

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.*

August 9, 2026



The Assumption of the Virgin/Studio of Sir Peter Paul Rubens/1620/National Gallery of Art

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. Juan Carlos Sack	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
Kevin Dearcia	Maintenance
Maria Fernandez	Religious Education Assistant
Daniel Gonzalez	Maintenance
Elsy Hernandez	Operations Supervisor
Marcin Malewski	Director of Music
Zofia Majewski	Musician/Administrative Support
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!

August 1 & 2
\$19,184

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.

EUCHARIST

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 from 2:00pm-3:00pm on Saturdays in English and 2pm on Sundays 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

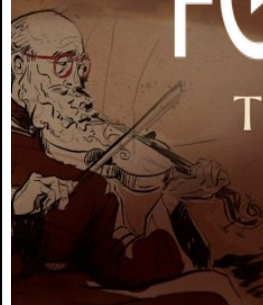
If you think that you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life please speak with one of our priests, or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations at 941-484-9548, visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/vocations

ONLINE GIVING

WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

FORMED

The Violinist
stories of Solanus Casey



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 free account.

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, August 15

3:30 pm	Fr. Jack
5:30 pm	Fr. Jack

Sunday, August 16

7:30 am	Fr. Stan
9:30 am	Fr. Stan
11:30 am	Fr. Juan Carlos
3:00 pm-Spanish	Fr. Juan Carlos
5:00 pm	Fr. Juan Carlos

Changes may occur without notice.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

A WEEK OF HEARING GOD'S QUIET VOICE AND WALKING WITH COURAGE SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 - GOD OF THE WHISPER

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

Most of us imagine that if God wanted to get our attention, He would do something dramatic. Surely there would be thunder, an unmistakable sign, or perhaps a voice booming from heaven. Yet Elijah discovers that God is found not in the earthquake, the fire, or the violent wind, but in a tiny whispering sound. God does not always overpower the noise around us. Often, He waits patiently for us to become quiet enough to hear Him.

That is how God frequently speaks in ordinary life. His voice may come through a conversation that stays with us, a passage of Scripture that keeps returning to mind, or a quiet but persistent invitation to forgive, to pray, or to begin again. We keep waiting for extraordinary certainty while overlooking the gentle ways God has already been guiding us. The problem is not always that God is silent. Sometimes our lives are simply so noisy that even our phones need a vacation. Peter discovers something similar on the sea. As long as his eyes remain fixed on Jesus, he walks where no one should be able to walk. The moment he measures the wind instead of trusting Christ, he begins to sink. Thankfully, Jesus does not wait for Peter to recover perfect faith before reaching out His hand. He catches him immediately. Sometimes the greatest miracle is not that the storm disappears, but that Christ is already standing in it with us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, quiet my heart so that I may recognize Your voice. When fear begins to drown my faith, reach out Your hand and teach me to trust You again. Amen.

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a; Psalm 85; Romans 9:1–5; Matthew 14:22–33

MONDAY, AUGUST 10 - THE JOY OF GIVING YOURSELF AWAY

"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

The world constantly teaches us to protect what is ours. Guard your time. Guard your money. Guard your comfort. Yet Saint Lawrence became one of the Church's greatest saints because he understood that life becomes fruitful only when it is given away. Jesus compares His life to a grain of wheat. If it remains safely above the ground, it stays alone. When it falls and dies, it becomes a harvest.

Giving is not measured only in money. Sometimes the most generous gift is patience with a difficult person, attention given without checking the phone, or forgiveness offered to someone who may never apologize. Parents, caregivers, friends, priests, teachers, and countless others discover that love always costs something. Yet it is precisely through that sacrifice that love becomes real and begins to bear fruit in ways we may never fully see.

Strangely enough, generous people are often the happiest people. They have learned that closed hands cannot receive much because they are too busy holding on. Saint Lawrence could face death with courage because long before martyrdom, he had already learned to surrender his life one act of love at a time. God does not ask everyone to die dramatically for Him, but He asks each of us to live generously for Him today.

Prayer: Lord, free me from the fear of giving too much. Fill my heart with the joy that comes from loving generously and trusting that You will always provide what I truly need. Amen.

Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:6–10; Psalm 112; John 12:24–26

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 - GREATNESS LOOKS SMALL

"Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

When the disciples ask who is the greatest, Jesus surprises them by calling over a child. In the ancient world, children possessed little status or influence, yet Jesus places one in the center and says that this is what greatness looks like. Our culture measures importance by titles, achievements, wealth, and recognition. Jesus measures it by humility, trust, openness, and the willingness to receive love without pretending we have earned it.

Children ask questions without worrying whether they sound impressive. They trust those who love them, forgive quickly, and are not embarrassed to admit when they need help. Somewhere along the road to adulthood, many of us become experts at appearing strong while quietly carrying exhausted hearts. We learn to hide uncertainty, protect our image, and act as though we have everything under control, even though some mornings it takes us longer to remember a password than to say the Rosary.

Ezekiel is told to eat God's word before speaking it. Truth must become part of us before it can flow through us. Scripture sometimes comforts and sometimes challenges, but once God's word settles deeply into the heart, it becomes sweeter than honey. The people who truly change the world are rarely those obsessed with appearing impressive. More often, they are humble people who allow God to reshape them before trying to correct everyone else.

Prayer: Lord, give me the humble heart of a child. Help me hunger more for Your wisdom than for the approval of others, and teach me to live what I believe. Amen.

Readings: Ezekiel 2:8–3:4; Psalm 119; Matthew 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 - THE COURAGE TO HAVE THE HARD CONVERSATION

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." (Matthew 18:15)

Most people would rather clean the garage than have an uncomfortable conversation. At least the garage does not interrupt, defend itself, or bring up something we did in 2017. Yet many relationships slowly unravel because important words remain unspoken. We avoid conflict in the hope of keeping the peace, only to discover that avoiding the truth rarely creates genuine peace. More often, it creates distance, resentment, and stories we tell ourselves about what the other person must be thinking.

Jesus offers a remarkably wise path. Begin privately. Speak directly. Protect the person's dignity. The goal is not to embarrass someone, gather allies, or win an argument. The goal is to win back a brother or sister. Healthy correction begins with love and remains rooted in humility. Before confronting another person, we must ask whether we truly desire reconciliation or merely want the satisfaction of proving that we were right.

Truth without love becomes harsh, while love without truth becomes shallow. Christ calls us to both. Sometimes the most healing conversations begin with four simple words: "Can we talk honestly?" They require courage to speak, humility to listen, and grace to admit our own part in the conflict. Wherever two or three gather sincerely in Christ's name, He promises to be present, even in conversations everyone would rather postpone.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to speak the truth with kindness and the humility to receive correction with gratitude. Heal the relationships that need Your peace today. Amen. **Readings:** Ezekiel 9:1–7; 10:18–22; Psalm 113; Matthew 18:15–20

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 - THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:22)

Forgiveness is one of the hardest things Jesus asks of us because it often feels unfair. Someone else caused the wound, yet we are the ones asked to release the debt. Peter probably thought forgiving seven times sounded remarkably generous. Jesus responds with a number that means we must stop keeping score. Love cannot survive when the heart becomes an accountant, carefully recording every offense while conveniently misplacing the receipts for its own failures.

The servant in today's Gospel forgets how much mercy he has received. We can do the same. We remember another person's sharp words from ten years ago with astonishing clarity, yet struggle to recall how patiently God has carried us through our own weaknesses. Forgiveness does not pretend that evil never happened. It does not erase consequences, remove healthy boundaries, or instantly heal painful memories. It simply refuses to let another person's sin continue governing our heart.

Holding onto resentment is like carrying a backpack filled with bricks while wondering why the journey feels exhausting. God asks us to forgive not because the wound was insignificant, but because our freedom is too precious to surrender to bitterness. Sometimes forgiveness begins as a decision made long before the emotions catch up. We place the person into God's hands, release the right to revenge, and ask Christ to do within us what we cannot yet do alone.

Prayer: Merciful Father, help me remember how generously You have forgiven me. Give me the strength to release every resentment into Your hands and walk in the freedom of mercy. Amen. **Readings:** Ezekiel 12:1–12; Psalm 78; Matthew 18:21–19:1

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 - LOVE THAT KEEPS ITS PROMISES

"What God has joined together, man must not separate." (Matthew 19:6)

We live in a culture that often treats commitment as temporary. If circumstances become painful, people may assume that the promise itself must have been a mistake. Jesus reminds us that God's vision for love has always been deeper than convenience. Genuine love does not become strong because it avoids difficulty. It becomes strong because, with God's grace, it remains faithful through disappointment, sacrifice, misunderstanding, and all the ordinary pressures that test a promise.

