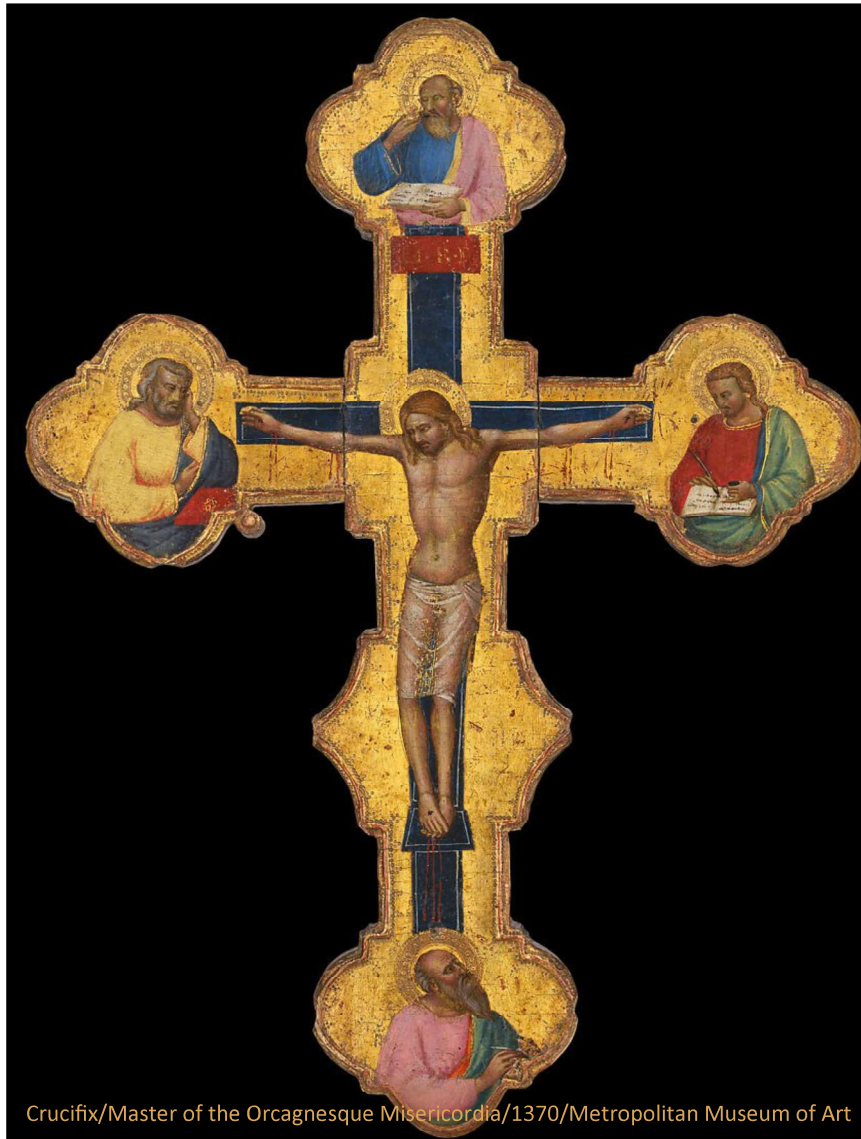


ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH

*We are a welcoming Catholic Community
called by God to live out the message of
Christ in love and service to all people.*

September 13, 2026



Crucifix/Master of the Orcagnesque Misericordia/1370/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!

September 5 & 6
\$19,178

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 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

ONLINE GIVING

WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

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.

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, September 19

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

Sunday, September 20

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

Changes may occur without notice.

St. Leo Ladies' Guild

A Reflection of the Past Year



The ladies of the Guild work year-round providing opportunities for volunteering while creating and fostering friendships, all with the intention of enhancing our parish and community. The year started with October's Welcome Back Luncheon, where current members recommitted to the Guild and welcomed many new friends who attended to learn more about the organization.



After over a year of planning and fund raising the long-awaited construction began on the Stations of the Cross project in the fall. In March the rededication of the beautiful new garden took place.



November, December and January were busy as the ladies gathered for refreshments, socialized and enjoyed guest speakers. Choosing teen gift tags from the parish Angel Trees, attending holiday luncheons, and enjoying a theatre presentation from the Naples Players' readers were some of the highlights.



February brought our largest fundraiser, the annual Fashion Show, with every aspect of the event run by members of the Ladies Guild. Months of planning by many volunteers came together for a spectacular event! It truly was a "Venetian Dream!"



