

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.*

July 26, 2026



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!

July 18 & 19
\$17,662

Solidarity Fund for the
Church in Africa
\$3,846

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 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

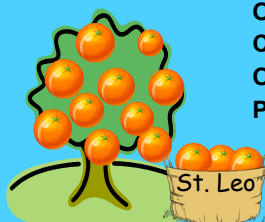
ONLINE GIVING

WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

2026 CFA

Congratulations !

Now that we have reached 100% of the
Diocesan goal we have an opportunity to
help St. Leo even more. Every dollar in
excess of the goal, up to 25% will be
returned to the parish assessment free!



Our goal..... \$664,000
Contributions to date .. \$902,422
Our pledges \$920,422
Pledge Goal Attained....138.56%

= 10% of Goal

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, August 1

3:30 pm Fr. Tim
5:30 pm Fr. Tim

Sunday, August 2

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

Changes may occur without notice.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

SUNDAY, JULY 26 - THE QUESTION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

"Give your servant an understanding heart." (1 Kings 3:9)

Imagine that tonight God appeared to you with one extraordinary invitation: "Ask for anything." What would immediately come to mind? Better health, financial security, more years with the people you love, or freedom from the worries that quietly occupy your thoughts each day? Solomon stands before God with the future of an entire nation resting on his shoulders, yet he asks for none of these things. He asks for an understanding heart. Before asking God to change his circumstances, he asks God to change him. That simple request reveals a profound truth. The greatest gift is not having everything we want but becoming the kind of person who knows what is truly worth wanting. Jesus reveals that wisdom through two unforgettable parables. The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great price. The people who discover them gladly give up everything else because they finally recognize something infinitely more valuable. We often do the opposite. We chase success, comfort, possessions, and recognition, believing the next achievement will finally satisfy us. Even the excitement of opening a package at the front door often disappears before we finish folding the empty box for the recycling bin. The heart was never created to live on temporary treasures. It was made for the One treasure that never loses its beauty, never wears out, and never disappoints.

Every day quietly asks us the same question God asked Solomon: *What do you really want?* The answer shapes every decision we make, whether we realize it or not.

When Christ becomes the greatest treasure of our lives, everything else finally finds its proper place. Success becomes a gift instead of an idol.

Possessions become tools instead of masters. Relationships become opportunities to love instead of sources of constant expectation. **When you give your life to the true Treasure, you finally stop spending it on things that were never worth the cost.**

Prayer: Lord, give me an understanding heart. When I begin chasing things that cannot satisfy, gently lead me back to You. Help me recognize Your presence as the greatest treasure of every ordinary day and give me the wisdom to build my life around what lasts forever. Amen. **Readings:** 1 Kings 3:5–12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:28–30; Matthew 13:44–52

MONDAY, JULY 27 - SMALL THINGS CHANGE EVERYTHING

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed." (Matthew 13:31)

A single mustard seed hardly seems impressive. It can rest unnoticed in the palm of your hand, looking too small to make any real difference. Yet Jesus chooses this tiny seed to describe the Kingdom of God because heaven often begins where human eyes see almost nothing. We tend to wait for dramatic moments that change everything overnight. God usually works much more quietly. His greatest miracles often begin with small acts of faithfulness repeated day after day until they slowly transform an entire life. Jeremiah teaches the opposite lesson through the image of the ruined linen cloth. Hearts rarely drift away from God in one dramatic decision. Distance grows through small neglected choices, one prayer left unsaid, one resentment quietly protected, one act of kindness postponed until tomorrow. Grace works in exactly the opposite direction. We wait for God in thunder and lightning, but He often comes in five peaceful minutes before the house wakes up, the decision not to answer anger with anger in traffic, the phone call to someone who feels forgotten, or the simple prayer whispered while preparing dinner. The smallest choices often shape the biggest futures. Do not underestimate what God can accomplish through today's quiet faithfulness. A word of encouragement may stay with someone for years. One sincere apology may begin healing a broken family. One hidden sacrifice offered with love may bear fruit long after you have forgotten making it. God has always delighted in beginning with what appears small because His glory shines brightest when tiny seeds become mighty trees. **Never underestimate a small act done with great love. Heaven has been growing forests from tiny seeds since the beginning of creation.**

Prayer: Lord, help me to be faithful in the small moments of today. Open my eyes to simple opportunities to love, forgive, encourage, and pray. May the little seeds I plant with You become blessings far greater than I will ever see. Amen. **Readings:** Jeremiah 13:1–11; Deuteronomy 32:18–21; Matthew 13:31–35

