

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 14, 2025



El Greco (Domenikos Theotokopoulos) | Christ Carrying the Cross | The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross

28290 BEALMONT ROAD, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134 • PHONE (239) 992-0901
WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG • OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM
DAILY MASS: MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8 AM • CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 2-3PM
SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES: 3:30 & 5:30 PM • SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM & 5 PM

MISA EN ESPAÑOL DOMINGO - 3 PM Y LAS CONFESIONES ANTES DE LA MISA • MASS IN POLISH: 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - 1:30 PM

Parish Staff

Rev. Jarek (Jaroslaw) SniosekPastor
 Rev. Raul ZamoraParochial Vicar
 Rev. Mr. Charles FerraroDeacon
 Rev. Mr. Joel LivingstonDeacon

Nelson AlfanoMaintenance
 Dan BardauskisLiturgy Assistant
 Anne BellowsCommunications Coordinator
 Hermilo CalderonLead Maintenance
 Griselda CisnerosReceptionist
 Daniel GonzalezMaintenance
 Elsy HernandezOperations Supervisor
 Marcin MalewskiDirector of Music
 Martha MercadoMaintenance
 Gisela MerazReligious Education Coordinator
 Henry SotoBusiness Manager
 Milana StrezevaMusician

Parish Church Support

Thank you for your
continued generosity!

Due to early submission
this bulletin was published
before the most recent
collections were tabulated.

Celebrating our Faith

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

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

CONFIRMATION

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

EUCHARIST

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

RECONCILIATION

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

THE RITE OF ANOINTING

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

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

ANNULMENT - Reestablishing the freedom to marry.

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

VOCATION

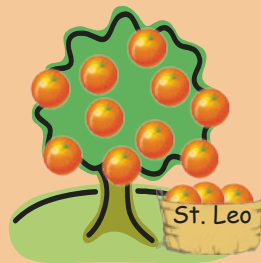
If you think that you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life please speak with one of our priests, or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations at 941-484-9548, visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/vocations

ONLINE GIVING

WWW.STLEOCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

2025 CFA Congratulations !

Now that we have reached 100% of the
Diocesan goal we have an opportunity to
help St. Leo even more. Every dollar in
excess of the goal, up to 25% will be
returned to the parish assessment free!



Our Goal.....\$664,000

Contributions to date...\$880,689

Our Pledges.....\$889,052

Pledge Goal Attained...133.89%

= 10% of Goal

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 21

7:30 am Fr. Jack
 9:30 am Fr. Jack
 11:30 am Fr. Stan
 1:30 pm - Polish Fr. Jarek
 3:00 pm-Spanish Fr. Raul
 5:00 pm Fr. Raul

Changes may occur without notice.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

Sunday, September 14

Lifted Up, Love Poured Out “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16)

Some signs make us smile. Fresh bread today. Senior coffee special. Other signs make us stop. A cross at the roadside, flowers tied with ribbon where someone we loved left this world too soon. Today the Church lifts high the greatest sign in history. The cross is where sin ran out of excuses and love refused to run away. Israel looked at the bronze serpent and lived. We look at the crucified Lord and find not only healing for our wounds, but a new way to live.

Paul sings the oldest hymn. Though He was in the form of God, Jesus emptied Himself and became obedient even to death on a cross. That is why every knee will bend. Not because He intimidates, but because He loves without measure. The Psalm warns us not to forget the works of the Lord. The cross is God’s bold reminder that mercy is stronger than our complaints and patience is wider than our desert.

Prayer: *Jesus, I adore Your holy cross. Let its shadow fall over my pride, my fears, and my shame until everything is remade in Your mercy. Amen.*

Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 78; Philippians 2:6–11; John 3:13–17

Monday, September 15

A Mother Who Stays “Behold, your mother” (John 19:27)

Mary stands where most of us would fall. She does not preach. She does not fix. She stays. The Church calls her Our Lady of Sorrows, but her sorrow is not empty grief. It is love that refuses to leave when it hurts. Jesus gives her to John, and through John He gives her to the whole Church. When we feel the sting of life, a mother is in the house.