The first reading tells the painful story of God's relationship with Israel. God rescues, protects, beautifies, and cherishes His people, yet they forget the One who gave them everything. Still, God refuses to forget His covenant. His mercy remains greater than their betrayal. This does not make sin unimportant. It reveals something far more astonishing: even when we wander, God continues calling us back because His faithfulness rests upon His character, not upon our consistency.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe embodied this faithful love when he offered his life in place of another prisoner at Auschwitz. His sacrifice did not begin in that final heroic moment. It was formed through years of prayer, discipline, and countless hidden acts of fidelity. Whether married, single, ordained, widowed, or consecrated, every Christian vocation is built upon the same kind of love. Faithfulness rarely makes headlines, but in heaven it is never overlooked.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen my heart to remain faithful in every vocation You have given me. When I grow weary, remind me that Your love has never failed me. Amen. **Readings:** Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63; Isaiah 12; Matthew 19:3-12

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 - HOPE HAS THE FINAL WORD

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." (Luke 1:46)

The Assumption reminds us that Christianity is not merely about surviving this world. It is about where the journey is leading. Mary's life was not easy. She experienced uncertainty, misunderstanding, exile, poverty, and the agony of standing beneath the Cross. Yet none of those moments became the final chapter of her story. God drew her, body and soul, into heavenly glory because love stronger than death always receives the last word.

We often forget where our own story is headed. The news reminds us of conflict. Our bodies remind us that we are aging. Cemeteries remind us that earthly life is fragile. Even a staircase can suddenly become a theological reflection on mortality. Yet today's feast proclaims that death does not write the final sentence. Christ does. Because He has risen, those who belong to Him are destined not for disappearance, but for resurrection and eternal communion with God.

Mary's Magnificat overflows with hope because she views history through God's promises rather than through her fears. She believes that God lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry, remembers His mercy, and never abandons those who trust Him. Hope is not wishful thinking. It is confidence that every act of love, every hidden sacrifice, every faithful prayer, and every tear offered to God already belongs to eternity. The final destination of the Christian life is not a grave, but a homecoming.

Prayer: Blessed Mother, help me keep my eyes fixed on heaven while serving faithfully on earth. Teach me to trust God's promises with joyful hope until the day I see Him face to face. Amen. **Readings:** Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Psalm 45; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56

Visit CatholicJourneyToday.com and continue growing in faith—one reflection at a time

This year the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saturday, August 15th is **NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.** Morning Mass will be celebrated, as normally scheduled, at 8am.



GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES IS CLOSED BUT --

Registration is still open if:

- You moved into the parish over the summer or,
- Your child is between the ages of 7-17 and needs to be Baptized or,
- Your child will be in High School and is in need of Confirmation or First Communion.

If you missed the general registration, please call the Religious Education Office at 992-0901.

Religious Education staff will be in the Narthex of the church after 9:30am, 11:30am and 3pm Masses beginning next weekend to help you with registration and answer your questions.

We Pray for the Recently Deceased Of Our Parish

Kathryn Lyons
Robert Perjatel
Shirley Ruehl

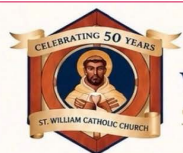




Bishop Emilio to Visit St. Leo

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Emilio Biosca Agüero to St. Leo the Great on Friday, August 28, as part of his pastoral visits to the parishes of our Diocese. During his visit, Bishop Emilio will spend time with the priests and parish staff as he becomes better acquainted with the life and ministries of our parish.

Before traveling to his next parish, Bishop Emilio has graciously agreed to spend some time with our parishioners. You are warmly invited to stop by the Nest Café between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. to enjoy a cup of coffee, greet our new bishop, and personally welcome him to St. Leo. We hope you will join us for this informal opportunity to meet Bishop Emilio.



