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.

November 15, 2026



Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, November 21

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. Chuck Ruoff	**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!

November 7 & 8
$32,033

World Mission Sunday
$34,113

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 1:30pm-3:00pm on Saturday in English during season and 2pm on Sunday in Spanish in the Church. You may also approach any of our parish priests to hear your confession at another suitable time.

THE RITE OF ANOINTING
A person does not need to wait until the point of death to receive this sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient. The Sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after the anointing but becomes ill once again, or if, during the sameillness, 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

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 condition units in the Parish Life Center and Education Building. 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.

ONLINE GIVING
WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, November 21

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

Sunday, November 22

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

Changes may occur without notice.

Christmas Toy Drive

Angels will be up on the trees at the entrances of the church next weekend, November 21/22.

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.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR PRESENT.
BRING IT UNWRAPPED, WITH THE ANGEL LABEL ATTACHED,
TO THE CHURCH OR PARISH OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

Thanksgiving Food Drive

It's Time Again to Make a Family's Thanksgiving a Little Brighter!

If you would like to provide an area family with food for their holiday dinner you may write a check for $50 payable to St. Leo Poor Box and drop it in the collection basket, or bring it to the Parish Office.



Your continued support for this annual project is appreciated. Last year we served over 1,000 families.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
GOD WILL NEVER ASK WHY WE DID NOT LIVE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE
"Well done, my good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

One of the quietest ways to waste a life is to spend it comparing ourselves with others. Someone else seems more talented, successful, generous, or spiritually accomplished. We notice what they have achieved and overlook what God has entrusted to us. Eventually, comparison becomes an excuse for inaction. We convince ourselves that our gifts are too ordinary to matter, our opportunities too limited, or our best years already behind us.

In today's Gospel, three servants receive different amounts of money. Two invest what they have been given, while the third buries his treasure out of fear. Remarkably, the master praises the first two with exactly the same words. Their achievements differ, but their faithfulness is equally precious. God does not measure our lives against someone else's accomplishments. The woman praised in Proverbs understands this beautifully. Her greatness is revealed through faithful work, generous hands, and love expressed in ordinary responsibilities. Holiness is rarely spectacular. More often, it looks like showing up when someone needs us.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy is not that we occasionally fail, but that fear persuades us never to begin. We may not possess extraordinary talents, but we can offer encouragement, forgive an old offense, visit someone lonely, or make another person's difficult day a little easier. None of these actions will make headlines, but heaven has never depended on newspaper coverage. God will never ask why we did not live someone else's life. He will ask what we did with the one He lovingly entrusted to us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, free me from comparisons that diminish my gratitude and fears that weaken my courage. Help me recognize the gifts You have entrusted to me and use them generously, so that my ordinary life may become an extraordinary offering of love. Amen.

Readings: Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 128:1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6; Matthew 25:14–30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
WE CAN BE FAITHFUL TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND UNFAITHFUL TO OUR FIRST LOVE
"Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first." (Revelation 2:4)

There is a particular kind of exhaustion that comes from doing everything we are supposed to do while gradually forgetting why we began. We fulfill responsibilities, attend church, care for family members, answer messages, and keep appointments. From the outside, everything appears reasonably well organized. Inside, however, something has quietly changed. What once brought joy now feels like another obligation. We have become efficient at maintaining a life we no longer have much time to appreciate.

In Revelation, Jesus praises the Christians of Ephesus for their perseverance, hard work, and commitment to truth. Yet He sees something troubling beneath their impressive religious record: they have lost their first love. Their faithfulness has become detached from affection. Meanwhile, a blind beggar near Jericho recognizes what the busy crowd overlooks. When Jesus passes by, he cries out for mercy and refuses to be silenced. His prayer contains no impressive theology, only an honest longing: "Lord, please let me see." Perhaps that is precisely what we need when our spiritual lives become mechanical.

Even the strongest marriage suffers when every conversation concerns groceries, appointments, medications, and whose turn it is to take out the trash. Love cannot survive indefinitely on efficient administration. Neither can faith. Jesus does not ask us to manufacture yesterday's enthusiasm or pretend that life has not exhausted us. He invites us to remember why we loved Him in the first place. Sometimes spiritual renewal begins not by adding another prayer to our schedule, but by allowing our hearts to become present to the One we are praying to.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, forgive me when I become so occupied with serving You that I forget to enjoy Your presence. Restore the tenderness that routine and disappointment have diminished. Help me see You again, not merely as someone I must obey, but as the One who first loved me. Amen.

