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 25, 2026



Madonna and Child with Angels 1465/1470 Sandro Botticelli/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 17 & 18
$25,778

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

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 31

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

Sunday, November 1

7:30 am	Fr. Stan
9:30 am	Fr. Stan
11:30 am	Msgr. Cullen
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.

Flying Solo
Table Available

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, OCTOBER 25
THE HARDEST PEOPLE TO LOVE MAY HAVE THE MOST TO TEACH US ABOUT GOD.
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)

Loving people would be considerably easier if they were always reasonable, appreciative, and considerate. Unfortunately, God has surrounded us with actual human beings. They interrupt, disappoint, misunderstand, and occasionally test the limits of our Christian charity before we have even finished our morning coffee. We can sincerely love God, attend Mass faithfully, and still struggle to be patient with someone who seems determined to make our lives difficult. Perhaps that is precisely where our faith becomes real.

When Jesus identifies the greatest commandments, He refuses to separate love of God from love of neighbor. In Exodus, God speaks with particular concern for foreigners, widows, orphans, and the poor. These are people whose suffering can easily be ignored because they lack influence or power. Yet God hears their cries. The message is unmistakable: we cannot claim to love the God we cannot see while remaining indifferent to the people standing before us. Religion loses its soul when devotion becomes disconnected from compassion.

The people who challenge our patience can become spiritual mirrors. They reveal the conditions we quietly place upon forgiveness, the limits of our generosity, and our tendency to confuse kindness with agreement. Loving someone does not mean approving everything they do or allowing ourselves to be mistreated. It means refusing to let another person's behavior determine the goodness of our own hearts. We may not be able to change the person who tests our patience today, but through that encounter, God may be changing us.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to love beyond convenience, agreement, and personal preference. Give me patience with difficult people, compassion for those who suffer, and the humility to recognize how often I need the very mercy You ask me to extend. Amen. ***Readings:*** Exodus 22:20–26; Psalm 18:2–4, 47, 51; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10; Matthew 22:34–40

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
SOME PEOPLE HAVE CARRIED THEIR BURDENS SO LONG THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT FREEDOM FEELS LIKE.
"Woman, you are set free of your infirmity." (Luke 13:12)

Eighteen years is a long time to live bent over. Long enough to forget what standing straight feels like. Long enough to become accustomed to looking down instead of ahead. The woman in today's Gospel carries a visible affliction, but her suffering speaks to something many people understand. Some have spent years carrying grief that never completely disappears. Others live beneath the weight of regret, loneliness, family conflict, or responsibilities nobody else fully appreciates. They continue functioning, smiling, and assuring everyone they are fine, while quietly wondering how much longer they can keep going.

What makes this Gospel so beautiful is that Jesus notices the woman before she asks for anything. He sees someone whom others have grown accustomed to overlooking. He calls her forward, touches her, and restores her freedom. Yet the synagogue leader objects because the healing occurs on the Sabbath. Imagine witnessing the end of eighteen years of suffering and responding with a complaint about scheduling. His reaction reveals a troubling possibility: we can become so devoted to our understanding of what is right that we lose sight of what is good.

Saint Paul urges us to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving. Perhaps compassion begins with remembering that we rarely know the full story of another person's life. The impatient cashier, the withdrawn friend, the difficult relative may be carrying hardships we cannot imagine. We cannot heal every wound or solve every problem. But we can refuse to add to someone's burden. Sometimes the most Christlike thing we do is help another person stand a little taller, even when we cannot remove what weighs them down.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You see the burdens I carry and the suffering others conceal. Lift what weighs heavily upon my heart, heal what has hardened my spirit, and give me eyes that recognize pain before passing judgment. May my presence bring someone a little closer to freedom. Amen. ***Readings:*** Ephesians 4:32–5:8; Psalm 1:1–4, 6; Luke 13:10–17

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
NOT EVERYTHING IMPORTANT IN LIFE LOOKS IMPORTANT WHILE IT IS HAPPENING.
"The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed." (Luke 13:19)

Most of the moments that eventually shape our lives arrive without announcing their importance. A conversation becomes a lifelong friendship. An ordinary decision changes the direction of a family. A few encouraging words give someone the courage to begin again. At the time, nothing seems particularly remarkable. We tend to recognize life's turning points only afterward, when we look back and discover that something small quietly changed everything.