Along with our very successful parish raffle in March, all ladies of St. Leo parish were invited to come together for a day of reflection and prayer with Fr. Jarek and Fr. Stan as presenters at our annual retreat. The ladies enjoyed taking time to pray, reflect, meditate, and socialize during this day of spiritual presentations, meals, and Mass.



April, May and June were filled with friends and celebrations. Our Games, Dames & Desserts event was enjoyed by many as ladies gathered to enjoy an afternoon of sweet indulgences and lighthearted competition with old and new friends.



May brought the end of the season with the Guild's annual dinner at Highland Woods Country Club. The ladies celebrated their achievements, announced the financial gifting to the parish and community organizations, acknowledged several women with Lifetime Membership awards. They bid farewell to departing board members and welcomed their new president, Deb Conner.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

A Week of Letting Go, Standing Near, & Trusting What God Is Growing

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

FORGIVENESS IS HOW WE STOP CARRYING WHAT HURT US

"Forgive your neighbor's injustice." (Sirach 28:2)

Most of us have conversations with people who are not actually in the room. Someone hurt us years ago, and while driving, showering, or trying to fall asleep, we suddenly find ourselves reopening the case. This time we have the perfect response. Unfortunately, the other person never hears it. We are prosecuting someone in a courtroom that exists entirely inside our own head. Sirach says something painfully accurate about anger: the sinner "hugs it tight." We usually imagine resentment as something we hold against another person. Scripture suggests that eventually it is holding us. Jesus makes the same point through the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven but who immediately grabs another man by the throat over something smaller. He has received mercy without allowing mercy to change him. Forgiveness does not mean pretending the wound did not matter, excusing injustice, or automatically restoring trust. It means refusing to let yesterday's injury keep occupying today's heart. We forgive because God has been infinitely more merciful with us than we could ever be with one another. Sometimes forgiveness happens quickly. Sometimes we have to choose it again every morning for months. But each time we loosen our grip on resentment, resentment loosens its grip on us.

Prayer: Merciful God, You have forgiven me more than I can ever measure. Help me release the hurts I keep carrying, forgive without denying what happened, and become as generous with mercy as You have been with me. Amen. **Readings:** Sirach 27:30—28:7; Psalm 103:1–4, 9–12; Romans 14:7–9; Matthew 18:21–35

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - THE CROSS DOES NOT EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. IT TELLS US WE ARE NOT ALONE

"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:17)

There are crosses in life we would gladly return if heaven had a customer-service counter. Illness, grief, betrayal, loneliness, disappointment, watching someone we love suffer. We naturally ask why. Sometimes an explanation comes. Often it does not. And anyone who has suffered deeply knows that clever answers can become irritating very quickly.

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Christianity does something surprising. It does not celebrate suffering. It lifts up what God did with suffering. Jesus does not stand at a safe distance from human pain and explain it. He enters it. The Cross tells us that there is no darkness into which we can descend where God has refused to go. Even death itself has been entered by Christ and transformed from a dead end into a doorway.

We spend enormous energy trying to avoid every cross, and understandably so. But some cannot be avoided. Then the question slowly changes from "How do I escape this?" to "How do I carry this without allowing it to destroy what is best in me?" The Cross does not promise that everything painful will make sense. It promises something deeper: suffering does not have the final word. Love does. And sometimes faith is simply looking toward Christ and trusting that what feels like the end may still become the place where God begins something new.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when I cannot understand the crosses I carry, keep me close to Yours. Give me courage in suffering, compassion for others, and faith that no darkness is beyond the reach of Your redeeming love. Amen.

Readings: Numbers 21:4b–9; Psalm 78:1–2, 34–38; Philippians 2:6–11; John 3:13–17

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

SOMETIMES LOVE CAN DO NOTHING BUT STAY

"Standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother." (John 19:25)

We like problems we can solve. Bring a meal. Make a phone call. Find the right doctor. Repair what is broken. Say something wise. We feel useful when there is something to do. But eventually love brings us to a place where nothing we do can fix what is happening.

Mary knows that place. She stands beneath the Cross and cannot rescue Jesus, remove His suffering, or change what is happening. Scripture does not record a speech from her. It simply tells us she stood there. That may be one

of the most courageous descriptions of love in the Gospel. When she could no longer protect her Son from suffering, she refused to let Him suffer without her presence.

