

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 27, 2026



Christ Blessing/Segna di Bounaventura/1311

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 19 & 20
\$21,169

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

ROSARY CRUSADE

This Friday October 2nd, as part of the
Diocesan Eucharistic Rosary Congress,
we will have a special time of Prayer and
Contemplation beginning with 8am
Mass, followed by Benediction and the
Recitation of the Rosary.

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

Saturday, October 3

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

Sunday, October 4

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

Changes may occur without notice.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES YOUTH PROGRAM

"The Positive Youth Development (PYD) Program provides academic support, social skills development, community resource education, and case management to elementary and middle school students from low-income households who are struggling academically. Through our Afterschool Tutoring Program and Summer Enrichment Camp Program, PYD helps young people build the academic skills, confidence, character, and support systems they need to succeed in school and become self-sufficient, contributing members of their communities.

At our **St. Leo location in the Juan Diego Outreach Center** our afterschool tutoring program runs parallel to the Lee County school calendar, operating Monday through Thursday from 3-6pm. In addition to afterschool services, we offer day camps on school days off and an 8-week summer program running Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm across June and July.

We are always grateful for community members interested in volunteering to support our students and programs. Interested individuals can visit the site during program hours (10am-6pm) or reach out to discuss available volunteer opportunities.

If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please contact us at **239-940-7880** or email jperez@ccdov.org. Thank you for your support!

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE AT ASCENSION ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bishop Emilio will celebrate a Catholic Mass of Remembrance **this Monday, September 28 at 9am** on the grounds of The Church of the Ascension, 6025 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach. The date marks the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Ian's devastating impact on Southwest Florida, and Fort Myers Beach, including the destruction of the Church of the Ascension. Celebrated by Bishop Emilio, the Mass of Remembrance will be concelebrated by priests from the surrounding area, including Msgr. Stephen McNamara, Church of the Resurrection, Fr. Lorenzo Gonzalez, St. Columbkille Parish, Fr. Jarek Sniosek, St. Leo the Great Parish and Fr. Bill Adams, former Pastor of Ascension Parish, and others.

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 www.stleocatholicchurch.org/rcia



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, and any time at dioceseofvenice.org/ourbishop



Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-GOD CARES MORE ABOUT WHERE WE ARE GOING THAN WHERE WE STARTED

"He changed his mind and went." (Matthew 21:29)

There are few things harder for human beings than admitting, "I was wrong." We will explain, defend, qualify, change the subject, and occasionally provide a complete history of Western civilization before simply saying, "You know what? I need to change." Yet today Jesus tells a story in which the person who gets it right is precisely the one who changes his mind. The first son walks away saying no, but somewhere between the house and the vineyard, something changes inside him.

Jesus reminds religious people that God is less interested in polished words than in the direction of a human heart. Ezekiel offers the same extraordinary hope: nobody is permanently imprisoned by yesterday. We can turn around. We can begin again. A bad chapter does not have to become the final chapter. Yet many of us carry old mistakes like stones in our pockets, touching them again and again as if remembering them long enough might somehow change what happened.

God does not ask us to repair yesterday. He asks us to be faithful today. Perhaps the holiest sentence we can speak is simply, "Lord, I see it differently now." There is no shame in having taken a wrong road. The tragedy would be recognizing it and refusing to turn around. Heaven is not populated by people who never got anything wrong. It is filled with people who eventually allowed grace to change their direction and then had enough humility to start walking.

Prayer: Lord, free me from the pride that makes changing difficult and from the shame that tells me it is too late. Give me humility to admit when I am wrong and courage to take the next faithful step. Amen. **Readings:** Ezekiel 18:25–28; Psalm 25:4–9; Philippians 2:1–11; Matthew 21:28–32

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

FAITH DOES NOT ALWAYS NEED AN EXPLANATION

"The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21)

Some days arrive carrying more than we think we can bear. One difficult phone call would have been enough, but then comes another. A diagnosis. A family problem. A financial worry. Someone we love is hurting. By lunchtime we are tempted to look toward heaven and say, "Lord, surely there has been an administrative error." Job knows that kind of day. Messenger after messenger appears until almost everything he loves has been taken from him.

Then Job does something painfully human. He tears his cloak, cuts his hair, and falls to the ground. Before Scripture gives us his magnificent words of faith, it lets us see a grieving man in the

dust. Faith does not prevent his heart from breaking. It gives him somewhere to bring the broken pieces. Only then does the Gospel show us the disciples arguing about which of them is greatest. Job is lying in the dust while they are discussing the seating chart of importance. Jesus places a child beside Himself and quietly overturns their definition of greatness.

