

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 6, 2026



The Birth of the Virgin/Fra Carnevale/1467 /Feast Day Sept. 8th

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!

August 29 & 30
\$20,432

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

THE ULMAS

A Blessed Family

*The True Story of the Family
Martyred by the Nazis*



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 12

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

Sunday, September 13

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

Changes may occur without notice.



Bishop Emilio's Visit



Last Friday, August 28th, Bishop Emilio visited St. Leo. After a tour of the campus and lunch with the staff he met with interested parishioners in the Auditorium, followed by light refreshments in the Nest Café. We are so grateful for his time with us and thankful for the opportunity to meet him and hear his personal history and his hopes for the Diocese of Venice.



On the occasion of the
4th anniversary of Hurricane Ian
Monday
September 28, 2026
9:00 a.m.
**A Catholic Mass
of Remembrance**
with the
Most Rev. Emilio Blosca, OFM Cap
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice
in Florida
**The Church of
The Ascension**
on the grounds
6025 Estero Blvd
Fort Myers Beach



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OCTOBER 24, 2026
OUR LADY OF LIGHT PARISH
FORT MYERS, FL

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of the Trinity*

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an Early Bird discount



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a partnership of Catholics & 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/)

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarek

A Week of Loving Enough to Tell the Truth and Trusting Enough to Live It

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

LOVE DOES NOT AVOID THE HARD CONVERSATION

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." (Matthew 18:15)

Most of us would rather do almost anything than have an uncomfortable conversation. We rehearse it in the car, rewrite it in the shower, discuss it with three people who are not involved, and then decide that perhaps silence is the more Christian approach. Sometimes it is. Sometimes it is simply fear wearing a halo.

Jesus gives us a remarkably practical path. If someone has hurt you, begin with the person, not the audience. Speak privately. Speak truthfully. Speak because you hope to regain a brother or sister, not because you want to win a case. Ezekiel reminds us that there are moments when remaining silent is not kindness. Paul gives us the standard for knowing the difference: "Love does no evil to the neighbor." Christian love is not merely being pleasant. Sometimes love comforts; sometimes it confronts; always it seeks the good of the other.

There is wisdom in asking one question before a difficult conversation: What am I hoping happens afterward? If the answer is humiliation, victory, or finally proving that I was right, perhaps I should wait. If the answer is healing, understanding, truth, or reconciliation, then God may be asking me to speak. Some relationships are damaged by the words we say. Others slowly die because of the words we never had the courage to say.

Prayer: Lord, give me courage to speak when love requires truth, humility to remain silent when pride wants the last word, and wisdom to know the difference. Amen. **Readings:** Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

DO NOT GET SO USED TO SOMETHING THAT YOU STOP SEEING IT

"Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?" (1 Corinthians 5:6)

Human beings can get used to almost anything. A strange noise in the refrigerator eventually becomes part of the household soundtrack. A pile of papers sits on the counter so long that eventually it qualifies as furniture. Unfortunately, the same thing can happen inside the soul. Resentment, dishonesty, gossip, envy, or a destructive habit can remain there long enough that we stop noticing how much space it occupies. Paul warns the Corinthians about precisely this. Something seriously wrong has been tolerated so long that the community has somehow learned to live around it. Paul uses the image of yeast: something small can quietly work its way through everything. Jesus encounters the opposite problem in the Gospel. A man has a withered hand, yet the religious leaders are more interested in whether Jesus breaks a rule than whether the man is healed. Their hearts have become accustomed to something being terribly wrong.

Perhaps holiness begins with noticing again. What have I started calling "just the way I am" that God might actually want to heal? What bitterness have I rehearsed until it feels reasonable? What compromise has become comfortable simply because it has been around for years? Jesus tells the man, "Stretch out your hand." Healing begins when we stop hiding what has withered and place it before Him.

Prayer: Lord, show me what I have become too accustomed to seeing. Give me courage to bring what is wounded, compromised, or neglected into Your light, and make my heart new again. Amen.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Psalm 5; Luke 6:6-11

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

GOD CAN WRITE THROUGH A COMPLICATED FAMILY

"Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ." (Matthew 1:16)

The genealogy of Jesus is one of those Gospel passages during which even devoted Christians can suddenly become fascinated by the church ceiling. Name follows name, generation follows generation, and eventually we begin hoping the priest has practiced "Jechoniah" beforehand. Yet hidden inside that long list is one of the most comforting truths in Scripture: God works through real families.