There will be moments when someone we love is grieving, dying, frightened, addicted, depressed, heartbroken, or facing something we cannot repair. We may desperately search for the right words when perhaps our presence is the greater gift. We underestimate the holiness of sitting beside a hospital bed, holding a hand, making the quiet phone call, or simply saying, "I'm here." Mary reminds us that love does not always remove the cross. Sometimes love stands beside it. And when nothing can be fixed, staying may be the most sacred thing we can do.

Prayer: Mary, Mother of Sorrows, teach me the courage of faithful presence. When I cannot fix another person's pain, help me not to run from it. Teach me to stand near with tenderness, patience, and love. Amen. **Readings:** 1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27–31a; Psalm 100:1–5; John 19:25–27 or Luke 2:33–35

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

YOU CANNOT PLEASE EVERYONE, SO STOP TRYING

"We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep." (Luke 7:32)

John the Baptist was too severe. Jesus was not severe enough. John fasted, and people called him crazy. Jesus ate with people, and they called Him a glutton. Apparently even the Son of God could not satisfy everyone's expectations, which should be enormously reassuring to the rest of us. Some people will misunderstand you no matter how carefully you explain yourself. Be quiet and someone thinks you are unfriendly. Speak confidently and someone thinks you talk too much. Work hard and you are obsessed. Rest and you are lazy. Eventually we can spend so much energy managing other people's impressions that we lose contact with the person God is actually asking us to become.

Paul offers the better measure: love. Not applause. Not universal approval. Love that is patient, kind, truthful, humble, and unwilling to keep a permanent record of every injury. Saints Cornelius and Cyprian discovered that faithfulness can be costly precisely because doing what is right does not guarantee being understood. Spiritual maturity begins when we stop asking, "Will everyone approve?" and start asking, "Am I acting with truth and love?" You cannot control how everyone interprets your life. You can decide what kind of person you will be while they are interpreting it.

Prayer: Lord, free me from the exhausting need to please everyone. Give me the humility to accept correction, the wisdom to ignore unfair judgment, and the courage to choose what is true and loving even when it is misunderstood. Amen. **Readings:** 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13; Psalm 33:2–5, 12, 22; Luke 7:31–35

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

GOD SEES MORE THAN THE WORST THING YOU HAVE DONE

"Do you see this woman?" (Luke 7:44)

Simon sees a category. Jesus sees a woman. Simon sees her reputation, her history, and everything that makes her unsuitable company. Jesus sees her repentance, courage, love, and the person grace is already creating. Both men are looking at the same woman, but only one of them actually sees her. We do this constantly. We reduce people to the thing we know about them: divorced, difficult, alcoholic, liberal, conservative, wealthy, poor, annoying, successful, failure. Sometimes we do it to ourselves. We take the worst chapter of our story and quietly turn it into the title of the whole book. But Jesus refuses to confuse a person with that person's worst moment.

Paul understands why. He remembers that he persecuted the Church, yet he can say, "By the grace of God I am what I am." Grace does not pretend the past never happened. It simply refuses to let the past have the final word. The woman leaves Jesus not with a lecture but with peace: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Perhaps we should be slower to decide who people are. God is still writing their story. Thankfully, He is still writing ours too.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to see people as You see them. Keep me from reducing anyone, including myself, to past failures. Let Your grace heal what needs healing and lead me forward in freedom and peace. Amen. **Readings:** 1 Corinthians 15:1–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 28; Luke 7:36–50

Daily Reflections

by Father Jacob

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

YOUR LIFE IS BIGGER THAN WHAT YOU CAN SEE RIGHT NOW

"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all." (1 Corinthians 15:19)

Life can become surprisingly small without our noticing. Pay the bills. Answer the messages. Make the appointment. Buy groceries. Take the medication. Clean the house. Repeat. Some weeks feel less like a grand spiritual pilgrimage and more like trying to remember yet another password. Paul suddenly pulls back the curtain and reminds us that our lives are headed somewhere. Christianity is not simply a strategy for becoming nicer people during the few decades we happen to be here. Christ has risen. Death is not the conclusion. Everything we do in love, every hidden sacrifice, every act of fidelity, every prayer whispered when nobody notices belongs to a story larger than we can presently see.