TUESDAY, JULY 28 - LET GOD DO THE SORTING

"Then the righteous will shine like the sun." (Matthew 13:43)

It is surprisingly easy to become an expert on everyone else's shortcomings. We quickly decide who is sincere, who is hopeless, who deserves another chance, and who probably never will. Modern life encourages instant opinions about people we barely know and situations we barely understand. We can form judgments in seconds, yet it often takes years to understand our own hearts. The truth is that we usually see only a single page of someone else's story while God alone holds the entire book. Jeremiah does not ignore the brokenness around him. He grieves, confesses the sins

of his people, and begs God for mercy. Jesus explains that the good seed and the weeds grow together until the harvest because only God possesses the wisdom to separate them perfectly. He alone knows every hidden wound, every silent struggle, every sincere effort to begin again, and every grace quietly at work beneath the surface. Someone we are tempted to dismiss today may one day become a remarkable witness to God's mercy. History is filled with saints whom others once misunderstood. Our responsibility is not to inspect every field but to cultivate the one entrusted to us. The time we spend judging others can become time spent encouraging them, praying for them, or examining our own hearts. God has never asked us to carry the burden of being the judge of the world. That place is already occupied by Someone infinitely wiser and infinitely more merciful than we are. **Peace begins the day we resign from judging everyone else and gladly return to the joyful work of becoming Christ's disciple.**

Prayer: Lord, retire me from the job of judging other people. Whenever I begin measuring someone else's heart, remind me how patiently and mercifully You have cared for mine. Fill me with compassion, humility, and trust so that I may leave the harvest safely in Your hands. Amen. **Readings:** Jeremiah 14:17–22; Psalm 79; Matthew 13:36–43

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 - MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS

"Mary has chosen the better part." (Luke 10:42)

Anyone who has ever prepared a family meal or welcomed guests into a home understands Martha. There are dishes to wash, meals to prepare, tables to set, and countless details demanding attention. While Martha hurries from one task to another, Mary simply sits at the feet of Jesus and listens. At first glance it hardly seems fair. Yet Jesus gently reveals that Martha's greatest burden is not her work but her worry. Her hands are busy, but her heart has become restless. She is so occupied serving the Lord that she no longer has time to enjoy being with Him. Jeremiah knows something about carrying heavy burdens. He speaks honestly about loneliness, disappointment, and wounds that seem unwilling to heal. Yet in the middle of his suffering he says something remarkable: "When I found your words, I devoured them; they became my joy and the happiness of my heart." His circumstances do not suddenly improve, but his soul finds strength because it remains close to God. Peace does not always come from having fewer responsibilities. More often it comes from remembering who carries those responsibilities with us.

Our world constantly rewards productivity while quietly neglecting the soul. We hurry through meals, answer messages before finishing conversations, and sometimes reach for our phones before offering God our first prayer of the day. We cannot nourish others if our own hearts remain empty. Every act of Christian service begins by first allowing ourselves to be loved by Christ. **We cannot pour out for others what we have not first allowed Christ to pour into us.**

Prayer: Lord, slow my restless heart whenever it begins to outrun Your presence. Teach me to choose time with You before becoming consumed by everything I must accomplish. Fill me with Your peace so that everything I do may flow from Your love. Amen. **Readings:** Jeremiah 15:10, 16–21; Psalm 59; Luke 10:38–42 or John 11:19–27

THURSDAY, JULY 30 - GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH YOU

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand." (Jeremiah 18:6)

Walk into a potter's workshop and you will notice something beautiful. Clay does not always cooperate.

A vessel begins to take shape, then suddenly collapses under the potter's hands. The walls become uneven. The form is lost. Yet the potter does not become frustrated or throw the clay away. He patiently gathers it together, moistens it again, places it back on the wheel, and begins creating something new. Jeremiah watches this ordinary scene and suddenly understands that it is really a lesson about every human life.

Many people secretly believe that one failure defines them forever. A broken marriage, a poor decision, years wasted, words that cannot be taken back, or dreams that never came true begin to feel like permanent verdicts. God sees something entirely different. Dry clay resists and easily cracks under pressure. Wet clay yields and can be shaped again. Perhaps what feels like God undoing our plans is really God softening our hearts. He is not destroying the vessel. He is preparing it for something more beautiful than we could have imagined ourselves.