Readings: Revelation 1:1–4; 2:1–5; Psalm 1:1–6; Luke 18:35–43

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
JESUS KNOWS WHAT IS BEHIND THE CLOSED DOORS AND STILL WANTS TO COME IN
"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." (Revelation 3:20)

Most homes have at least one closet that visitors are not encouraged to open. Everything looks reasonably presentable until someone asks where we keep the things we have been meaning to organize for the past fifteen years. Our hearts can resemble those houses. We gladly show God our generosity, good intentions, and religious devotion, while quietly keeping certain disappointments, resentments, regrets, and embarrassing failures behind closed doors.

Today's readings reveal something astonishing about divine mercy. In Revelation, Jesus stands at the door and knocks. In the Gospel, He looks up at Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector despised by his neighbors, and announces that He intends to stay at his house. Jesus does not wait for Zacchaeus to become respectable before offering friendship. His unexpected acceptance awakens the man's conscience and inspires genuine generosity and restitution. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary understood this same transforming love. Her devotion to Christ became visible in her extraordinary compassion for the poor and suffering.

We sometimes imagine that repentance must come before God will draw near. Yet Scripture repeatedly shows that God's loving approach awakens repentance. Zacchaeus changes because he has encountered someone who sees more than his failures. Jesus does not ignore what is wrong in our lives, but neither does He confuse our mistakes with our identity. He knows what we have done, what we regret, and what we are still struggling to overcome. And He is still knocking. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to spiritual growth is not our imperfection, but our reluctance to believe that God already knows us completely and still desires our company.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You know every hidden corner of my heart, including the places I am ashamed to reveal. Give me the courage to open every door to Your mercy. Heal what is wounded, transform what is selfish, and teach me to welcome others with the same compassion You have shown me. Amen.

Readings: Revelation 3:1–6, 14–22; Psalm 15:2–5; Luke 19:1–10

Daily Reflections

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
NOT EVERYTHING THAT TROUBLES US IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIX
"Worthy are you, Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power." (Revelation 4:11)

Some people carry the weight of the world so faithfully that they eventually forget it was never assigned to them. They worry about their children, grandchildren, health, finances, political developments, and decisions other people insist on making despite excellent advice. Modern technology has made this burden considerably heavier. We can now discover twenty new reasons to worry before breakfast, including problems occurring thousands of miles away that we have absolutely no ability to solve.

In Revelation, John receives a magnificent vision of heaven. At its center stands a throne, and God is seated upon it. The image offers profound reassurance: despite the confusion of earthly life, heaven has not lost its direction. God remains sovereign, even when circumstances seem frighteningly uncertain. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds His listeners that the Kingdom requires patient faithfulness rather than anxious speculation. We are entrusted with responsibilities, but not with controlling every outcome. Our calling is to act wisely and lovingly within the circumstances we have been given.

One of life's most liberating discoveries is that responsibility and control are not the same thing. Responsibility asks, "What can love accomplish through me today?" Control demands, "How can I guarantee that everything will turn out as I wish?" The first gives our lives purpose; the second can steal our peace. We are responsible for offering love, not for ensuring that everyone accepts it. We are called to make wise decisions, not to predict every consequence. God has entrusted us with a life to live, not a universe to manage. Thankfully, that position is already occupied.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, free me from the exhausting belief that everything depends on me. Give me wisdom to recognize what is mine to do, courage to do it faithfully, and humility to entrust the rest to You. Teach me that surrender is not giving up, but placing my trust where it has always belonged. Amen.

Readings: Revelation 4:1–11; Psalm 150:1–6; Luke 19:11–28

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
EVEN THE STRONGEST FAITH SOMETIMES SPEAKS THROUGH TEARS
"As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it." (Luke 19:41)

Some of the deepest sorrows are carried by people who appear perfectly composed. They continue preparing meals, attending appointments, smiling at neighbors, and asking everyone else how they are doing. Yet beneath their ordinary routines lies a grief that never entirely disappears. Perhaps they miss someone who has died, worry about a struggling child, or carry the disappointment of a relationship that never healed. They have learned to function with sadness, but functioning is not the same as being free from pain.

