished.

Then comes the moment of recognition in the breaking of the bread. That is where everything shifts. They realize He had been with them all along. It is a beautiful reminder that Christ is often closest when we think He is absent. We may not recognize Him in the moment, but later we look back and think, "Of course. He was there." Grace can be like that. Quiet at first. Obvious later.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, walk with me when I feel disappointed, confused, or tired. Open my heart to Your presence, and help me recognize You in Scripture, in the Eucharist, and in the ordinary roads of my life. Amen. Acts 2:14, 22 to 33; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:17 to 21; Luke 24:13 to 35

MONDAY, APRIL 20 - WHEN I KEEP CHASING WHAT DOES NOT LAST

"Do not work for food that perishes." (John 6:27)

The crowd goes looking for Jesus, but He gently exposes what is really driving them. They want more bread. More proof. More immediate satisfaction. In other words, they are not so different from us. We also spend a great deal of time chasing what fills us for an hour, a day, maybe a week, while quietly neglecting what nourishes the soul. Human beings can be very efficient at pursuing what leaves us empty. It is almost a talent. If it were an Olympic event, some of us would at least qualify.

Jesus does not shame them. He redirects them. He invites them to desire something deeper, something that does not fade as quickly as applause, comfort, control, or distraction. He points them toward the work of God, which begins not with frantic effort, but with faith. Believe in the one He has sent. That sounds simple, but it is not shallow. It means letting Christ become the center instead of the backup plan.

Stephen shows us what that looks like in the first reading. He stands in truth, grace, and wisdom even when others twist his words. He is not sustained by popularity or approval, but by God. That is the deeper bread. Not just getting through the day, but being anchored within it. There is a difference between being busy and being fed. Jesus is inviting us to notice that difference before we burn out while calling it productivity.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, free me from chasing what cannot truly satisfy. Feed my heart with what is lasting, and teach me to seek You more seriously than I seek comfort, approval, or quick fixes. Amen. Acts 6:8 to 15; Psalm 119; John 6:22 to 29

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 - WHEN THE WORLD FEELS HARD... AND YOU REMAIN ENOUGH

"I am the bread of life." (John 6:35)

The people ask Jesus for a sign, even after signs have already been given. That, too, feels familiar. We often say we want clarity, but sometimes what we really want is certainty on our terms. We want God to make things obvious, neat, and undeniable. Preferably by noon... and in a way that leaves no room for interpretation. But Jesus does not give them a performance. He gives them Himself. "I am the bread of life." Not a shortcut. Not a slogan. A relationship. That changes the question. The deepest hunger in us is not solved by better circumstances alone. It is not even solved by answers to every spiritual question. At the center of Christian faith is not merely information, but communion. Christ Himself becomes the nourishment we need when life feels thin, painful, or confusing. We often think, "If only this problem disappeared, then I would be at peace." Jesus says, in effect, "Come to me, and I will sustain you even before everything is resolved."

Stephen's martyrdom reveals that same mystery in a striking way. Even in violence and rejection, he is not abandoned. He sees heaven opened. He forgives. He entrusts himself to God. That does not make suffering small, but it does reveal that grace can hold a person even there. The bread of life does not keep us from every hardship. It keeps hardship from having the final word. And that is no small thing.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, You know the hungers I carry and the places where I still ask for one more sign. Help me come to You more honestly, and let Your presence become the strength that holds me together. Amen. Acts 7:51 to 8:1a; Psalm 31; John 6:30 to 35

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 - WHEN LIFE BREAKS APART... AND GRACE KEEPS MOVING

"There was great joy in that city." (Acts 8:8)

At first glance, today's readings feel almost contradictory. The Church is being persecuted. People are scattered. Saul is violently attacking believers. And yet somehow, in the middle of all that disruption, the Gospel spreads and joy appears in Samaria. It is one of those holy reversals that reminds us God is never trapped by the chaos that unsettles us. What looks like collapse can become the beginning of something new.

We know this pattern, even if we do not always like it. A plan falls apart. A relationship shifts. A season of life unravels. We feel scattered, and our first thought is usually not, "Perhaps

grace is quietly moving." Usually it is something more spiritual like, "Wonderful. Now what?" the prayer we rarely admit we are actually saying. But God has a way of working even through the very things we would not have chosen.