The women in today's Gospel understood something of this. They traveled with Jesus and quietly supported His mission from their resources. Most of their work probably looked ordinary. Yet Luke remembers their names two thousand years later. Never underestimate what God can do through a faithful life that seems unremarkable. Heaven may reveal that some of the things we considered small were among the most important things we ever did. Resurrection means nothing offered to God in love is ultimately wasted.

Prayer: Risen Lord, when life feels small or repetitive, remind me that I am living toward eternity. Help me recognize the sacredness of ordinary faithfulness and trust that nothing given to You in love is ever lost. Amen.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:12–20; Psalm 17:1, 6–8, 15; Luke 8:1–3

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

NOT EVERYTHING THAT LOOKS BURIED IS DEAD

"What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies." (1 Corinthians 15:36)

A seed disappearing into the ground does not look impressive. It looks lost. Cover it with dirt, walk away, and for a while absolutely nothing seems to happen. If gardening required constant visible reassurance, most of us would dig the seed up every afternoon just to make sure it was still working. Paul says resurrection is like that. Jesus says the Word of God is like that too. Much of God's deepest work happens beneath the surface. A prayer may seem unanswered. A child may appear far from faith. An effort to change may produce frustratingly little progress. A season of life may feel barren. We are tempted to assume that because we cannot see anything happening, nothing is happening.

But seeds grow in darkness before they ever break through the soil. Jesus says good soil bears fruit "through perseverance." Not excitement. Not instant results. Perseverance. Some of the holiest seasons of life are the ones in which we keep praying, loving, forgiving, serving, and trusting without visible evidence that it matters. God does not ask us to manufacture the harvest. He asks us to keep the soil open and keep trusting the seed. What looks buried today may simply be waiting for its spring.

Prayer: God of hidden beginnings, give me patience with what I cannot yet see. Help me keep praying, loving, and trusting when growth seems invisible. Make my heart good soil, and bring Your hidden work in me to its harvest. Amen.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:35–37, 42–49; Psalm 56:10–14; Luke 8:4–15

September 23rd to November 1st



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

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KICK OFF EVENT!

HEAR A **PRO-LIFE STORY** YOU'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE!

A VERY SPECIAL SPEAKER will share an incredible *pro-life story*. You won't want to miss this!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 6:00 PM

SIDEWALK OUTSIDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD
6418 Commerce Park Dr.
Fort Myers

 **Rain or Shine We'll Be There!**
Bring a lawn chair, water & umbrella (just in case!)

 www.40DaysForLife.com/FortMyers

Young Adult Pilgrimage 2026
National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche

Saturday, October 10–Sunday, October 11

Young Adult Campout
Ages 18–35
With Bishop Emilio Biosca, O.F.M. Cap.
Overnight stay from Saturday to Sunday

Registration is required.

Sunday, October 11

11:00 AM – Holy Mass at the Rustic Altar
Celebrated by Bishop Emilio Biosca O.F.M. Cap.

12:15 PM – Lunch at the Shrine

Registration is required.



Bishop Emilio Biosca, O.F.M. Cap.
Diocese of Venice

Register here



National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche
101 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084

info: prias@dioceseofvenice.org / 941-441-1122



SOME THINGS ARE TOO HEAVY TO KEEP CARRYING

By Father Jarek

There comes a time in life when many of us begin getting rid of things. We open a closet and discover clothes we have not worn since people still printed directions from MapQuest. We find boxes we have moved from one house to another without ever opening them, which raises an obvious question: if we have lived happily for fifteen years without knowing what is inside, how essential can it possibly be? Eventually we learn to ask a very useful question: Do I really want to keep carrying this? Sirach asks essentially the same question today, only he is not talking about closets. He is talking about the heart: “Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.”

What an extraordinary image. We hug what is precious to us: a spouse, a child, a grandchild, someone we have missed. We hold something living close because love passes between us. There is warmth in the embrace. There is life on both sides of it. But resentment cannot embrace us back. It cannot love us. It cannot heal us. It cannot give us anything new. Yet we can hug an old wound like a prized possession, protecting it, rehearsing it, feeding it, forgetting that it is the only treasure that slowly consumes the person holding it. The event may have lasted five minutes. We can carry it for twenty-five years.

Then Sirach offers perhaps the wisest reason in Scripture for putting it down: “Remember your last days, set enmity aside.” That sounds gloomy until we realize how freeing it is. Our days are limited. There comes a point when life becomes too precious to spend another Tuesday angry about something that happened in 2004. Peter asks Jesus, “How often must I forgive?” He thinks seven times sounds generous. Jesus essentially tells him: Stop counting. Then He tells the story of a man whose enormous debt is forgiven, only to have that man immediately go looking for someone who owes him much less. He has received mercy, but mercy has not yet changed him.