**SAINT
WILLIAM**
CATHOLIC CHURCH

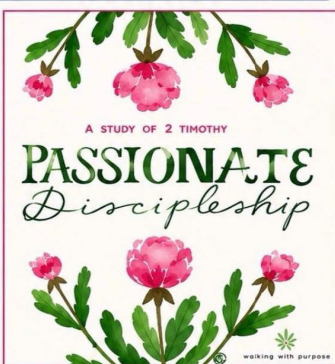
Come As You Are ♥
**You are
Welcome Here!**

A NAPLES AREA INTER-PARISH COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Welcome to a life-changing women's bible study entitled
"Passionate Discipleship"
with videos featuring
Lisa Brenninkmeyer and Mallory Smyth!

Throughout Church history, men and women have spent their lives on mission, committed to spreading the gospel message. What does that look like for the Catholic woman today? This study focused on equipping women to know Christ and to make Him known. It's ideal if you...

- ✓ Want to explore the heritage of faith we have received from the Church!
- ✓ Desire to become a true, dynamic disciple of Jesus Christ!
- ✓ Are ready to pass the torch of faith to the next generation!



**SAINT WILLIAM
CHURCH HALL**
601 Seagate Dr.,
Naples, FL 34108



**SEPTEMBER 8TH TO
OCTOBER 27TH 2026**



10:00 TO 11:45AM

Doors Open at 9:30 for
Coffee Social With Treats



Please purchase book "Passionate Discipleship" at:

<https://walkingwithpurpose.com>

For questions on registration or scholarships contact:

- ☎ Call or Text to 484-432-5128
- ✉ Email: mcgowanlh@gmail.com

**Babysitting
Available**
Contact Lisa for
details at the
email above.



Come. Be Refreshed. Grow in Faith. Make an Impact. *You Belong Here!* ♥



Join Our Faith Formation Team!

Are you passionate about our Faith?
Are you willing to share a few hours of your time
to help educate our St. Leo's students?
We are looking for committed parishioners to join our
Religious Education team as catechists or catechist assistants
on Wednesday evenings or Sunday afternoons
for the upcoming school year.

We provide curriculum, training, and support to ensure
you succeed in this rewarding ministry.

To learn more or to sign up,
please contact Gisela Meraz or Maria Fernandez at
239-992-0901.

Make a difference in the faith journey of our youth
by becoming part of this important ministry!

THE FIRST CIVILIZATION THAT BELIEVES IT CAN BUILD ITS OWN EDEN

by Father Jarek

THE OLDEST TEMPTATION

Imagine standing in the Garden of Eden just moments before humanity's first sin. There is no hunger, no disease, no loneliness, no poverty, and no injustice. Every need is met. Every tree is heavy with fruit, and every breath is filled with peace. It is the world as God intended it to be. And yet, paradise is still not enough. A serpent whispers a single sentence: **"You will be like God."** That temptation has never disappeared. It has simply learned to speak the language of every generation.

Some believed politics would build paradise. Others trusted wealth, education, science, or military power. Every age has imagined that one more breakthrough, one more discovery, or one more revolution would finally deliver the world humanity has always desired. Today, many believe artificial intelligence may become that breakthrough. Some even speak of a future in which intelligent machines cure disease, eliminate scarcity, perform exhausting labor, and usher humanity into an unprecedented age of abundance. It is an extraordinary vision, one that inspires both hope and unease.

Christians need not fear such progress. The Church has never been an enemy of science. Every genuine discovery that heals the sick, feeds the hungry, protects life, or eases suffering reflects something beautiful about the human mind God created. If technology can relieve misery, we should receive it with gratitude and use it with wisdom. The question has never been whether progress is good. The question is whether progress is enough.

WHERE GOD IS FOUND

This Sunday's readings answer that question with remarkable clarity. Elijah climbs Mount Horeb expecting to encounter God through overwhelming displays of power. First comes a wind so violent that it tears mountains apart. Then an earthquake shakes the earth beneath his feet. Finally, fire blazes before him. Any one of these would have captured the attention of the world. Yet Scripture quietly repeats the same astonishing refrain: **The Lord was not in the wind. The Lord was not in the earthquake. The Lord was not in the fire.**

Only after the noise has ended does God come in the sound of a gentle whisper. How remarkably relevant those words are today. Never has humanity possessed so much knowledge or exercised so much power. Every week brings another technological breakthrough. Smarter algorithms, more capable machines, astonishing medical discoveries, and innovations that would have seemed miraculous only a few years ago surround us on every side. We are living in an age of extraordinary achievement.

