

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 30, 2025



Saint Nicholas Providing Dowries | Feast Day December 6 |
Bicci di Lorenzo | 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. Raul Zamora	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 15 & 16
\$31,878

Due to the printer's holiday schedule
this bulletin was submitted
before the most recent
collections were tabulated.

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

Begins this Sunday, November 30th.

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 6

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

Sunday, December 7

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

Changes may occur without notice.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

The Mountain Where Dawn Begins

“Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 122:1)

Isaiah begins Advent with a mountain where God teaches His people to walk in His ways. Most of us do not feel like mountain climbers before breakfast, yet the prophet reminds us that grace starts with God’s invitation, not our readiness. Saint Paul adds that it is time to wake up, but he means the gentle kind of awakening, the one where someone whispers that the sunrise is too beautiful to miss. In other words, salvation is closer than our sleepiest prayers ever imagined.

Jesus points to the days of Noah not to frighten us but to show how easy it is to drift spiritually. People were living their ordinary routines, unaware that they had wandered far from God’s guidance. Advent interrupts that drift. It taps us on the shoulder and says, “Look up. Something is happening.” Faith is not only remembering that Christ once came or believing He will come again, but noticing how He is arriving right now.

So the invitation today is simple: take a step toward the mountain. Let the Word clear your vision. Let the light of Christ nudge you out of autopilot. The Lord is already calling your name, already offering peace deeper than anything the world can manufacture.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, awaken my heart to Your nearness. Free me from the places where I have settled for shadows. Teach me to walk in Your light with trust and renewed attention. Let this Advent be the beginning of a quiet rising toward You. Amen. Isaiah 2:1 to 5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11 to 14; Matthew 24:37 to 44

Monday, December 1

The Shelter We Forget We Need

“Only say the word and my servant will be healed.” (Matthew 8:8)

Isaiah describes God creating a canopy of protection over His people, a reminder that even the faithful need shelter. We often forget that. We power through days with our opinions, schedules, and enough determination to impress even Saint Paul, yet underneath our well-rehearsed confidence is a quiet truth: we are not built to carry everything alone. The prophet knows this, and so does the Lord who places a cloud of glory over the weary. Enter the centurion, a man who knows authority when he sees it. He recognizes in Jesus a strength beyond anything he commands, and he responds with humility rather than ego. There is no show, no bargaining, only a simple trust that Christ’s word reaches farther than his fear. His faith amazes Jesus, not because it is dramatic, but because it is honest.

Today is a call to step back under the shelter. Let Christ speak into the spaces you cannot fix by talent or effort. Allow His presence to be your covering in the heat of worry or the storm of uncertainty. Advent does not celebrate our strength. It celebrates God’s.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, speak Your healing word into the parts of me that feel strained or weary. Teach me the humility of the centurion and the trust that shelters my heart beneath Your care. Let Your presence steady my steps today. Amen. Isaiah 4:2 to 6; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5 to 11

Tuesday, December 2

The World We Still Dream About

“On that day, the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.” (Isaiah 11:6)

Isaiah offers one of Scripture’s most sweeping visions: a world so healed that predators nap beside their usual lunch. It is a scene that sounds more like a children’s book than a news headline, yet God insists it is His dream for creation. We spend so much energy managing tensions, anxieties, and conflicts that the idea of harmony feels almost unrealistic. Isaiah reminds us that what seems unrealistic to us is natural to God.

Jesus then rejoices over childlike hearts, the ones able to recognize grace without overthinking it. Somewhere between paying bills, attending meetings, and deciding what is for dinner, we forget how to see with wonder. Wisdom matters, of course, but sometimes our sophisticated explanations drown out the simple truth that God is acting even when we do not understand how. Children know how to trust first and analyze later.

Today’s invitation is to look at the world through God’s future, not our fatigue. Imagine what your relationships, home, or parish could look like if peace had the last word. Advent is a season that dares us to believe that the world we dream about is already growing in the hands of a God who delights in transforming what seems impossible.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, restore my childlike trust. Help me see Your presence in the places where fear or cynicism has taken root. Show me glimpses of the peace You are building, and let my actions reflect the harmony of Your coming Kingdom. Amen. Isaiah 11:1 to 10; Psalm 72; Luke 10:21 to 24

Wednesday, December 3

Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

The Feast That Never Runs Out

“I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” (Psalm 23:6)

Isaiah imagines God hosting a feast so rich and joyful that it heals the world’s deepest wounds. Death is undone. Tears dry. The veil over nations lifts. It is the kind of banquet that makes even the best wedding reception look like a potluck. Advent reminds us that God is not stingy with grace. He sets the table again and again, even when we arrive tired or empty handed.