We keep ledgers too. I called last time. She never apologized. After everything I did for him. He should know what he did. And sometimes every entry is accurate. Forgiveness does not require us to falsify the books. It does not make abuse acceptable, betrayal insignificant, or trust automatic. Sometimes love requires distance. Sometimes wisdom requires boundaries. Forgiveness does not say, What happened did not matter. It says, What happened will not own what remains of my life. Every resentment keeps an account open. Every old injury keeps collecting interest. We may imagine someone else is paying the debt, when often the debt is being paid with our own peace.

Psalm 103 gives us the deeper reason Christians forgive: God does not deal with us according to our sins. “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.” Before Jesus asks us to become merciful people, He reminds us that we are people who have received mercy. And if we live long enough, we discover that all of us need it. Life did not unfold exactly as we imagined. We made mistakes. We hurt people. People hurt us. Some relationships healed beautifully. Others never did. Some apologies came. Some came too late. Others probably never will. But we do not have to wait for another person’s apology before deciding what kind of person we will become.

Forgiveness does not change the past; it simply stops the past from rewriting your future. It is a quiet declaration: What you did was real, but it will not be my architect. I will not let your worst moment design the rest of my heart. Perhaps one of the great spiritual tasks of the later years of life is a kind of holy downsizing. Keep the people who loved you. Keep the laughter. Keep the gratitude. Keep the lessons learned the hard way. Keep the memories that still make you smile. Keep faith. Keep hope. Keep love.

But some things have occupied precious space long enough. The old grievance. The ancient argument. The apology that never came. The name that still tightens something inside us. One day, everything we possess will be left behind. Sirach quietly asks whether there are some things we should leave behind before then. Perhaps today Jesus is asking only this: Do you really want to keep carrying this? Because there are things worth carrying all the way home. Resentment is not one of them.

PRAYER

Merciful Lord, You know what I have carried for too long.
You know the wounds that still hurt,
the words I have not forgotten,
and the apologies that never came.
Give me the grace to release what I cannot change.
Teach me to forgive without denying the truth,
to set wise boundaries without becoming bitter,
and to remember how patiently You have forgiven me.

As the years pass, teach me to travel more lightly.
Let me keep what matters: gratitude for what has been,
love for those You have given me,
hope for what is still ahead,
and faith that whether we live or die, we are Yours.
And when at last I come home to You,
let my hands be free of everything
that was never worth carrying. Amen.



The St. Leo Food Bank is always in need of supplies to share with local food pantries.

All unopened, non-perishable foods that are not expired are welcomed.

**You may continue to drop off your donations when you come to Mass,
or at our office Monday - Friday from 8am-3pm.**

THESE ITEMS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED

MOST NEEDED

- ☐ COOKING OIL
- ☐ DRIED BEANS
- ☐ MASECA (CORN TORTILLA FLOUR)
- ☐ WHITE RICE

- ☐ TOOTHPASTE
- ☐ TOOTHBRUSHES
- ☐ BAR SOAP
- ☐ SHAMPOO/BODY WASH
- ☐ TOILET PAPER
- ☐ ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES

- ☐ CANNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES
- ☐ CANNED TUNA & CHICKEN
- ☐ FLOUR & SUGAR
- ☐ CANNED SOUP

- ☐ POWDERED MILK
- ☐ PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
- ☐ CEREAL
- ☐ JUICE

If you prefer, you may donate money directly to St Leo Food Bank. These funds will be dispersed to those in need both directly, and through our partner parishes and organizations.

Catholic Charities is in need of volunteers to help with food pantry distribution every other Wednesday from 9am to noon at their building on the St. Leo campus.

If you would like to help please contact Michael Vega at 239-270-3291 or mvega@ccdov.org

The St. Leo Food Bank supports Catholic Charities on our campus, Café of Life in Bonita Springs, as well as the food pantries at the parishes of Jesus the Worker (Ft. Myers), St. Margaret (Clewiston) and Our Lady Queen of Heaven (LaBelle).

