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 8, 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. 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!

October 31 & November 1
$30,357

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 14

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

Sunday, November 15

7:30 am	Fr. Jack
9:30 am	Fr. Jarek
11:30 am	Fr. Jarek
1:30 pm-Polish	Fr. Jarek
3:00 pm-Spanish	Fr. Juan Carlos
5:00 pm	Msgr. Cullen

Changes may occur without notice.

Christmas Gala

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH &
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH



Thank you for your support

SOLD OUT!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

VETERANS DAY CATHOLIC MASS



SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY

9810 State Road 72 | Sarasota, FL 34241

STARTS AT 2:45 P.M.
AMPLE PARKING
PLENTY OF SEATING

DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

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 8
DON'T LET THE WAITING EXTINGUISH YOUR LIGHT
"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

Waiting can quietly exhaust the human heart. We sit in a doctor's waiting room, glancing at the clock, wondering why minutes seem longer when the news matters most. We wait for relationships to heal, for prayers to be answered, and sometimes for a difficult season simply to end. We would gladly trust God's timing if He would occasionally share His calendar. Yet life rarely unfolds according to our expectations, and even faithful people sometimes wonder how long they must keep hoping.

In today's Gospel, ten young women wait for the bridegroom, but only five bring enough oil to keep their lamps burning. Interestingly, all ten fall asleep. The wise are not distinguished by endless energy or perfect vigilance, but by their preparation. Their lamps remind us that faith must be nourished before difficult moments arrive. Wisdom is not knowing what tomorrow will bring. It is cultivating a relationship with God today, so that when darkness comes, something within us continues to give light.

Saint Paul reminds us that even death cannot extinguish the hope Christ has given us. We may grieve deeply without surrendering to despair. Every prayer whispered through exhaustion, every kindness offered despite disappointment, and every act of forgiveness replenishes the oil of love. We cannot control how long the waiting lasts, but we can decide what happens to our hearts while we wait. Perhaps the greatest danger is not that God takes longer than expected, but that we become so consumed with waiting for His blessings that we overlook His presence.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You know what I am waiting for and how difficult uncertainty can be. Keep my faith alive when answers are delayed and my patience grows thin. Help me live fully today, trusting that even while I wait, You are already here. Amen.

Readings: Wisdom 6:12–16; Psalm 63:2–8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
GOD DOES NOT ABANDON WHAT LIFE HAS DAMAGED
"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Every old house has a room that needs attention. Perhaps the paint is peeling, the ceiling has a stain, or a door no longer closes properly. We learn to live around these imperfections, sometimes for years. The human heart can be remarkably similar. We carry old disappointments, unfinished grief, and resentments we have grown so accustomed to that we hardly notice them anymore. From the outside, everything appears perfectly respectable. Inside, however, there may be rooms we would rather nobody enter.

Today, as the Church celebrates the dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Saint Paul reminds us that we ourselves are temples of the Holy Spirit. God's most precious dwelling is not constructed from marble or stone. It is the human heart, even when that heart is wounded, weary, or unfinished. Jesus cleanses the Temple because what belongs to God deserves care and reverence. Yet His desire to purify is never separated from His desire to restore. God does not wait until we have repaired ourselves before choosing to dwell within us.

Sometimes spiritual renewal begins with something surprisingly ordinary: an honest confession, a difficult apology, or the decision to stop punishing ourselves for a failure God has already forgiven. Healing may take longer than we wish, and some wounds leave scars. But God's presence does not depend on our perfection. He sees possibilities where we see damage, and new beginnings where we see only regret. Perhaps the rooms we are most ashamed to show Him are the very places where He longs to begin His work.

Prayer: Loving Father, You know every neglected corner of my heart. Enter the places I have kept closed through fear, shame, or sorrow. Help me trust Your mercy enough to let the healing begin. Make my life a dwelling where Your love is always welcome. Amen.