Jesus multiplies bread for a crowd that forgot to bring snacks, a miracle that feels both grand

and wonderfully ordinary. His compassion is not dramatic, it is practical. People are hungry, so He feeds them. He does not scold their poor planning or insist they fend for themselves. He simply asks what they have, blesses it, and makes it enough for everyone.

Today is an invitation to bring your small offerings to Christ. Bring the faith that feels thin, the patience that is running out, or the hope you can barely hold onto. In the hands of Jesus, little is never little. Grace multiplies. Hearts heal. And the feast continues.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, take what I bring, even when it seems too small. Bless it, multiply it, and make it enough for the work You desire to do. Let me trust in Your generosity and rest in Your care. Amen. Isaiah 25:6 to 10; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29 to 37

Thursday, December 4

The Rock Beneath the Noise

“A nation of firm purpose You keep in peace.” (Isaiah 26:3)

Isaiah sings of a strong city built on trust in God rather than pride or power. It is a refreshing image in a world full of shaky foundations. We build our days on schedules, opinions, or the illusion that everything depends on us, and then we wonder why our peace wobbles. The prophet reminds us that God alone is the eternal Rock, steady beneath every rise and fall. Jesus speaks of two houses, one built on rock and one on sand. It is easy to picture the second house as foolish, but truthfully we have all built at least part of our life on sand. We choose convenience over conviction or postpone spiritual repairs because we think we will have more time later. Storms have a way of revealing what we meant to strengthen yesterday.

Today’s invitation is not perfection but construction. Strengthen the part of your life that needs firmer footing. Act on His Word rather than admiring it from a distance. The Lord does not ask you to avoid storms. He simply promises that when your life rests on Him, collapse is not your story.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, be my Rock in the places where I am still building. Strengthen my trust, deepen my resolve, and help me act on Your Word with courage. Hold me steady in every storm. Amen. Isaiah 26:1 to 6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21, 24 to 27

Friday, December 5

The Eyes That Learn to See

“Let it be done for you according to your faith.” (Matthew 9:29)

Isaiah describes a day when the deaf hear, the blind see, and the lowly find joy. The world is restored not by human strategy but by divine compassion. It is a needed reminder for anyone who feels discouraged by the headlines or by their own heart. God is still teaching His people how to see, and sometimes He begins with the places we admit cannot see clearly. The two blind men in the Gospel know this well. They follow Jesus with a stubborn hope that refuses to be silenced. When He asks if they believe He can heal them, their yes is simple, almost disarming. They are not offering theological precision. They are offering trust. Their faith does not create the miracle but makes room for it.

Today’s invitation is to bring your blurred places to Christ. Bring the questions you avoid, the fears you carry, or the habits that keep you stumbling. Ask for the grace to see as God sees. Faith does not remove every shadow, but it opens the eyes toward the light already breaking through.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, heal the parts of me that struggle to see Your presence. Clear my vision, strengthen my faith, and teach me to walk in the light You reveal. Let my trust make room for Your work in me. Amen. Isaiah 29:17 to 24; Psalm 27; Matthew 9:27 to 31

Saturday, December 6

The Voice That Guides Us Home

“This is the way; walk in it.” (Isaiah 30:21)

Isaiah promises that God will answer as soon as His people cry out, guiding them with a voice that sounds from behind and fills them with direction. It is a beautiful contrast to the noise we navigate daily. So many voices compete for our attention that God sometimes feels like one more notification. Yet the prophet insists that the Lord’s guidance is steady, patient, and unmistakably personal.

Jesus looks at the crowds and is moved with pity. They are troubled, abandoned, and longing for direction, much like people in any parish pew on any given Saturday. His response is not frustration but mission. He sends disciples to proclaim healing, hope, and the nearness of the Kingdom. God’s solution to human confusion is always presence, never distance.

