

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.*

December 7, 2025



Guido Reni | The Immaculate Conception | The Metropolitan Museum 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 2-3PM

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. Joel Livingston	Deacon
Juliana Alfano	Musician
Nelson Alfaro	Maintenance
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!

November 22 & 23

\$30,450

November 29 & 30

\$32,558

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 at 2pm on Saturday in English 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

ONLINE GIVING

WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

AGES 5-10

AT SUNDAY 9:30AM MASSES

Don't miss out! No sign up necessary!
Father will dismiss the children after the opening prayer
to enjoy Jesus' Story Time in the chapel, and they will
return to their families after the Intercessions.

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 13

3:30 pm Fr. Jarek
5:30 pm Fr. Jarek

Sunday, December 14

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

Changes may occur without notice.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

The Peace God Sees Before We Do

"Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." (Isaiah 11:6)

Isaiah paints a world so peaceful that natural enemies become neighbors. It is the kind of scene we imagine when we are young before adulthood trains us to brace for the worst and check the news before our first cup of coffee. Yet Scripture insists that God is not nostalgic. He sees the peace we cannot yet imagine and invites us to live in hope rather than resignation. Paul reminds us that harmony begins not with perfect people but with those who welcome others as Christ welcomes them, especially when personalities collide. John the Baptist then steps onto the scene like a spiritual alarm clock. He is not gentle, not subtle, and certainly not concerned with first impressions. Yet his message is simple. If we want a world renewed by God's peace, we must clear the clutter from our own hearts first. Advent is not about decorating our lives. It is about making room. The Kingdom arrives wherever a heart turns, repents, and starts again.

Today the invitation is to live as if Isaiah's vision is more than poetry. Trust that every act of patience and kindness, no matter how small, helps build the world God desires for us.

Peace grows from the inside out, beginning with one heart willing to change.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, prepare my heart for Your peace. Clear what is tangled and soften what is rigid. Teach me to welcome others with the same mercy You show me. Make my life a small beginning of the harmony Your Kingdom promises. Amen. Isaiah 11:1 to 10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4 to 9; Matthew 3:1 to 12*

Monday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Grace That Begins Before We Do

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30)

Today we remember that God began His work in Mary long before she understood it. Grace was already alive in her, preparing her for a future she never expected. Most of us do not feel as composed as Mary when life hands us surprises. We tend to negotiate with God as if He were a cable company. But the Immaculate Conception reminds us: God's grace always arrives before our readiness. He works within us long before we see what He is doing. In Genesis, Adam and Eve hide in the bushes, continuing the ancient human tradition of hoping God will walk by without noticing. Mary does the opposite. She listens. She asks an honest question. Then she trusts a promise that makes no earthly sense. Her yes does not arise from confidence in herself but from confidence in God.

Today's invitation is to trust the grace already at work within you. God is preparing you for things you cannot yet imagine. You do not need perfect clarity to say yes. You only need the willingness to let God finish what He has started.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, give me Mary's courage to trust the grace You have planted in me. Quiet my fears, steady my heart, and help me say yes to Your plans with faith that rises above my doubts. Amen. Genesis 3:9 to 15, 20; Psalm 98; Ephesians 1:3 to 12; Luke 1:26 to 38*

Tuesday, December 9

The Shepherd Who Never Stops Coming After Us

"He rejoices more over it than over the ninety nine that did not stray." (Matthew 18:13)

Isaiah speaks of valleys lifted, mountains lowered, and rough places smoothed, as if God were preparing a spiritual highway straight into our lives. It is a beautiful image for anyone who has ever felt stuck in a rut, physical, emotional, or spiritual. God does not wait for us to get our act together. He builds a path toward us even when we are wandering in circles. Jesus then offers a story that is both tender and slightly scandalous. The shepherd leaves ninety nine well behaved sheep to chase after the one with a talent for bad decisions. The math is terrible, the risk is high, and yet the shepherd cannot help himself. His joy is not in the efficiency of the ninety nine but in the rescue of the one.