Jesus says He will not reject anyone who comes to Him. That is such a steadying promise. In a world where people are dismissed quickly, Christ receives. He gathers. He keeps. The scattered are not forgotten. The wounded are not disqualified. The story is not over simply because it has become messy. Sometimes resurrection begins not when everything is repaired, but when we let ourselves be held by God in the middle of the mess.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, when life feels scattered or uncertain, keep me from despair. Help me trust that Your grace is still at work, and gather the broken pieces of my life into something filled with Your joy. Amen. Acts 8:1b to 8; Psalm 66; John 6:35 to 40

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 - WHEN GOD MEETS ME ON THE ROAD

"Do you understand what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30)

There is something quietly beautiful about today's first reading. A man is searching. He is sincere, intelligent, and still confused. He is reading Scripture, but he knows he needs help. And God sends Philip right into that moment. Not with arrogance, but with guidance. It is a reminder that faith is not a private puzzle we are meant to solve alone, even though many of us try for a while before realizing how frustrating that becomes.

That takes humility on both sides. The Ethiopian official is open enough to admit, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And Philip is ready enough to respond, to go where God sends him, begin with the question in front of him, and speak about Jesus in a way the man can receive. There is wisdom here for all of us. Some of us need to ask for help more readily. Some of us need to be more attentive to those whom God places in our path.

Then the Gospel brings us to the living bread from heaven. Jesus is not only giving ideas or inspiration. He is giving Himself for the life of the world. Faith is not merely understanding more. It is being drawn into communion with the One who alone can satisfy our deepest hunger. And once that happens, joy follows. Not because we have mastered everything, but because we have met the One who changes everything.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, meet me on the road where I am searching, questioning, or unsure. Send the guidance I need, make me teachable, and draw me more deeply into the life You offer. Amen. Acts 8:26 to 40; Psalm 66; John 6:44 to 51

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 - WHEN GRACE INTERRUPTS MY CERTAINTY

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4)

Saul is absolutely certain he is right, which is often a dangerous place to be. History, and our own lives, give us more than a few examples. He is convinced, energetic, committed, and completely wrong. Then Christ confronts him, not to destroy him, but to transform him. The light knocks him down, but the deeper miracle is that it opens him up.

Most of us do not travel to Damascus with arrest warrants, but we do carry our own certainties. We form judgments, cling to narratives, defend habits, and assume we know exactly who others are. Then grace interrupts. Sometimes through prayer, sometimes through suffering, sometimes through a truth we did not want to hear. It is rarely comfortable. But it is often the beginning of freedom.

The Gospel presses even deeper into communion. Jesus gives not just teaching, but His own life. He wants to remain in us, and us in Him. That is the heart of the Christian life. Not admiration from a distance, but union. Real change begins when we stop treating Jesus as an idea and begin receiving Him as life itself.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, interrupt whatever in me resists Your truth. Expose my blindness with mercy, lead me into real conversion, and draw me into deeper union with You. Amen. Acts 9:1 to 20; Psalm 117; John 6:52 to 59

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 - FEAST OF SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST

WHEN HUMILITY CARRIES THE GOSPEL FARTHER

"Clothe yourselves with humility." (1 Peter 5:5)

Saint Mark's feast gives us both urgency and grounding. Jesus sends His disciples into the whole world to proclaim the Gospel, but Peter reminds us that the Christian way is clothed in humility. That matters. Because it is possible to speak about God in a way that draws people closer, and it is also possible to speak in a way that sounds more like ego with religious vocabulary, something most of us have done at least once, usually without realizing it at the time.

Peter's words feel especially practical. Cast your worries on the Lord because He cares for you. Stay alert. Resist what would pull you away from faith. Remain firm. Most spiritual battles are not fought in grand moments. They happen in ordinary situations when patience thins or discouragement quietly takes hold.

Then comes the sending: "Go into the whole world." For most of us, that world begins closer than we think. It begins at home, at work, in conversation, in how we treat others when no one is applauding, and sometimes not even noticing. The most convincing witness is rarely the loudest voice, but the one that has clearly spent time with Christ.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, clothe me with humility and make me a faithful witness to Your Gospel. Help me cast my worries on You, remain firm in faith, and share Your truth with quiet courage and love. Amen. 1 Peter 5:5b to 14; Psalm 89; Mark 16:15 to 20

For the full version of each day's reflection,  
visit [CatholicJourneyToday.com](http://CatholicJourneyToday.com)  
and journey deeper with Scripture, prayer, and daily encouragement.