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed and yeast hidden in dough. Both images reveal something surprising about God's way of working. The seed grows without attracting attention, and the yeast transforms the dough from within. Neither demands recognition. Neither produces immediate results. Yet both accomplish something far greater than their modest beginnings suggest. God's grace often works this way in our lives. A marriage deepens through countless ordinary sacrifices. Faith matures through prayers offered when nothing seems to happen. Character develops through small choices made when nobody is watching.

We sometimes become discouraged because our efforts appear insignificant. We wonder whether our prayers matter, whether our kindness makes any difference, or whether we have accomplished enough with the years God has given us. But significance and visibility are not the same thing. Some of the most important people in our lives never attracted public attention; they simply loved us faithfully. We may spend our lives searching for opportunities to do something great, while God is quietly doing something great through our ordinary faithfulness.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to recognize Your presence in small beginnings and ordinary moments. Free me from measuring my life by recognition or visible success. Help me remain faithful to the good entrusted to me, trusting that nothing offered in love is ever wasted. Amen. ***Readings:*** Ephesians 5:21–33; Psalm 128:1–5; Luke 13:18–21

Daily Reflections

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
GOD DOES NOT WAIT UNTIL WE ARE PERFECT BEFORE GIVING US A PLACE IN HIS FAMILY.
"You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones." (Ephesians 2:19)

Imagine being responsible for choosing twelve people who would help change the course of human history. You would probably look for intelligence, reliability, emotional maturity, and an exceptional ability to work together. Jesus apparently had a different selection process. His Apostles included fishermen, a tax collector, a political zealot, men who argued about their importance, and one who would eventually betray Him. It was hardly the kind of leadership team that would impress a modern consulting firm.

Yet today's Gospel tells us that Jesus spent the entire night in prayer before choosing them. His decision was neither careless nor accidental. He knew whom He was calling. On this feast of Saints Simon and Jude, we remember that God's Kingdom was entrusted to ordinary, complicated people who would gradually be transformed by grace. Saint Paul describes the Church as God's household, built upon the foundation of the Apostles, with Christ holding everything together. Our belonging rests not upon our perfection, but upon His faithfulness.

There is enormous freedom in this truth. Many people secretly fear that they are not good enough for God. They remember their failures, compare themselves with others, and imagine that holiness belongs to a different category of people. But the Church has never been a gathering of finished masterpieces. It is a community of people whom God is patiently shaping. We belong not because we have everything figured out, but because Christ has invited us to walk with Him. The astonishing thing is not simply that God can work through imperfect people. It is that He continually chooses to do so.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me despite my weaknesses and unfinished life. Free me from the fear of inadequacy and the temptation to judge others by their failures. Help me trust Your grace and recognize that everyone I meet is someone You are still shaping with love. Amen.
Readings: Ephesians 2:19–22; Psalm 19:2–5; Luke 6:12–16

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29
FEAR CAN IMAGINE A THOUSAND FUTURES. FAITH HELPS US LIVE THE ONE DAY WE HAVE.
"Draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power." (Ephesians 6:10)

The human imagination is an extraordinary gift, although it occasionally behaves like an employee who specializes in predicting disasters. We worry about conversations that have not happened, illnesses we do not have, and problems that may never arise. Give our imagination one small uncertainty, and it will produce an entire disaster movie, complete with a tragic ending, several unlikely plot twists, and a supporting cast of people who have no idea they are involved. By the time the actual day begins, we are already exhausted from fighting battles that existed only in our minds.

Saint Paul speaks about putting on the armor of God, but notice what this armor contains: truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, prayer, and readiness to proclaim peace. These are not weapons for attacking people. They are spiritual strengths that protect us from becoming prisoners of fear, deception, and bitterness. In the Gospel, Jesus faces a genuine threat from Herod, yet refuses to abandon His mission. He continues healing and teaching, fully aware of the suffering ahead. His courage does not come from pretending danger is unreal. It comes from knowing that fear does not deserve the final word.

Faith does not promise us a life without uncertainty. Sometimes the diagnosis is serious, the relationship remains strained, or the future is genuinely unclear. But God does not ask us to solve tomorrow before living today. He asks us to remain faithful to what love requires in the present moment. We can prepare responsibly without surrendering our peace to every imagined possibility. Much of life's anxiety comes from trying to carry tomorrow's burdens with today's strength. God gives us the grace we need for the day we are actually living, not for every frightening future our imagination invents.