Jesus does not enter a spotless family history. His genealogy contains saints and sinners, courageous people and deeply flawed ones, faithful marriages, scandal, foreigners, kings, ordinary people, and generations who probably wondered whether God was doing anything at all. And then, into this long and complicated human story, Mary is born. God does not erase everything that came before her and begin again with a clean

page. He enters the story as it is. Her birth, which the Church celebrates today, becomes the quiet beginning of something generations before her could never have imagined.

That matters because we sometimes look at our own families and see what should have been different. A painful relationship. A marriage that struggled. A child whose life took an unexpected direction. An old wound nobody discusses. Mary reminds us that God does not require a perfect family history before He begins doing something beautiful. Grace does not erase the past; it enters it and carries the story somewhere new. We may not understand every chapter we inherited, but God is still writing.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Mary and for the quiet ways Your grace moves through generations. Bless what is beautiful in my family, heal what is wounded, and continue Your work through everything I cannot change. Amen. **Readings:** Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Psalm 13; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

DO NOT BUILD YOUR WHOLE LIFE AROUND WHAT CANNOT LAST

"For the world in its present form is passing away." (1 Corinthians 7:31)

We spend an extraordinary amount of energy arranging things that eventually will not matter very much. We worry about possessions, appearances, schedules, investments, opinions, and whether someone responded to a message with noticeably less enthusiasm than usual. Then life occasionally interrupts us with something serious enough to rearrange the furniture of the soul.

Paul says simply, "The world in its present form is passing away." He is not telling us to become gloomy or stop enjoying life. He is telling us not to confuse temporary things with permanent ones. Jesus makes the same point through the Beatitudes. The people the world assumes are losing, those who are poor, hungry, grieving, rejected, may actually be much closer to the Kingdom than appearances suggest. Meanwhile, comfort can become dangerous when it convinces us that we need nothing beyond ourselves.

Saint Peter Claver understood this. He spent his life serving enslaved Africans arriving in Cartagena, people whom society had treated as disposable. He saw eternal worth where the world saw economic value. Perhaps that is the question worth carrying today: What am I treating as terribly important that will eventually pass away, and whom am I overlooking who will live forever? A successful life is not one in which we managed to hold onto everything. It is one in which we learned what was worth holding onto.

Prayer: Lord, loosen my grip on what cannot last. Teach me to value people more than possessions, faithfulness more than approval, and Your Kingdom more than the passing comforts of this world. Amen.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Psalm 45; Luke 6:20-26

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

BEING RIGHT IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING LOVING

"Knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1)

There is a particular satisfaction in knowing that you are right. Unfortunately, there is an even greater satisfaction in discovering that the other person is wrong. Human civilization has developed entire industries around this experience, and most of them now fit conveniently inside our phones.

Paul offers a needed correction: "Knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up." The Corinthians are debating what Christians are technically permitted to do. Paul asks a deeper question: What effect will your freedom have on someone else? Christian maturity is not simply knowing what I have a right to do. It is becoming free enough occasionally to surrender that right for the sake of another person.

Then Jesus takes the lesson much further: love your enemies, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. This does not mean pretending abuse is acceptable or abandoning healthy boundaries. It means refusing to allow another person's behavior to decide what kind of person we become. Anyone can be gracious toward someone who is gracious back. The Gospel begins to become visible when our goodness is no longer merely a reaction to someone else's goodness. Mercy means another person's bitterness does not get to move permanently into my heart.

Prayer: Lord, save me from the need to win every argument and justify every reaction. Give me wisdom that remains humble, boundaries that remain loving, and mercy strong enough that another person's behavior does not determine my own. Amen.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13; Psalm 139; Luke 6:27-38

Daily Reflections

by Father Jarch

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

BEFORE REMOVING THE SPLINTER, CHECK FOR THE BEAM

"Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly." (Luke 6:42)

Twenty five years after September 11, 2001, many people can still remember exactly where they were when they heard the news. The images remain painful: collapsing towers, frightened faces, smoke over Manhattan, the Pentagon burning, a field in Pennsylvania. But memory also preserves something else: the firefighters climbing stairs while others fled downward, strangers helping strangers, people calling home simply to say, "I love you."