# WHEN STRENGTH SPEAKS LOUD... AND CHRIST SPEAKS QUIETLY

*Third Sunday of Easter*

*by Father Jarek*

There is a kind of strength that is easy to recognize. It is confident, decisive, and visible. It speaks quickly, answers immediately, and carries itself with a certainty that leaves little room for hesitation. It knows where it stands and moves forward without looking back. In a world that often feels unsettled, that kind of strength can feel reassuring. It gives the impression that someone is in control, that things are clear, that nothing important will be lost.

And if we are honest, we feel the pull of it ourselves. Not only in the voices around us, but within us. In the conversation where we want the last word. In the moment we feel misunderstood and instinctively begin to defend. In the quiet replay afterward, when we think of what we should have said, how we could have made our point more clearly, how we might come across as stronger next time. We want to be right. We want to be heard. We want to protect what matters to us. Beneath all of that is something even deeper: a quiet desire to feel secure, to not be dismissed, to not lose our place.

And yet, most of us also know the cost of that kind of strength. A conversation that could have drawn two people closer instead leaves a subtle distance. A family discussion becomes a quiet standoff. We may win the point, but something in the relationship weakens. It is a strange kind of victory, one that proves something, but does not quite give life.

Into that familiar space, this Sunday's Gospel offers something different. Two disciples walk away from Jerusalem, not with clarity, but with disappointment. "We were hoping..." they say. It is one of the most human sentences in all of Scripture. Anyone who has trusted, prayed, or waited knows what lives inside those words. They are not arguing. They are not defending. They are simply carrying the weight of what did not unfold the way they thought it would.

And it is there, in that unguarded place, that Jesus comes alongside them. He does not interrupt them or correct them immediately. He walks with them. He listens. He allows them to speak their confusion fully, even though He already knows the truth they cannot yet see. Then, patiently, He opens the Scriptures. Not to win an argument, but to reveal a deeper meaning. Not to prove Himself, but to lead them gently toward recognition. And only later, in the breaking of the bread, are their eyes opened. That is how Christ reveals Himself. Not through display, but through presence. Not through force, but through truth. Not through self assertion, but through love that is willing to remain, to listen, and to wait.

The same quiet strength appears in the early Church. Peter speaks with clarity, but not to elevate himself. He points beyond himself to Christ, crucified and risen. His voice carries conviction, but it is not rooted in dominance. It is rooted in witness. And the First Letter of Peter reminds us why: we were not saved by power or influence, not by what impresses for a moment, but by the precious blood of Christ. Not through domination, but through sacrifice.

Christ does not reject strength. He redefines it. True strength does not need to prove itself. It is rooted in humility, truth, and love. It listens before it speaks. It remains steady without needing to win. And often, it feels like losing in the moment. It feels like holding back when you could press forward, choosing patience when you could make your case, letting go when you could be right. But that is precisely where its depth is revealed. Because it does not seek to win a moment. It seeks to give life.

We know how difficult that is. Mercy does not always feel effective. Restraint does not always seem strong. Forgiveness does not always feel fair. And yet we also know what happens without them.

Conversations harden. Relationships strain. Distance quietly grows. The very things we were trying to protect begin to erode. The disciples on the road knew that feeling, and so do we. But the Gospel does not leave us there. Christ draws near. He walks with us while we are still sorting things out. He speaks into our confusion, not with pressure, but with patience. And if we allow Him, He opens our eyes, often quietly, often gradually, in ways we only recognize later.

In a world where so much depends on being seen, being right, and being heard, the Gospel offers something steadier. A deeper way of living. A reminder that not every show of strength leads to life, and not every loud voice carries truth. "Lord, you will show us the path of life." Not the path of proving or winning, but the path of life. And so the question becomes very simple, and very personal: In the moments that matter most, what kind of strength am I choosing? Because it is there, on the quiet road of ordinary conversations and unseen decisions, that Christ comes alongside us, stays with us, and, in His time, opens our eyes and sets our hearts on fire again.

