

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.*

October 18, 2026



Saint Ursula and Her Maidens/Niccolo di Pietro/1410/Feast Day Oct. 21/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 2PM-3PM
SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES: 3:30 & 5:30 PM • SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM & 5 PM
MISA EN ESPAÑOL DOMINGO - 3 PM Y LAS CONFESIONES ANTES DE LA MISA •
MASS IN POLISH: 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - 1:30 PM

Parish Staff

Rev. Jarek (Jaroslaw) Sniosek	Pastor
Rev. Juan Carlos Sack	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Charles Ferraro	Deacon
Rev. Mr. Dale Bacik	Deacon
Juliana Alfano	Musician
Dan Bardauskis	Liturgy Assistant
Anne Bellows	Communications Coordinator
Hermilo Calderon	Lead Maintenance
Griselda Cisneros	Receptionist
Kevin Dearcia	Maintenance
Maria Fernandez	Religious Education Assistant
Daniel Gonzalez	Maintenance
Elsy Hernandez	Operations Supervisor
Marcin Malewski	Director of Music
Zofia Majewski	Musician/Administrative Support
Martha Mercado	Maintenance
Gisela Meraz	Religious Education Coordinator
Henry Soto	Business Manager
Milana Strezeva	Musician
Marie Talley	Musician
Winter Talley	Musician

Parish Church Support

Thank you for your
continued generosity!

October 10 & 11
\$21,734

Celebrating our Faith

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Baptisms of children under 7 years old are offered every fourth Sunday of each month in Spanish and every second Sunday of the month in English. Please visit our website or contact our office for details and requirements.

CONFIRMATION

At confirmation we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and confirm and renew our baptismal promises committing to a life of maturity in the Christian faith. Unconfirmed Catholics wishing to receive the Sacrament should contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for suitable instruction. Unbaptized or non-Catholics can be confirmed at the Easter Vigil when they are baptized or received into the Church as a part of Order of Christian Initiation of Adult. To enroll in OCIA, please call Griselda Cisneros at 992-0901.

EUCCHARIST

Parishioners who wish to bring communion to their spouses should contact the parish office to pick up a pyx with the St. Leo's inscription on it. Please use this pyx when approaching to receive a host for your spouse or a family member in the Communion procession during Mass. If you need to receive a gluten free host due to a medical condition please arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins and inform the Sacristan.

RECONCILIATION

Individual confession with a priest is the principal means of absolution and reconciliation of grave sins within the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation frees us from sinful patterns of behavior and calls us to complete conversion to Christ. Confessions are heard from 2:00pm-3:00pm on Saturdays in English and 2pm on Sundays in Spanish in the Church. You may also approach any of our parish priests to hear your confession at another suitable time.

THE RITE OF ANOINTING

A person does not need to wait until the point of death to receive this sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient. The Sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after the anointing but becomes ill once again, or if, during the same illness, the person's condition becomes more serious. For those who are about to depart from this life, the Church offers the person Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and the Eucharist as Viaticum (food for the journey) given at the end of life. Contact the Parish Office at 992-0901 to be connected with the priest on duty.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

If you are a registered parishioner of St. Leo and plan to marry in our parish please contact our office at least six months prior to the tentative wedding date. Weddings cannot be scheduled until the marriage preparation process is complete and it is determined that the parties are free to marry.

ANNULMENT - Reestablishing the freedom to marry.

An annulment is more accurately described as a declaration of matrimonial invalidity. It is an official determination made by an ecclesiastical court that at the time of the marital consent exchanged by the parties a specific component of the marriage was lacking or defective. Hence, the marriage failed to be a marriage as defined by the Catholic Church. If you wish to reestablish your freedom to marry in the Church, please contact a parish priest to be your advocate in presenting your case to the Tribunal.

VOCATION

If you think that you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life please speak with one of our priests, or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations at 941-484-9548, visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/vocations

All Souls' Requiem Mass Commemorating our Beloved Dead Monday, November 2nd at 6pm

Envelopes are available at the doors of the church to list those for whom you want to offer intentions.