Readings: Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–9; 1 Corinthians 3:9–11, 16–17; John 2:13–22

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
YOU DO NOT NEED APPLAUSE FOR YOUR LIFE TO MATTER
"We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do." (Luke 17:10)

Nobody clapped when you carried the hardest part of this week. Perhaps you prepared another meal, drove someone to an appointment, listened patiently to the same concern for the tenth time, or quietly handled a responsibility everyone else seemed to overlook. You did what needed to be done, and life moved on. We may not expect a standing ovation for every act of kindness, but an occasional "thank you" would certainly be appreciated. Even generous hearts can grow weary when their sacrifices seem invisible.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges the temptation to measure faithful service by the recognition it receives. He is not suggesting that people should be taken for granted or that our efforts have no value. Rather, He reminds us that love loses something precious when it becomes a transaction. Saint Paul teaches that faith becomes visible through integrity, perseverance, and goodness. On the memorial of our Patron, Saint Leo the Great, we remember a shepherd whose lasting influence came not merely from the authority he exercised, but from his faithfulness to the responsibility God entrusted to him.

There is profound freedom in discovering that our worth does not depend on being noticed. The spouse caring for a loved one with dementia, the volunteer who arrives before everyone else, and the person who continues showing kindness despite personal struggles are practicing a holiness that rarely attracts attention. Yet humble service does not mean neglecting our own need for rest and encouragement. We are called to love generously, not exhaust ourselves proving our usefulness. The world often remembers those who stand in the spotlight. God also remembers those who quietly kept the light burning for everyone else.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You see the sacrifices nobody notices and the burdens I sometimes carry in silence. Protect my heart from resentment, and teach me to serve without losing myself. When appreciation is absent, remind me that love never becomes meaningless simply because it goes unrecognized. Amen.

Readings: Titus 2:1–8, 11–14; Psalm 37:3–4, 18, 23, 27, 29; Luke 17:7–10

Daily Reflections

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERED PRAYER CAN BECOME TODAY'S FORGOTTEN BLESSING
"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" (Luke 17:18)

The telephone finally rings, and the medical results are good. For a moment, relief washes over everything. We thank God, call someone we love, and promise ourselves never again to take ordinary health for granted. Then a few weeks pass, another problem appears, and our attention moves elsewhere. Human beings have an extraordinary ability to update their list of worries while forgetting to update their list of blessings. What once brought tears of gratitude gradually becomes something we barely notice.

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals ten people suffering from leprosy, yet only one returns to thank Him. All ten receive physical healing, but the grateful Samaritan recognizes something deeper. He returns not merely to acknowledge a favor, but to encounter the One who has restored his life. Saint Paul reminds Titus that salvation itself is an undeserved gift of divine mercy. On the memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, remembered for sharing his cloak with a poor stranger, we discover that gratitude reaches its fullest expression when it becomes generosity toward others.

Gratitude does not require pretending that life is easy. We can be thankful while grieving, hopeful while struggling, and appreciative even when important prayers remain unanswered. Sometimes the greatest blessings are almost embarrassingly ordinary: a familiar voice, a peaceful morning, a warm meal, or another day with someone we love. We often imagine happiness will arrive when life finally gives us more. Yet gratitude reveals a surprising truth: sometimes we do not need more blessings to experience greater joy. We need eyes that have not forgotten how to recognize the ones already surrounding us.

Prayer: Merciful Father, I have asked You for so much and sometimes thanked You for so little. Open my eyes to the blessings I have stopped noticing. Help me recognize Your goodness in ordinary moments, and let my gratitude become kindness toward someone who needs it today. Amen.

Readings: Titus 3:1–7; Psalm 23:1–6; Luke 17:11–19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
SOMETIMES GOD'S KINGDOM BEGINS WITH THE PERSON WE WOULD RATHER AVOID
"For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:21)

Some people are much easier to love when they are not in the same room. We may sincerely wish them well, pray for their happiness, and even forgive their shortcomings, provided they do not call during dinner or bring up that disagreement again. Most of us have someone whose presence tests our patience. We tell ourselves that peace would be easier if certain people would simply become more reasonable. Unfortunately, they may be thinking exactly the same thing about us.

When the Pharisees ask when God's Kingdom will arrive, Jesus reveals that it is already among them because He Himself is present. Saint Paul shows what this Kingdom looks like in ordinary relationships when he urges Philemon to welcome Onesimus, an enslaved man, no longer merely as a slave but as a beloved brother. The Gospel challenges the comfortable categories through which we decide who deserves respect, understanding, or another chance. On the memorial of Saint Josaphat, who gave his life while working for Christian unity, we remember that reconciliation requires more than pleasant intentions. It demands the courage to recognize another person's dignity even when differences remain.