## Prayer

*Lord Jesus, stay with me, especially when hope feels dim and the road feels longer than I expected. When I feel the need to prove myself, to defend, to hold on tightly to being right, gently draw me into Your way. Teach me a different kind of strength, the strength to listen, the courage to remain patient, and the freedom that comes from letting go.*

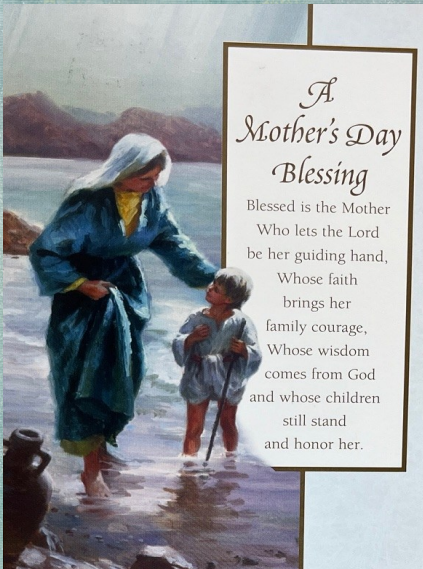
*Walk with me in the ordinary moments where so much is decided, in conversations that shape my relationships, in quiet choices no one else sees. Open the Scriptures to me, and help me recognize You not in what is loud or immediate, but in what is true and lasting.*

*When I am tempted to win at the cost of love, slow me down. When I am certain I am right, give me the humility to pause. When I feel overlooked or misunderstood, remind me that I am already seen and known by You.*

*Make my heart burn again, not with the need to prove, but with faith, hope, and love. Lead me always on the path of life. Amen.*

April 22nd

Earth  
Day



*A  
Mother's Day  
Blessing*

Blessed is the Mother  
Who lets the Lord  
be her guiding hand,  
Whose faith  
brings her  
family courage,  
Whose wisdom  
comes from God  
and whose children  
still stand  
and honor her.

Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets  
to remember your loved ones  
are available in the front entrance  
of the church and in the Parish Office.

# FORMED

THE WILD GOOSE



We are pleased to provide for all our of parishioner the ability to access this wonderful website filled with thousands of wide ranging movies, programs, audios, such as the Lives of Saints of History and Modern Day, The Sacraments, Bible Study, Children's Entertainment, Praying at Home, and Movie Night selections.

To access FORMED choose the link on our website, search "St Leo Bonita" to find us in the drop box, and sign up for your own account.

## *We Pray for the Recently Deceased of Our Parish*

Joseph Kleer  
Audrey Ciserella



## **Volunteers Needed for Prison Outreach**

Join the team of Diocesan volunteers who enter county jails and state prisons within the 10-county Diocese of Venice to do pastoral outreach, distribute the Eucharist and facilitate programs. Priests, Deacons, and lay volunteers are encouraged to assist in this ministry. Volunteers will first participate in an orientation program before entering the facility and will shadow experienced volunteers until they feel comfortable. Times and days vary by facility.

Please contact Joe Mallof at 224-217-7139 or  
Bob Hiniker at 863-558-0407  
to learn where you can fit into this joyful opportunity.

# Welcome to St. Leo Church

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

- Kimberly Perez-Hernandez
- William Halcisak
- Alejandro, Mary Luz, Mateo & Maria Matallana
- Dino Juliano
- Goerge Raab III
- Tom & Susan Ludwick
- Bridget Bartkowiak
- Lon & Julianne Voigt
- Marcos, Niurka & Marcos Cotayo-Lopez Jr.
- Kimberly Perez-Hernandez
- William Halcisak
- Leonardo Gonzalez
- Deyla Salinas
- Rosa Gutierrez
- Leo Gutierrez
- Norma Vielma
- Cristian Lopez
- Esther Favela
- Asunsion Penaloza



The St. Leo Ladies' Guild awards four, \$4000 scholarships to individuals interested in furthering their education at a university, community college, or a technical or trade school.

Applicants must have been members of St. Leo the Great parish for at least one year prior to submitting an application and demonstrate an involvement in St. Leo activities, in their school or in their local community.

**Applications are due by April 27th and may be obtained in the parish office or by contacting Clare Sasak at [cesak27@aol.com](mailto:cesak27@aol.com) or Judie Dougherty at [jmdougherty6229@gmail.com](mailto:jmdougherty6229@gmail.com)**

# Chrism Mass 2026

Bishop Dewane was joined by over 150 priests across the Diocese for the annual Chrism Mass on March 31st here at St. Leo. At the Chrism Mass the Bishop consecrates the sacred Chrism oil and blesses two other oils used throughout the year for the administration of the sacraments at the Diocese's 61 parishes. In addition the priests renewed their Priestly Promises, giving them the opportunity to recall their ordination and to reflect on their ongoing priestly vocation and to remind them of their call to act *in person Christi*. This is the largest annual gathering of the clergy for the Sacrifice of the Mass.