After completing, place them in the collection basket or bring them to the Parish Office. These intentions will be placed inside the Book of Remembrance for this Mass of Commemoration. They will also be cumulatively included in the weekend Prayers of the Faithful during the month of November.



ONLINE GIVING

WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 25

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

Changes may occur without notice.



Coming Home

Autumn Dinner Concert

Wednesday, November 4th
Parish Life Center

TICKETS ARE ON SALE IN THE PARISH OFFICE.
\$20 PER PERSON · CASH OR CHECK ONLY PLEASE
DOORS OPENS AT 5:15PM · DINNER AT 5:30PM
ALL SEATING IS OPEN, NO RESERVED TABLES.
ENJOY A LIGHT SEASONAL SUPPER & A GLASS OF WINE .

Share a nostalgic evening with us as our lovely and amazing cantor, Juliana Alfano, accompanied by Jodie De Salvo, provide autumn music that is sure to bring back memories meant to lead our hearts home.



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.



Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

YOU BELONG TO GOD BEFORE YOU BELONG TO ANYTHING ELSE

“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Matthew 22:21)

Who gets to decide what your life is worth? We live surrounded by people and institutions eager to answer that question. Employers measure productivity, society measures success, and social media measures popularity. Even our own families sometimes have expectations we struggle to meet. Before long, we can begin measuring ourselves by how useful, successful, or appreciated we are. And when those things disappear, we may quietly wonder what remains.

Jesus asks His opponents whose image appears on a Roman coin. They answer, “Caesar’s.” But His response reveals something far more profound. The coin bears Caesar’s image, while every human being bears the image of God. Governments may claim taxes, employers may claim our time, and responsibilities may claim our energy. But our dignity, our conscience, and our deepest identity belong to God. The world can place a price on almost anything, but it cannot determine the worth of a human soul.

This truth changes how we live. We can fulfill our responsibilities without allowing them to define us. We can serve others without becoming prisoners of their expectations. And when age, illness, failure, or disappointment strips away what once made us feel important, our worth remains untouched. God does not love us because we are useful, successful, or impressive. He loves us because we are His. Caesar may want his coins, but God wants something far more precious: the heart that already bears His image.

Prayer: Lord, remind me that I belong to You before I belong to anyone or anything else. Free me from measuring my worth by the world’s expectations, and help me live with the dignity, courage, and peace of someone who knows he is loved. Amen.

Readings: Isaiah 45:1, 4–6; Psalm 96:1, 3–5, 7–10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b; Matthew 22:15–21

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

A FULL BANK ACCOUNT CANNOT FILL AN EMPTY HEART

“Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

There is nothing wrong with planning for retirement, saving money, or enjoying the fruits of honest work. Most of us would sleep better knowing that the roof will not leak, the car will start, and the bank account can survive an unexpected expense. Jesus understands our need for security. But He also knows how easily reasonable planning can become an endless pursuit of more, until we begin postponing happiness to a future that never quite arrives.

The rich man in today’s Gospel has an excellent harvest and an impressive financial strategy. His problem is not that he has wealth,

but that wealth has become his entire world. He speaks repeatedly about himself, his possessions, and his plans, without mentioning God or anyone who might benefit from his abundance. He has prepared beautifully for a future he cannot guarantee while neglecting the relationships and generosity that could have made his present meaningful. He has everything he needs to live comfortably, but seems to have forgotten what makes life worth living.

Saint Paul reminds us that we are God’s handiwork, created for good works, not merely for accumulating things. Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and their fellow North American Martyrs understood that a life given in love is never wasted. Eventually, everything we own will belong to someone else. What remains is the love we offered, the kindness we practiced, and the lives we touched. The real tragedy is not dying with too little money. It is reaching the end with plenty stored away and too little love given away.

Prayer: Lord, free my heart from the endless desire for more. Teach me to enjoy Your blessings with gratitude, share them generously, and recognize the riches that cannot be purchased or taken away. Amen.