Today's invitation is to let yourself be found. If you feel far from God, remember that He specializes in closing the distance. And if someone in your life has wandered, keep praying. God's pursuit is patient, persistent, and full of joy the moment even one heart turns toward home.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, find me in the places where I wander. Lift what is low, smooth what is rough, and draw me back to Your heart. Give me the grace to trust Your joy in finding me again. Amen. Isaiah 40:1 to 11; Psalm 96; Matthew 18:12 to 14*

Wednesday, December 10

Strength for Those Who Are Running on Empty

"They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)

Isaiah comforts a people exhausted by disappointment. He reminds them that God sees farther than they do and never grows weary of carrying them, even when they feel invisible. Most of us know the experience of pretending we are fine while quietly wondering how much longer we can keep going. Yet Scripture insists that God meets us precisely there, in the place where our strength runs out.

Jesus then offers one of the gentlest invitations in the Gospel: "Come to me... and I will give you rest." He does not ask for polished prayers or impressive spirituality. He asks for honesty. His yoke is easy not because life is easy, but because He carries the heavier side.

Today's invitation is to stop pretending that exhaustion is weakness. Hope is not the denial of limits; it is the decision to lean on the God who renews strength exactly when we feel faint. Rest is not a luxury in the spiritual life. It is a form of trust.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, meet me in my weariness. Renew my strength where it feels thin and quiet my heart where it feels overwhelmed. Teach me to rest in You with trust and humility. Amen. Isaiah 40:25 to 31; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:28 to 30*

Thursday, December 11

The Hand That Never Lets Go

"I am the Lord your God, who grasp your right hand." (Isaiah 41:13)

Isaiah speaks to a people who feel fragile, using an image both tender and surprising. God takes Israel by the hand like a parent guiding a nervous child across a busy street. It is not dramatic, but it is deeply personal. When fear rises, we assume God is far away, asking us to soldier through. Instead, He draws closer and whispers, "I will help you." Not eventually. Now.

In the Gospel, Jesus praises John the Baptist while making it clear that even the greatest prophet fits into a much larger story. God's Kingdom is advancing through the humble and the courageous, the bold and the weary, the saints and the strugglers. All God asks is that we listen, trust, and let Him lead.

Today's invitation is to notice the hand of God in your own life. Look for the small nudges of grace that steady your steps. Fear may tell you that you are alone, but faith reminds you that God's grip is stronger than your insecurity.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, take my hand where fear is strongest. Lead me through the places that feel uncertain and help me trust Your closeness more than my worry. Make my steps steady in Your care. Amen. Isaiah 41:13 to 20; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:11 to 15*

Friday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The God Who Comes Close Enough to Be Seen

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you." (Zechariah 2:14)

Today we remember that God chooses not to remain distant. He draws near, not with thunder or spectacle, but through the gentle strength of a young woman whose yes echoes across continents and centuries. Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that God speaks in ways the lowly can understand and the weary can recognize. Sometimes His greatest works arrive disguised as small, surprising moments of consolation.

The Gospel shows Mary receiving a message that could have overwhelmed her. Instead, she listens, wonders, questions, and ultimately trusts. Her yes is not naive. It is courageous. It is the trust of someone who believes that God's presence is not a burden but a blessing.

Today's invitation is to let God come close. Notice the places where He is quietly dwelling in your life through beauty, through people, through unexpected grace. Like Mary, you are called to carry Christ into the world, not through perfection but through willingness.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, draw near to me as You drew near to Mary. Help me recognize Your presence in the ordinary moments of my day. Give me a heart willing to say yes, trusting that You dwell where love is welcomed. Amen. Zechariah 2:14 to 17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1 to 6, 10; Judith 13; Luke 1:26 to 38 or Luke 1:39 to 47*

Saturday, December 13

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

The Light That Teaches Us to See Differently

"Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved." (Psalm 80:4)

Sirach praises Elijah as a fire that rekindled hope among a weary people. Yet the fire did not end with him. Every generation receives prophets whose lives help others see the world in God's light. Saint Lucy became such a light, radiant, steady, and courageous even in the face of suffering. Her witness reminds us that true vision is not only about what our eyes can see but about what our faith dares to recognize.