On an anniversary born from hatred, Jesus gives us a Gospel about learning to see clearly. He warns how easily we notice the splinter in another person's eye while remaining strangely unaware of the beam in our own. This is not a command to ignore evil, excuse it, or confuse the innocent with those responsible for it. September 11 reminds us that evil is real, that innocent people suffer because of it, and that justice matters. But self examination keeps the evil done to us from becoming bitterness within us. Jesus refuses to let hatred have a second victory by teaching wounded hearts to become hateful hearts.

Paul describes Christian life as disciplined training. Perhaps one of its hardest disciplines is refusing to let hatred teach us how to hate. We honor the dead not only by remembering how they died, but by deciding how we will live. Twenty five years later, the deepest memorial may be a heart that still chooses courage without cruelty, truth without hatred, vigilance without losing compassion, and faith strong enough to keep building a world in which love has the final word.

Prayer: Lord, receive those who died on September 11 and comfort all who still carry its wounds. Purify our hearts of hatred, give us courage to confront evil without becoming consumed by it, and make us instruments

of Your peace. Amen. **Readings:** 1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22b–27; Psalm 84; Luke 6:39–42

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

STORMS REVEAL WHAT GOOD WEATHER CAN HIDE

"He is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock." (Luke 6:48)

Nobody becomes interested in a foundation while admiring a beautiful house. We notice the kitchen, the windows, the landscaping, perhaps the suspiciously enormous television. Foundations are mostly ignored until the storm comes. Then suddenly the least glamorous part of the house becomes the most important.

Jesus says our lives work the same way. Listening to His words is not enough. Admiring them is not enough. Even calling Him "Lord" is not enough. Faith becomes a foundation when it is practiced: when we forgive before we feel like forgiving, pray when God seems quiet, tell the truth when dishonesty would be easier, remain faithful when nobody is applauding, and choose what is right when the immediate reward is nowhere in sight.

Eventually every life gets weather. A diagnosis arrives. Someone leaves. Money becomes tight. A prayer seems unanswered. A person we trusted disappoints us. The storm does not necessarily mean that God has abandoned the house. Sometimes the storm simply reveals what the house has been standing on all along. We cannot build the foundation after the flood arrives. We build it quietly now, through a thousand ordinary choices that seem insignificant until the day they are holding us up.

Prayer: Lord, help me build deeply. Let Your Word become more than something I hear; make it something I live, so that when the storms come, my life may remain rooted in You. Amen.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 10:14–22; Psalm 116; Luke 6:43–49

September 23rd to November 1st



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Join Us!

KICK OFF EVENT!

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

A VERY SPECIAL SPEAKER will share an incredible pro-life story.

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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



WE BELONG TO ONE ANOTHER

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 95; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

By Father Jarek

Labor Day is an unusual holiday because we celebrate the dignity of work by trying very hard not to do any. Offices close. Schools close. Grills open. Somewhere a person who has spent fifty weeks complaining about work becomes briefly philosophical about the importance of the American worker. Yet beneath the long weekend is something worth remembering: almost everything that makes ordinary life possible depends upon someone faithfully doing a job we rarely notice.

Someone inspected the bridge before we drove across it. Someone stocked the grocery store before we arrived. Someone keeps the electricity running, repairs the water lines, teaches the children, cleans the hospital room, fixes the roof, collects the garbage, and prepares the meal. Civilization is sustained every day by millions of people quietly accepting responsibility for people they may never meet. Much of what holds the world together happens without applause.

Perhaps that is why Ezekiel's words sound surprisingly contemporary. God tells him, "I have appointed you watchman for the house of Israel." A watchman cannot see danger and decide that it is somebody else's problem. He has been entrusted with other people. Christianity becomes demanding precisely here, because it challenges one of our favorite assumptions: that as long as I am doing reasonably well, everyone else's life is essentially their own business.