# St. Leo Food Bank

**"The need has never been greater."**

The St. Leo Food Bank is always in need of supplies to share with local food pantries.

**All unopened, non-perishable foods that are not expired are welcomed.**

**You may continue to drop off your donations when you come to Mass,  
or at our office Monday - Friday from 8am-3pm.**

## THESE ITEMS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED

### MOST NEEDED

- COOKING OIL
- DRIED BEANS
- MASECA (CORN TORTILLA FLOUR)
- WHITE RICE

- TOOTHPASTE
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- BAR SOAP
- SHAMPOO/BODY WASH
- TOILET PAPER
- ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES

- CANNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES
- CANNED TUNA & CHICKEN
- FLOUR & SUGAR
- CANNED SOUP

- POWDERED MILK
- PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
- CEREAL
- JUICE

**If you prefer, you may donate money directly to St Leo Food Bank. These funds will be dispersed to those in need both directly, and through our partner parishes and organizations.**

Catholic Charities is in need of volunteers to help with food pantry distribution every other Wednesday from 9am to noon at their building on the St. Leo campus.

If you would like to help please contact Michael Vega at 239-270-3291 or [mvega@ccdov.org](mailto:mvega@ccdov.org)

The St. Leo Food Bank supports Catholic Charities on our campus, Café of Life in Bonita Springs, as well as the food pantries at the parishes of Jesus the Worker (Ft. Myers), St. Margaret (Clewiston) and Our Lady Queen of Heaven (LaBelle).

**If you need assistance from Catholic Charities for food, financial assistance, or tele-mental health counseling, please call 239-390-2928 between the hours of 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.**

### TO DONATE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND CLOTHING BRING THEM TO:

Our Lady of Light Thrift Shop  
24600 S. Tamiami Tr. Ste. 600A (992-1576)

St. Vincent de Paul Resale Shop  
3725 Bonita Beach Road (992-1899)

## The Perpetual Baby Shower



Please remember all the infants who are in need of diapers and new clothes. Their toddler brothers and sisters grow so fast and need clothes also.

The Ladies of St. Leo Guild thank all of you for your past support. Contributions may be left in the donation boxes at the doors of the church or taken to the parish office.

## BABIES ALWAYS NEED

- WIPES
- FORMULA
- BABY WASH
- BABY SHAMPOO
- DIAPERS (ESPECIALLY SIZE 6)



**WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!**

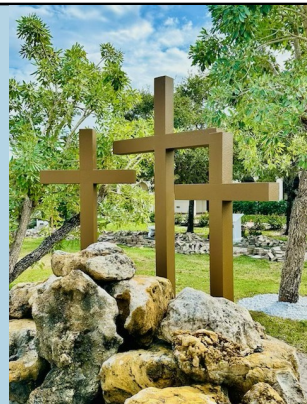
## Warm Welcome to Deacon Dale

We warmly welcome Rev. Mr. Dale A. Bacik to St. Leo the Great Parish. Ordained a deacon in 1985 for the Diocese of Cleveland, Deacon Dale brings with him decades of faithful service, a steady vocational commitment, and the practical wisdom of his years as a professional electrical engineer. Together with his wife, Jen, his partner in life since 1969, he has built a rich family life centered on their five children and eleven grandchildren. Having made Florida their home for over twenty years, they come to us not as strangers, but as neighbors already rooted in the rhythms of this place.

Deacon Dale speaks simply and beautifully about his calling: to help others find God in the ordinary moments of daily life. That quiet attentiveness is at the heart of diaconal ministry, and it is a gift to any parish. As he joins us, he does so with a spirit of gratitude and a desire to walk alongside this community in faith. We are grateful to the Bishop for this assignment, and we look forward to the ways Deacon Dale will help us continue to grow together as a people united in Christ, learning to recognize His presence not only in the Church, but in the unfolding of our everyday lives.



## MEMORIAL BRICKS FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS GARDEN



As part of the renovation of the St. Leo Stations of the Cross Garden, the St. Leo Ladies' Guild will be handling the ongoing ordering, installing and maintaining of brick memorials to be placed within the garden. Placing a brick in this sacred space, whether in memory of a loved one, to mark a special event, or celebrate an anniversary is a timeless way to remember what matters most in our lives.