Today’s invitation is to listen for the quiet voice behind you. Notice the nudge, the pull, the whisper that says, “This way.” Trust that the Lord still guides, still sends, and still heals. The harvest is abundant not because the world is perfect, but because people are searching for the One who knows the way home.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, speak into my confusion and guide my steps. Let me hear Your voice above the noise and follow where You lead. Make me a sign of Your compassion for those who feel lost or weary. Amen. Isaiah 30:19 to 26; Psalm 147; Matthew 9:35 to 10:1, 5, 6 to 8

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

WHEN THE WORLD FEELS LIKE NOAH'S DAY FINDING FAITH IN DISTRACTED TIMES

First Sunday of Advent ~ Isaiah 2:1 to 5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11 to 14 Matthew 24:37 to 44 ~ by Father Jarek

There is a quiet line in today's Gospel that feels like it was written not for the first century but for the one we are living in right now. Jesus says, "As it was in the days of Noah so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." He does not describe the outlandish sins that kept busy the old painters of medieval cathedrals. Instead He describes something far more ordinary.

People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. In other words they were simply living their lives, busy distracted preoccupied with errands and celebrations and responsibilities. They were doing exactly what we do. And in the middle of all that noise something enormous was happening and they did not see it. They were not condemned for being wicked. They were unprepared because they were distracted.

If Jesus came today He might adjust the imagery slightly. "They were scrolling and streaming emailing and texting ordering groceries online and forgetting what they went into the room to get." It is not malice that makes us miss the presence of God. It is the sheer volume of noise around us. We are not bad, we are tired. We are not rebellious, we are overloaded. We are not resisting God, we just cannot hear Him through the static.

Something about this feels very close to home. Noah did not live among criminal masterminds. He lived among people who were simply too distracted to notice that God was trying to get their attention, and Advent begins by telling us gently but firmly that something similar can happen to us. We do not miss God because He hides. We miss Him because we are busy.

And so the season starts with a wake up call that is not shouted but whispered. Saint Paul sounding like a spiritual barista who knows you need a double espresso tells us "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep," not the sleep of sin but the sleep of routine, the sleep of autopilot, the sleep of going through the motions while the heart is elsewhere.

If Noah built an ark in 2025, I suspect most of his neighbors would not mock him, and they would not even notice. They would be too busy adjusting their WiFi, troubleshooting their smart refrigerator or changing streaming services because someone raised the monthly fee again. They would walk past an ark the size of a shopping mall and think "I really should clean the garage one of these days."

Isaiah's mountain in the first reading offers us the antidote to this spiritual sleepwalking. He speaks of a mountain that all nations stream toward, and a mountain is not climbed accidentally. It requires intention clarity and a willingness to step away from the noise of the valley and toward a higher perspective. Isaiah's mountain is the place where God teaches us His ways where peace becomes possible where swords are reshaped into plowshares. A soul cannot climb a mountain if it is endlessly distracted, and in other words God invites us upward.

Psalm 122 gives us the emotional tone of the journey, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord," and that word rejoicing matters. We are not dragging our feet. We are not apologizing for needing God. We are not treating prayer as an item on the to do list wedged between returning an email and folding laundry. We are going to meet God with expectation as though He has something new to give us. He does. Advent is the season that teaches the soul to expect again.

Which brings us back to Noah. What separated Noah from the others was not brilliance or moral superiority. It was attention. Noah noticed. Noah listened. Noah made room for God's voice despite the noise around him, and Noah allowed God to interrupt his routine. This may be the most important spiritual point of Advent. God still arrives as an interruption. Rarely in life do we schedule grace. It comes unexpectedly.

It shows up in difficult conversations in moments we did not want, in a thought that wakes us in the middle of the night and in a stranger who says something strangely timely. It comes while we are waiting in line at Publix or sitting in traffic on US 41. It comes while we are doing ordinary things making dinner, paying bills, preparing for work and calling a friend. The Incarnation itself began in an interruption. Mary was not expecting an angel that morning. She was expecting an ordinary day. Advent invites us to welcome interruptions because they may carry the voice of God.

And what about the warning Jesus gives us: Be awake. Be ready. Do not let the most important moments of your life catch you unaware? This is not meant to frighten. It is meant to comfort because the One who comes is not coming to test us but to save us. He is not coming to catch us failing but to gather us close. He comes not like a thief to steal but like a friend arriving unexpectedly with news that changes everything.