Readings: Ephesians 2:1–10; Psalm 100:1–5; Luke 12:13–21

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

GOD DOES NOT KEEP A GUEST LIST OF PERFECT PEOPLE

“You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19)

Imagine arriving at heaven’s door and discovering that the guest list includes former thieves, notorious sinners, doubters, and people who spent much of their lives getting things terribly wrong. We might be surprised by some of the faces. They might be equally surprised to see ours. Yet this is the astonishing scandal of grace: God’s family is not assembled from people who have never fallen, but from people who have allowed His mercy to raise them up.

Saint Paul reminds us that through Christ, those who were once far away have been brought near. The Church is not a country club where membership is earned through impeccable behavior. It is more like a field hospital where wounded people come to be healed. The Communion of Saints reminds us that holiness is not the absence of a difficult past, but the transformation of a life surrendered to God. And at every Eucharist, we approach the same table, not because we have earned our place, but because Christ has invited us to receive the life we cannot give ourselves.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes a master who returns home and astonishingly begins serving his servants. The One who deserves to be served becomes the One who serves. This is the heart of Christianity. God does not stand at the door demanding that we prove ourselves worthy of His attention. He welcomes us so that His love can transform us. Perhaps the most beautiful thing we can offer someone today is that same unexpected welcome. After all, heaven will be full of people who arrived there by grace, and none of us will have earned

Daily Reflections

by Father Jack

the right to look down on anyone else.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for welcoming me despite my weaknesses and failures. Heal what is wounded within me, free me from judging others, and help me make room in my heart for everyone You love. Amen.

Readings: Ephesians 2:12–22; Psalm 85:9–14; Luke 12:35–38

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

THE REAL TEST OF CHARACTER IS WHAT WE DO WHEN NOBODY IS WATCHING

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much.”
(Luke 12:48)

When was the last time you did something good without telling anyone about it? We live in a world where almost everything can become a performance. Meals are photographed, experiences are shared, opinions are broadcast, and even generosity sometimes comes with an audience. There is nothing wrong with sharing life’s beautiful moments. But constant visibility can quietly teach us to confuse being noticed with being valuable. We may become so accustomed to presenting ourselves to others that we forget how to live peacefully in our own company.

Jesus describes a servant entrusted with caring for others during his master’s absence. The faithful servant continues doing what is right because he understands that responsibility is sacred. The unfaithful servant begins abusing his position because he assumes nobody is watching. Yet Christian integrity is something deeper than behaving well out of fear of being caught. It is learning to live in the loving presence of God, whose gaze is neither suspicious nor condemning. He sees the whole person, including the struggles, intentions, and sacrifices that remain invisible to everyone else.

Saint Paul describes his ministry as stewardship of God’s grace. What he received was entrusted to him for the good of others. The same is true of our time, influence, abilities, and relationships. Perhaps today we can practice the quiet freedom of doing something beautiful without announcing it, or spending a few moments with God without reaching for our phones. There is a sacred intimacy in goodness that needs no audience. The world may never notice our hidden faithfulness, but nothing offered in love is ever hidden from God.

Prayer: Lord, free me from the need to be constantly noticed or appreciated. Teach me to find peace in Your loving presence, integrity in my private choices, and joy in doing good simply because it is good. Amen.

Readings: Ephesians 3:2–12; Isaiah 12:2–6; Luke 12:39–48

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

GOD LOVES US TOO MUCH TO LEAVE US UNCHANGED

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength.” (Ephesians 3:17–18)

Not every peaceful room contains peaceful hearts. Sometimes

everyone is smiling because nobody dares to say what needs to be said. Families avoid certain subjects, friendships survive through carefully maintained silences, and communities mistake the absence of disagreement for genuine unity. We have become remarkably skilled at walking on eggshells. Yet peace built entirely upon avoiding the truth is fragile. One honest conversation can shatter it.

Jesus surprises us by declaring that He has come to bring fire upon the earth and that His presence will sometimes cause division. He is not encouraging hostility or giving us permission to become argumentative. He is revealing that truth has consequences. In a world increasingly divided into political, cultural, and ideological tribes, Christians are called to something more demanding than choosing sides. Our deepest allegiance belongs to Christ. That means refusing to sacrifice truth for popularity, but also refusing to sacrifice love for the satisfaction of winning an argument.