**Memorial bricks may be ordered in two sizes – 4"x 8" (\$125) or 12"x12" (\$300). Brochures with order forms are available in the parish office. The next cutoff date for brick orders will be May 31<sup>st</sup> and installation of bricks placed with this order is expected in July.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR STUDENTS WHO WILL BE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST.**



**Please Pray for Our Confirmation Students**



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## Our Capital Improvement Fund

Our Capital Improvement Fund allows us to collect assessment free money to be used for necessary repairs and projects for the parish campus. Funds have been used to pay for the replacement of the skylights in the church and a portion of the air conditioning units in the Parish Life Center and Education Buildings.

More recently we have repaired roof leaks in the church, added a security system, replaced the church bell system, freshly painted many of our buildings and added extra landscaping. These funds are not designated for the construction of any new buildings. We sincerely thank you for your continued generosity.

Please know that contributing to this assessment free fund is the most efficient way to help St. Leo maintain and improve our beautiful properties.

# NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

| MASS                        | INTENTION  | REQUESTED BY                    |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>8:00 am    | <b>APRIL 20</b><br>+ Ernest Oresko                           | Gail Braun                      |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>8:00 am   | <b>APRIL 21</b><br>+Dorothy Dunne & +Gardner Martin          | Her Daughter & His Wife, Bonnie |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>8:00 am | <b>APRIL 22</b><br>+Mary Blanche Coffey                      | Patricia Bryant                 |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>8:00 am  | <b>APRIL 23</b><br>+Mary Ellen Chabot                        | Her Loving Family               |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br>8:00 am    | <b>APRIL 24</b><br>+Mary Ellen Chabot                        | Her Loving Family               |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>8:00 am  | <b>APRIL 25</b><br>+Frank Cerra<br>Dedicated to Respect Life | His Loving Wife Diane           |
| 3:30 pm                     | +Thomas Williamson   | Michele Janda                   |
| 5:30 pm                     | +Helen, +John & +Lisa Lagowski                               | Their Loving Daughter           |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>7:30 am    | <b>APRIL 26</b><br>+Mary Ellen Chabot                        | Her Loving Family               |
| 9:30 am                     | The Parishioners of St. Leo                                  |                                 |
| 11:30 am                    | +Anna Corcelli   | Her Loving Daughter, Diane      |
| 3:00 pm - Spanish           | Special Cumulative Intentions                                |                                 |
| 5:00 pm                     | +Mary Ellen Chabot   | Her Loving Family               |



Flowers this week are dedicated to Parishioners of St. Leo

Candles this week are dedicated to †Deceased Parishioners of St. Leo

## Please Pray for Our Troops

Lt. Marco Colavecchia  
Brian Dearcia Leon  
Michael DeSantis  
Cpt. Mary Kate Flynn  
Lt. Thomas A. Flynn  
Cpt. Sean Flynn  
Thomas Geanuracos  
Carlos Gonzales  
Lt. Andrew D. Holt  
Brian Howlett  
Sgt. Ryan McCabe  
Lt. Com. Matthew Kleine  
Reed Lessman  
Lt. Col. Nicholas LoRusso

Joseph McDermond  
Daniel McDonald  
Cpt. Kyle Martin  
Michael Oliveira  
Sgt. Thomas Pauls  
Nick Parrorzio  
Cpt. Evan Razzano  
Cpt. Brayden Reichenbach  
Lt. Riley N. Schliem  
Lt. Col. Jonathan W. Schwarz  
Lt. Col. Peter Shayhom  
*All serving in the military,  
especially those in combat.*

## We pray today for...

Linda Aquino  
Clayton Aunkle  
Linda Bardol  
Tom Bardol  
Jeffrey Bogart  
Bob Brock  
Hildi Brown  
Tom Brown  
Denise Buk  
Isabelle Marie Caiola  
Patrick Cain  
Peter Castro  
Carol Compagna  
Mickey Chervitz  
Michelle Chiarulli  
Scott Cochell  
Lourdes Coll  
Greg Daeger  
Eli Davis  
Janet Davis  
Jeff Davis  
Tara DeRoma  
Carrie Derse  
Robby Dirks  
Brad Fairfield  
Rudolph & Mary Fazio  
Michael Federico  
Brynn Forlizzi  
Cory Fredericksen  
John Galli  
Gisette Lupita Garcia  
Kevin Glowacki  
Ben Gondersone  
Esmeralda Gomez Moreira  
Cory Gray  
Pauline Graziano  
Karen Grimshaw  
Luke Hass  
Chie Herron  
Robbin Holcomb  
Nolan Kane