Prayer: Lord, quiet the fears that steal my peace and exhaust my spirit. Give me courage to face what is real, wisdom to release what I cannot control, and trust to leave tomorrow in Your hands. Help me live this day faithfully, without borrowing troubles from the future. Amen. ***Readings:*** Ephesians 6:10–20; Psalm 144:1–2, 9–10; Luke 13:31–35

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR UNFINISHED LIFE. AND HE HAS NOT LOST HOPE IN YOU.
"The one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it." (Philippians 1:6)

There comes a point in life when we begin to suspect that we should have become wiser by now. We have lived long enough to recognize our weaknesses, yet some remain remarkably persistent. We still become impatient over small inconveniences, worry about things beyond our control, and occasionally say something foolish immediately after resolving to speak more thoughtfully. Spiritual growth can feel frustratingly slow, especially when we discover that growing older and growing wiser are not always the same experience.

Writing from imprisonment, Saint Paul expresses remarkable confidence that God will complete the good work He has begun in the Philippians. Notice where Paul places his confidence. Not in their determination, impressive accomplishments, or flawless behavior, but in God's faithfulness. This does not excuse our failures or remove our responsibility to grow. It reminds us that holiness is not something we manufacture through sheer willpower. It develops through our cooperation with grace, often through mistakes that teach us humility and disappointments that deepen our compassion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a suffering man while religious observers remain silent, unwilling to acknowledge what mercy requires. They know the rules, but their hearts have stopped growing. Perhaps this is the real danger of spiritual stagnation: not that we still have weaknesses, but that we become unwilling to let God change us. Genuine progress may be less about becoming impressive and more about becoming approachable, forgiving, and kind. God is not disappointed that we are unfinished. He is inviting us to stop resisting the beautiful work He still intends to accomplish.

Daily Reflections

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your patience with my unfinished life. Help me recognize the quiet ways Your grace is changing me. When I become discouraged by my weaknesses, remind me that Your work continues, and teach me to extend that same patience to others. Amen. ***Readings:*** Philippians 1:1–11; Psalm 111:1–6; Luke 14:1–6

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
LIFE BECOMES LIGHTER WHEN WE STOP TRYING TO PROVE HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE.
"Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

There is a peculiar exhaustion that comes from constantly wondering what other people think of us. Did they appreciate what we said? Were we sufficiently recognized? Why was someone else invited, promoted, praised, or seated closer to the guest of honor? We may smile politely while conducting a remarkably detailed internal investigation into whether we have received the respect we deserve. Pride is exhausting, not least because it requires us to remain constantly attentive to ourselves.

Jesus notices guests competing for places of honor at a dinner and turns the occasion into a lesson about humility. His teaching reaches far beyond seating arrangements. The deepest humility is not thinking poorly of ourselves, but becoming free from the need to make ourselves the center of everything. Humble people can celebrate another person's success without feeling diminished. They can admit mistakes without losing their dignity. They can serve without requiring applause. Their peace comes from knowing that their worth does not depend upon their position at the table.

Saint Paul offers an extraordinary example. Facing imprisonment and the possibility of death, he is less concerned about his personal circumstances than about whether Christ is being proclaimed and others are growing in faith. His life has become larger than his own ambitions. This is the surprising freedom humility offers us. When we stop struggling to prove our importance, we discover how much joy there is in simply loving, serving, and belonging to God. Perhaps the happiest person at the banquet is not the one seated closest to the host, but the one who has finally discovered that belonging matters more than being important.

Prayer: Lord, free my heart from the exhausting need for recognition and approval. Teach me to rejoice in the goodness of others, to serve without seeking attention, and to find my deepest dignity in belonging to You. Amen.
Readings: Philippians 1:18b–26; Psalm 42:2–3, 5; Luke 14:1, 7–11

Visit CatholicJourneyToday.com
And continue growing in faith -
One reflection at a time.



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.

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.
THER 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

THE MOST DANGEROUS IDOL MAY BE THE ONE THAT MAKES US FEEL RIGHTEOUS

When Being Right Becomes More Important Than Being Good

by Father Jarek

There is a peculiar pleasure in discovering that someone else is wrong. It becomes even more satisfying when we have the evidence to prove it. We rehearse our arguments, anticipate their objections, and imagine the glorious moment when they finally admit defeat. Unfortunately, that moment almost never arrives. Instead, they become more convinced they are right, we become more convinced they are hopeless, and everyone leaves feeling slightly less charitable than before. Yet somehow, we call this defending the truth.