Saint Paul reminds us that we must be rooted and grounded in Christ’s immeasurable love. Without love, conviction becomes arrogance. Without truth, love becomes little more than keeping everyone comfortable. Saint John Paul II, whom the Church remembers today, understood this courage when he urged the world, “Do not be afraid.” The peace Christ offers is not the fragile silence of people afraid to disagree. It is the deeper peace of hearts willing to speak truth with charity, listen with humility, and remain faithful when doing so becomes costly. God’s fire is meant to purify our hearts, not turn them against one another.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, set my heart on fire with Your love. Give me courage to stand for truth without becoming harsh, humility to listen without surrendering my convictions, and wisdom to become an instrument of Your peace. Amen.

Readings: Ephesians 3:14–21; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 11–12, 18–19; Luke 12:49–53

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

SOMETIMES PEACE BEGINS WITH TWO DIFFICULT WORDS

“Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love.” (Ephesians 4:1–2)

Some people have been living rent-free in our heads for years. They hurt us, disappointed us, or said something we cannot forget. The original argument may have lasted ten minutes, but we have replayed it hundreds of times, occasionally improving our own responses until we sound absolutely brilliant. Unfortunately, the other person never hears those speeches. We remain trapped in a conversation that ended long ago, while resentment quietly steals the peace we deserve.

Saint Paul urges us to practice humility, gentleness, patience, and love. These virtues are not signs of weakness. They require the courage to surrender our desire to control how another person’s story should end. When we refuse to forgive, we sometimes appoint ourselves the final judge of another human soul, a responsibility God never entrusted to us. Forgiveness does not mean pretending that

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarok

wrongdoing was acceptable, restoring unsafe relationships, or abandoning justice. It means refusing to let another person's failure become the permanent ruler of our hearts.

Jesus urges His listeners to seek reconciliation before disputes become worse. Sometimes that begins with two difficult words: "I'm sorry." Other times, with the equally powerful words, "I forgive." Reconciliation may require time, repentance, and healthy boundaries, and it is not always possible. But forgiveness can begin even when the other person never apologizes. Holding a grudge can feel like keeping someone else imprisoned, until we discover that we have locked ourselves inside the same cell. Freedom begins when we stop guarding the prison and hand the keys back to God.

Prayer: Lord, You know the wounds I carry and the resentments I struggle to release. Give me courage to forgive without denying what happened, humility to seek forgiveness when I am wrong, and freedom from bitterness that only Your grace can bring. Amen.

Readings: Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 12:54-59

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET

"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future." (Luke 13:8-9)

There are seasons when we become discouraged with ourselves. We thought we would be more patient by now, more forgiving, less anxious, or further along spiritually. Perhaps we have made the same resolution so many times that even our conscience seems tired of hearing it. We look at our lives and wonder why certain weaknesses remain stubbornly unchanged despite years of good intentions. Sometimes we are far less patient with ourselves than we would ever

be with someone we love.

Jesus tells the story of a fig tree that has produced no fruit for three years. The owner wants it removed, but the gardener asks for more time. He does not deny that the tree is unproductive. Instead, he offers to cultivate the soil, nourish its roots, and give it another opportunity. This is a beautiful image of God's mercy. He sees our failures clearly, yet He also sees possibilities we have stopped believing in. His patience is not indifference, and His mercy is not permission to remain unchanged. It is the loving assurance that our failures need not become our final identity.

But the gardener does not simply leave the tree alone and hope for the best. He gets to work. Grace invites our cooperation. Perhaps we need to change a habit, seek forgiveness, repair a relationship, or finally address something we have avoided. Saint Paul reminds us that spiritual growth happens as we speak the truth in love and become more like Christ. God is patient, but His patience has a purpose. He is not asking us to become perfect overnight. He is asking us to remain willing to grow. And when we are tempted to give up on ourselves, we can remember the gardener's beautiful request: Give it another year. God is not finished with us yet.