We sometimes imagine adulthood as finally becoming independent enough not to need anyone. Life eventually teaches us otherwise. None of us is self-made. We were carried before we could walk, taught before we could read, and forgiven before we understood how much forgiveness costs. Even the person proudly claiming to have succeeded entirely on his own usually does so while driving on roads he did not build, using electricity he did not generate, and drinking coffee someone else made.

Saint Paul takes this interdependence even further: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another." What a strange debt. Most debts become smaller when we pay them. This one grows. The more deeply we understand how much we have received, the more responsible we become for what we give. Love, in the Christian understanding, is not simply something we feel for certain people. It is something we owe to every person whose life touches ours.

Jesus makes that responsibility painfully practical. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." Notice what He does not say. He does not say, tell six other people first. He does not recommend assembling a committee of friends who already agree with us. Apparently even Jesus understood that some problems do not improve by becoming group chats. His instruction is considerably shorter and considerably harder: go to him. And go not to win an argument, but to recover a relationship.

That may be one of the most difficult forms of love. Love is not pretending that nothing happened, nor does reconciliation require us to deny the truth. It means refusing to reduce a person to what happened. The person who disappointed you is still a person. The coworker who irritates you is still a person. The family member who hurt you is still more than the worst thing he has done. Someone can be wrong and still remain someone worthy of dignity, honesty, and compassion.

And notice the word Jesus chooses: "If your brother sins against you." He may be wrong. He may need correction. Reconciliation may even prove impossible. But Jesus refuses to allow wrongdoing to erase relationship. Before this person is an opponent, an irritation, a disappointment, or a problem to be solved, he is still your brother. The purpose of Christian correction is not victory over another person, but, whenever possible, the restoration of communion.

This week brings another anniversary that gives these readings unusual weight. Twenty-five years ago, on **September 11, 2001**, thousands of people were trying desperately to descend staircases in burning buildings while firefighters were climbing them in the opposite direction. There are many ways to remember that terrible morning. Perhaps one of the simplest is to stop for a moment and contemplate those stairs.

Most people were going down because they wanted to live. Firefighters were going up because complete strangers needed help. They did not know the people waiting above them. They did not know their politics, religion, nationality, accomplishments, failures, personalities, or opinions. Somewhere above them were human beings in danger. For the men and women climbing those stairs, at that moment, that was enough.

Most of us will never be asked to climb stairs like those. But every life eventually gives us a staircase. A parent grows old. A spouse becomes ill. A child gets into trouble. A friend disappoints us. A coworker requires patience we do not particularly feel like providing. Someone needs to apologize first. Someone needs to make the phone call. Someone needs to notice the person everyone else has stopped noticing.

And suddenly the Gospel becomes very concrete. Go to him. Go to her. Take the first step. Climb the stairs. Not because every relationship can be repaired, and not because love requires us to tolerate everything, but because another person's humanity must never become invisible to us. Sometimes love looks heroic. Much more often it simply looks like refusing to walk away when it would be easier to do so.

Psalms 95 gives us the warning beneath everything else: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Hearts rarely become hard all at once. They harden through small acts of indifference, resentments carefully preserved, people gradually turned into labels, and the repeated decision that someone else's suffering is someone else's problem. The great danger is not always that we become cruel. Sometimes it is simply that we become accustomed to not noticing.

Perhaps the opposite is also true. Hearts become tender through small acts of attention: a difficult conversation honestly begun, a meal prepared, a shift worked faithfully, a hand extended, a person forgiven, a stranger helped. Most goodness never makes the news. It happens quietly in kitchens, workplaces, hospitals, classrooms, neighborhoods, and homes whenever someone decides that another human being is worth the trouble.

Labor Day reminds us that the world is built by people who show up. September 11 reminds us that sometimes people show up at extraordinary cost. And the Gospel tells us what lies beneath both: we were never meant to live as isolated lives protecting only our own interests. God has entrusted us, in ways large and small, with one another.