Yet amid all this noise lies a danger greater than any technological risk. We may become so fascinated by what humanity can create that we forget to listen for the One who created humanity. We may become so captivated by our own ingenuity that we begin to believe every problem has a technological solution. But the greatest questions of life have never been answered by power alone. They have always required wisdom, humility, and grace.

WHAT THE HUMAN HEART STILL LONGS FOR

The Psalm points us toward a different horizon. It does not ask God for greater wealth, greater efficiency, or greater intelligence. Instead, it simply prays: **"Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation."** Those words remind us that the greatest gifts cannot be engineered. They can only be received. They come not from our mastery over creation but from the loving heart of the Creator.

Artificial intelligence may one day solve problems that have troubled civilization for centuries. It may diagnose diseases before symptoms appear, eliminate much of the world's scarcity, and transform the way we live. These would be extraordinary blessings worthy of gratitude. Yet no machine can teach a husband to forgive his wife, heal the wound left by betrayal, replace the embrace of a parent, give meaning to suffering, or conquer death. Most importantly, it cannot satisfy the restless human heart.

Saint Paul understood this with painful clarity. His deepest sorrow was not that his people lacked prosperity but that many had not recognized Christ. He knew that every earthly blessing, however extraordinary, remains incomplete without the One from whom every blessing comes. The greatest poverty has never been the absence of abundance. It has always been the absence of God.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON CHRIST

The Gospel brings this lesson to its climax. Peter steps out of the boat and begins to walk on water. As long as his eyes remain fixed on Jesus, he does the impossible. But the moment he turns his attention to the strength of the wind, fear takes hold, and he begins to sink. The storm itself does not defeat him. Fear does. His greatest danger is not the waves beneath his feet but the doubt within his heart.

How often we do the same. Every generation has its storms. Ours bears the names of artificial intelligence, political division, economic uncertainty, and breathtaking technological change. Some fear these developments. Others place almost limitless hope in them. The Gospel invites us to do neither. It reminds us that no storm is greater than Christ and no promise is greater than the One who says, **"Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."**

The real question is never how strong the wind becomes. The real question is where our eyes remain fixed. As long as Peter looked at Christ, the impossible became possible. The moment he looked only at the storm, he began to sink. Every generation must choose where it will place its confidence. The greatest danger is not that technology advances too quickly. It is that our faith fails to keep pace.

THE ONLY EDEN WE CANNOT BUILD

Perhaps that is why the first pages of Genesis and the headlines of our own day ask exactly the same question. Can humanity create a better world? Certainly. By God's grace, it should. We should celebrate every discovery that serves life, relieves suffering, and advances the common good. But can humanity build heaven without God? History has answered that question again and again. It never has. It never will.

The original Garden of Eden was not humanity's achievement. Adam and Eve did not design it, construct it, or earn it. They simply opened their eyes and found themselves surrounded by a world they had received. Paradise was never engineered. It was given. It was pure gift. That is the difference between Eden and every earthly paradise we have tried to build ever since.

We can invent remarkable technologies, cultivate the earth, cure diseases, and improve the conditions of human life. These are noble achievements and worthy expressions of the gifts God has entrusted to us. But the deepest realities of life cannot be manufactured. Love cannot be programmed. Forgiveness cannot be automated. Grace cannot be engineered. Holiness cannot be coded. These are gifts that come only from God and are received only by hearts humble enough to welcome them.

Artificial intelligence may transform civilization. It may extend life, increase abundance, and accomplish things that today seem miraculous. Yet there is one thing no machine will ever produce: a single saint. Holiness is not manufactured by intelligence. It is born of grace. The future will certainly require brilliant engineers, gifted scientists, compassionate physicians, and courageous innovators, and we should thank God for every one of them. But it will require something even greater: men and women who still recognize the whisper.

For in the end, civilization has never been transformed most deeply by its inventions. It has always been transformed by its saints. The first Eden was received with open hands. Every attempt to build a new Eden with our own hands, however noble, will remain incomplete until those same hands are lifted toward the One from whom every perfect gift comes. For paradise is not humanity's greatest invention. It is, and always will be, God's greatest gift.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are the source of every good and perfect gift.

*We thank You for the remarkable minds You have given us and for every discovery that heals the sick,
feeds the hungry, eases suffering, and reveals the beauty of Your creation.*

*Bless all who devote their lives to science, medicine, engineering, and technology, that their work may
always protect life, uphold human dignity, and serve the common good.*

Keep us from the illusion that we can build a world without You.