Mary Kobel  
Karen Lamont  
Joanne Laurenzana  
Emily Lienesch  
Mary Mavilla  
Tim McAuliff  
Paul Modzelewski  
Barbara Moloney  
Deborah Muñiz  
Audrey Grace Neeley  
Glenn Nelson  
Paul Nippert  
Mary Pearce  
Beverly Pecor  
Connie Phillips  
Aiden Putnam  
Mary Ritt  
Jack Rubush  
Tessa Santagate  
Cindy Santiago  
Gary Schomaker  
Louis Simonini  
Martha Simons  
Michael Anthony Sforza  
Charlie Sweeney Jr.  
Michael Taveripte  
Bonnie Tenhaken  
Vivian Thomas  
Eleanor Trevison  
Keanu Valette  
Debra Vannotti  
Jane Venuti-Tontodonato  
Tim Young  
William Welch  
John White  
Ray Zonghetti  
Annie Zanussi  
Fabiala, Krislin, Michael, Tray.  
Present & past parish priests.

Hearing Loops are installed around the pews adjacent to the north and south entrances of the church and in the new auditorium. Hearing Loops transmit sound directly into a hearing aid or cochlear implant. To receive the Loop signal, manually activate the T-coil or telephone setting on your device. Consult your audiologist or hearing aid professional with problems.



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Experiencing the marvelous presence of Christ through Eucharistic Adoration is available in our Chapel from 7am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday and on Saturdays and Sundays from 7am to 5:30pm.

## ST. LEO MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIEST CENACLE

On the second Friday of each month in the Cry Room following 8am Mass we pray for good and holy priests for one hour.  
For more information contact Betty at 860-595-6370 or holdenbnd@gmail.com

## Prayer Group

All are welcome on Wednesday mornings in the Nest Café at 8:45am to pray for our personal intentions and those of our community, country and peace in our world.

## Rosary Makers - Wednesday at 10:30 am - Nest Café

All are welcome to join the JMJ Rosary Makers as they make beaded string rosaries. The instructions, supplies and tools required will be provided. Since prayer and evangelization are needed more than ever, so are rosaries.

Walking with Moms in Need is a program at St. Leo which connects pregnant women and new mothers in need with assistance and support. Please go to our website for more information [www.stleocatholicchurch.org](http://www.stleocatholicchurch.org)

## The Sewing, Knitting & Crocheting Group

shares their talents to benefit local charities. They welcome volunteers of all skill levels on Tuesdays beginning at noon in the Juan Diego Outreach Center. Contact Bernice Romano at 239-601-5877 with questions.



## DAILY PRAYER SCHEDULE

**MONDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS:** 7:15 am-Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Cry Room, 7:30 am-Rosary in the main church.  
**FRIDAYS:** 7:10 am-Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Cry Room, 7:25 am-Rosary in the main church, followed by the Miraculous Medal Novena. We invite you to join us in these wonderful prayers. Your presence and participation are greatly appreciated.



## ST LEO'S RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Meetings are held in the Nest Café on the last Friday of each month at 9am. For questions contact Loretta at 917.886.7273 or Peggy at 239.293.3201.



Names remain on our prayer list for 30 days & troop list for 6 months. To add names or update information call the Parish Office at 992-0901 or email: [ehernandez@stleocatholicchurch.org](mailto:ehernandez@stleocatholicchurch.org)