The greatest saints were not people who never failed. They were people who kept placing themselves back into God's hands whenever they did. As long as we remain open to His grace, our story is never finished. The Divine Potter has never abandoned a piece of clay that was still willing to trust His hands. **God has never thrown away a life that was still willing to be shaped by His love.**

Continued on next page.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jared

Prayer: Lord, when I become discouraged by my weaknesses or disappointed by my failures, remind me that You are still shaping my life. Keep my heart soft enough for Your hands, patient enough to trust Your timing, and humble enough to begin again whenever You ask. Amen **Readings:** Jeremiah 18:1-6; Psalm 146; Matthew 13:47-53

FRIDAY, JULY 31 - THE COURAGE TO STAND ALONE

"Whatever I command you, tell them, and omit nothing." (Jeremiah 26:2)

Approval is one of the most powerful desires in the human heart. Most of us would rather avoid conflict than risk being misunderstood. We soften difficult conversations, remain silent when honesty is needed, or quietly adjust our convictions so everyone feels comfortable. Jeremiah refuses to do that. God tells him to proclaim the truth and "omit nothing." He knows his words may cost him friendships, popularity, and perhaps even his life, yet he speaks because pleasing God matters more than pleasing the crowd.

Jesus experiences something remarkably similar in His own hometown. The people are amazed by His wisdom, yet they cannot accept it because they think they already know Him. Their familiarity blinds them to His greatness. Sometimes the hardest place to live our faith is among people who have known us for years. They remember who we were and struggle to believe who, by God's grace, we are becoming. Faith does not always meet resistance from strangers. Quite often it meets resistance from those standing closest to us.

Every one of us will eventually face moments when doing the right thing feels lonely. We may never stand before an angry crowd like Jeremiah, but we will be asked to choose honesty over convenience, integrity over popularity, and truth over comfort. Those quiet decisions shape the soul far more than dramatic moments ever could. **The applause of the crowd lasts only a moment. The quiet peace of a clear conscience can last a lifetime.**

Prayer: Lord, quiet my need to be liked so I can hear Your voice above every other opinion. Give me a peaceful courage that seeks Your approval more than human applause, and help me remain faithful with humility, kindness, and confidence in Your presence. Amen. **Readings:** Jeremiah 26:1-9; Psalm 69; Matthew 13:54-58

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 - A CONSCIENCE IS WORTH PROTECTING

"It was the LORD who sent me." (Jeremiah 26:15)

History rarely celebrates the comfortable. It remembers men and women who were willing to stand for what was right even when the cost was painfully high. Jeremiah refuses to deny the message God entrusted to him, even with death standing before him. John the Baptist refuses to call evil good, even when speaking the truth places him in prison and ultimately costs him his life. Their circumstances are different, but their courage is the same. Neither man controls the outcome. Each simply remains faithful to the One who called him.

Most of us will never be asked to give our lives in such dramatic ways, yet every ordinary day presents smaller opportunities to protect our conscience. We choose whether to tell the truth when a lie would be easier, defend someone treated unfairly, admit our mistakes instead of hiding them, or remain faithful when compromise appears more convenient. Character is not usually built through one heroic decision. It is quietly formed through hundreds of ordinary choices that gradually shape the person we become.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori taught that holiness is possible for ordinary people living ordinary lives because holiness grows one faithful decision at a time. Success eventually fades. Wealth changes hands. Praise is quickly forgotten. A clear conscience, however, allows us to pray honestly, sleep peacefully, and meet the Lord without regret. **A clean conscience is one of the few treasures that no one else can ever take from you.**

Prayer: Lord, let me never trade a clear conscience for temporary comfort or passing success. Give me the wisdom to recognize the right path, the courage to walk it with humility, and the grace to remain faithful to You one decision at a time. Amen.

Readings: Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Psalm 69; Matthew 14:1-12

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

Safe Environment Training

As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering.

Please visit the Diocese of Venice website for further information.

To report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families please call 800-962-2873.

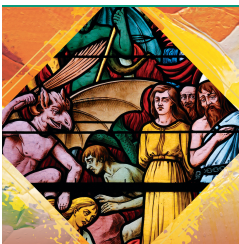
Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator Susan Benton at 941-416-6114.

WISHING YOU A DAY THAT IS AS GRAND AS YOU ARE



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY!

©LPI



"Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous." - Mt 13:49-51

There is no retirement age from the work
of proclaiming the Gospel and handing
down traditions to your grandchildren.