Paul urges prayers for all, even for those in authority, so that we may lead quiet and devout lives. That feels fitting today. The world aches in many places. The Stabat Mater invites us to stand by the cross and let our hearts learn the shape of love. Sorrow does not have the last word. The cross becomes the doorway through which Mary and her children learn to hope.

Prayer: *Mother Mary, teach me to stay with Jesus in hard places and to carry others in prayer when I cannot carry their pain. Lead me to your Son. Amen.*

1 Timothy 2:1–8; Psalm 28; John 19:25–27 or Luke 2:33–35

Tuesday, September 16

A Church that Raises the Fallen “God has visited his people” (Luke 7:16)

A widow walks behind a coffin that holds her only son. Jesus sees her, and everything else becomes secondary. He touches the bier, speaks a word, and death backs away. Then comes my favorite line. He gave him to his mother. That is what grace does. It restores what sorrow tried to steal.

Paul lists the qualities of bishops and deacons. The list can sound like a job posting, but read it again after Nain. Gentle. Hospitable. Able to teach. Faithful at home. The Church needs leaders who carry the heart of Christ to gates where grief gathers. Saints Cornelius and Cyprian show us courage and charity under pressure. When the world sees a Church that lifts the broken and gives them back to those who love them, people whisper again, God has visited His people.

Prayer: *Lord, make our pastors and deacons steady in virtue and tender in mercy. Let our parishes look like places where the dead rise and hope comes home. Amen.* *1 Timothy 3:1–13; Psalm 101; Luke 7:11–17*

Wednesday, September 17

Pillars, not Pedestals “The Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth” (1 Timothy 3:15)

Pedestals are for statues. Pillars are for buildings that welcome people in from the heat. Paul says the Church is a pillar and foundation of truth. That means the Gospel must be sturdy enough for real life. It must hold when storms roll in and when critics poke at the mortar. The mystery we confess is not an idea. It is a person. Manifest in the flesh. Vindicated in the Spirit. Believed in by the nations.

Jesus laments a generation that will not be pleased. John fasts and they

complain. Jesus feasts and they complain. Wisdom is vindicated by all her children. Lives that are changed become the proof the world needs. Build your days on the Lord and let love carry the weight. Pedestals wobble. Pillars serve.

Prayer: *Living God, make my faith strong enough to hold others up. Let Your truth in me be more than words. Let it be a place of shelter. Amen.*

1 Timothy 3:14–16; Psalm 111; Luke 7:31–35

Thursday, September 18

The Gift in Your Hands “Do not neglect the gift you have” (1 Timothy 4:14)

God has hidden something holy in you. Not for show, but for service. Paul tells Timothy to attend to reading, exhortation, and teaching, and to persevere so that his progress is evident to all. Growth is not a sprint. It looks like steady prayer, faithful habits, and humble course corrections. Keep going and the fruit will show.

A woman with a reputation walks into a respectable dinner and gives Jesus everything she has. Tears for water. Hair for a towel. Ointment for a perfume that fills the room. Simon sees a problem. Jesus sees a heart that knows it has been forgiven much. Do not let contempt, your own or anyone else’s, stop your offering. Bring the gift. Pour it out. The Lord will call it beautiful.

Prayer: *Jesus, thank You for the gift You placed in me. Help me to use it with love, to persevere when I am tired, and to rejoice when mercy fills the room.*

Amen. 1 Timothy 4:12–16; Psalm 111:7–10; Luke 7:36–50

Friday, September 19

Content and Free “Religion with contentment is a great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6)

Paul is not scolding prosperity. He is rescuing souls from a trap. The love of money pierces the heart and leaves us restless. We brought nothing in. We take nothing out. If we have food and clothing, we can be content. That kind of freedom turns arguments into conversations and anxiety into trust. Jesus travels with a community that includes apostles and women of courage who provide for the mission from their resources. That is a lovely picture of the Church. Everyone brings what they have. The rich and the poor. The strong and the weak. All become family in the Lord. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the Psalm reminds us, because empty hands are ready to receive.