Jesus then teaches His disciples that Elijah has already come in the person of John the Baptist, but many failed to notice because they were looking for something louder or more impressive. Grace is easy to overlook when we expect it to arrive with fireworks.

Today's invitation is to let God adjust your vision. Look again at the people in your life who quietly reflect God's light. Look at your own story and notice the hidden ways God has been present all along. Holiness grows wherever light is welcomed.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, open my eyes to the light You place around me and within me. Help me see with faith rather than fear and follow the path illuminated by Your love. Make me a small light for others today. Amen. Sirach 48:1 to 11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:9 to 13*

**For the full version of each day's reflection,
visit CatholicJourneyToday.com
and journey deeper with Scripture, prayer, and daily encouragement.**

When God Sends a Prophet to the Wilderness of Our Hearts

Second Sunday of Advent

By Father Jarek

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

There are seasons when life feels crowded, loud, and strangely empty all at once. There are days when you wake up already tired, when the mind feels like a room filled with unfinished thoughts, and when prayer feels like trying to hear a whisper in a train station. People do not talk about it, but most of us know what it is to walk through a wilderness. Not the sandy kind that appears in postcards, but the inner kind that appears without invitation: the wilderness of discouragement, the wilderness of grief that hides behind a smile, the wilderness of decisions you did not ask for, the wilderness that comes when life changes faster than the heart can keep up.

It is into that kind of wilderness that God sends John the Baptist.

Matthew tells the story with startling simplicity. John does not arrive in the temple. He does not preach from marble. He does not stand on the front steps of the city. He appears in the barren outskirts where nobody expects anything holy to happen. And that alone is a message. God begins His most important work where we would least expect Him.

Most of us do not look for God in our wilderness. We look for escape. We reach for distraction, noise, scrolling or shopping or anything that gives us the feeling of movement without requiring true change. Yet every great transformation in Scripture begins not with comfort but with clarity, and clarity usually appears in a place we would never choose. The people who came to John were not drawn by scenery. They were drawn by hunger. Something inside them had reached the point where the old solutions no longer worked. They needed a word strong enough to break through the fog. They needed a prophet.

John's message is not soothing. It is direct, bracing, almost fierce. But beneath his sharp words is a deep mercy. His cry of "Prepare the way" is not a threat but an invitation. He is asking people to clear away the clutter that grief or anger or shame or distraction has piled up. He is saying, in effect, "God is nearer than you think. Make room for Him. Do not let the wilderness convince you that you are alone."

That word lands with power because the wilderness is the one place where our false comforts stop working. You cannot outrun yourself there. You cannot cover the ache with noise. You are left with your real hunger, and surprisingly, that becomes the doorway to grace. Advent does not call us to escape the wilderness. Advent asks us to enter it with courage, because God is already there waiting.

Isaiah knew this. His vision in the first reading is not born out of prosperity but out of devastation. The royal family tree had been cut down. The once proud nation looked like a field of stumps. Yet Isaiah dares to proclaim that a shoot will rise from what appears dead. New life begins where hope has been reduced to the size of a seed. That is why this reading belongs to Advent. It speaks to everyone who feels like something has been cut down inside them. It whispers that God can work with the barest beginnings.

Paul echoes the same truth in Romans. He reminds us that Scripture was written to give endurance and encouragement. Not cheerful slogans, not optimistic phrases, but endurance that holds steady in the wilderness and encouragement that points us forward even when the way looks uncertain. Paul calls believers to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed them. That kind of welcome is more than social courtesy. It is the decision to see others the way God sees them, especially the ones who stand at the edges of life, the places Christ loves to enter first.