Today's Gospel reveals one of the most tender moments in Scripture: Jesus weeps over Jerusalem. He sees the suffering that awaits the city and grieves over the peace its people have failed to recognize. His tears are not evidence of insufficient faith. They reveal the depth of divine love. In Revelation, the victorious Lion of Judah appears as a Lamb who has been slain. God's triumph does not erase the wounds of love; it transforms their meaning. The Savior who conquers death is the same Savior who weeps before suffering.

We sometimes believe that strong faith should make us less vulnerable to sorrow. Yet Jesus shows us something more beautiful: holiness does not require a hardened heart. The ability to grieve is inseparable from the ability to love. Tears are not always signs that hope has disappeared; sometimes they reveal how deeply hope matters. When we cannot find the right words to pray, our sorrow itself can become an offering to God. We do not have to choose between being faithful and being heartbroken. Christ has shown us how to be both. And because He has wept, we never have to wonder whether heaven understands our tears.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You know the sorrows I carry quietly and the tears I sometimes hide from others. Help me trust that my grief does not separate me from You. Keep my heart tender without losing hope, and teach me to recognize Your loving presence even in the moments when I cannot understand Your plans. Amen.

Readings: Revelation 5:1–10; Psalm 149:1–6, 9; Luke 19:41–44

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
GOD LOVES US TOO MUCH TO LEAVE US COMFORTABLE IN WHAT HARMS US
"How sweet to my taste is your promise!" (Psalm 119:103)

Most of us appreciate honesty, especially when it confirms what we already believe about ourselves. We welcome encouragement, enjoy compliments, and value people who recognize our good intentions. But when someone gently points out a weakness we have spent years carefully justifying, our appreciation for honesty can suddenly become less enthusiastic. We may even explain that the person has misunderstood us, although deep down we suspect they have understood us rather well.

In Revelation, John receives a scroll that tastes sweet as honey but becomes bitter in his stomach. God's Word consoles, but it also challenges. Truth is sweet because it comes from divine love; it can become bitter when it confronts what we would rather avoid. In the Gospel, Jesus drives merchants from the Temple because a sacred place has been distorted by selfish interests. His anger is not the opposite of love. It is love refusing to remain indifferent to what destroys holiness. A God who never challenged us might seem easier to follow, but He would also leave us imprisoned in the very habits that diminish our lives.

There is a profound difference between being accepted and being left unchanged. Jesus accepts us as we are, but His love sees possibilities we have not yet imagined. A good physician does not conceal an illness simply to preserve a patient's comfort. Likewise, divine mercy sometimes reveals painful truths because healing matters more than temporary reassurance. The question is whether we can receive correction without mistaking it for rejection. God's truth may disturb our complacency, but it never diminishes our dignity. He does not expose our weaknesses to shame us. He brings them into the light because He knows they do not have to define our future.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me the humility to welcome Your truth, especially when it challenges what I would rather ignore. Correct me without allowing shame to overwhelm me. Purify my intentions, strengthen my conscience, and help me recognize that every invitation to change is also an invitation to greater freedom. Amen.

Daily Reflections

Readings: Revelation 10:8–11; Psalm 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Luke 19:45–48

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
THE PEOPLE WE LOVE ARE NOT LOST TO THE GOD WHO GAVE THEM LIFE

"He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive." (Luke 20:38)

Grief has a remarkable way of hiding inside ordinary moments. We may feel reasonably peaceful until we hear a familiar song, notice an empty chair, or reach for the telephone before remembering that the person we want to call is no longer there. Often, what we miss most is not the extraordinary occasions but the small, almost forgettable details of everyday life. A familiar voice. A shared joke. Someone asking whether we have eaten. Love makes ordinary moments precious, and their absence can leave an ache that time never completely removes.