— POPE FRANCIS —

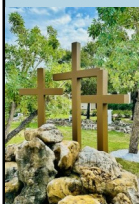


Welcome to St. Leo Church

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Ashley, Tony, Isabella, Bronx
& Parker Ravert
Thomas Gerli
Mary Parker
Christopher Sanchez
Marlon J. Gonzalez
Venon L. Meier
John & Rosemary Norcia
Mario, Daisy, Mia & Aliana Lozano
Patricia A. & Dennis J. Lacognata
Marisela, Victor, Abigail
& Victor Godinez Rea Estala
Monica M. Joyka
Jake C. Van Velsor
Gabriela, Bernardino, Giovanni
& Ulises Osorio-Vidal-Pinas

MEMORIAL BRICKS FOR THE GARDEN OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The St. Leo Stations of the Cross Garden is a sacred space to pray and reflect. Placing a brick 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" x 12" (\$300). Brochures with more information and order forms are available in the parish office. Bricks orders are placed three times per year. The next deadline for brick orders will be October 30th.



St. Elizabeth Seton

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THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN SMARTER. HAS IT EVER BEEN WISER?

By Father Jarek

There has never been a generation like ours. Before many of us finish breakfast, we have already learned about a war on another continent, a hurricane forming in the Atlantic, the latest stock market swings, a celebrity scandal, several political controversies, and a new medical study that promises either to extend our lives or to make us rethink everything we ate yesterday. We answer emails before speaking to our spouses, scroll through headlines before saying our morning prayers, and can ask artificial intelligence almost any question and receive an answer within seconds. Humanity has never possessed so much information, so much technology, or so many ways to communicate. Yet for all our astonishing progress, many people quietly admit they have never felt more overwhelmed.

The evidence is all around us. Anxiety continues to rise. Loneliness has become an epidemic. Families struggle to have meaningful conversations. Public debates often generate more heat than light. Endless opinions leave us exhausted instead of enlightened. We know more about the lives of strangers than ever before, yet many people feel increasingly disconnected from their own purpose. It is one of the great paradoxes of our age. The world has become infinitely better at delivering information, but not necessarily at helping people discover how to live.

Perhaps our greatest problem is not that we know too little. Perhaps it is that we have forgotten the difference between information and wisdom. Information tells us what is happening. Wisdom helps us understand what truly matters. Information expands our knowledge of the world. Wisdom teaches us how to love within it. Information can answer almost any question we ask. Wisdom asks whether we are asking the right questions in the first place.

That is why the first reading this Sunday sounds as though it were written for the twenty first century. God appears to the young King Solomon with an astonishing invitation: "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Imagine hearing those words. Most of us would probably ask for better health, financial security, peace within our families, success for our children, or simply a future with fewer worries. None of those desires are selfish. They are deeply human. Solomon himself could have asked for military power, wealth beyond imagination, a long life, or victory over every enemy surrounding his kingdom.

Instead, Solomon asks for something almost no one would place at the top of the list. He asks for "an understanding heart." Notice what he does not request. He does not ask for greater intelligence, a sharper memory, or more knowledge than anyone else. He asks for the ability to distinguish between good and evil, between what merely appears attractive and what is genuinely true. Solomon understands something our age often forgets: knowledge and wisdom are not the same gift. Knowledge answers the question, *What can I do?* Wisdom asks, *What should I do?* Knowledge fills the mind with facts. Wisdom forms the heart to recognize what is good, beautiful, and worth giving one's life to.

This distinction has never been more important than it is today. Schools teach us how to solve problems. Businesses reward expertise. Technology delivers answers with astonishing speed. Artificial intelligence can summarize books, analyze complex research, translate languages, and perform tasks that would have seemed miraculous only a few years ago. Yet no technology can teach a husband how to forgive after an argument, help parents know how to love a struggling child, or tell a young person whether choosing a successful career will quietly cost them their family. No machine can decide when justice requires courage or when mercy calls for silence. Those decisions belong not to computers but to hearts that have been shaped by truth, humility, and love.

Perhaps that explains why so many people feel mentally exhausted before the day has truly begun. Before speaking to God, they have already listened to dozens of competing voices. Within minutes they know what thousands of strangers think about politics, economics, entertainment, and sports. They know what products they should buy, what headlines should concern them, and what controversies should capture their emotions. Yet after absorbing all of that information, many still struggle to answer one remarkably simple question: **What is the most loving thing I should do today?** No search engine can answer that. No algorithm can calculate it. Only a wise heart can.