Prayer: *Father, give me a content heart and generous hands. Let my resources serve Your Kingdom and my joy point others to You. Amen.*

1 Timothy 6:2c–12; Psalm 49; Luke 8:1–3

Saturday, September 20

Make My Heart Good Soil “They bear fruit through perseverance” (Luke 8:15)

A farmer tosses seed like a man who believes in tomorrow. Some bounces on the path. Some sprouts on stone. Some wrestles with thorns. Some sinks into good soil and surprises everyone. Jesus is as honest as He is hopeful. The word meets resistance. The heart needs tending. Rocks must be lifted. Thorns must be pulled. Then the harvest comes.

Paul charges us to keep the commandment without stain until Christ appears. Saints Andrew Kim, Paul Chong, and their companions kept the faith through danger and gave Korea a legacy of courage. They were not flashy. They were faithful. Ask for their intercession as you loosen the soil of your life and welcome the seed again. Perseverance is the quiet way saints are made.

Prayer: *Lord, remove the stones and thorns from my heart. Plant Your word deep in me and give me courage to persevere until the harvest is for Your glory. Amen.* *1 Timothy 6:13–16; Psalm 100; Luke 8:4–15*

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

Lifted Up: Finding Life in the Shadow of the Cross

Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 78; Philippians 2:6–11; John 3:13–17

By Father Jarek

Every family has its stories of stubborn road trips. Children asking “Are we there yet?” Parents sighing at the traffic. Snacks running out before the first rest stop. Israel’s trip through the desert was one long road trip of complaints. “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert? We are disgusted with this wretched food!” Their grumbling led to serpents slithering through the camp, and suddenly the people were begging for healing. God’s answer was unusual: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole. Look at it, and you will live.

Centuries later, Jesus told Nicodemus that He too must be lifted up, so that all who look to Him might have eternal life. And then came the verse that is so familiar it sometimes glides past us without impact: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.” We recite it, we see it on posters at football games, but do we pause to hear it as Israel heard the bronze serpent story? As a matter of life and death?

A Strange Medicine

The bronze serpent was not magic. It was a visible sign of trust. Looking at it meant turning away from panic and despair to place hope in God’s mercy. The cross is stranger still. In Roman times, it was an instrument of shame, a billboard of fear. Yet God transformed it into the tree of life. What once symbolized humiliation now stands as the world’s most recognizable sign of love.

When Paul sings in Philippians of Christ emptying Himself and taking the form of a servant, he is pointing to the deepest truth of the cross. Jesus did not cling to glory. He let go, stooped down, and embraced even death. That is why God exalted Him and gave Him the name above every name. Love did not avoid suffering. Love went through it and remade it from the inside.

Remembering the Works of the Lord

The psalmist reminds us not to forget God’s works. That is our temptation: to grow numb to the cross. We wear it as jewelry, decorate churches with it, maybe even hang one in the car. But the cross is not an ornament. It is the place where God’s mercy forgave, restored, and set us free. To remember the works of the Lord is to let the cross break into our present struggles, our illnesses, our broken families, our disappointments, and speak life where despair wants the last word.

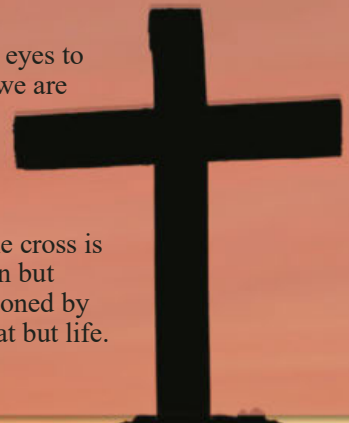
The Cross and Our World

We live in a time where people want victory without cost, progress without sacrifice, love without risk. The cross exposes that illusion. It is not a shortcut. It is the long road of obedience, humility, and mercy. And yet, in that very cost, we find joy. Strange as it sounds, the cross gives us freedom. For if God could turn a tool of torture into the gateway of salvation, then nothing in our lives is beyond His reach.

The Feast of the Cross is not about admiring a piece of wood. It is about lifting our eyes to see what God has done. Just as the Israelites were healed when they looked up, so we are healed when we lift our gaze from our wounds to His. The cross tells us that our failures do not get the last word. Love does.

Conclusion

The next time you see a cross, pause for a moment. Not as habit, but as healing. The cross is God’s answer to every serpent bite of sin, despair, and death. It is not condemnation but salvation. It is the sign that God so loved the world that He refused to leave us poisoned by sin. Lifted up, Christ draws us all to Himself. And in His shadow, we find not defeat but life.