*When success tempts us to become self-sufficient, remind us that the greatest treasures
of life cannot be earned or engineered but only received with grateful hearts.*

*Teach us to listen for Your gentle whisper amid the noise of our restless age,
and never allow us to become so captivated by our achievements
that we lose sight of the One who gave us the ability to achieve them.*

*When the winds of fear, uncertainty, or rapid change begin to overwhelm us,
keep our eyes fixed on Your Son.*

May His outstretched hand always be our confidence, His voice our peace, and His Cross our hope.

*Grant that we may use every gift of human intelligence with wisdom,
every new technology with charity, and every opportunity with humility.*

Above all, make us holy.

*For when history has forgotten the inventions of our age, may it remember that we loved You,
served one another, and became the saints You created us to be. Amen.*

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

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)

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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!

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.

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.



OCIA Registration

Adults desiring to partake in the journey into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church are invited to take the all-important next step: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). In addition to learning about Catholic beliefs and prayers, the OCIA focuses on faith development, maturing one's relationship with God, and building and nourishing relationships among the participants and the parish community. It was developed in the first and second centuries of the Church for those seeking Jesus Christ. For more information or to register please contact the Parish Office at 992-0901. You may read more about OCIA on our website at <https://www.stleocatholicchurch.org/rcia>



PRISON MINISTRY

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 863-558-0407
to learn where
you can fit into this joyful opportunity.

Prayer For Safety In Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from tragedies like those whose memories are still vivid.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we may walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.



NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	AUGUST 10	
8:00 am	+Bill Robbins	Linda Baker
TUESDAY	AUGUST 11	
8:00 am	+Bud Von Heyn	Margaret Von Heyn
WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 12	
8:00 am	+Paul Modzelewski	Jackie
THURSDAY	AUGUST 13	
8:00 am	+Daniel Cuenya	Lizabeth Cuenya
FRIDAY	AUGUST 14	
8:00 am	+Gary Lundsberg	Frank & Nancy Walker
SATURDAY	AUGUST 15	
8:00 am	+Josephine & +Michael DiFilippo	Their Loving Daughter
3:30 pm	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
5:30 pm	+James & +Mary Lu Zahariou	Antonia Daughtry
SUNDAY	AUGUST 16	
7:30 am	+Joe & +Rose Scenna	Their Loving Family, Rita & Robert
9:30 am	+James Lavelle	Maria & Mariela
11:30 am	+Robert Dunne	His Loving Sister, Bonnie
1:30 pm - Polish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Magdalena Villaseñor	Her Loving Family



Flowers and Candles this week are dedicated to †Frank Cerra
Requested by His Loving Wife, Diane

Please Pray for Our Troops

Lt. Marco Colavecchia
Brian Dearcia Leon
Michael DeSantis
Cpt. Mary Kate Flynn
Lt. Thomas A. Flynn
Cpt. Sean Flynn
Aaron Gaudet
Thomas Geanuracos
Carlos Gonzales
Lt. Andrew D. Holt
Brian Howlett
Sgt. Ryan McCabe
Lt. Com. Matthew Kleine
Lt. Wm. Reed Leesman

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

We pray today for...

Linda Aquino
Clayton Aunkle
Jen Bacik
Linda Bardol
Gary Beckes
Jeffrey Bogart
Lorraine Bracy
Bob Brock
Hildi Brown
Larry Brown
Denise Buk
Isabelle Marie Caiola
Patrick Cain
Peter Castro
Michelle Chiarulli
Scott Cochell
Lourdes Coll
Greg Daeger
Jeff Davis
Tara DeRoma
Robby Dirks
Jaden Anthony Droz
Jim Esposito
Brad Fairfield
Rudolph & Mary Fazio
Michael Federico
Brynn Forlizzi
Cory Fredericksen
Gisette Lupita Garcia
Ellie Gaspar
Paul Gaspar
Vincent Gil
Kevin Glowacki
Ben Gondersone
Rich Gonzalez
Karen Grimshaw
Luke Hass
Chie Herron
Robbin Holcomb
Mathew Hughes
Kendall Hunter