# PARISH DIRECTORY

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Altar Servers – Adults & Youth      | Joe Stegle.....551-427-9045             |
| Arimatheans                         | Parish Office..... 992-0901             |
| Bulletin                            | Anne Bellows ..... 992-0901             |
| Catholic Charities at St. Leo       | ..... 390-2928                          |
| Cenacle Legal Services (Low Income) | .....941-244-0308                       |
| Counseling Services                 | Catholic Charities.....888-249-9262     |
| Extraordinary Minister Coordinator: |   |
| Daily Masses                        | Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901             |
| Weekend Masses                      | Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901             |
| Homebound                           | Dan Bardauskis..... 992-0901            |
| Hospice-Hospital-Nursing Homes      | Parish Office..... 992-0901             |
| Finance Council                     | Henry Soto ..... 992-0901               |
| Human Trafficking Hotline           | .....888-373-7888                       |
| Landings for Returning Catholics    | Parish Office..... 992-0901             |
| Lector Coordinator for Weekends     | David Froelke.....646-831-9733          |
| Lector Coordinator for Weekdays     | Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901             |
| Mass in Polish Coordinator          | Maryla Basara.....405-2151              |
| Money Counters                      | Henry Soto .....992-0901                |
| Perpetual Baby Shower               | Patty Swanson .....713-876-5517         |
| Prison Ministry                     | Robert Hiniker.....863-558-0407         |
| Project Gabriel                     | Carol Dangler..... 793-0826             |
| Project Rachel                      | Sylvia Jimenez.....941-412-5860         |
| Respect Life Ministry               | Loretta Ede.....917-886-7273            |
| Retrouvaille                        | Doug & Jeanne Lindberg.....800-470-2230 |
| Order of Christian Initiation       | Griselda Cisneros ..... 992-0901        |
| Sacristan Ministry                  | Annette Smith..... 948-1640             |
| Sewing-Knitting-Crocheting          | Bernice Romano......601-5877            |
| Sing a Long                         | Penny Kelly.....314-412-4022            |
| St. Leo the Great Ladies Guild      | Beth Daniels.....248-376-2997           |
| Usher Ministry                      | Parish Office..... 992-0901             |
| Youth Ministry                      | Gisela Meraz..... 992-0901              |

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**Farewell to our seasonal parishioners as you leave for the summer.**

**May you travel safely.**

**You can keep in touch with what is happening at the parish by going to our website at**

**www.stleocatholicchurch.org to view our bulletins.**



**CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS FROM 2-3PM**

*Every Life Held in Love:  
April's Call to Care  
for the Sick and Dying*

## *St. Leo's Respect Life Ministry*



Please join Co-Chairs Loretta Ede & Peggy Davis at the monthly meeting, Friday, April 24th, in the Nest Café at 9am. Meetings are held on the last Friday of every month at the same place and time. All are welcome to attend, participate in discussions, and join in prayerful support of the St. Leo Respect Life Ministry.

During the month of April, our Respect Life focus turns in a special way to the care of the sick and the dying. This is not a new concern for the Church, but a living expression of the Gospel. Jesus did not distance Himself from those who suffered. He drew close, touched their wounds, and restored their dignity. In every person who is ill, frail, or nearing the end of life, the Church recognizes a life that remains sacred and deeply loved. Sickness does not take away a person's worth. It calls forth our compassion, our presence, and our reverence.



Our topic for this meeting...  
**Honoring Mothers and Caregivers**

May is the month of Mary,  
**Mother of Life.**

This is why care for the sick and dying is at the heart of what it means to respect life. To be pro life is not only to protect life at its beginning, but to honor it in every stage, especially when it becomes most vulnerable. As we reflect on this theme in April, we are invited to be present to those who suffer, to offer prayer, encouragement, and care, and to ensure that no one faces illness or the final moments of life alone. In this quiet and faithful love, we proclaim a truth the world often forgets: every life has meaning, every moment matters, and every person is held in the mercy of God.

# NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL

# PROTEJAMOS LA TIERRA CON ORACIÓN



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# RESUCITÓ

“De veras ha resucitado el Señor.”

LUCAS 24, 34



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**Las solicitudes se pueden obtener en la oficina parroquial o comunicándose con Clare Sasak a [cesak27@aol.com](mailto:cesak27@aol.com) o con Judie Dougherty a [jmdougherty6229@gmail.com](mailto:jmdougherty6229@gmail.com). Todas las solicitudes deben recibirse a más tardar el lunes 27 de abril.**



3<sup>er</sup> Domingo  
DE PASCUA

Entonces se les abrieron los ojos y lo reconocieron, pero él se les desapareció. —Lc 24, 31

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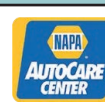
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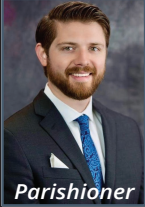
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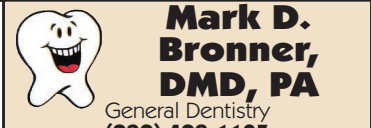


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