The trouble begins when being right becomes more important than discovering what is true. Without realizing it, we can become so devoted to our opinions that we begin treating them as sacred. We no longer worship golden calves, but we have become remarkably inventive at making idols. Wealth, success, political loyalty, and even our own righteousness can quietly demand the devotion that belongs to God alone. Modern technology makes this especially convenient. We can now correct complete strangers on the other side of the planet without getting out of bed. Never have so many people enjoyed so many opportunities to be right, with so little peace to show for it.

In today's second reading, Saint Paul praises the Thessalonians for turning from idols to serve the living God. But idolatry is not confined to ancient temples and statues. An idol is anything we allow to occupy the place that belongs to God. And the most dangerous idols are not always obviously evil. Sometimes they are good things we have made absolute. Truth, justice, patriotism, religious conviction: all can serve noble purposes. Yet even a worthy cause becomes distorted when defending it matters more than the people it was meant to serve.

The need to be right is an exhausting way to live. There is always another opinion to correct, another offender to condemn, another argument to win. We appoint ourselves guardians of civilization, only to discover that civilization stubbornly refuses to cooperate. Our convictions become entangled with our egos. We no longer simply want truth to prevail; we need to be the ones who prevail. Every disagreement becomes a threat, every concession a defeat, and every conversation a contest nobody remembers agreeing to enter.

Jesus offers a different way of living. Asked to name the greatest commandment, He joins love of God with love of neighbor. He does not ask us to choose between truth and compassion. He reveals that they belong together. Love does not weaken our convictions; it frees them from the need to dominate. When we no longer depend upon winning arguments to feel secure, we discover the freedom to listen. We can hear another person's story without searching for its weaknesses, acknowledge a valid point without surrendering our principles, and recognize that understanding someone is not the same as agreeing with them.

Our first reading makes this deeply personal. God commands Israel to protect foreigners, widows, orphans, and the poor, reminding His people that they themselves were once strangers in Egypt. Their suffering was meant to enlarge their compassion. Perhaps we need

the same reminder when encountering people whose views bewilder us. Who among us has never been mistaken, misunderstood, or embarrassingly certain about something we later discovered was wrong? Remembering our limitations does not diminish our commitment to truth. It makes us gentler with others who, like us, are still learning.

Such humility is not weakness. It takes little courage to ridicule someone whose opinions we dislike. It takes considerably more to remain respectful when disagreement is profound. Christian charity does not require silence in the face of injustice, nor does unity demand uniformity of opinion. It asks us to defend what is right without forgetting the humanity of those who disagree. A community held together only by agreement will eventually fracture. One rooted in grace can endure differences because its members recognize something greater than their disagreements.

Perhaps our divided world needs not fewer convictions, but people whose convictions have made them more compassionate. People who speak firmly without humiliating, listen generously without surrendering judgment, and defend the vulnerable without deciding that everyone else is beyond redemption. Truth becomes most convincing when it takes flesh in the goodness of a human life.

And what freedom there is in finally resigning as the world's universal referee! We do not have to correct every stranger, settle every controversy, or prove our worth by defeating an opponent. We can leave room for God to work in hearts we do not understand, including our own. God does not need us to defend His honor at the expense of His children. Perhaps the most dangerous idol is not the one that openly leads us away from God, but the one that convinces us we are defending Him while forgetting how to love those He loves. We were never asked to win the world for God. We were asked to love it as He does.

A PRAYER FOR A HEART SET FREE

Lord, how easily I become certain of myself and impatient with others.
I recognize their mistakes so clearly while remaining remarkably blind to my own.
Forgive me for confusing pride with conviction, judgment with wisdom,
and the satisfaction of being right with the deeper joy of loving well.
You have been patient with my blindness, gentle with my failures, and generous with mercy
I could never earn. Teach me to offer others something of the grace You have given me.