God's Kingdom becomes visible whenever compassion interrupts resentment, dignity overcomes prejudice, or someone chooses understanding instead of another unnecessary argument. This does not mean ignoring injustice, abandoning healthy boundaries, or pretending that every relationship can be repaired. It means refusing to let another person's behavior determine the quality of our own hearts. Sometimes the greatest distance between us and God's Kingdom is not measured in miles or years, but in the distance we insist on keeping from someone who deserves to be treated as a human being.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You know the people I find difficult to understand or forgive. Help me see them without surrendering truth or wisdom. Where reconciliation is possible, give me courage to begin. Where distance is necessary, keep bitterness from taking root. Let Your Kingdom begin in my own heart. Amen.

Readings: Philemon 7–20; Psalm 146:7–10; Luke 17:20–25

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
BE CAREFUL THAT THE LIFE YOU ARE PROTECTING DOES NOT BECOME THE LIFE YOU ARE MISSING
"Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it." (Luke 17:33)

One day, someone else will decide what to do with nearly everything we spent our lives accumulating. The furniture we carefully selected, the boxes stored in closets, the possessions we protected, and perhaps even the things we insisted nobody should ever throw away will eventually pass into other hands. There is nothing wrong with enjoying life's blessings or planning responsibly for the future. But we can become so occupied with protecting what we have that we forget to appreciate the life unfolding around us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus recalls the days of Noah and Lot, when people were absorbed in eating, buying, selling, and building. These ordinary activities were not themselves the problem. The danger was becoming so consumed with temporary concerns that eternal realities disappeared from view. Saint John reminds us that authentic love must remain rooted in truth. On the memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, who devoted herself to serving immigrants and vulnerable families, we encounter a woman who discovered that a meaningful life is not necessarily a comfortable one. Her greatness emerged from what she was willing to give, not what she managed to keep.

We sometimes build elaborate defenses against uncertainty, only to discover that the walls intended to protect our peace have begun to imprison it. We postpone visits, delay forgiveness, and sacrifice precious moments because something supposedly more important demands our attention. Yet one day, our possessions will belong to others, while the love we have given will remain part of our eternal story. Perhaps the greatest tragedy is not losing what we worked so hard to acquire. It is reaching the end of life and realizing that, while we were busy protecting everything we owned, we neglected what mattered most.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings entrusted to my care. Help me enjoy them without becoming their prisoner. Teach me to recognize when worry is stealing today's joy, and give me the freedom to

Daily Reflections

love generously while I still have the opportunity. Amen.

Readings: 2 John 4–9; Psalm 119:1–2, 10–11, 17–18; Luke 17:26–37

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
GOD'S SILENCE IS NOT THE SAME AS GOD'S ABSENCE

"Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary." (Luke 18:1)

There are prayers we have repeated so often that we could say them in our sleep. We whisper them beside hospital beds, carry them through sleepless nights, and sometimes offer them with tears because words have become too difficult. We ask God to heal someone we love, restore a broken relationship, or relieve suffering that seems unbearably unfair. When nothing changes, the silence can become almost as painful as the problem itself. Eventually, we may wonder whether God is listening or whether we are simply speaking into the darkness.

Jesus understands this struggle. In today's Gospel, He tells the story of a persistent widow who repeatedly appeals to an unjust judge. Eventually, the judge responds, not because he has become compassionate, but because she refuses to give up. Jesus is not suggesting that God must be worn down before He becomes generous. He is revealing the difference between human indifference and divine faithfulness. If persistence can move an unjust judge, how much more confidently may we entrust ourselves to a Father who already loves us? Prayer is not an attempt to persuade God to care. It is the decision to remain close to the One who already does.

Persistent prayer does not guarantee that every illness will be healed, every relationship restored, or every sorrow removed. Sometimes the answer we desperately want never comes in this life, and faith must make room for honest grief. Yet prayer is never meaningless, because its deepest purpose is not simply to change our circumstances, but to keep our hearts open to God's presence within them. We may continue asking, questioning, weeping, and hoping. Faith does not require pretending that silence is easy. It means trusting that the absence of an answer is not proof of the absence of the One who listens.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You know how long I have been waiting and how difficult Your silence sometimes feels. I do not need to understand everything today. I simply need the strength to keep trusting that You have not forgotten me. Stay close, especially when my faith grows tired. Amen.