If you need assistance from Catholic Charities for food, financial assistance, or tele-mental health counseling, please call 239-390-2928 between the hours of 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

TO DONATE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND CLOTHING BRING THEM TO:

Our Lady of Light Thrift Shop
24600 S. Tamiami Tr. Ste. 600A (992-1576)

St. Vincent de Paul Resale Shop
3725 Bonita Beach Road (992-1899)

The Perpetual Baby Shower



Please remember all the infants who are in need of diapers and new clothes. Their toddler brothers and sisters grow so fast and need clothes also.

The Ladies of St. Leo Guild thank all of you for your past support. Contributions may be left in the donation boxes at the doors of the church or taken to the parish office.

BABIES ALWAYS NEED

- ☐ WIPES
- ☐ FORMULA
- ☐ BABY WASH
- ☐ BABY SHAMPOO
- ☐ DIAPERS (ESPECIALLY SIZE 6)



WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!

All Women Parishioners are invited
to be our guests at the St. Leo Ladies' Guild

Welcome Back Luncheon

Wednesday, October 14th • Parish Life Center
11:30 Doors Open, followed by Luncheon,
Presentation & Registration

Speakers: St. Leo Ladies' Guild
Commission Chairpersons

Please RSVP for the Buffet Luncheon by
Friday, October 9th
Text or Call Liz Lindsay
at 815-685-4956

Join the Ladies Guild for the 2026-2027 Season
by paying your \$25 dues
at the luncheon or by picking up
a brochure in the parish office.

You may help support our mission parishes
by bringing donations of:
Canola Oil - White Rice-
Dried Beans - Maseca Flour

St. Leo's Respect Life Ministry

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING,
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, IN THE NEST CAFÉ AT 9AM

All are welcome to attend and participate in a discussion of
our October mission recognizing our Respect of Life.
Whether it is the unborn child, the elderly nearing the end of
their days, the immigrant at our borders, the prisoner behind
bars, or the victim of violence in our streets, the Church
insists that every life is precious, unrepeatable and worth of
protection. For more information please call Loretta at
917.886.7273 or Peggy at 239.293.3201.

ARE YOU THINKING OF JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Adults desiring to partake in the journey into full
communion with the Roman Catholic Church are invited to
take the all-important next step: Order of Christian
Initiation for Adults (OCIA). In addition to learning about
Catholic beliefs and prayers, the OCIA focuses on faith
development, maturing one's relationship with God,
and building and nourishing relationships among the
participants and the parish community. It was developed in
the first and second centuries of the Church for those
seeking Jesus Christ. For more information or to register
please contact the Parish Office at 992-0901.

Classes will be beginning soon.

You may read more about OCIA on our website at
<https://www.stleocatholicchurch.org/rcia>

TEACHERS & AIDES NEEDED

We are looking for committed parishioners to join
our Religious Education team as catechists or
assistants on Wednesday evenings or Sunday
afternoons for the upcoming school year. We
provide curriculum, training, and support to
ensure you succeed in this rewarding ministry. To
learn more or to sign up, please contact Gisela
Meraz or Maria Fernandez at 239-992-0901.
Make a difference in the faith journey of our youth
by becoming part of this important ministry!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
CHRISTMAS GALA!
Monday, Dec 7th and
Wednesday, Dec 9th

Tickets go on sale
Wednesday, Nov 4th
at 8am in the
Parish Office.



faith & ale Faith & Ale, a Catholic
Men's Apostolate presents:
Father Casey Jones
PASTOR AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON

How to Bring the Lost Sheep Back Home

"RECONNECTING FALLEN AWAY CATHOLIC FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS"

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
6:30PM - 8:00PM

St. Agnes Catholic Church
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd, Naples, Florida, 34120



\$10

REGULAR ADMISSION. REGISTER TODAY.
PAY ONLINE OR AT DOOR.
[HTTPS://FAITHANDALE.COM/EVENTS/Welcome/](https://faithandale.com/events/welcome/)



Tune in for the bishop's new monthly radio show, on the last
Friday of every month at 8:30 AM on 1410 AM and 106.7 FM in
Fort Myers, and 1660 AM and 93.3 FM in Naples,