**Save the Date for the
Christmas Gala!**

Tuesday, December 9th and
Wednesday, December 10th

Tickets go on sale
Wednesday, November 12th
at 8am in the Parish Office

*We Pray for the Recently
Deceased of Our Parish*

Charles Ruder
James L. Halbach



TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™
CONFERENCE SERIES

St. JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION



QUALITY TIME | DYNAMIC SPEAKERS | CHILDCARE | MASS + ADORATION + CONFESSION

OCTOBER 18, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
OUR LADY OF LIGHT PARISH
FORT MYERS, FL

FEATURING:



**REV. DAVID
PORTORREAL**

Couple \$64
Register by September 8 to grab
an Early Bird discount!

Childcare \$5/child



**REGISTER
HERE**

PRESENTED BY

St. JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION

**DIOCESE OF
VENICE**
— IN FLORIDA —

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

Welcome Back Luncheon

Wednesday, October 15th • Parish Life Center
11:30am Registration, followed by Luncheon & Presentation

**Speaker: Sister Soledad,
Santa Rosa de Lima Mission at St. Margaret's Parish, Clewiston**

You may join the Ladies Guild for the 2025-2026 Season by paying your \$25 dues
at the luncheon or by picking up a brochure in the parish office and mailing it.

Sandwich choices in your box lunch are:

- Roast Turkey or Ham on an Ancient Grain Bun
- Chicken Salad with Pineapple & Almonds on a Croissant
- Veggie on Whole Wheat Wrap
- A gluten free option is also available

You may help support Sister in her ministries by bringing your donations of:
Canola Oil - White Rice - Dried Beans - Maseca Flour - Sugar

To RSVP call Palma Mazzolla 201-317-3256 or Beth Daniels 248-376-2997 by Friday, October 10th



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 27, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

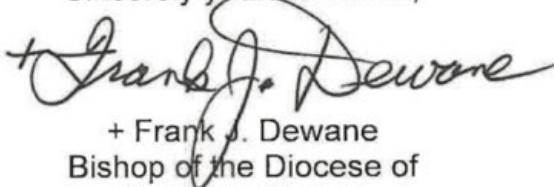
As the violent conflict in Gaza continues, a grave humanitarian crisis is unfolding, with many Christians and innocent people struggling to survive. With this devastating situation in mind, I write to you in appeal for our brothers and sisters in need in the midst of these destructive events.

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has expressed his concern with the situation, saying, "I am following with great concern the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the civilian population is suffering from severe hunger and remains exposed to violence and death." Our Catholic Faith calls each of us to care for those in need, and, at this time in particular, for those who are suffering in the wake of this ongoing tragedy.

Recognizing the need of those who have been so severely impacted by the conflict in the region, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked Dioceses throughout the country to take up a special collection to assist with humanitarian aid in Gaza. Within the Diocese of Venice, the collection will be taken on the weekend of **September 20-21, 2025**

Your generosity and your prayers for the people of Gaza are deeply appreciated. May Almighty God bless you and your families. Please continue to pray for peace throughout the world, particularly in the middle east.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

FJD/mm

ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

OPERATIONAL INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Offertory | \$ 2,507,524 | |
| Poor Box Donations | 242,269 | |
| 2024 Catholic Faith Appeal Overage (Returned to Parish) | 166,000 | |
| Interest and Other Fees & Donations | 128,876 | |
| TOTAL Income | | \$ 3,044,669 |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Personnel Expenses | | |
| Salaries | 1,003,578 | |
| Health Insurance, Payroll Taxes, Retirement and other Benefits | 351,635 | 1,355,213 |
| Maintenance and Other Property Expenses | | |
| Property & Casualty Insurance, Vehicle Expenses, Non-Ad Valorem Taxes | 283,265 | |
| Building Repairs & Maintenance, Landscaping, Cleaning | 262,364 | |
| Utilities and Telephone | 183,043 | 728,672 |
| Ministry Expenses | | |
| Liturgy, Ministries, Events, Tuition Assistance, Education, Charity | | 660,024 |
| General & Administrative - Office Expense, Contracted Services | | 161,142 |
| TOTAL Expenses | | 2,905,051 |