Readings: 3 John 5–8; Psalm 112:1–6; Luke 18:1–8

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



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

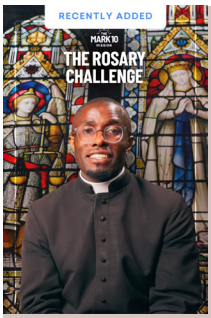
- TOOTHPASTE
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- BAR SOAP
- SHAMPOO/BODY WASH
- TOILET PAPER
- ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES
- CANNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES
- CANNED TUNA & CHICKEN
- FLOUR & SUGAR
- CANNED SOUP
- POWDERED MILK
- PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
- CEREAL
- JUICE

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.

St. Leo Ladies' Guild Monthly Meeting Wednesday, November 11 at the Nest Cafe

This program will feature a speaker from the Bonita Springs Historical Society who will discuss background information of interesting events in Bonita Springs history.
A light lunch may be purchased between 12:00 to 12:30pm for a $5 donation,with the program starting at 1:00pm.

All members of the parish are welcome.



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 WORLD HAS ENOUGH ATTILAS. IT NEEDS MORE LEOS.

In Celebration of the Memorial of Saint Leo the Great

November 10, 2026

by Father Jarek

In the year 452, Pope Leo faced a problem considerably more serious than an overflowing email inbox, a difficult HOA meeting, or someone complaining about the air conditioning in church. Attila the Hun, whose armies had spread terror across Europe, was threatening Italy. Leo traveled north to meet him. Imagine the contrast: a conqueror commanding seasoned warriors and a pope commanding no army, armed instead with faith, conviction, and extraordinary courage. Historians still debate why Attila withdrew, but one thing remains remarkable: when others trembled before his power, Leo was willing to meet him face to face.

I sometimes wonder what Saint Leo would think of our world today. He lived during the decline of the Western Roman Empire, amid political turmoil, social anxiety, competing ideologies, and widespread uncertainty. He might feel surprisingly at home. Of course, he enjoyed one enormous advantage over us: He never had to read the comments section. We have more ways to communicate than any generation before us, yet genuine understanding often seems increasingly difficult. We trade depth for speed. We mistake volume for conviction. We respond before listening and judge before understanding. Somewhere along the way, we have begun confusing the humiliation of an opponent with the discovery of truth.

Saint Leo offers another way. He understood something we desperately need to remember: Truth without love can become a weapon, while love without truth can become empty sentiment. He defended the Church's teaching that Jesus Christ is fully divine and fully human. This was no abstract theological dispute. In Christ, God embraced our human condition and revealed the extraordinary dignity of the humanity He came to redeem. Consider what that means the next time we are tempted to humiliate someone who disagrees with us. The person we dismiss, ridicule, or reduce to an opinion possesses a dignity that God Himself calls us to recognize. We cannot claim to honor the Incarnation while treating human beings as though their dignity disappears whenever they irritate us.

Most of us will never confront Attila the Hun. Our challenges are considerably less dramatic, though sometimes just as exhausting. We encounter the relative who knows exactly which button to push, the neighbor who seems permanently dissatisfied, or the person whose opinions arrive with considerably more volume than humility. And occasionally, if we are willing to admit it, the most difficult person we encounter is the one looking back at us in the mirror. It takes courage to defend our convictions. But sometimes it takes even greater courage to remain kind while defending them. Gentleness is not weakness. It is strength that has learned whom it serves.

The Scripture readings assigned for Saint Leo's memorial offer a beautiful foundation for such courage. Saint Paul urges Titus to demonstrate integrity, dignity, self-control, and goodness. Psalm 37 gives us an instruction so simple that we might overlook its wisdom: "Trust in the LORD and do good." Not win every argument. Not correct every foolish opinion. Not convince everyone that we are right. Trust God and do good. And in the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that faithful service is not a transaction in which every kindness must earn recognition. We do not serve to purchase God's love. We serve because we have already received it.