Prayer: Merciful Father, thank You for never giving up on me. Cultivate what is good within my heart, heal what has become wounded, and give me courage to make the changes Your grace is inviting me to make. Amen.

Readings: Ephesians 4:7-16; Psalm 122:1-5; Luke 13:1-9

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And continue growing in faith -

One reflection at a time.



Faith & Ale, a Catholic
Men's Apostolate presents:

Rev. Eric Scanlan

PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

*"Deliver Us From Evil:
Christ's Victory in
Spiritual Warfare"*

OCTOBER 22, 2026

6:30PM - 8:00PM

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
28290 Beaumont Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134



\$10

REQUESTED DONATION.
REGISTER TODAY.
PAY ONLINE OR AT DOOR.

[HTTPS://FAITHANDALE.COM/EVENTS/WELCOME/](https://faithandale.com/events/welcome/)



St. Leo parishioners and friends did not let a rainy afternoon stop them from joining the Chain of Life along US-41 on Sunday, October 4th.

This prayerful and peaceful witness reaffirmed the Church's unwavering commitment to the dignity and sacredness of every human life, from conception until natural death.

Christmas Gala

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
PARISH LIFE CENTER • \$50 PER PERSON

TICKETS GO ON SALE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
AT 8 AM IN THE PARISH OFFICE

GALA DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM FOR APPETIZERS • DINNER AT 6:30PM

FOR TABLES OF 8-10 PLEASE REMIT ENTIRE PAYMENT WITH RESERVATION.

THERE IS A MAXIMUM LIMIT OF ONE TABLE, OR TEN TICKETS, PER PURCHASER.
CASH OR CHECKS ONLY.

Enjoy the incredible talents of our Pastor, **FATHER JAREK**, our Music Director, **MARCIN MALEWSKI**, our Cantors **JULIANA ALFANO**, **MARIE** and **WINTER TALLEY**, and joining us this year two special new friends, **STEVE LATANISION**, and the amazing **JODIE DESALVO** on the piano. These talented musicians will once again bring us sparkle and smiles as we welcome the Magic of the Christmas season to our stage. **LET THE PARTY BEGIN!**

MENU:

Visit our exciting Antipasto Garden display for a beautiful array of Appetizers and a mouthwatering Caesar Salad complete with shaved Romano, Asiago and Parmesan cheeses. Then sit down to enjoy succulent braised Pork Tenderloin topped with rich Au Jus and Bourbon Cherries paired with Gruyere Potatoes au Gratin and Lemon Seared Asparagus. And finally, a delectable Chocolate Delight with a surprise indulgence will be served by Rudolph and his mates to finish this delightful feast. As always, beer and wine service continues through dinner.

CATERING BY FRISCO'S



WHOSE IMAGE DO YOU BEAR?

WHEN POLITICS CLAIMS TOO MUCH OF OUR HEART

BY FATHER JAREK

Isaiah 45:1, 4–6 | Psalm 96 | 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b | Matthew 22:15–21

It happens in families everywhere. Everyone is enjoying a perfectly pleasant dinner. The food is wonderful, the grandchildren are behaving reasonably well, and someone has even complimented the cook. Then somebody mentions politics. Within minutes, voices rise, expressions change, and someone suddenly remembers an urgent appointment elsewhere. How did we reach the point where we can love someone for forty years but struggle to tolerate them for forty minutes because of an election? Perhaps because politics has begun occupying a place in our hearts that was never meant for it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus faces a politically explosive question: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar? His opponents believe they have trapped Him. Support the tax, and He alienates His people. Reject it, and He risks arrest. Instead, Jesus asks for a coin. "Whose image is this?" Caesar's, they answer. Then comes His extraordinary response: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

But Jesus' question reaches far beyond taxation. Caesar's image is stamped on a coin. Whose image is stamped on us? Scripture tells us that every human being is created in God's image and likeness. The coin is merely minted metal, bearing the likeness of an earthly ruler. We are living icons of the eternal God, carrying a dignity no government can grant and no government can take away. Caesar may claim his coin. But our lives belong to God. And so does the person across the dinner table who disagrees with everything we believe.