All of this prepares the heart for the Gospel's final image. John speaks of trees that bear good fruit. It is a striking contrast. We expect fruit in orchards, not wilderness places. Yet here is the quiet secret of Advent: the wilderness is where God cultivates the deepest fruit. Patience grows there. Courage grows there. Humility and compassion and honesty grow there. And once these roots take hold, they bear a harvest richer than anything comfort alone could produce.

Perhaps that is why the Gospel places John in the wilderness instead of the temple. The wilderness teaches the heart to listen. It strips away what does not matter. It frees us from pretending. And when we stop pretending, we can finally hear the one voice that tells the truth about who we are and who God is.

The message of the Second Sunday of Advent is simple and strong. The wilderness is not the end of the story. It is the place where God begins again. If you find yourself walking through one, do not assume God is far away. The voice calling your name may already be echoing through the quiet. He is asking you to clear the path, to make room, to trust that even in the dry places, grace is stirring beneath the surface.

And when you answer that call, you discover what the people discovered long ago. The wilderness does not disappear, but it becomes holy. It becomes the very place where Christ chooses to meet you and lead you toward a future more beautiful than the road that brought you there.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You know the landscape of my heart better than I do. You know the worries that wake me before dawn, the memories that still ache a little, the hopes I have carried for years, and the fatigue that settles into the soul when life has been full and heavy. You know the disappointments I tuck away, the losses I still grieve, and the habits I have learned to live with even when they no longer serve me.

Speak into those places with the same steady voice that once called out in the wilderness. Help me trust that I am never too old for new beginnings, never too late for healing, and never too far for Your grace to reach. Prepare the way within me. Clear the clutter I have grown accustomed to. Let me recognize the small but real shoots of life You are planting even now.

Walk with me through the places that feel dry or uncertain until they bloom again in Your time. And let this Advent be a gentle reminder that no matter my age, no matter my past, You are still doing something new within me.

Amen.



Forty-six of our Confirmation students attended the Diocesan Youth Rally in Punta Gorda on Saturday, November 15th. For more than eight hours these young men and women prayed, listened, cheered and filled their hearts full of love and mercy. This year's theme was "Arise – Leave Behind What Holds You Down!"

The Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

is a Holy Day of Obligation this Year and will be celebrated on Monday, December 8th

Masses at 8am, 12noon and 5pm
and 7pm in Spanish

VIGIL SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

MONDAY
DECEMBER 15TH
6PM

Join us for a prayer service
in the tradition of Taize
as we contemplate God and his mercy.
Priests will be available to hear confessions
in English, Spanish and Polish.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Parish Life Center
Monday, December 15th
12 noon



If you are an active volunteer in one of St. Leo's Ministries, please call the parish office at 992-0901 by Wednesday, December 10th to RSVP. We want to take this time to acknowledge all that you do and show you how much you are appreciated.



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.

The Hispanic Community of St. Leo is honored to invite you to the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe in our Parish Life Center.

Thursday, December 11th
7 pm Night Vigil begins with
Choir, Rosary and Prayers
8-9pm Holy Hour

Friday, December 12th
12 am Presentation of the Apparition of
Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego
4 am Mañanitas with Mariachi
5 am Mass in the Parish Life Center
with light breakfast to follow

6 pm Procession from the
Church to the Parish Life Center
7 pm Mass in the Parish Life Center
with light dinner to follow



Christmas Toy Drive

Angels are up on the trees at the entrances of the church. Once again we are requesting that you purchase a toy for your child, rather than clothing which can be difficult to determine the correct size.