Free me from the exhausting need to win every argument and correct every wrong.
Give me courage to stand for truth without becoming harsh,
humility to listen without feeling threatened, and wisdom to recognize
Your image even in those I struggle to understand.
When I am tempted to see another person only as an opponent,
remind me that we are both infinitely more than our disagreements.
May my convictions bring light rather than heat, my words heal more than they wound,
and my life reveal something of Your patient, generous love. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	**OCTOBER 26**	
8:00 am	+Theresa Jones	Paul & Marsha Griffin
TUESDAY	**OCTOBER 27**	
8:00 am	+Deanna Maechling	Paul & Marsha Griffin
WEDNESDAY	**OCTOBER 28**	
8:00 am	+Joseph Scenna	His Loving Daughter & Son-in-Law, Rita & Robert Sokol
THURSDAY	**OCTOBER 29**	
8:00 am	+Stella Bardauskis	Her Loving Family
FRIDAY	**OCTOBER 30**	
8:00 am	+Julie Obrien	Kathy Sullivan
SATURDAY	**OCTOBER 31**	
8:00 am	+Patricia Bruno	Janet & Lyle Perra
3:30 pm	+Robert Gliwa	Gliwa Family
5:30 pm	+Art & +Artie Herron	Their Loving Wife and Mother
SUNDAY	**NOVERMBER 1**	
7:30 am	+Joe & +Rose Scenna	His Loving Daughter & Son-in-Law, Rita & Robert Sokol
9:30 am	+Margaret Healy	Dennis & Linda Lambert
11:30 am	+Julie & +Edward O'Brien	Their Children Gwyn, Glen & Brenda
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	The Parishioners of St. Leo	

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



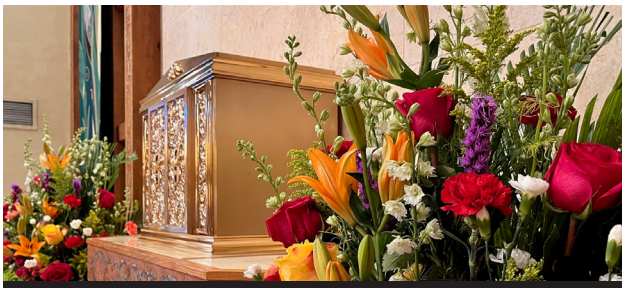
shares their talents to benefit local charities. They welcome volunteers of all skill levels on Tuesdays beginning at noon in the Juan Diego Outreach Center. Contact Bernice Romano at 239-601-5877 with questions.

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

Monthly meetings are held in the nest Cafe on the last Friday of each month at 9am. For questions call Peggy at 293-3201.



Flowers & Candles this week are dedicated to † Kenneth Pitko
Requested by The Pitko Family



Please Pray for Our Troops

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Lt. Thomas A. Flynn
Cpt. Sean Flynn
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Lt. Col. Nicholas LoRusso
Joseph McDermond
Daniel McDonald
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Michael Oliveira
Sgt. Thomas Pauls
Nick Parrorzio
Cpt. Evan Razzano
Cpt. Brayden Reichenbach
Lt. Riley N. Schliem
Lt. Col. Jonathan W. Schwarz
Lt. Col. Peter Shayhorn
All serving in the military, especially those in combat.

We pray today for...

Linda Aquino
Clayton Aunkle
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
Jaden Anthony Droz
Jim Esposito
Brad Fairfield
Rudolph & Mary Fazio
Michael Federico
Cory Fredericksen
Gissette Lupita Garcia
Ellie Gaspar
Paul Gaspar
Vincent Gil
Kevin Glowacki
Ben Gondersone
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Karen Grimshaw
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Robbin Holcomb
Mathew Hughes
Kendall Hunter
Nolan Kane
Matt Knight
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Robert Kochalka
Stephanie Krydick
Jeff Lally
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Joanne Laurenzana
Emily Lienesch
Mark Lips
Mary Mavilla
Tim McAuliff
Beverly McDowell
Audrey Grace Neeley
Glenn Nelson
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
Michael Anthony Sforza
Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Bonnie Tenhaken
Vivian Thomas
Eleanor Trevison
Debra Vannotti
Justin VanNorstrand
Jane Venuti-Tontodonato
William Welch
Shelly Yuhas Lowry
Ray Zonghetti
Fabiola, 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	Beth Daniels	248-376-2997
Usher Ministry	Parish Office	992-0901
Youth Ministry	Gisela Meraz	992-0901

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Positive Youth development (PYD) program provides academic support, social skill development, community resource education, and case management to elementary and middle school students from low income families who are struggling academically. Community members who are interested in volunteering can visit at the St. Leo Campus during program hours (10am-6pm) or call 239-940-7880 or email Jperez@ccdov.org. We thank you for your support.

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We Pray for the Recently Deceased of Our Parish



Anne Borruso
Beata Wolanski

MEMORIAL BRICKS FOR THE GARDEN OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The St. Leo Stations of the Cross Garden is a sacred space to pray and reflect. Placing a brick in memory of a loved one, to mark a special event, or celebrate an anniversary is a timeless way to remember what matters most in our lives.
Memorial bricks may be ordered in two sizes
– 4" x 8" ($125) or 12" x 12" ($300).
Brochures with more information and order forms are available in the parish office. Bricks orders are placed three times per year.
The next deadline for brick orders will be October 30th.