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 14	
8:00 am	+Art & +Artie Herron	Their Loving Wife and Mother
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 15	
8:00 am	+Adam & +Susan Prentki	Adam & Rose
WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 16	
8:00 am	+Richard McLaughlin	His Loving Family
THURSDAY	SEPTEMBER 17	
8:00 am	+John DeNardo	His Loving Wife, Rozanne
FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 18	
8:00 am	+Christopher Rustico	His Loving Parents, Jean & Jack
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 19	
8:00 am	+Alexandra Spizziri	The Ott Family
3:30 pm	+John Arendes	His Loving Family
5:30 pm	+Michael Tiscia	James & Janet Walsh
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 20	
7:30 am	+Albert Kidwell	His Loving Mother, Sally
9:30 am	+Angelo Gesualdi	His Loving Wife
11:30 am	+Mary Rose Heil	Her Loving Daughter
1:30 pm - Polish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	The Parishioners of St. Leo	



Flowers this week are dedicated to Cynthia Caputo requested by her Loving Husband, Guy Caputo

Candles this week are dedicated to †Deceased Parishioners of St. Leo

We Pray for Our Troops...

Lt. Marco Colavecchia	Joseph McDermond
Brian Dearcia Leon	Daniel McDonald
Michael DeSantis	Cpt. Kyle Martin
Cpt. Mary Kate Flynn	Michael Oliveira
Lt. Thomas A. Flynn	Sgt. Thomas Pauls
Cpt. Sean Flynn	Nick Parrozzio
Aaron Gaudet	Cpt. Evan Razzano
Thomas Geanuracos	Cpt. Brayden Reichenbach
Carlos Gonzales	Lt. Riley N. Schliem
Lt. Andrew D. Holt	Lt. Col. Jonathan W. Schwarz
Brian Howlett	Lt. Col. Peter Shayhorn
Lt. Com. Matthew Kleine	<i>All serving in the military,</i>
Lt. Wm. Reed Leesman	<i>especially those in combat.</i>
Lt. Col. Nicholas LoRusso	

We pray today for...

Linda Aquino	Robert Kochalka
Clayton Aunkle	Jeff Lally
Linda Bardol	Karen Lamont
Jeffrey Bogart	Joanne Laurenzana
Bob Brock	Emily Lienesch
Hildi Brown	Mark Lips
Larry Brown	Mary Mavilla
Denise Buk	Tim McAuliff
Isabelle Marie Caiola	Beverly McDowell
Patrick Cain	Audrey Grace Neeley
Peter Castro	Glenn Nelson
Michelle Chiarulli	Rita Off
Scott Cochell	Paul Orzech
Lourdes Coll	Rev. Marcel Pasciak
Jeff Davis	Mary Pearce
Tara DeRoma	Beverly Pecor
Robby Dirks	Michelle Pennell
Jaden Anthony Droz	Connie Phillips
Jim Esposito	Aiden Putnam
Brad Fairfield	Mary Ritt
Rudolph & Mary Fazio	Tessa Santagate
Michael Federico	Cindy Santiago
Brynn Forlizzi	Gary Schomaker
Cory Fredericksen	Fr. Tim Sheedy
Gisette Lupita Garcia	Louis Simonini
Ellie Gaspar	Michael Anthony Sforza
Paul Gaspar	Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Vincent Gil	Bonnie Tenhaken
Kevin Glowacki	Vivian Thomas
Ben Gondersone	Eleanor Trevison
Rich Gonzalez	Debra Vannotti
Karen Grimshaw	Justin VanNorstrand
Luke Hass	Jane Venuti-Tontodonato
Chie Herron	Tim Young
Jackie Herron	William Welch
Robbin Holcomb	Shelly Yuhas Lowry
Mathew Hughes	Ray Zonghetti
Kendall Hunter	Fabiala, Krislin, Michael,
Nolan Kane	Michael R., Tray.
Matt Knight	Present & past parish priests.
Mary Kobel	

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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 in these wonderful prayers.

ST LEO'S RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The monthly meetings which are held in the Nest Café on the last Friday of each month at 9am will break for the summer and **resume on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th.** For questions contact Loretta at 917.886.7273 or Peggy at 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

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Altar Servers – Adults & Youth	Joe Stegle.....551-427-9045
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Weekend Masses	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
Homebound	Dan Bardauskis 992-0901
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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 Swanson713-876-5517
Prison Ministry	Robert Hiniker.....863-558-0407
Project Gabriel	Carol Dangler.. 793-0826
Project Rachel	Sylvia Jimenez.....941-412-5860
Respect Life Ministry	Loretta Ede.....917-886-7273
Retrouvaille	Doug & Jeanne Lindberg.....800-470-2230
Order of Christian Initiation	Griselda Cisneros 992-0901
Sacristan Ministry	Annette Smith 948-1640
Sewing-Knitting-Crocheting	Bernice Romano601-5877
Sing a Long	Penny Kelly.....314-412-4022
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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.