Taking an angel and supplying a gift will help families who are looking for assistance in making their children's Christmas brighter.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to sort and distribute the Angel Tree Gifts.
Please call the Parish Office at 992-0901 if you would like to help on Tuesday, December 16 or Wednesday, December 17.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR PRESENT.
BRING IT UNWRAPPED, WITH THE ANGEL LABEL ATTACHED,
TO THE CHURCH OR PARISH OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT



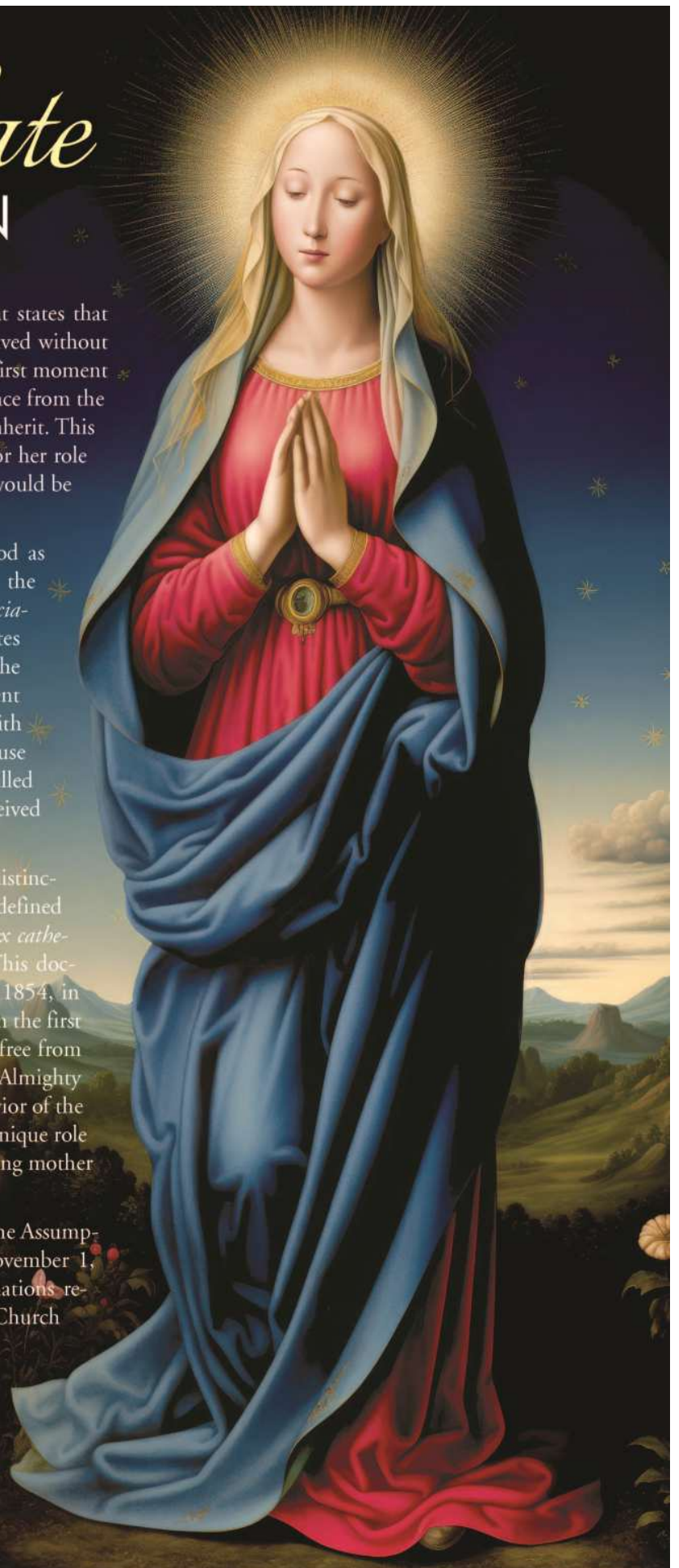
Immaculate CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that states that the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without original sin. This belief holds that from the very first moment of her existence, Mary was preserved by God's grace from the stain of original sin that all other human beings inherit. This special grace was given to Mary in preparation for her role as the mother of Jesus Christ, ensuring that she would be a pure and holy vessel for his birth.

This doctrine has sometimes been misunderstood as the conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit in the feast we know as the *Annunciation*. Instead, the Immaculate Conception celebrates the special gift of God's grace to Mary because she was to be the mother of Jesus, God's chosen agent to bring about our salvation. We hail Mary in faith and prayer because she is "full of grace" and because "the Lord is with her." In other words, Mary was filled with God's life well before the Messiah was conceived in her womb.