Perhaps faith is not demonstrated by having life under control. Perhaps greatness sometimes looks like remaining tender after life has hurt us, continuing to love when we have no answers, and refusing to let suffering make us bitter. There are moments when we cannot honestly tell God that we understand. We can only kneel beside Job and say, "I am still here." And sometimes staying with God when nothing makes sense is one of the purest acts of faith we will ever make.

Prayer: Lord, when life makes no sense, keep me close to You. Save me from needing an explanation for everything. Give me the grace to remain faithful, tender, and trusting even when I cannot see what You are doing. Amen. **Readings:** Job 1:6–22; Psalm 17:1–3, 6–7; Luke 9:46–50

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

THERE IS MORE HAPPENING THAN WE CAN SEE

"You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51)

Most mornings begin in a very visible world. Coffee steams from a mug. Keys turn in the ignition. A phone lights up with messages. A medical report sits folded on the counter. An empty chair reminds us who is missing. Because these things can be touched and measured, they easily begin to feel like the whole story. Yet today the Church celebrates Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael and reminds us that reality extends far beyond the small portion our eyes can see.

Michael reminds us that evil never gets the final word. Gabriel reminds us that God can enter an ordinary life with a message that changes everything. Raphael reminds us that God accompanies people along roads of healing they do not yet understand. Jesus tells Nathanael that heaven itself is open. Perhaps some of the greatest graces of our lives are things we will never know about: the danger avoided, the door that stayed closed, the stranger who stopped to help, the unexpected phone call, the strength that somehow arrived when we were certain we had none left.

One day we may discover that what we called coincidence was providence, what we called interruption was protection, and what we called an unanswered prayer was God quietly leading us another way. We complain about delays and later discover that the delay was a blessing. We call something coincidence because "divine providence" sounds a little dramatic before breakfast. Faith does not require us to see angels everywhere.

Daily Reflections

by Father Jack

It simply asks us to leave enough room in our carefully measured world for the possibility that heaven is nearer than we think.

Prayer: God of heaven and earth, open my heart to the mystery of Your presence. Through the ministry of Your angels, protect me in danger, guide me in uncertainty, and help me trust the grace at work beyond what I can see. Amen.

Readings: Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14; Psalm 138:1–5; John 1:47–51

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

YOU DO NOT NEED EVERY ANSWER TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP

"He does great things past finding out, marvelous things beyond reckoning." (Job 9:10)

Some questions follow us for years. They sit beside us in waiting rooms, return during sleepless nights, and sometimes appear unexpectedly while we are driving home alone. Why did this happen? Why did that prayer seem unanswered? Why did one door close just when we were certain God had opened it? We would sometimes prefer God to provide a detailed explanation, preferably in writing, with footnotes and a convenient section titled, "Why This Was Necessary."

Job looks into the night sky and realizes that the God to whom he is speaking made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades. His problems have not become smaller, but the mystery surrounding them has become larger. Saint Jerome spent his life studying the Word of God and discovered something similar: the closer we come to God, the less interested we become in mastering Him. Faith is not having God figured out. It is knowing Him well enough to trust Him when we do not.

That is why Jesus speaks so urgently in the Gospel. We keep saying, "I will follow You, Lord, but first..." First let everything settle down. First let me understand. First let me feel ready. But life rarely becomes completely settled. God seldom places the whole map in our hands. More often He gives just enough light for the next few feet of road. Faith is taking that step while trusting that when we arrive there, enough light will be waiting for the next one.

Prayer: Lord, I cannot understand everything that happens in my life. Give me wisdom where answers are possible, humility where they are not, and courage to follow You without demanding that I first see the entire road. Amen. **Readings:** Job 9:1–12, 14–16; Psalm 88:10–15; Luke 9:57–62

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST THING IS THE HOLIEST THING

"I know that my Vindicator lives." (Job 19:25)

Saint Thérèse never founded a religious order or traveled the world preaching. Much of her life unfolded behind convent walls in ordinary rooms, among bells, meals, laundry, prayer,

difficult personalities, and small duties that had to be done again the next morning. She died at twenty four. Yet she discovered something many people spend a lifetime missing: we do not need an extraordinary life in order to love extraordinarily well.