In today's Gospel, the Sadducees challenge Jesus with an elaborate hypothetical situation involving seven brothers and one woman. Their question sounds complicated enough to require a family attorney, but Jesus refuses to let their argument reduce eternity to earthly arrangements. Resurrection is not simply a continuation of life as we know it. It is a transformed existence in which death no longer has power over God's children. In Revelation, God's witnesses rise after apparent defeat, reminding us that death cannot overturn His final promise. The Presentation of Mary likewise invites us to contemplate a life entrusted to God, even when the future remains mysterious.

We naturally wonder whether we will recognize those we love, whether old wounds will be healed, and what reunion in heaven might be like. Jesus does not answer every question about eternity. Instead, He gives us something more important: the assurance that God is the God of the living. Christian hope does not depend on our ability to imagine heaven correctly. It rests on the faithfulness of the One who has conquered death. We may no longer hear the voices we miss or hold the hands we once held, but those we love have not slipped beyond God's reach. The empty chair is real, and so is our sorrow. But neither is the end of the story. Love has not finished speaking.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You know how deeply I miss those who have gone before me. Comfort the places in my heart that still ache with their absence. Strengthen my faith in the resurrection, help me cherish those who remain beside me, and teach me to trust that every love entrusted to Your mercy is held in hands stronger than death. Amen.

Readings: Revelation 11:4–12; Psalm 144:1–2, 9–10; Luke 20:27–40

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

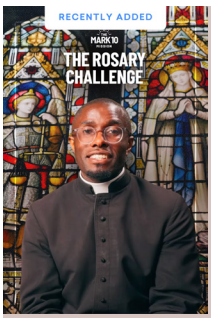


Volunteers Needed for Prison Outreach

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.





FORMED

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.

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 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.



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!

GOD WILL NEVER ASK WHY YOU DIDN'T LIVE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE

by Father Jarek

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31; Psalm 128:1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6; Matthew 25:14–30

We live in an age when everyone else's life seems more impressive than our own. Someone is traveling through Italy, someone has published a book, and someone who looks suspiciously younger than we do has already retired comfortably. Meanwhile, we're trying to remember why we walked into the kitchen. Social media has turned comparison into an Olympic sport, and most of us are competing without ever signing up. We compare our accomplishments, families, finances, and even our spiritual lives. Eventually, we begin to wonder whether the life God gave us is somehow less valuable than someone else's. We forget something essential: We are not competing for God's love.

Jesus offers a liberating perspective in today's Gospel. A master entrusts three servants with different amounts of money. The first receives five talents, the second two, and the third one. The first two invest their gifts and double them. Yet notice something extraordinary: although their achievements differ, the master welcomes both with exactly the same words: "Well done, my good and faithful servant." No additional praise for the servant who earned more. No comparison, no ranking, no heavenly performance review. Their accomplishments are unequal, but their faithfulness is equally precious.

The third servant reveals something troubling about the human heart. He does not squander his gift. He buries it. Asked why, he answers, "I was afraid." He sees his master as harsh and demanding, someone more interested in punishing failure than encouraging faithfulness. His fear becomes an excuse for doing nothing. We make the same mistake when we underestimate our gifts, exaggerate our limitations, and convince ourselves that our contribution hardly matters. Yet his deepest mistake is not underestimating his gift, but misunderstanding the one who entrusted it to him. He sees responsibility as a threat rather than an invitation. We cannot live generously while believing God is waiting for us to fail.

The woman praised in Proverbs offers a beautiful contrast. The frightened servant closes his hands around what he receives; she opens hers to those in need. He buries his possibilities; she transforms hers into blessings. She understands what he never discovers: a gift fulfills its purpose not merely by being preserved, but by being shared. Think of those who quietly hold our world together: a husband caring for his wife with Alzheimer's, a grandmother praying for grandchildren who rarely call, a nurse comforting someone frightened, a volunteer visiting a forgotten neighbor. Their names may never appear in the headlines. Yet imagine how much colder the world would become without their love.

And this kind of faithfulness does not lose its value when our strength begins to fade. As we grow older, responsibilities change, accomplishments become memories, and we may wonder whether we still have anything worthwhile to offer. But God has never confused human worth with productivity. Someone confined to a wheelchair can offer extraordinary encouragement. A person who can no longer work can still pray, forgive, and love. Even those entirely dependent on others remain infinitely precious. Our dignity does not depend on what we accomplish. It rests in the love of the One who created us.