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| OPERATIONAL NET INCOME | \$ 139,618 |
|------------------------|------------|

NON-OPERATIONAL INCOME & EXPENSES

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Capital Improvement Fund Donations | \$ 1,061,543 |
| Catholic Faith Appeal Donations, net of Diocese Assessments, Cathedral Renovation Commitment, and Refunds | 40,057 |
| Depreciation of Buildings & Equipment | (711,518) |
| Write-off of payroll tax refunds due to new tax legislation, net of other refunds | (66,306) |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| NON-OPERATIONAL NET INCOME | \$ 323,776 |
|----------------------------|------------|

ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

As of June 30, 2025, the Parish had Total Assets of \$19,669,485 and Total Liabilities of \$61,132

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Land, Buildings & Equipment, net book value | \$ 15,263,539 |
| St. Leo Checking, Savings and Other Deposits | 4,207,295 |
| Accounts Receivable - Primarily Payroll Taxes | 194,121 |
| Ladies Guild Checking | 4,530 |
| TOTAL Assets | \$ 19,669,485 |

Land, Buildings & Equipment are recorded at cost. Buildings & Equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives and are reported above, net of accumulated depreciation.

St. Leo Food Bank

"The need has never been greater."

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

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

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

THESE ITEMS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED

MOST NEEDED

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

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

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

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

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

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.

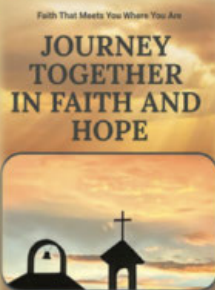
BABIES ALWAYS NEED

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



WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!

Memorial Brick Pavers to be placed in the newly renovated Stations of the Cross garden can be ordered now through the St. Leo Ladies' Guild. You can pick up a brochure with examples and an order form in the Parish Office.



If you enjoy Fr. Jarek's reflections in the bulletin, take your faith journey further at CatholicJourneyToday.com a site created with you in mind. Discover daily reflections, inspiring homilies, faith-filled articles, and enriching courses in Scripture and Catholic catechism. Whether you seek Spiritual insights, practical wisdom, or a quiet space for reflection, you'll find it here.

Visit CatholicJourneyToday.com and continue growing in faith—one reflection at a time

Our Capital Improvement Fund

Our Capital Improvement Fund allows us to collect assessment free money to be used for necessary repairs and projects for the parish campus. Funds have been used to pay for the replacement of the skylights in the church and a portion of the air conditioning units in the Parish Life Center and Education Buildings.

More recently we have repaired roof leaks in the church, added a security system, replaced the church bell system, freshly painted many of our buildings and added extra landscaping. These funds are not designated for the construction of any new buildings. We sincerely thank you for your continued generosity.

Please know that contributing to this assessment free fund is the most efficient way to help St. Leo maintain and improve our beautiful properties.

Prayer For Safety In Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea.

We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from tragedies like those whose memories are still vivid.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we may walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.



St. Leo's Respect Life Ministry

**The October Respect Life Mission...
Why the Catholic Church Advocates
for Life at Every Stage**



Please join co-chairs Loretta Ede & Peggy Davis at the monthly meeting, Friday, September 26th, in the Nest Cafe immediately after 8am Mass. All are welcome to attend, join in prayerful support of the Respect Life Ministry, and participate in a discussion of our October mission which leads us to recognize that "as disciples of Christ, we stand for life in all its forms, recognizing that every human being—no matter how small, weak, or forgotten—is a reflection of God's love."