St. 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.

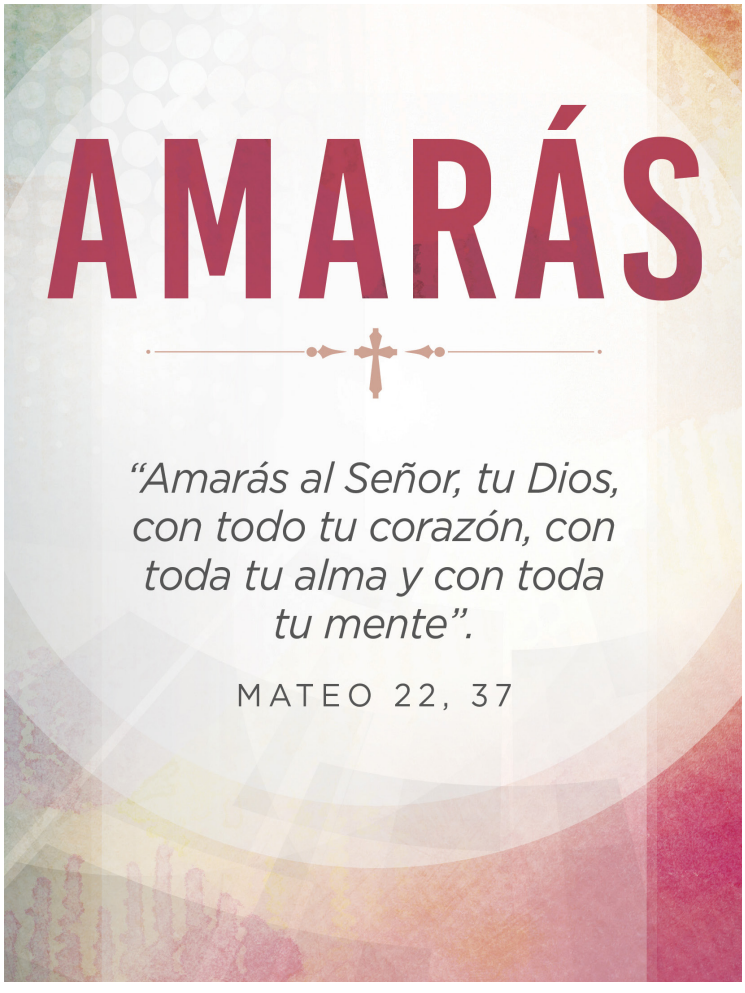
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NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



Hoy la Palabra de Dios nos da una "recortadita" sobre la importancia de los mandamientos. Sí, esas oraciones que aprendimos de memoria cuando hicimos la primera comunión. ¿Los recuerdas? Son exactamente diez, pero Jesús dijo que el más grande es: "Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente. Este es el gran mandamiento, el primero. Pero hay otro muy parecido: 'Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo'. Toda la Ley y los Profetas se fundamentan en estos dos mandamientos" (Mateo 22:37-40). Esto quiere decir que debemos buscar a Dios en todo lo que hacemos.

El Compendio del Catecismo de la Iglesia católica, en su número 443, nos explica que: "Las palabras 'adorarás al Señor tu Dios y a Él solo darás culto' suponen adorar a Dios como Señor de todo cuanto existe; rendirle el culto debido individual y comunitariamente; rezarle con expresiones de alabanza, de acción de gracias y de súplica; ofrecerle sacrificios, sobre todo el espiritual de nuestra vida unido al sacrificio perfecto de Cristo; mantener las promesas y votos que se le hacen". Amar a Dios y amar al prójimo no se pueden separar. El amor no es un simple sentimiento; es una acción al servicio, un compromiso como camino de vida. Jesús no solo hablaba de amor, sino que ponía su amor al servicio de los pobres. Su mayor acto de amor por nosotros fue morir en la cruz y resucitar para que tengamos vida en abundancia. ¡Gracias, Señor, por tu amor!



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
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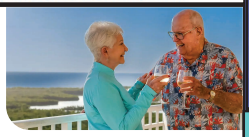
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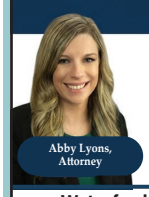


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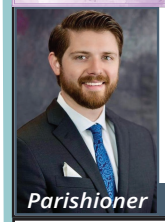
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