As another election approaches, Americans have legitimate reasons for concern. We worry about rising costs, national security, immigration, religious freedom, and the future awaiting our children and grandchildren. These concerns often arise from something beautiful: love. We want our families safe, our communities strong, and our country faithful to its highest ideals. Christians should participate responsibly in public life. Faith does not excuse indifference to injustice or relieve us of our responsibility to defend human dignity.

But something happens when concern becomes obsession, conviction becomes contempt, and political loyalty begins replacing our deepest identity. We can become remarkably forgiving of wrongdoing when it comes from someone we support and remarkably unforgiving when it comes from someone we oppose. We may defend Christian values passionately while forgetting to practice Christian virtues. Sometimes we know more about yesterday's political controversies than last Sunday's Gospel. Apparently, our memories work better when we are irritated.

The deeper danger is asking politics to provide what only God can give: lasting peace, ultimate security, and enduring hope. We begin expecting elections to save us and political victories to quiet our fears. But no government, however wise, can redeem the human soul. No election can eliminate suffering. No political leader can carry the weight of being our savior. That position has already been filled.

Consider today's first reading. God chooses Cyrus, a pagan ruler who does not even know Him, to accomplish His purposes. What an astonishing reminder that God is not limited by the people we admire, the leaders we trust, or the outcomes we desire. His providence reaches beyond our expectations, sometimes working through circumstances we would never have chosen. No party owns God. No leader has a monopoly on His wisdom. And no human authority is exempt from His judgment.

Saint Paul offers another measure of greatness: "work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope." Not the arguments we win, but the goodness our faith produces. Not how loudly we proclaim our principles, but how faithfully we live them. Not whether circumstances unfold as we wish, but whether we remain hopeful when they do not.

None of this means compromising moral truth or pretending every political position is equally just. Catholics are called to form their consciences through Scripture, the teachings of the Church, prayer, and sincere attention to the dignity of every human person. A well-formed conscience is neither a political preference dressed in religious language nor permission to choose whatever feels comfortable. It is the humble, lifelong effort to bring our judgments into harmony with God's truth, even when that truth challenges our preferences, our loyalties, or the leaders we admire. We must defend what is right without becoming cruel, disagree without despising, and love our country without making it our god.

Perhaps that is what Jesus wants us to remember whenever we look at another person. Before we see a Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal, friend or opponent, we are looking at someone whose life bears the fingerprints of God. Their dignity does not depend on their opinions, their mistakes, or whether they agree with us. Winning an argument means little if we lose the opportunity to love.

One day, every election will be over. Every political argument will fall silent. Every president and political leader will become part of history. But the image of God within us will remain. And what will matter most is not how successfully we defended our opinions, but how faithfully we reflected the One whose image we bear.

So vote with a well-formed conscience. Defend what is right. Love your country. But remember that no earthly kingdom can replace the kingdom of God, and no political victory is worth the loss of our humanity. Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar. But never give Caesar your soul. And never forget that the person standing across from you bears the same sacred image as the person looking back at you in the mirror.

A PERSONAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have defended
Your truth without reflecting Your love.
When fear makes me angry, give me wisdom.
When disagreement makes me impatient, give me humility.
Help me recognize Your image even
in those I struggle to understand.
Teach me to love my country without placing my
ultimate hope in earthly power, to stand firmly for
what is right without forgetting what is merciful,
and to remember that my heart belongs
first and always to You. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	OCTOBER 19	
8:00 am	+Manuela Perez & Aurora Paredes	Their Loving Daughter & Granddaughter, Maria
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 20	
8:00 am	+Victoria Harwelik	Her Loving Daughter
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 21	
8:00 am	+Katherine Guzman	Her Loving Family
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 22	
8:00 am	+Frank & +Dorothy Albrecht	Their Loving Daughters
FRIDAY	OCTOBER 23	
8:00 am	+Kenneth Pitko	Mary & Ken Tuttle
SATURDAY	OCTOBER 24	
8:00 am	+Molly Gallant	Liz & Lou DeAmicis
3:30 pm	+Kenneth Pitko	Madelaine & Thomas Gardner
5:30 pm	+Bob Kelly	Penny Kelly
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 25	
7:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
9:30 am	+Jerry Weisbecker	Paul & Marsha Griffin
11:30 am	+Richard Dick Banker	Helene Thompson
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Jose Rico	His Loving Family



Flowers and Candles this week are dedicated to
Kenneth Pitko
requested by The Pitko Family

We 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 <i>All serving in the military, especially those in combat.</i>
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We pray today for...