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

| MASS | INTENTION | REQUESTED BY |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 15 | |
| 8:00 am | +Adam & +Susan Perentki | Their Loving Son and Wife |
| TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 16 | |
| 8:00 am | +Tom Howard | Kathleen Swift |
| WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 17 | |
| 8:00 am | +John DeNardo | His Loving Wife, Rozanne |
| THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 18 | |
| 8:00 am | +Ross Heim | Elaine & Don Marvin |
| FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 19 | |
| 8:00 am | The Healing of Enrique Del Riego | Benedicta Stovall |
| SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 20 | |
| 8:00 am | The Healing of Felita Del Riego | Benedicta Stovall |
| 3:30 pm | +Michael W Grouss | The Rubio Family |
| 5:30 pm | +Ross Heim | The Ladies' Guild |
| SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 21 | |
| 7:30 am | +Thomas Leviness | Rose Pugliese |
| 9:30 am | +Angelo Gesualdi | His Loving Wife, Ceil Gesualdi |
| 11:30 am | +Otilio Portorreal | His Loving Family |
| 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

Please Pray for Our Troops

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

We pray today for...

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tom Bardol | Pauline McKeen |
| Sister Mary Bernadete OP | Misaela Mendiola Sandoval |
| Dave Bowezs | Jose Manuel Meraz |
| Tom Brown | Jay Miller |
| Denise Buk | Linda Mizeur |
| Isabelle Marie Caiola | Paul Modzelewski |
| Patrick Cain | Barbara Moloney |
| Carol Compagna | Jay Morgan |
| Mark Chambers | Gayle Mulford |
| Mickey Chervitz | Deborah Muñiz |
| Kevin Clark | Audrey Grace Neeley |
| Scott Cochell | Kathleen Nelson |
| Lourdes Coll | Paul Nippert |
| Eli Davis | Rita Off |
| Janet Davis | Paul Orzech |
| Carrie Derse | Connie Phillips |
| Paul Duggan | Aiden Putnam |
| Brad Fairfield | Michelle Rendon |
| Matthew Fairfield | Jack Ritt |
| Paula Fairfield | Mary Ritt |
| Linda Fischel | Norman Robinson |
| Sean Flynn | Tessa Santagata |
| Patti Frazer | Cindy Santiago |
| Tom Frazer | Betty Simpson |
| Gisette Lupita Garcia | Rosemarie Smedile |
| Gary Gaudreau | Kathleen Sonoc |
| Cory Gray | Sheryl Southerd |
| Pauline Graziano | Cathleen Staid |
| Karen Grimshaw | Jim Stokes |
| Ryan Hammond | Charlie Sweeney Jr. |
| Tara Handsman | Debra Tailero |
| Luke Hass | Michael Taveripte |
| Robbin Holcomb | Kim Thomson |
| Andrea Holland | Fabio Thurman |
| Jack Jeffrey | Tom Thurman |
| Jerry Kaehle | Eleanor Trevison |
| Nolan Kane | Keanu Vallette |
| Mary Kobel | Danita Walkingstick |
| Peggy Land | Michael Warner |
| Diane Lamdi | John White |
| Gene Lessick | George Witkowski |
| Emily Lienesch | Annie Zanussi |
| Cole LoRusso | Anthony, Christine, Fabiala, |
| Paul Matters | Michael, Tray. Present & past |
| John William McCain | parish priests. |

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

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



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.

Prayer Group

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

Rosary Makers

Wednesday Mornings 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. Starting in October through May.



DAILY PRAYER SCHEDULE

MONDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS: 7:15 am-Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Cry Room, 7:30 am-Rosary in the main church.

FRIDAYS: 7:10 am-Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Cry Room, 7:25 am-Rosary in the main church, followed by the Miraculous Medal Novena We invite you to join us in these wonderful prayers. Your presence and participation are greatly appreciated.



ST LEO'S RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Meetings are held in the Nest Café
on the last Friday of every month following 8am Mass.
For questions contact Loretta at 917.886.7273 or Peggy at 239.293.3201.