The Immaculate Conception holds the unique distinction of being one of only two dogmas formally defined by the Pope's full teaching authority, known as *ex cathedra*, rather than through ecumenical councils. This doctrine, defined by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854, in the papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, proclaims that from the first moment of her conception, Mary was preserved free from original sin by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race. This definition emphasized Mary's unique role and her pure and sinless nature, making her a fitting mother for the Son of God.

The only other dogma defined in this manner is the Assumption of Mary, declared by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950, in *Munificentissimus Deus*. These proclamations reflect the deep Marian devotion in the Catholic Church and underscore the Pope's infallibility in defining doctrines of faith and morals. The Immaculate Conception's *ex cathedra* definition exemplifies the Pope's role in guiding Church doctrine and the enduring significance of Marian beliefs.



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)

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!



This year St. Leo is blessed to have a growing number of people who have joined our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program to study and discern their desire to join the Church. The program is in great need of people willing to share their time and faith as sponsors. Sponsors for each of these individuals play an important role as they represent the faith community and insure that no one walks the journey of conversion without the support of the Church community. A sponsor makes the individual feel welcome, introduces them to other members of the faith community and encourages them to participate in community activities. Walking with someone who is learning about the Catholic faith is a great way to grow in your own faith. Not only will you be reviewing and learning about Catholic teachings, you will also be diving into prayer and scripture, renewing and strengthening your personal relationship with God. The experience can be mutually rewarding for both the candidate and the sponsor.

If you would like to share your faith and love for the Church, and learn more about becoming an OCIA sponsor please contact Matt Atkinson at sloop17mra@gmail.com or 812-789-3615.

Liturgical Schedule

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, December 24
 3:30 pm - Church & Auditorium
 5:30 pm - Children's Mass
 9:00 pm - Midnight Mass
 Carols begin at 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 25
 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am
 & 3:00 pm in Spanish

We Pray for the Recently Deceased of Our Parish

Franklin Carrion
 Joan Smith
 Dominic Elerbe
 Katherine Gorman

DEC 11

TOM SHILLUE

FOX NEWS PANELIST, AUTHOR "MEAN DADS FOR A BETTER AMERICA"

Faith & Ale is a monthly gathering of Catholic men. Join us at Church of the Resurrection in Fort Myers for our December 11th event, titled:

"Mean Dads for a Better America: The Generous Awards of an Old-Fashioned Childhood"

We invite you to register for this event and see our season's lineup on our website www.faithandale.com/register/. Review the details of this event below:

- Start time 6:30pm, doors open at 6pm.
- Church of the Resurrection
8121 Cypress Lake Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33919
- \$10 Suggested Donation (pizza & drink)
- Register www.faithandale.com

Tom's talk will focus on his book regarding fatherhood where he "...modernizes the lessons of his parents, fathering his own daughters in today's modern world."

Faith That Meets You Where You Are

JOURNEY TOGETHER IN FAITH AND HOPE

If you enjoy Fr. Jarek's reflections in the bulletin, take your faith journey further at CatholicJourneyToday.com a site created with you in mind. Discover daily reflections, inspiring homilies, faith-filled articles, and enriching courses in Scripture and Catholic catechism. Whether you seek Spiritual insights, practical wisdom, or a quiet space for reflection, you'll find it here.

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

walking with purpose

Come As You Are
You are Welcome Here!