The world today feels more like Noah's day than ever: busy, loud and endlessly distracted; and Advent is the ark God gives us. It is a season that lifts us above the noise and teaches us to hear again. It is the invitation to climb Isaiah's mountain to rejoice with the psalmist to wake up with Saint Paul and to live with the readiness Jesus asks for, a readiness not rooted in fear but in love, because the One we are waiting for is already near and the only real danger is being too distracted to notice Him when He comes.

WELCOME FATHER JUAN CARLOS

Please welcome Father Juan Carlos Sack as he joins us on staff here at the parish. He was born in Argentina in 1964 and ordained a priest in 1988. He pursued his studies in Rome, earning a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture (Exegesis) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in 2001. He served for three years as a professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio.

He has carried out missionary work in Argentina, the United States, Russia, Italy, and Tajikistan, and he speaks Spanish, Italian, English.

Since 2011, he has served in priestly ministry in the United States, in the dioceses of New York and Venice—specifically in Wauchula, Bradenton, and LaBelle.

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.

PRISON MINISTRY

Volunteers Needed for Prison Outreach

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

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

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

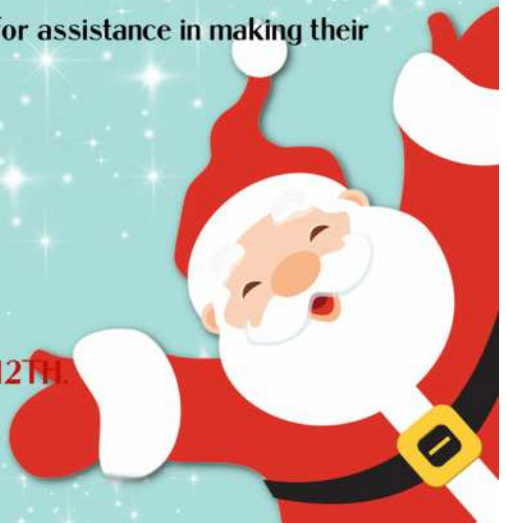
Angels are up on the trees at the entrances of the church. Once again we are requesting that you purchase a toy for your child, rather than clothing which can be difficult to determine the correct size.

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





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 November	1 December	2	3 St. Francis Xavier	4 St. John Damascene	5	6 St. Nicholas
The Lord Is Coming! Be more alert to God's surprising presence in your life. <i>Matthew 24:42</i>	Come and Cure Us, Jesus! Ask Jesus to heal us in mind and body. <i>Matthew 8:5-7</i>	Change Our Hearts, Holy Spirit! Ask God's Holy Spirit to transform us. <i>Isaiah 11:2-3</i>	The Lord Is My Shepherd Jesus, help feed the hungry today. <i>Psalms 23:1</i>	Trust in God Forever God is our constant guardian, keeping us from harm. <i>Isaiah 26:4</i>	God is My Light and Salvation Open our eyes to God's presence around us today. <i>Psalms 27:1</i>	God Will Answer Us When we cry out to God, we know God will be there for us. <i>Isaiah 30:19-20</i>
7	8 Immaculate Conception	9 St. Juan Diego	10 Our Lady of Loretto	11 St. Damasus I	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 St. Lucy
Christ Saves Everyone Welcome others today as Christ would welcome them. <i>Romans 15:7</i>	Do Not Fear! Like Mary, let Christ live in you today. <i>Luke 1:30-32</i>	The Good Shepherd Will Find Us Though we feel lost, Jesus always finds us. <i>Matthew 18:12-14</i>	God Will Not Get Weary Ask God to give you strength to change your life. <i>Isaiah 40:28-31</i>	God Will Help Us Ask God to help you become more like Jesus. <i>Isaiah 41:13</i>	God Comes to Dwell with Us Ask God to stay with you today. <i>Zechariah 2:14</i>	Give Us New Life Let us turn from our sinful ways and let God heal us. <i>Psalms 80:18-19</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Be Strong, Fear Not! Look for ways to calm yourself and others today. <i>Isaiah 35:4</i>	God Is Hidden, but Near Ask God to open your eyes to God's presence. <i>Numbers 24:15-17</i>	Bless the Lord Thank God whose plan for salvation is now happening through Jesus. <i>Psalms 34:2-3</i>	God Defends the Poor Let us do something today to help someone in need. <i>Psalms 72:2</i>	God With Us Pay more attention to God's presence in us and our world. <i>Matthew 1:23</i>	Hope In the Lord Hope and trust that God will respond to our deepest longings. <i>Psalms 71:5-6</i>	O Key of David! Ask God to open your heart to God's presence. <i>Luke 1:36-38</i>
21	22	23 St. John of Kanty	24	25 Christmas	<p>Blessed be the Child who today delights Bethlehem. Blessed is he who has made heaven rejoice and earth sing. Glory to God in the highest! —St. Ephrem the Syrian</p>	
Look for a Sign! Look around for signs that God is present with you now. <i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i>	Proclaim the Good News Share the true meaning of Christmas with someone today. <i>Luke 1:46-55</i>	He Is Coming! Open your heart to receive Jesus and his love. <i>Malachi 3:1</i>	The Way Is Prepared! Our Advent Preparation is complete. The Lord Is coming! <i>Luke 1:67-79</i>	Our Savior Is Born Rejoice because God's love is revealed in Jesus. <i>John 1:14</i>		