Job gives us one of Scripture's most astonishing professions of hope while sitting in misery: "I know that my Vindicator lives." He does not say everything feels wonderful. It does not. He does not pretend suffering is easy. It is not. Faith is the stubborn conviction that beneath what we presently feel and beyond what we presently see, God remains faithful. Thérèse understood the same truth. We do not have to accomplish enormous things for God. We can do small things with enormous love.

Most of our lives are made of little things too. Making the phone call. Listening patiently to the same story again. Washing the cup instead of leaving it "to soak," that ancient theological category. Forgiving one more time. Offering encouragement when nobody applauds. Jesus sends the seventy two into ordinary homes carrying peace. We keep waiting for some great opportunity to become holy while God keeps placing small opportunities directly in front of us. Very often the little thing we almost overlooked is precisely where love was waiting for us.

Prayer: Lord, teach me the little way of love. When I cannot do something great, help me do something small with great tenderness. Let my ordinary words, duties, interruptions, and encounters become places where Your Kingdom quietly draws near. Amen. **Readings:** Job 19:21–27; Psalm 27:7–9, 13–14; Luke 10:1–12

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2-YOU DO NOT HAVE TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING TO BE HELD

"Even there your hand shall guide me, and your right hand hold me fast." (Psalm 139:10)

After all Job's questions, arguments, grief, and searching, God finally speaks from the storm. He asks Job about the dawn, the depths of the sea, the gates of darkness, and the vastness of the earth. Job has spent chapters reaching for answers. Now he simply raises his hand and covers his mouth. It is such a human gesture. There comes a moment when words have taken us as far as they can go and silence becomes wiser than another explanation.

The Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels gives that silence a beautiful tenderness. Job cannot comprehend the universe, but Psalm 139 reminds him and us that the God who comprehends it also knows when we sit down and when we stand. The God who knows the dwelling place of light knows our name. Christian faith does not promise that we will understand every danger, disappointment, or strange turn in

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

the road. It promises something more intimate: we are known, accompanied, guarded, and held.

We spend so much energy trying to control what comes next. Plans change. Bodies age. People surprise us. Roads turn where we expected them to continue straight. Job finally places his hand over his mouth, and perhaps that hand becomes a kind of prayer: "God, You are God, and I am not." Sometimes peace begins there. We do not need to understand the whole road to be safe in the hands of the One who does. Even there, wherever "there" eventually turns out to be, His hand will guide us.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for watching over me in ways I understand and ways I never will. Send Your holy angels to guard me, guide me, and keep my heart close to You. When I cannot control the road ahead, teach me to trust the hand that holds me. Amen. **Readings:** Job 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5; Psalm 139:1–3, 7–10, 13–14; Matthew 18:1–5, 10

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

YOUR GREATEST JOY IS NOT WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH

"Rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20)

The seventy-two return from their mission almost bursting with excitement. Things worked. People responded. Even demons obeyed them. We know that feeling in smaller ways: finishing something difficult, hearing that the treatment worked, watching a child succeed, seeing years of effort finally bear fruit.

Success feels good, and Jesus does not tell the disciples otherwise. He simply points them toward a joy that success

cannot give and failure cannot take away: "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Much of life trains us to measure ourselves by results: careers, promotions, children, ministries, awards, bank accounts, degrees, compliments, even how many people remembered our birthday without being reminded by social media. Accomplishment has its place, but it makes a terrible foundation for identity. Eventually our calendars become quieter, someone else sits at the desk where we once sat, and our bodies stop cooperating with some of our plans. If our worth depends upon usefulness, growing older can begin to feel like disappearing.

Job finally reaches the end of his long struggle and says, "I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you." Perhaps that is the deeper purpose of the spiritual journey. Not simply to accomplish more, but to know God more deeply. At the end of life, our greatest consolation will not be a completed list of everything we achieved. It will be something far simpler and far greater: through every strange road, loss, joy, mistake, and second chance, God knew our name, and somewhere along the journey, we learned to know His.

Prayer: Lord, free me from measuring my worth by what I accomplish. Let me work faithfully, love generously, and serve joyfully, but never forget that my deepest identity is simply this: I belong to You. Amen. **Readings:** Job 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17; Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Luke 10:17–24

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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



**Our Pet Blessing will take place in front of
Church at 9am on Monday, October 5th**

**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**



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!