Saint Paul reminds us that we are children of the light, called to remain awake rather than drift through our days. His warning is not meant to make us anxious about tomorrow but attentive to today. We do not have unlimited opportunities to love, reconcile, encourage, and give. Perhaps one of the quietest ways to waste a life is to spend it wishing we had been given someone else's.

Much of the good we accomplish remains invisible to us. We rarely know how deeply a kind word encouraged someone, how much a quiet sacrifice mattered, or what hope our presence awakened in another person's heart. The fruits of faithfulness often grow beyond our sight. What seems ordinary to us may become extraordinary in someone else's life.

When we finally stand before God, He will not ask why we were not more talented, successful, or admired. What will matter is not how much we were given, how much we achieved, or how many people noticed, but how faithfully we loved with what was ours.

A PRAYER FOR FAITHFULNESS

Lord Jesus, forgive me for comparing my life
with others and overlooking the gifts You have entrusted to me.
Free me from the fear of not being enough,
and teach me to recognize the quiet opportunities to love that each day brings.
When my strength diminishes, remind me that my worth does not.
Give me courage to share what I have, humility to accept what I cannot do,
and wisdom to remember that no act of love is ever wasted.
And when my journey ends, may I come before You with open hands,
having shared the gifts You entrusted to me,
and a heart that has learned to love.
Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	**NOVEMBER 16**	
8:00 am	+Julia O'Brien	Bonnie Dunne-Martin
TUESDAY	**NOVEMBER 17**	
8:00 am	+Margaret & +Theresa	Paula Hand & Amy Solazzo
WEDNESDAY	**NOVEMBER 18**	
8:00 am	+Mary & +Loyd Shower	Their Loving Daughter
THURSDAY	**NOVEMBER 19**	
8:00 am	+Steven Nastari	The Murrays
FRIDAY	**NOVEMBER 20**	
8:00 am	+Ted Daniels	His Loving Family
SATURDAY	**NOVEMBER 21**	
8:00 am	+JaneAnn Camerota	Peter and Pati Grana
3:30 pm	+Robert Alegado	Gliwa Family
5:30 pm	+Peter Dunne	His Loving Daughter
SUNDAY	**NOVEMBER 22**	
7:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
9:30 am	+Theresa Solazzo	Her Loving Family
11:30 am	+JaneAnn Camerota	Peter and Pati Grana
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Steven Nastari	The Murrays

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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 Cafe 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

Meetings are held in the Nest Cafe on the last Friday of the month at 9am. Due to the holiday schedule, our next meeting will be in January. For questions call Peggy at 293-3201.



Flowers and Candles this week are dedicated to
† Sherwood "Skip" Richardson
Requested by His Loving Wife Peggie

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
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
Alonso Family
Clayton Aunkle
Linda Bardol
Marie Berry
Jeffrey Bogart
Catherine Borovich
Bob Brock
Hildi Brown
Denise Buk
Isabelle Marie Caiola
Patrick Cain
Peter Castro
Michelle Chiarulli
Scott Cochell
Lourdes Coll
Jeff Davis
Jaden Anthony Droz
Jim Esposito
Brad Fairfield
Rudolph & Mary Fazio
Michael Federico
Cory Fredericksen
Gissette Lupita Garcia
Ellie Gaspar
Paul Gaspar
Donna Gierch
Vincent Gil
Marcedes Giordawa
Kevin Glowacki
Ben Gondersone
Rich Gonzalez
Elaine Gorman
Charles Granito
Karen Grimshaw
Luke Hass
Robbin Holcomb
Mathew Hughes
Kendall Hunter
Nolan Kane
Matt Knight
Mary Kobel
Robert Kochalka
Stephanie Krydick
Jeff Lally
Karen Lamont
Emily Lienesch
Mark Lips
Mary Mavilla
Tim McAuliff
Beverly McDowell
Audrey Grace Neeley
Kathleen Nelson
Nancy Nunez
Rita Off
Paul Orzech
Rev. Marcel Pasciak
Mary Pearce
Beverly Pecor
Michelle Pennell
Connie Phillips
Aiden Putnam
Mary Ritt
Tessa Santagate
Cindy Santiago
Gary Schomaker
Fr. Tim Sheedy
Louis Simonini
Darlene Sullivan / Caines
Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Bonnie Tenhaken
Vivian Thomas
Tom Thurman
Eleanor Trevison
Justin VanNorstrand
Jane Venuti-Tontodonato
William Welch
Shelly Yuhas Lowry
Ray Zonghetti
Fabiola,Juline, 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