PARISH DIRECTORY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Altar Servers – Adults & Youth | Joe Stegle.....551-427-9045 |
| Arimatheans | Parish Office 992-0901 |
| Bulletin | Anne Bellows..... 992-0901 |
| Catholic Charities at St. Leo | 390-2928 |
| Cenacle Legal Services (Low Income) |941-244-0308 |
| Counseling Services | Catholic Charities..... 455-2655 |
| Extraordinary Minister Coordinator: | |
| Daily Masses | Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901 |
| Weekend Masses | Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901 |
| Homebound | Dan Bardauskis 992-0901 |
| Hospice-Hospital-Nursing Homes | Parish Office 992-0901 |
| Finance Council | Henry Soto 992-0901 |
| Human Trafficking 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 Soto992-0901 |
| Perpetual Baby Shower | Patty Swanson713-876-5517 |
| Prison Ministry | Robert Hiniker.....863-558-0407 |
| Project Gabriel | Carol Dangler..793-0826 |
| Project Rachel | Sylvia Jimenez.....941-412-5860 |
| Respect Life Ministry | Loretta Ede.....917-886-7273 |
| Retrouvaille | Doug & Jeanne Lindberg.....800-470-2230 |
| Order of Christian Initiation | Griselda Cisneros 992-0901 |
| Sacristan Ministry | Annette Smith 948-1640 |
| Sewing-Knitting-Crocheting | Bernice Romano601-5877 |
| Sing a Long | Penny Kelly.....314-412-4022 |
| St. Leo the Great Ladies Guild | Beth Daniels.....248-376-2997 |
| Usher Ministry | Parish Office 992-0901 |
| Youth Ministry | Gisela Meraz..... 992-0901 |

GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES IS CLOSED BUT --

Registration is still open if:

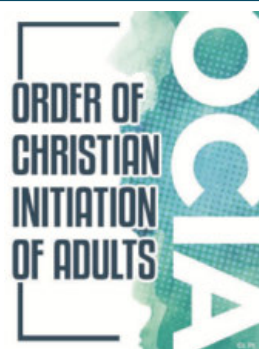
-You moved into the parish over the summer or,

-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

Parents, if you missed the general registration, please call the Religious Education Office at 992-0901 to have your child placed on the class wait list.



Are You Considering Joining the Catholic Church? Classes Start This Fall

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



Join Our Faith Formation Team!

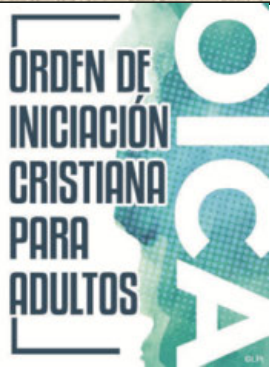
Are you passionate about our Faith?

Are you willing to share a few hours of your time to help educate our St. Leo's students? We are looking for committed parishioners to join our Religious Education team as catechists or catechist assistants on Wednesday evenings or Sunday afternoons.

We provide curriculum, training, and support to ensure you succeed in this rewarding ministry. To learn more or to sign up, please contact Paula Hand at csc@stleocatholicchurch.org

Make a difference in the faith journey of our youth by becoming part of this important ministry!

NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL



Clases de Educación Religiosa Para Adultos

Se les comunica a todos los adultos mayores de 18 años que desean hacer sus Sacramentos de Orden de Iniciación Cristiana (Bautizo, Confirmación y Primera Comunión), las registraciones para las clases ya están disponibles. Para mas información, comunicarse con el Señor Miguel Ríos o puede pasar directamente a la Oficina Parroquial, de lunes a viernes de 9am a 3:30pm.

Oración para la Temporada de Huracanes

O Dios, Señor de este mundo pasajero, escucha la humilde voz de tus hijos. El Mar de Galilea obedeció tu orden y volvió a su anterior quietud. Tu todavía eres el Señor de tierra y mar.

Vivimos en la sombra del peligro sobre el cual no tenemos control; el Golfo, como un violento gigante, puede despertar de su aparente letargo, sobrepasar sus límites, invadir nuestra tierra y sembrar caos y desastre.

Durante esta temporada de huracanes acudimos a Ti, ó Padre Misericordioso. Libranos de tragedias como las pasadas que están tan vivas en nuestra memoria y cuyas heridas rehúsan ser curadas con el paso del tiempo.