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*

Therese Braun

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."

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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:
<https://walkingwithpurpose.com>**

For Scholarships, Babysitting, or Questions: **Contact Lisa McGowan**
Call or text to 484-432-5128 or Email: mcgowanlh@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	DECEMBER 1	
8:00 am	+Liane Dalton	Her Loving Mother
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 2	
8:00 am	+Rose Parapiglia	Andrea Chelland
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 3	
8:00 am	+Carol Tedesco	Her Loving Husband & Family
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 4	
8:00 am	+Rose Scenna	Her Loving Daughter & Son in Law, Rita & Robert Sokol
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 5	
8:00 am	+Ellen Maggiotto	Susan Semple
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 6	
8:00 am	+Maria Dolores Gonzalez De Roque	Larry & Lou
3:30 pm	+Helen, +John & +Lisa Lagowski	Their Loving Daughter
5:30 pm	+Joe Walter	The Callans Family
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 7	
7:30 am	+The McCarthy & +Figurski Families	Ethel Figurski
9:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
11:30 am	+Ramona + Jose & +Alberto Alomar	Madeline Alomar
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Albert Kidwell	His Loving Mother



Flowers this week are dedicated to †Cynthia Caputo
Requested by Her Loving Husband Guy Caputo

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, especially those in combat.
Lt. Col. Nicholas LoRusso	

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	Linda Mizeur
Mark Chambers	Paul Modzelewski
Mickey Chervitz	Barbara Moloney
Michelle Chiarulli	Jay Morgan
Kevin Clark	Deborah Muniz
Scott Cochell	Audrey Grace Neeley
Lourdes Coll	Glenn Nelson
Greg Daeger	Kathleen Nelson
Eli Davis	Paul Nippert
Janet Davis	Rita Off
Tara DeRoma	Beverly Pecor
Carrie Derse	Connie Phillips
Robby Dirks	Aiden Putnam
Paul Duggan	Michelle Rendon
Brad Fairfield	Norman Robinson
Paula Fairfield	Jack Rubush
Linda Fischel	Tessa Santagate
Sean Flynn	Cindy Santiago
Brynn Forlizzi	Martha Simons
John Galli	Rosemarie Smedile
Gisette Lupita Garcia	Sheryl Southerd
Ben Gondersone	Jim Stokes
Esmeralda Gomez Moreira	Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Louise Grantt	Debra Tailerco
Cory Gray	Michael Taveripte
Pauline Graziano	Fabio Thurman
Karen Grimshaw	Tom Thurman
Ryan Hammond	Eleanor Trevison
Alan Handsman	Keanu Vallette
Tara Handsman	Debra Vannotti
Luke Hass	Tim Young
Robbin Holcomb	John White
Jack Jeffrey	George Witkowski
Jerry Kaehle	Ray Zonghetti
Nolan Kane	Annie Zanussi
Mary Kobel	Anthony, Christine, Fabiala,
Peggy Land	Krislin, Michael, Tray. Present
Diane Lamdi	& past parish priests.

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

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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.