We Pray for the Recently Deceased Of Our Parish

**Grace Amico
 Steven Voisin**

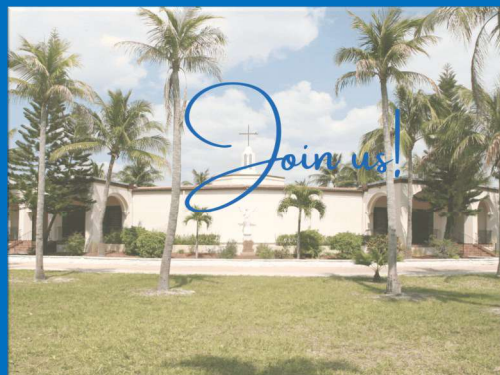


GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES IS CLOSED BUT --

Registration is still open if:

- You moved into the parish over the summer or,
- Your child is between the ages of 7-17 and needs to be Baptized or,
- Your child will be in High School and is in need of Confirmation or First Communion.

If you missed the general registration, please visit the Religious Education office to pick up your registration materials or call the Office at 992-0901.



On the occasion of the
 4th anniversary of Hurricane Ian
**Monday
 September 28, 2026
 9:00 a.m.**
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Señor.
**QUE
APRENDA A
ESCUCHARTE
CON *amor***



Hoy la Liturgia nos anima a la corrección fraterna; es decir, nos alienta a corregir a las personas que obran mal. Este consejo parece ir contra la corriente actual de la sociedad, donde se cree que todo está permitido. Los padres tienen miedo de reprender a sus hijos y los maestros temen corregir a sus estudiantes, pues muchas veces responden con agresividad. El capítulo 18 del Evangelio de Mateo nos enseña cómo afrontar situaciones difíciles en la vida familiar y comunitaria. Siempre habrá conflictos; el reto está en cómo los afrontamos. Recordemos que somos responsables de quienes viven con nosotros y que, por derecho, deben ser felices.

Los pasos para corregir, de acuerdo con Jesús, son los siguientes: “*Si tu hermano ha pecado, ve y háblale a solas para corregirlo. Si te escucha, habrás ganado a tu hermano*”. El segundo paso es este: “*Si no te escucha, toma contigo a una o dos personas más, de modo que el caso se decida por la palabra de dos o tres testigos. Si se niega a*

escucharlos, informa a la asamblea” (Mateo 18:15-16). Luego vienen las palabras alentadoras de Jesús, que ayudan a suavizar las situaciones: “*Pues donde están dos o tres reunidos en mi Nombre, allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos*” (Mateo 18:20). Se necesita saber dialogar entre las personas, escuchar incluso cuando no se está de acuerdo, y tener mucha paciencia para lograr un crecimiento integral de cada persona. ¡Señor, ayúdanos a ser responsables unos de otros y a buscar siempre la justicia y el bien común!

LAS INSCRIPCIONES GENERALES PARA LAS CLASES DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

ESTÁN CERRADAS, PERO...

La inscripción sigue abierta si:

-Se mudó a la parroquia durante el verano o,

-Su hijo tiene entre 7 y 17 años y necesita recibir el Bautismo o,

-Su hijo cursará la escuela secundaria (High School) y necesita recibir la Confirmación o la Primera Comunión.

Si no pudo realizar la inscripción general, por favor llame a la Oficina de Educación Religiosa al 992-0901.

Si usted no pudo inscribir a sus hijos durante el período general, por favor de visitar la oficina de Educación Religiosa en el Centro de Educación para recoger los materiales de inscripción o llamar a la oficina al 992-0901.



Se invita a todos los jóvenes de la parroquia a participar en nuestra presentación especial de danza, que tendrá lugar durante la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre. Al celebrar nuestro amor, fe y devoción a nuestra Santísima Madre, tenemos una oportunidad maravillosa de ofrecer nuestros talentos a través de la danza. Ya sea que tenga experiencia en baile o simplemente el deseo de participar, le animamos a unirse a nosotros. Los ensayos se llevan a cabo los lunes, de 7 pm a 9 pm, en el estacionamiento del edificio Juan Diego. Para más información, comuníquese con Tony García al 239-908-1173.





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