Jesus carries this same lesson into the Gospel. He speaks about a man who discovers a hidden treasure and a merchant who finds a pearl of immense value. Both respond in exactly the same way. They joyfully sell everything they own because they have finally recognized something worth more than everything they are leaving behind. Real wisdom always changes our priorities. The foolish person spends life collecting more. The wise person spends life discovering what is truly worth keeping. Wisdom is not measured by how many opportunities we possess but by our ability to recognize the one opportunity that deserves our whole heart.

That may be one of the quiet tragedies of modern life. We have confused having more choices with having more freedom. We can spend forty five minutes scrolling through movies without choosing one, compare hundreds of restaurants before deciding where to eat, postpone commitments because we fear something slightly better may appear tomorrow, and keep every door open until we discover we no longer have the courage to walk through any of them. Our culture celebrates endless options, while Jesus speaks about wholehearted commitment. The Kingdom of God is not one treasure among many. It is the treasure. Once we discover Him, every other treasure finally finds its proper place.

Saint Paul completes the picture when he writes that “all things work together for good for those who love God.” He is not suggesting that everything which happens is good. Illness is not good. Betrayal is not good. Grief is not good. Rather, he proclaims the astonishing hope that when our lives are rooted in Christ, God can weave even suffering into something beautiful. Information explains events. Wisdom discovers God’s faithful presence within them. Knowledge tells us what happened. Wisdom helps us see what God may be accomplishing through it.

Perhaps the greatest battle of our generation is not for our opinions but for our attention. Every notification asks us to look. Every advertisement asks us to desire. Every headline asks us to react. Every algorithm asks us to stay just a little longer. This is not accidental. Whoever captures our attention gradually shapes our desires. Our desires influence our decisions. Our decisions form our character. Our character ultimately shapes the people we become. Attention is never merely a psychological habit. It is a profoundly spiritual act because whatever consistently receives our attention slowly receives our heart.

That is why Solomon’s prayer may be the most necessary prayer of our time. Not, “Lord, help me know more.” But, “Lord, give me an understanding heart.” Give me a heart that recognizes truth among endless opinions. A heart that chooses people before possessions, silence before noise, prayer before panic, forgiveness before resentment, and the eternal before the merely urgent. Give me a heart that recognizes Your Kingdom as the greatest treasure and has the courage to choose it above everything else.

The world has never been smarter. Our machines will continue to grow faster, our technology more astonishing, and our access to information almost limitless. But the future will never belong simply to those who know the most. It will belong to those whose hearts become wise enough to recognize what deserves their attention, courageous enough to choose the greatest Treasure, and faithful enough to spend the rest of their lives never looking back.

PRAYER

Lord, there are days when my mind feels crowded before the morning has even begun.

I listen to so many voices that I sometimes struggle to recognize Yours.

I fill my thoughts with headlines, messages, and endless information,

yet I can still forget the one thing that matters most:

to love You with all my heart and to love the people You place before me today.

Please give me the gift You gave Solomon, an understanding heart.

Teach me to recognize the difference between what is merely urgent and what is truly important.

When my attention becomes scattered, gently lead me back to Your presence.

Help me spend less time reacting to the noise of the world and more time listening for Your quiet voice.

May every decision I make, every conversation I have, and every moment

I live bring me closer to the greatest Treasure I could ever find, Your Son, Jesus Christ,

who alone can satisfy the deepest longing of my heart. 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)

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)



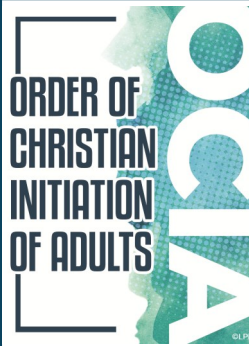
WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!

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.

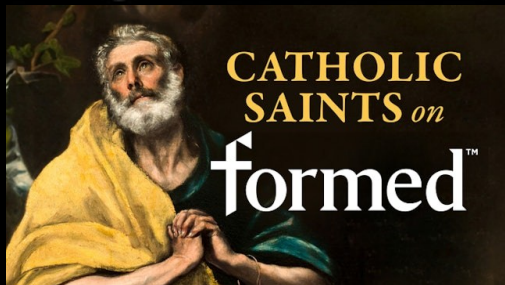


Are You Considering Joining the Catholic Church?

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>

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We are pleased to provide for all our 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.