PARISH DIRECTORY

Altar Servers – Adults & Youth	Joe Stegle.....551-427-9045
Arimatheans	Parish Office 992-0901
Bulletin	Anne Bellows..... 992-0901
Catholic Charities at St. Leo 390-2928
Cenacle Legal Services (Low Income)941-244-0308
Counseling Services	Catholic Charities..... 455-2655
Extraordinary Minister Coordinator:	
Daily Masses	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
Weekend Masses	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
Homebound	Dan Bardauskis 992-0901
Hospice-Hospital-Nursing Homes	Parish Office 992-0901
Finance Council	Henry Soto 992-0901
Human Trafficking Hotline888-373-7888
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 Swanson713-876-5517
Prison Ministry	Robert Hiniker.....863-558-0407
Project Gabriel	Carol Dangler.. 793-0826
Project Rachel	Sylvia Jimenez.....941-412-5860
Respect Life Ministry	Loretta Ede.....917-886-7273
Retrouvaille	Doug & Jeanne Lindberg.....800-470-2230
Order of Christian Initiation	Griselda Cisneros 992-0901
Sacristan Ministry	Annette Smith 948-1640
Sewing-Knitting-Crocheting	Bernice Romano601-5877
Sing a Long	Penny Kelly.....314-412-4022
St. Leo the Great Ladies Guild	Beth Daniels.....248-376-2997
Usher Ministry	Parish Office 992-0901
Youth Ministry	Gisela Meraz..... 992-0901

A Farewell Message from Fr. Raul Zamora

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the community of St. Leo the Great for the kindness and warmth I have experienced during my time here. It has been a true blessing to share in the life of this parish and to get to know so many wonderful people.

As I prepare to leave the country to continue serving the Lord in a new mission, I carry with me many good memories and a deep appreciation for your friendship and support. Please know that you will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Please join us today Sunday, November 30th, following 3pm Mass for refreshments and the opportunity to say goodbye to Father Raul.

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.



This season Faith and Wine is offering three events beginning December 4, with an inspiring and informative talk featuring Annie Karto, Catholic singer and songwriter. Registration begins November 4. The other events are scheduled for January 22, and February 19. Your \$28 registration includes a three-course dinner with wine followed by a presentation and the opportunity for community and connectivity with other faith-based women. For more information or to register go to www.faithandwineleecounty.com



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

NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL

BIENVENIDO, PADRE JUAN CARLOS

Damos la bienvenida al Padre Juan Carlos Sack, quien se une a nuestro equipo parroquial. Nació en Argentina en 1964 y fue ordenado sacerdote en 1988.

Realizó sus estudios en Roma, obteniendo la Licenciatura en Sagrada Escritura (Exégesis) del Pontificio Instituto Bíblico en 2001. Fue profesor durante tres años en el Pontificio Colegio Josephinum de Ohio.

Ha llevado a cabo labor misionera en Argentina, Estados Unidos, Rusia, Italia y Tayikistán, y habla español, italiano e inglés. Desde 2011, ha ejercido el ministerio sacerdotal en Estados Unidos, en las diócesis de Nueva York y Venecia, específicamente en Wauchula, Bradenton y LaBelle.

Mensaje de despedida del P. Raúl Zamora

Quiero expresar mi sincera gratitud a la comunidad de San León Magno por la amabilidad y el cariño que he recibido durante mi tiempo aquí. Ha sido una verdadera bendición compartir la vida de esta parroquia y conocer a tantas personas maravillosas. Al prepararme para dejar el país y continuar sirviendo al Señor en una nueva misión, me llevo conmigo muchos buenos recuerdos y una profunda gratitud por su amistad y apoyo. Por favor, sepan que permanecerán en mis pensamientos y oraciones.

Les invitamos a acompañarnos el hoy,
domingo 30 de noviembre,
después de la misa de las 3 de la tarde,
para disfrutar de un refrigerio
y tener la oportunidad de despedirnos
del Padre Raúl.

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.



Almuerzo de Apreciación para los Voluntarios Centro Parroquial Lunes, Diciembre 15th 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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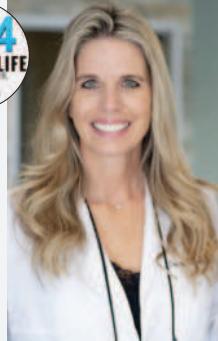
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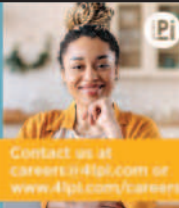
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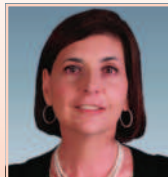
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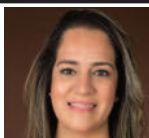
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