Linda Aquino Clayton Aunkle Linda Bardol Marie Berry Jeffrey Bogart Bob Brock Hildi Brown Larry Brown Denise Buk Isabelle Marie Caiola Patrick Cain Peter Castro Michelle Chiarulli Scott Cochell Lourdes Coll Jeff Davis Tara DeRoma Robby Dirks Jaden Anthony Droz Jim Esposito Brad Fairfield Rudolph & Mary Fazio Michael Federico Brynn Forlizzi Cory Fredericksen Gisette Lupita Garcia Ellie Gaspar Paul Gaspar Vincent Gil Kevin Glowacki Ben Gondersone Rich Gonzalez Karen Grimshaw Luke Hass Chie Herron Robbin Holcomb Mathew Hughes Kendall Hunter Nolan Kane Matt Knight Mary Kobel	Robert Kochalka Stephanie Krydick Jeff Lally Karen Lamont Joanne Laurenzana Emily Lienesch Mark Lips Mary Mavilla Tim McAuliff Beverly McDowell Audrey Grace Neeley Glenn 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 Michael Anthony Sforza Charlie Sweeney Jr. Bonnie Tenhaken Vivian Thomas Eleanor Trevison Debra Vannotti Justin VanNorstrand Jane Venuti-Tontodonato William Welch Shelly Yuhass Lowry Ray Zonghetti Fabiola, Krislin, Michael, Michael R., Tray. Present & past parish priests.
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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 2-3pm in church.

Prayer Group

All are welcome on Wednesday mornings in the Nest Café at 8:45am to pray for our personal intentions and those of our community, country & peace in our world.

Rosary Makers - Wednesday at 10:30 am - Nest Café

All are welcome to join the JMJ Rosary Makers as they make beaded string rosaries. The instructions, supplies and tools required will be provided. Since prayer and evangelization are needed more than ever, so are rosaries.

Walking with Moms in Need is a program at St. Leo which connects pregnant women and new mothers in need with assistance and support. Please go to our website for more information www.stleocatholicchurch.org

The Sewing, Knitting & Crocheting Group

shares their talents to benefit local charities. They welcome volunteers of all skill levels on Tuesdays beginning at noon in the Juan Diego Outreach Center. Contact Bernice Romano at 239-601-5877 with questions.



DAILY PRAYER SCHEDULE

MONDAYS -THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS: 7:15 am-Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Cry Room, 7:30 am-Rosary in the main church.
FRIDAYS: 7:10 am-Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Cry Room, 7:25 am-Rosary in the main church, followed by the Miraculous Medal Novena We invite all to join us in these wonderful prayers.

ST LEO'S RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



Meetings are held in the Nest Café on the last Friday of each month at 9am. For questions contact Peggy (239.293.3201.)

Names remain on our prayer list for 30 days
and troop list for 6 months.

To add names or update information call the Office at 992-0901
or email: chernandez@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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Weekend Masses	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
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Lector Coordinator for Weekends	David Froelke.....646-831-9733
Lector Coordinator for Weekdays	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
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Prison Ministry	Robert Hiniker.....863-558-0407
Project Gabriel	Carol Dangler.. 793-0826
Project Rachel	Sylvia Jimenez.....941-412-5860
Respect Life Ministry	Peggy Nye Hammer.....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 Connor.....508-414-3362
Usher Ministry	Parish Office 992-0901
Youth Ministry	Gisela Meraz..... 992-0901

We Pray for the Recently Deceased Of Our Parish

Robert “Bob” Morissette



MEMORIAL BRICKS FOR THE GARDEN OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The St. Leo Stations of the Cross Garden is a sacred space to pray and reflect. Placing a brick in memory of a loved one, to mark a special event, or celebrate an anniversary is a timeless way to remember what matters most in our lives.