O Virgen, Estrella del Mar, nuestra amada Madre, te pedimos que intercedas ante tu Hijo por nosotros, para que nos libre de las calamidades comunes a esta área, y animados con un verdadero espíritu de gratitudes caminemos en los pasos de tu Divino Hijo para llegar a la Jerusalén Celestial, donde una eternidad sin tormentas nos espera. Amen

Conozca sus Derechos de Inmigración

Puede encontrar el Folleto "¡Conozca sus Derechos!" en inglés o en español cortesía de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos en el siguiente link

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/wp-content/uploads/Know-Your-Right-Spanish.pdf>

REGISTRACIONES GENERALES PARA LAS CLASES DE EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA ESTÁN CERRADAS, PERO - -

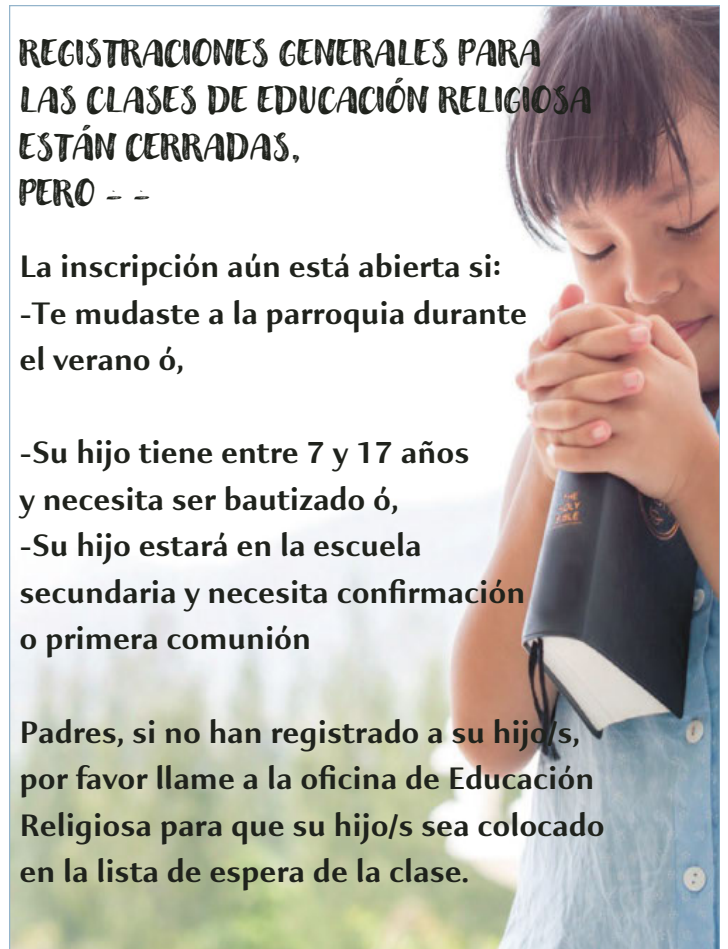
La inscripción aún está abierta si:

-Te mudaste a la parroquia durante el verano ó,

-Su hijo tiene entre 7 y 17 años y necesita ser bautizado ó,

-Su hijo estará en la escuela secundaria y necesita confirmación o primera comunión

Padres, si no han registrado a su hijo/s, por favor llame a la oficina de Educación Religiosa para que su hijo/s sea colocado en la lista de espera de la clase.



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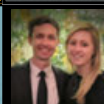
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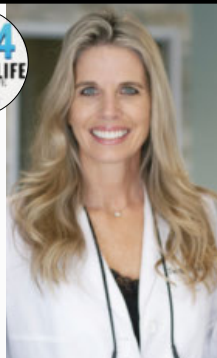
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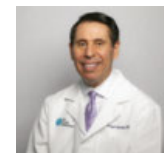
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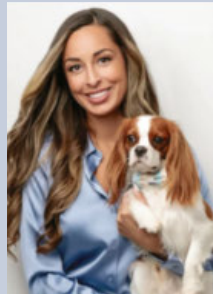
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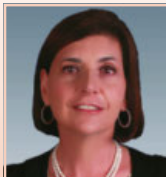
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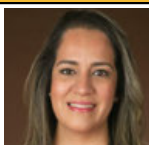
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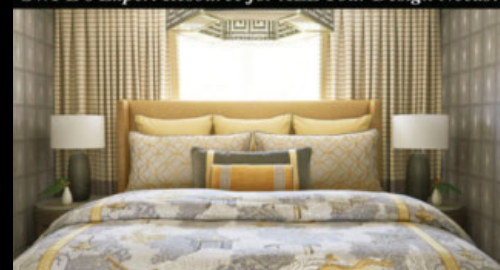
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