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	JULY 27	
8:00 am	+Joseph Sichko	Don & Marlene Graven
TUESDAY	JULY 28	
8:00 am	+Lisa & +Larry Mullins	Lizabeth Cuenya
WEDNESDAY	JULY 29	
8:00 am	+Day Zippilli	His Loving Wife
THURSDAY	JULY 30	
8:00 am	+Bernard Gliwa	Gliwa Family
FRIDAY	JULY 31	
8:00 am	+Anthony Petrities	Dr. Mark Petrites
SATURDAY	AUGUST 1	
8:00 am	+Kurt Tolsdorf	Joe Stegle
3:30 pm	+Judith Slivanik	Her Husband, Paul
5:30 pm	Alan & Susan Bakos'	Maria Dianne
	Wedding Anniversary	
SUNDAY	AUGUST 2	
7:30 am	+Aguste Klotz	Ethel
9:30 am	+Amedeo Michael Zippilli	Marilyn & Kevin
11:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Denise Stuart	Martin Hupworth

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 us 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.



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
 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 Parrorzio
 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
 Gissette Lupita Garcia
 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
 Paul Nippert
 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
 Vanessa Stathis
 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

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 Anne Bellows..... 992-0901
 390-2928
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 Carol Dangler..793-0826
 Sylvia Jimenez.....941-412-5860
 Loretta Ede.....917-886-7273
 Doug & Jeanne Lindberg.....800-470-2230
 Griselda Cisneros992-0901
 Annette Smith948-1640
 Bernice Romano601-5877
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If you have any questions, please reach out to:
 npozo@ccdov.org | 239-334-4007 ext. 2100
 Confirming attendance is helpful but not required.

We Pray for the Recently Deceased Of Our Parish

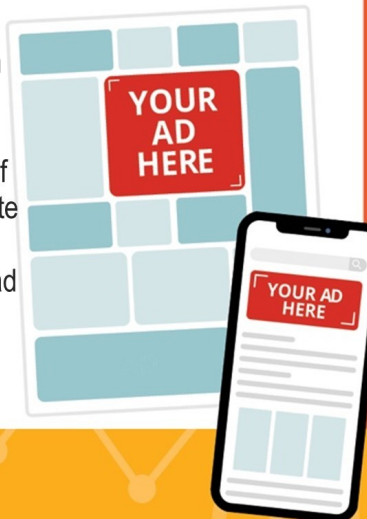
Barbara Potocnik
 Andrea L. Calavitta



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NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL

“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



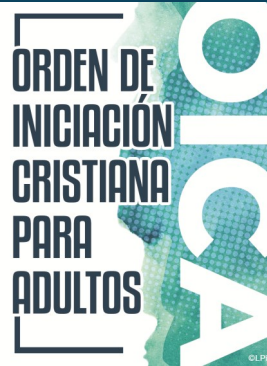
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Incluye: Desayuno y Almuerzo

Organiza: El Cenáculo de María
bajo la coordinación del Padre Eduardo Coll,
Pastor de la Iglesia San Andrés, Cape Coral, FL.

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Clases de Educación Religiosa Para Adultos

Se les comunica a todos los adultos mayores de 18 años que desean hacer sus Sacramentos de Orden de Iniciación Cristiana (Bautizo, Confirmación y Primera Comunión), las registraciones para las clases ya están disponibles. Para mas información, comunicarse con el Señor Miguel Ríos o puede pasar directamente a la Oficina Parroquial, de lunes a viernes de 9am a 3:30pm.

Lista de Coordinadores de Ministerios de la Comunidad Hispana y de Liturgia

Coordinador de Emaus Hombres

Roberto Arredondo (239) 860-1111

Coordinadora de Grupo de Oración

Ruth Domínguez (239) 351-8430

Coordinadora de Emaus mujeres

Martha Santillán (239) 908-1680

Coordinador de Lectores

Carlos Gómez (239) 913-7651

Coordinadora de Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión

Luz Janeth García (239) 494-0973

Coordinadores de Grupo de matrimonios (MDS) Matrimonios, Diálogo y Seguimiento

Adrián y Silvia Ortiz (239) 834-4778

Sacristán y coordinador de monaguillos (Altar servers)

Tony García (239) 908-1173

iFeliz día de los abuelos! 26 de julio



Oración por los Abuelos

Querido Dios,

Qué gracia vivir en un mundo de todas las edades y etapas.

Bendice a nuestros abuelos, hoy y siempre.

Gracias por sus experiencias, sabiduría y perspicacia.

Gracias por los regalos que traen a la Iglesia.

Gracias por las lecciones que enseñan a las próximas generaciones.

Amén.



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