Nolan Kane
Mary Kobel
Robert Kochalka
Jeff Lally
Karen Lamont
Joanne Laurenzana
Emily Lienesch
Mark Lips
Debra Marcondes
Mary Mavilla
Tim McAuliff
Beverly McDowell
Barbara Moloney
Audrey Grace Neeley
Glenn Nelson
Rita Off
Mary Pearce
Beverly Pecor
Michelle Pennell
Connie Phillips
Aiden Putnam
Mary Ritt
Jack Rubush
Tessa Santagate
Cindy Santiago
Gary Schomaker
Louis Simonini
Michael Anthony Sforza
Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Bonnie Tenhaken
Eleanor Trevison
Debra Vannotti
Justin VanNorstrand
Jane Venuti-Tontodonato
Tim Young
William Welch
Shelly Yuhass Lowry
Ray Zonghetti
Fabiala, Krislin, Michael,
Michael R., Tray. Present &
past parish priests.

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

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.

Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 2-3pm in church.

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 & 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

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 -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 all to join in these wonderful prayers.

ST LEO'S RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The monthly meetings which are held in the Nest Café on the last Friday of each month at 9am will break for the summer and **resume on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th.** For questions contact Loretta at 917.886.7273 or Peggy at 239.293.3201.



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 Soto992-0901
Perpetual Baby Shower	Patty Swanson713-876-5517
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 Romano601-5877
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

All young people of the parish are invited to participate in our special dance presentation to take place at the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. As we celebrate our love, faith and devotion to our Blessed Mother, we have a wonderful opportunity to offer our talents through dance. Whether you have dance experience or simply a desire to participate, we encourage you to join us. Rehearsals take place on Mondays from 7-9pm in the parking lot of the Juan Diego building. For information contact Tony Garcia at 239-908-1173.



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Prayers for Father Tim

Father Tim Sheedy will be having knee replacement surgery on August 13th. He has asked for your prayers for this surgery and his recovery.

WATER



Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

MATTHEW 14:28



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NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



El obispo Emilio visitará St. Leo

Nos complace dar la bienvenida al obispo Emilio Biosca Agüero a la parroquia de San Leo este próximo viernes 28 de agosto, como parte de sus visitas pastorales a las parroquias de nuestra diócesis. Durante su visita, el obispo Emilio compartirá tiempo con los sacerdotes y el personal parroquial mientras conoce más a fondo la vida y los ministerios de nuestra comunidad.

Antes de dirigirse a su siguiente parroquia, el obispo Emilio ha aceptado amablemente dedicar un tiempo a nuestros feligreses. Les invitamos cordialmente a pasar por el Nest Café de 1:30 a 2:30 pm para disfrutar de una taza de café, saludar a nuestro nuevo obispo y darle la bienvenida personalmente a San León. Esperamos que nos acompañen en esta oportunidad informal para conocer al obispo Emilio.

“Un día con María IV” En honor a la Reina de las Américas

Sábado 15 Agosto, 2026 - Hora: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Parish Life Center, Iglesia Católica San Leo1
28388 Beaumont Rd, Bonita Springs, FL 33134



Padre Santiago Martín
Fundador y Presidente
“Franciscanos de María”
España



Padre Mario Castañeda
Pastor Iglesia Santa Rita
Diócesis West Palm Beach



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bajo la coordinación del Padre Eduardo Coll,
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Se invita a todos los jóvenes de la parroquia a participar en nuestra presentación especial de danza, que tendrá lugar durante la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre. Al celebrar nuestro amor, fe y devoción a nuestra Santísima Madre, tenemos una oportunidad maravillosa de ofrecer nuestros talentos a través de la danza. Ya sea que tenga experiencia en baile o simplemente el deseo de participar, le animamos a unirse a nosotros. Los ensayos se llevan a cabo los lunes, de 7 pm a 9 pm, en el estacionamiento del edificio Juan Diego. Para más información, comuníquese con Tony García al 239-908-1173.



**Este año, la fiesta de la
Asunción de la Santísima Virgen María,
el Sábado 15 de Agosto,
NO es día de obligación.**



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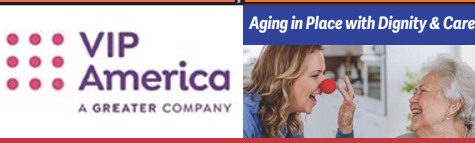
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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13) Psalms 23

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