Join Us For Session Two—You're Welcome if you are new—Always!!!
To Register for Day or Night Sessions Please Use the QR Code

For Daytime Sessions: Saint William Church Hall, 601 Seagate Dr.
 January 13th to March 31st 2026
 10:00 to 11:45am
 Doors Open at 9:30 for Coffee Social With Treats

Evening Sessions: The Blessed Mother Center—Rm.203
 750 Seagate Dr., Naples, FL 34103
 January 13th to March 31st 2026
 6:30 to 8:00 pm (Doors Open at 6 pm)

Important: Please purchase book "Opening Your Heart" at:
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Call or text to 484-432-5128 or Email: mcgowanlh@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	DECEMBER 8	
8:00 am	+Tom Smith Jr	His Loving Mom, Annette
12:00 noon	+Millie Garrity	Her Loving Daughter, Sally
5:00 pm	+Marguerite Ehrmann	Bonnie Dunne-Martin
7:00 pm	Special Cumulative Intentions	
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 9	
8:00 am	+Stefan & +Florence Torzewski	Their Loving Daughter Joyce, & Roy Moses
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 10	
8:00 am	+Joe Walter	Nancy Soliwoda
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 11	
8:00 am	+Ramona Alomar	Her Daughter, Madeline
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 12	
5:00 am-PLC	Special Cumulative Intentions	
8:00 am	+John Connors	His Loving Wife, Pat
7:00 pm -PLC	Special Cumulative Intentions	
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 13	
8:00 am	+Betty Jane Knapp	Frank & Nancy Walker
3:30 pm	+Leona Mazzoli	Michael & Lurna Coluni
5:30 pm	+Etta Smith	Noreen Harrington
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 14	
7:30 am	+Sheila O'Sullivan	John O'Neil & Alice Zaft
9:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
11:30 am	+Grace Hill	Her Loving Friend
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Marybeth Blettner	Jan & Larry Ryan

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

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 following 8am Mass beginning again in January.
For questions contact Loretta at 917.886.7273 or Peggy at 239.293.3201.



Flowers this week are dedicated to †Melissa & †Mark Hortman
Requested by Friends at Quail Creek

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



Please Pray for Our Troops

Lt. Marco Colavecchia	Joseph McDermond
Brian Dearcia Leon	Daniel McDonald
Michael DeSantis	Cpt. Kyle Martin
Cpt. Mary Kate Flynn	Michael Oliveira
Lt. Thomas A. Flynn	Sgt. Thomas Pauls
Cpt. Sean Flynn	Nick Parrorzio
Thomas Geanuracos	Sean Michael Perry
Carlos Gonzales	Cpt. Evan Razzano
Lt. Andrew D. Holt	Lt. Riley N. Schliem
Brian Howlett	Lt. Col. Jonathan W. Schwarz
Lt. Com. Matthew Kleine	Lt. Col. Peter Shayhorn
Reed Lessman	All serving in the military,
Lt. Col. Nicholas LoRusso	especially those in combat.

We pray today for...

Tom Bardol	Emily Lienesch
Jeffrey Bogart	Cole LoRusso
Dave Bowezs	Tim McAuliff
Tom Brown	Pauline McKeen
Denise Buk	Misaela Mendiola Sandoval
Isabelle Marie Caiola	Jose Manuel Meraz
Patrick Cain	Jay Miller
Carol Compagna	Paul Modzelewski
Mark Chambers	Barbara Moloney
Mickey Chervitz	Jay Morgan
Michelle Chiarulli	Deborah Muñiz
Kevin Clark	Audrey Grace Neeley
Scott Cochell	Glenn Nelson
Lourdes Coll	Kathleen Nelson
Greg Daeger	Paul Nippert
Eli Davis	Rita Off
Janet Davis	Beverly Pecor
Tara DeRoma	Connie Phillips
Carrie Derse	Aiden Putnam
Robby Dirks	Michelle Rendon
Paul Duggan	Mary Ritt
Brad Fairfield	Jack Rubush
Paula Fairfield	Tessa Santagate
Linda Fischel	Cindy Santiago
Sean Flynn	Martha Simons
Brynn Forlizzi	Rosemarie Smedile
John Galli	Sheryl Southerd
Gisette Lupita Garcia	Jim Stokes
Ben Gondersone	Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Esmeralda Gomez Moreira	Debra Tailerco
Louise Grantt	Michael Taveripite
Cory Gray	Fabio Thurman
Pauline Graziano	Tom Thurman
Karen Grimshaw	Eleanor Trevison
Ryan Hammond	Keanu Vallette
Alan Handsman	Debra Vannotti
Tara Handsman	Tim Young
Luke Hass	John White
Robbin Holcomb	George Witkowsky
Jack Jeffrey	Ray Zonghetti
Jerry Kaehle	Annie Zanussi
Nolan Kane	Anthony, Christine, Fabiala,
Mary Kobel	Krislin, Michael, Tray. Present
Peggy Land	& past parish priests.
Diane Lamdi	