PARISH DIRECTORY

Altar Servers – Adults & Youth	Joe Stegle	551-427-9045
Arimatheans	Parish Office	992-0901
Bulletin	Anne Bellows	992-0901
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Daily Masses	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Weekend Masses	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Homebound	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Hospice-Hospital-Nursing Homes	Parish Office	992-0901
Finance Council	Henry Soto	992-0901
Human Trafficking Hotline		888-373-7888
Landings for Returning Catholics	Parish Office	992-0901
Lector Coordinator for Weekends	David Froelke	646-831-9733
Lector Coordinator for Weekdays	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Mass in Polish Coordinator	Maryla Basara	405-2151
Money Counters	Henry Soto	992-0901
Perpetual Baby Shower	Patty Swanson	713-876-5517
Prison Ministry	Robert Hiniker	863-558-0407
Project Gabriel	Carol Dangler..	793-0826
Project Rachel	Sylvia Jimenez	941-412-5860
Respect Life Ministry	Peggy Davis	293-3201
Retrouvaille	Doug & Jeanne Lindberg	800-470-2230
Order of Christian Initiation	Griselda Cisneros	992-0901
Sacristan Ministry	Annette Smith	948-1640
Sewing-Knitting-Crocheting	Bernice Romano	601-5877
Sing a Long	Penny Kelly	314-412-4022
St. Leo the Great Ladies Guild	Deb Conner	508-414-3362
Usher Ministry	Parish Office	992-0901
Youth Ministry	Gisela Meraz	992-0901



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Faith & Wine

December 3-Church of the Resurrection
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Join us for a three-course dinner with wine, followed by a presentation and time to connect with other faith-based individuals. For more information and registration go to faithandwineleecounty.com
Registration ends Nov. 30 at noon.

We Pray for the Recently Deceased of Our Parish

Frances Hornyak



Youth Group

All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join us in room 13/14 of the Education Building on Friday nights from 6:30-8:30 for food, games and sharing of our faith. Call the Religious Education Department at 992-0901 for more information.



NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



La comunidad hispana tiene el honor de invitarle a la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

11 DE DICIEMBRE – VIGILIA DE 8pm a 6am.

Parish Life Center
8:00 pm – Santo Rosario
9:00 a 10:00 pm– Hora Santa

Además tendremos:
Enseñanzas • Alabanzas • Danza

12 DE DICIEMBRE – DÍA DE NUESTRA MORENITA
3:00 am– Santo Rosario
4:00 am– Mañanitas a la Virgen
5:00 am– Santa Misa
Al finalizar la Santa Misa, compartiremos un desayuno.
6:00 pm– Santo Rosario en el PLC
7:00 pm– Santa Misa
8:00 pm– Programa sociocultural

Tendremos la representación de las apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe, además de danzas y bailables presentados por feligreses de nuestra comunidad.

Al finalizar, compartiremos una cena para todos los asistentes.

TODOS ESTÁN CORDIALMENTE INVITADOS

MINISTERIO JUVENIL

Invitamos a todos los jóvenes que cursan los grados 9.º a 12.º a reunirse con nosotros en el salón 13/14 del Edificio de Educación, los viernes por la noche de 6:30 a 8:30, para disfrutar de comida, juegos y compartir nuestra fe.

Para más información, comuníquense con el Departamento de Educación Religiosa al 992-0901.

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

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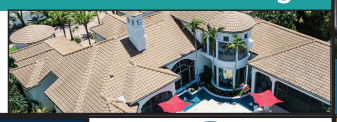

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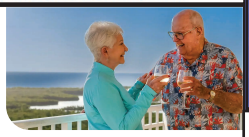

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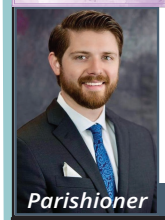
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