Perhaps this is where Saint Leo's greatness becomes most relevant to our lives. Some of the strongest people we know have every reason to become bitter, yet somehow remain kind. They have buried people they loved, endured disappointments they never deserved, and carried burdens nobody else could see. Still, they greet us with a smile, ask how we are doing, and genuinely want to hear the answer. Their courage rarely makes headlines. Yet they accomplish something extraordinary: they refuse to let suffering determine the quality of their love. That is not an absence of pain. It is a triumph of grace.

Perhaps the most important battle we will ever fight is not against the anger of the world, but against the temptation to let that anger take possession of our own hearts. The world will always have its Attilas. Some command armies. Others command microphones or social media accounts.
And occasionally, a little Attila appears within us, demanding the last word. But every day offers another possibility. We can answer an insult without returning one. We can disagree without humiliating.
We can remain gentle when life gives us every reason to become hard. None of these choices will make us famous, but each makes the world a little more human.

Our parish bears the name of Saint Leo the Great. May we also bear something of his courage, his faith, and his love. For the question is not simply how much power we possess, but whether we use it to dominate others or protect their dignity.

The world has enough Attilas. What it desperately needs is more Leos.

A PRAYER FOR THE COURAGE TO REMAIN KIND

Lord Jesus, You know how easily our hearts grow weary, how quickly patience gives way to irritation, and how tempting it is to answer anger with anger.
Forgive us for the times we have defended our opinions more passionately than we have loved the people standing before us.

Through the example of Saint Leo, teach us to be courageous without becoming harsh, truthful without becoming proud, and gentle without surrendering our convictions.
Give us the humility to admit when we are wrong, the wisdom to recognize when silence is better than another argument, and the grace to remember that being right means little if we have forgotten how to love.

When life disappoints us, keep our hearts from growing bitter.
When others misunderstand us, help us remain generous.
When suffering weighs heavily upon us, remind us that we do not have to become hardened by what we have endured.
And when we cannot change the anger around us, help us keep it from changing the love within us.

May our parish be known not simply for the greatness of its patron, but for the kindness of its people.
And when our own lives draw to a close, may we leave behind something more lasting than recognition: people who felt loved, burdens made lighter, wounds gently healed, and a little more goodness in the world because we were here. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	**NOVEMBER 9**	
8:00 am	+Jeanette & +James Lavelle	Their Loving Children
TUESDAY	**NOVEMBER 10**	
8:00 am	+Rudolph Fazio	Salvatore Fazio
WEDNESDAY	**NOVEMBER 11**	
8:00 am	+Joseph DeMichele	His Loving Son
THURSDAY	**NOVEMBER 12**	
8:00 am	+Joseph Bardauskis	His Loving Family
FRIDAY	**NOVEMBER 13**	
8:00 am	+Barry Sullivan	His Loving Family
SATURDAY	**NOVEMBER 14**	
8:00 am	+Steven Nastari	The Murrays
3:30 pm	+Charles &+ Lorraine Janda	Robert & Michelle Janda
5:30 pm	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
SUNDAY	**NOVEMBER 15**	
7:30 am	+Stanley Adydan	His Loving Wife, Roberta
9:30 am	+John A "Jack" Krol	Karen & Joe O'Neil
11:30 am	+Thomas Peterson	Neil Peterson
1:30 pm - Polish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Kirby Sullivan	Joan Herberholz

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.

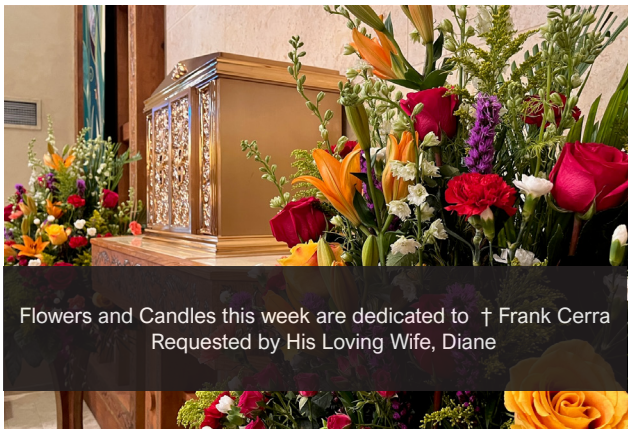


DAILY PRAYER SCHEDULE

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 † Frank Cerra
Requested by His Loving Wife, Diane