A WORLD WHERE ONLY YES IS ALLOWED

BY FATHER JAREK

There is a particular kind of meeting most of us have attended. Someone in charge asks, “Does anyone disagree?” Suddenly everyone becomes fascinated with the table. One person rearranges a coffee cup. Another discovers something extremely important in the margin of the agenda. Nobody speaks. The meeting ends, and five minutes later the real meeting begins in the parking lot. Silence can look remarkably like agreement when people have learned that honesty is expensive.

Jesus tells a story about two sons. Their father asks them to work in the vineyard. The first says, “I will not.” Hardly the answer a parent hopes for. The second says, “Yes, sir.” Much better. Respectful. Reassuring. Exactly the right words. Except the first son eventually goes into the vineyard, while the second never does. When Jesus asks which son did the father’s will, the answer is obvious. The uncomfortable son did.

There is something beautiful hidden in that little story. The father allows both sons to answer freely. He does not demand the appearance of agreement. The first son is permitted to say no, and because his no is real, his eventual yes can be real too. Somewhere between the house and the vineyard, something changes inside him. Human beings need that kind of room: room to think, question, object, listen, reconsider, repent, and sometimes discover that we were wrong.

Ezekiel gives us an astonishing example. The people actually say to God, “The Lord’s way is not fair!” Yet Scripture does not erase their complaint, and God does not silence them. He answers: “Hear now.” The conversation continues. Apparently the Almighty is secure enough to tolerate criticism. That is worth remembering whenever the rest of us begin treating disagreement as a personal injury. Truth does not become weaker because somebody questions it.

Of course, not everything people say is wise. Spend ten minutes on the internet and the doctrine of original sin becomes surprisingly easy to believe. Words can deceive, humiliate, spread rumors, and destroy reputations. Freedom without responsibility becomes cruelty. We need honesty, charity, prudence, and restraint. But there is another danger too: creating families, workplaces, churches, or communities where people quietly learn which answers are acceptable and which questions are better left unasked.

Such places can appear wonderfully peaceful. There are fewer arguments. Meetings end on time. Everyone seems remarkably agreeable. But something precious slowly disappears: the ability to know whether agreement is genuine. A room where everyone is free to say yes but afraid to say no is not necessarily united. It may simply be afraid. And when people become afraid to question those with authority, authority loses one of the mirrors that helps it recognize its own mistakes.

Paul gives us the Christian safeguard: Christ, possessing all authority, “emptied himself.” What an extraordinary picture of strength. Christian authority does not become smaller by listening. Leadership is not diminished by admitting, “Perhaps I need to hear more.” Humility is not insecurity. In fact, only a secure person can listen seriously to someone who disagrees without immediately needing to defeat, dismiss, or silence that person.

Then Psalm 25 gives us perhaps the most important prayer of all: “Teach me your paths.” Those words contain a quiet confession: I may still have something to learn. The moment we become certain that only our voice deserves hearing, only our conclusions are safe, and only other people need correcting, we have stopped asking God to teach us. Without noticing it, we have appointed ourselves the teacher.

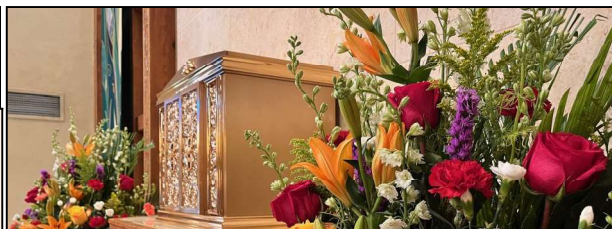
A healthy family, a healthy Church, a healthy community, and a healthy human heart do not require everyone to say yes. They need people courageous enough to speak honestly, humble enough to listen patiently, and free enough to change. The vineyard is not served by people who have merely learned the safest answer. God wants something far more beautiful from us: not a frightened yes, not a convenient yes, not a rehearsed yes, but a yes that has passed through conscience, freedom, humility, and truth, and therefore truly means yes.