Memorial bricks may be ordered in two sizes –
4” x 8” (\$125) or 12” x 12” (\$300).

Brochures with more information and order forms are
available in the parish office.

Bricks orders are placed three times per year.

The next deadline for brick orders will be October 30th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

“The Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program provides academic support, social skills development, community resource education, and case management to elementary and middle school students from low-income households who are struggling academically. Our Afterschool Tutoring Program helps young people build the academic skills, confidence, character, and support systems they need to succeed in school and become self-sufficient members of their communities. **We are always grateful for community members interested in volunteering to support our students and programs.** Interested individuals can visit us on the St. Leo campus during program hours (10am-6pm) or reach out to us at **239-940-7880** or email **jperez@ccdov.org**.



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Last Sunday Catechists and Assistants were commissioned during Masses and welcomed by the community.

**If you feel called to join this ministry, please
contact Gisela or Maria at 992-0901.**

St. Leo's Respect Life Ministry



**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING,
FRIDAY, OCT. 30TH, IN THE NEST CAFÉ AT 9AM.**

All are welcome to attend and participate in a discussion of our November mission—*Welcoming the Stranger*. We look with renewed tenderness toward those who are so easily forgotten, remembering that the value of a person lies in their very existence as a beloved child of God. For more information please call Peggy at 293-3201.

If you are “flying solo” at his point in life....whether by choice, widowhood, or divorce, and you would like to socialize with others in the same situation, you are welcomed to sit at our specially designated tables during select entertainment events at the parish.



NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



“Devuelvan, pues, al César las cosas del César y a Dios lo que le corresponde a Dios” (Mateo 22:21). Con esta respuesta, Jesús calla a las personas que lo querían poner a prueba para desacreditarlo públicamente, tendiéndole una trampa para que cayera. Pero Jesús clarifica su pregunta y dice claramente lo que se debe hacer en cada caso. ¿Qué imagen llevamos en nuestro corazón: la del César o la de Dios? El Evangelio nos invita hoy a saber discernir nuestras prioridades, a no confundir a Dios con el César de nuestros caprichos. Dios está por encima de todo eso. Somos imagen de Dios, grabada el día de nuestro bautismo. Debemos ser creyentes a tiempo completo, en todos los niveles, públicos y privados, en todo lo que hacemos y con todos los que nos rodean.

“El dinero no hay que demonizarlo en sentido absoluto. El dinero sirve para llevar adelante muchas cosas buenas, muchos trabajos, para desarrollar la humanidad. Lo que hay que condenar, en cambio, es su uso distorsionado” (Papa Francisco, 21-10-2013). Catequesis de hoy: darnos cuenta de que todo lo que pasa en el mundo es inferior al Reino de Dios. El dominio de Dios es la justicia y la misericordia que ejerce sobre toda persona. Entonces, no hay que confundir las cosas. Dar a Dios lo que le corresponde está basado en el amor al prójimo, dando amor y generosidad, lo cual es todo lo contrario a lo que el mundo exige. Nuestra energía y nuestros talentos siempre deben ser dirigidos a los hermanos y a Dios.

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

Coordinador de Emaus Hombres

Roberto Arredondo (239) 860-1111

Coordinadora de Grupo de Oración

Ruth Domínguez (239) 351-8430

Coordinadora de Emaus mujeres

Martha Santillán (239) 908-1680

Coordinador de Lectores

Carlos Gómez (239) 913-7651

Coordinadora de Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión

Luz Janeth García (239) 494-0973

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

Adrián y Silvia Ortiz (239) 834-4778

Sacristán y coordinador de monaguillos (Altar servers)

Tony García (239) 908-1173



“Den, pues, al César lo que es del César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios”. - Mt 22, 21



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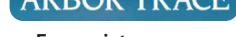
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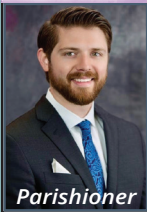
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