Please Pray for Our Troops

Lt. Marco Colavecchia
Brian Dearcia Leon
Michael DeSantis
Cpt. Mary Kate Flynn
Lt. Thomas A. Flynn
Cpt. Sean Flynn
Aaron Gaudet
Thomas Geanuracos
Carlos Gonzales
Lt. Andrew D. Holt
Brian Howlett
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
Larry 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
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
Catholic Charities at St. Leo		390-2928
Cenacle Legal Services (Low Income)		941-244-0308
Counseling Services	Catholic Charities	888-249-9262
Extraordinary Minister Coordinator:		
Daily Masses	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Weekend Masses	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Homebound	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Hospice-Hospital-Nursing Homes	Parish Office	992-0901
Finance Council	Henry Soto	992-0901
Human Trafficking Hotline		888-373-7888
Landings for Returning Catholics	Parish Office	992-0901
Lector Coordinator for Weekends	David Froelke	646-831-9733
Lector Coordinator for Weekdays	Dan Bardauskis	992-0901
Mass in Polish Coordinator	Maryla Basara	405-2151
Money Counters	Henry 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

We Pray for the Recently Deceased of Our Parish

Diane Corcelli
Hector Andres Negroni
Ana Maria Ramos Salazar



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.



Welcome to our new Parochial Vicar

Father Chuck pictured with his mother, Agnes.

Fr. Chuck Ruoff, was ordained by Bishop Frank Dewane in 2016 at the age of 58. He earned his master's degree in theology at Pope St. John XXIII National Catholic Seminary in Weston, MA, a seminary which specializes in the instruction and formation of second-career vocations. Fr. Chuck graduated from a high school minor seminary with the religious order, The Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, in Canton, OH. After higher education degrees in Journalism and Public Relations, Fr. Chuck spent 20+ years in government and politics. He has worked for every level of government (municipal, county, state, federal and international) --- as an elected Deputy Mayor, Municipal Party Chairman, and District County Committeeman of his home township (Little Egg Harbor) in South Jersey and has held numerous other governmental positions including the Intergovernmental Affairs Officer for FEMA, and Electoral Advisor for the U.S. State Dept., and United Nations, working abroad in Bosnia, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia.
Fr. Chuck has been a parochial vicar at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, St. Peter the Apostle in Naples, and San Marco on Marco Island. He looks forward to his ministry at St. Leo the Great.

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NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



Estén listos y preparados: es el mensaje de este domingo, porque no se sabe ni el día ni la hora en que llega el Señor. Mostrar sabiduría y prudencia significa madurez en la vida.
La parábola de las diez jóvenes, narrada por Jesús, demuestra ambas dimensiones: la humana y la divina. “Las descuidadas tomaron sus lámparas como estaban, sin llevar más aceite consigo.
Las precavidas, en cambio, junto con las lámparas, llevaron sus botellas de aceite. Como el novio se demoraba en llegar, se adormecieron todas y, al fin, se quedaron dormidas” (Mateo 25:3-5). Esto significa que, estemos atentos, dormidos o despiertos, Dios colabora en nuestros proyectos.
No podemos detener el tiempo; lo mejor es estar listos, llevando un comportamiento adecuado, alimentando nuestra propia lámpara con la fe y la sensatez, acudiendo a los sacramentos, sobre todo a la Reconciliación y la Eucaristía. Dios provee la sabiduría si buscamos con ahínco alimentarnos de ella. “Sale al encuentro de los que la quieren conocer; el que por ella se levantó temprano casi no tendrá que esforzarse: la hallará sentada a su puerta” (Sabiduría 6:13-15). ¿De qué está llena la lámpara de mi vida? ¿Qué tipo de aceite tiene? ¿Mis actos y comportamiento están de acuerdo con el Evangelio? Todo se trata de ver cómo va mi intimidad con Dios, de ver cómo ando en el sentido de la caridad y la justicia con los demás. “Al atardecer de la vida, seremos examinados en el amor” (San Juan de la Cruz).

MINISTERIO JUVENIL

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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.



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

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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.

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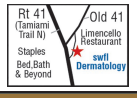
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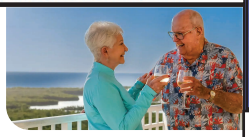
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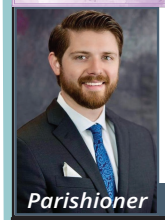
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