PRAYER

Lord, teach us Your paths.
Give us courage to speak truth with
love and humility to listen without fear.
Keep us from confusing silence with unity,
disagreement with disloyalty,
or authority with always being right.
When we are wrong, give us freedom to change.
When others challenge us, give us grace to listen.
And when we finally say yes to You, let it come
from a heart that is truly free.
Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

MASS	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 28	
8:00 am	+Silvia Nikky Hiriart	Frank & Tom
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 29	
8:00 am	+Sharon Valus	Bill & Phyllis Grealis
WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 30	
8:00 am	+Mary Lou Heath	Lou, Larry & Cooper
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 1	
8:00 am	+David Sandberg	Loving Wife, Cheryl
FRIDAY	OCTOBER 2	
8:00 am	+Florence Torzewski	Roy & Joyce Torzewski Moses
SATURDAY	OCTOBER 3	
8:00 am	+Kayhie Uber	Mr & Mrs. VanTassel
3:30 pm	+Betty Simpson	Antoinette & John Love
5:30 pm	+Stephen Oberheim	His Loving Wife Carole & Family
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 4	
7:30 am	+Joe & +Rose Scenna	Their Loving Daughter and Son In
		Law, Rita & Robert Sokol
9:30 am	+Jose Guadalupe Rico	His Family
11:30 am	+Sharon Lammar	Her Loving Family
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	The Parishioners of St. Leo	



Flowers this week are dedicated to the Parishioners of St. Leo

Candles this week are dedicated to the †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
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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.
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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 us in these wonderful prayers.

ST LEO'S RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Meetings are held in the Nest Café on the last Friday of each month at 9am. For questions contact Loretta (917.886.7273) or Peggy (239.293.3201.)



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

To add names or update information call the Office at 992-0901 or email: chernandez@stleocatholicchurch.org

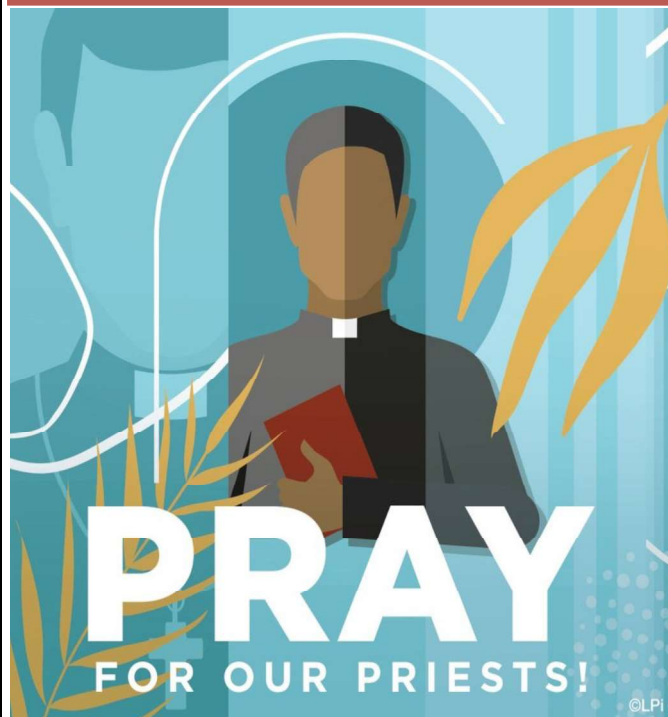
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Altar Servers – Adults & Youth	Joe Stegle.....551-427-9045
Arimatheans	Parish Office 992-0901
Bulletin	Anne Bellows..... 992-0901
Catholic Charities at St. Leo	 390-2928
Cenacle Legal Services (Low Income)	941-244-0308
Counseling Services	Catholic 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 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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We Pray for the Recently Deceased Of Our Parish

Jerome Nowak
James Patrick O'Neill



Are you considering the priesthood, or do you think it might be right for someone you know? Please feel free to reach out to the Diocese's Director of Vocations, Father Alex Pince, to answer your questions, provide more information, and help you to discern whether the priesthood is right for you. Father Pince can be reached at 941-486-4703 or pince@dioceseofvenice.org

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 are looking for committed parishioners to join
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NOTAS EN ESPAÑOL

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!

DOMINGO DEL Sacerdorcio

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

Coordinador de Emaus Hombres
Roberto Arredondo (239) 860-1111

Coordinadora de Grupo de Oración
Ruth Domínguez (239) 351-8430

Coordinadora de Emaus mujeres
Martha Santillán (239) 908-1680

Coordinador de Lectores
Carlos Gómez (239) 913-7651

**Coordinadora de Ministros Extraordinarios
de la Sagrada Comunión**
Luz Janeth García (239) 494-0973

**Coordinadores de Grupo de matrimonios
(MDS) Matrimonios, Diálogo y Seguimiento**
Adrián y Silvia Ortiz (239) 834-4778

Sacristán y coordinador de monaguillos (Altar servers)
Tony García (239) 908-1173

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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