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



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Landings for Returning Catholics	Parish Office 992-0901
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Lector Coordinator for Weekdays	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
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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

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.

*Your Generosity
was Amazing for
Our Thanksgiving Food Drive!*

Thanks to all who shared their own abundance with those in need. Thanksgiving was much brighter for over 1,000 families in our area because of the generous spirit of St. Leo Parishioners.

Your contributions of money and time to the Thanksgiving Food Drive made it all happen.

Thanks also to our special volunteers who worked tirelessly to sort, pack and distribute all of the food and gift cards.

A Light for the Hidden Wounds

By Father Jarek

December invites us to celebrate light, yet many quietly carry burdens of anxiety, depression, addiction, or deep loneliness. The Catholic Church stands beside all who struggle, reminding them that mental pain is not a failure of faith and that God never abandons His children. Christ meets us in our wounds, not with judgment but with tenderness, and He calls His Church to be a sanctuary of compassion and hope. As we walk through Advent, let us remember those who feel unseen or overwhelmed, and let us become for them a gentle light that restores dignity, renews courage, and whispers the truth that no life is beyond the reach of God's love.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, be close to all who struggle in mind or spirit this season. Bring peace to the anxious, strength to the weary, and hope to those who feel alone. Let Your healing light surround them, and make us instruments of Your compassion. Amen.

St. Leo's Respect Life Ministry



NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



Horario Litúrgico

MISAS DE NAVIDAD

Miercoles 24 de diciembre
3:30pm - Iglesia y Auditorio
5:30pm - Misa de niños
9 pm - Misa de medianoche
Los villancicos comienzan a las 8pm

Jueves 25 de diciembre
7:30, 9:30 y 11:30 am
3pm en español

La comunidad hispana tiene el honor de invitarle a la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
El Viernes 12 de diciembre

Iniciamos el Jueves 11 de diciembre
7 pm Vigilia
Hora Santa de 8-9pm
Coro, Rosario y Oraciones

Viernes 12 de diciembre
12 am Presentación de la Aparición de La Virgen de Guadalupe a Juan Diego
4 am Mañanitas con Mariachi
5 am Misa en el Centro Parroquial siguiendo con un desayuno ligero
6 pm Procesión de la Iglesia al Centro Parroquial
7 pm Misa en el Centro Parroquial y una cena ligera después de misa.



La Inmaculada Concepción de la Virgen María es un día de precepto este año y se celebrará el lunes 8 de diciembre con misas a las 8 am, 12 pm, 5 pm y 7 pm en español.

Servicio de Vigilia de Reconciliación

Lunes 15 de diciembre
6 pm

Acompáñenos en un servicio de oración según la tradición de Taizé para contemplar a Dios y su misericordia. Habrá sacerdotes disponibles para confesar en inglés, español y polaco.

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Centro Parroquial
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12 mediodía



Si participa activamente como voluntario en alguno de los ministerios de San Leo, por favor, llame a la oficina parroquial al 992-0901 antes del miércoles 10 de diciembre para confirmar su asistencia. Queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecerle todo lo que hace y mostrarle lo mucho que lo apreciamos.

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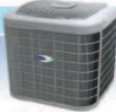
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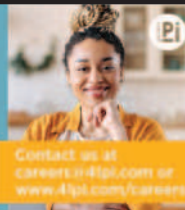
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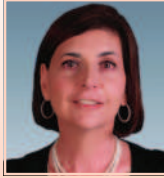
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