Perhaps holiness is not always found in extraordinary things. Perhaps it begins when we notice who has been placed on the staircase in front of us and refuse to look away. Someone somewhere needs our patience, our honesty, our forgiveness, our courage, or simply our presence. We may never be asked to run into a burning building. But sooner or later, every one of us will be asked to decide whether another person's life is worth climbing a few stairs.

And when that moment comes, all four readings seem to offer the same answer. Listen for God's voice. Do not harden your heart. Speak the truth with love. Pay the debt you will never finish paying. Take responsibility for the person God has placed before you. Because beneath all our differences, disagreements, wounds, occupations, histories, and labels lies one simple truth we forget at our peril: **WE BELONG TO ONE ANOTHER.**

PRAYER

Lord,
You have placed people in my life whom I did not choose,
people I love easily and people I find difficult to love.

Keep my heart from becoming hard.
Teach me to see the person behind the disagreement,
the wound behind the anger, the loneliness behind the silence,
and the neighbor behind every label.

Bless those whose daily work quietly carries the lives of others,
and remember those who climbed the stairs when others were coming down.

When someone needs me, give me the courage not to look away.
When reconciliation is possible, give me the humility to take the first step.

And when life places a staircase before me, Lord, give me enough courage to begin climbing,
enough compassion to keep going, and enough love to remember why.

Amen.

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.

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!



... celebrate those who help others learn our faith.

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 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!



OCIA Registration

©LPI

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>**



A HUMAN LIFE IS WORTH MORE THAN A PAYCHECK

Respect for life does not end when a child is born. The same God-given dignity that belongs to the child in the womb belongs to the worker in the field, the nurse at the bedside, the teacher in the classroom, the parent caring for a family, and the person whose work may be overlooked or poorly rewarded. Our worth is never determined by productivity, usefulness, job title, or paycheck. Before we are workers, employers, consumers, or customers, we are sons and daughters of God.

As we celebrate Labor Day, Catholic teaching invites us to see the person behind the work. Workers deserve fair treatment and just compensation; employers deserve recognition for the responsibilities and risks they carry; and all of us are called to notice with gratitude the people whose labor quietly makes our lives possible. Respect Life means respecting the whole life. Whenever we refuse to measure another person's worth by what that person can produce, we proclaim a fundamental truth of the Gospel: **a human life has no price because a human life is priceless.**



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS GALA!

**Monday, Dec 7th and
Wednesday, Dec 9th**

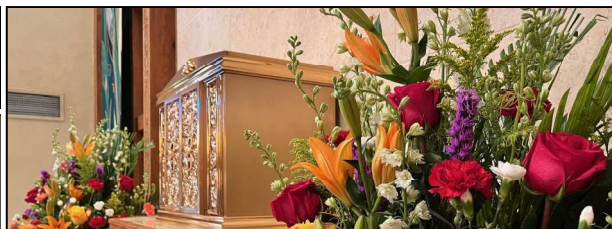
**Tickets go on sale
Wednesday, Nov 4th
at 8am in the
Parish Office.**



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 7	
8:00 am	+Ray Shuford	Susan & Frank Mazzeo
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 8	
8:00 am	+John Arendes	Joann Arendes
WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 9	
8:00 am	+Jim Sullivan	Katherine Sullivan
THURSDAY	SEPTEMBER 10	
8:00 am	+Albert Kidwell	His Loving Mother, Sally
FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 11	
8:00 am	+Karen Roggenburk	Don & Marlene Graven
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 12	
8:00 am	+Frank & +Lucy Mazzeo	Susan & Frank Mazzeo
3:30 pm	+James Seymour	His Loving Wife
5:30 pm	+Albert Kidwell	His Loving Mother, Sally
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 13	
7:30 am	+Jack Figurski	His Loving Wife, Ethel
9:30 am	+Pat Thompson	The Hammarberg Family
11:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Leo	
3:00 pm - Spanish	Special Cumulative Intentions	
5:00 pm	+Sharon Valus	Dan Bardauskis



Flowers this week are dedicated to Parishioners of St. Leo

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

We Pray for Our Troops...

Lt. Marco Colavecchia
Brian Dearcia Leon
Michael DeSantis
Cpt. Mary Kate Flynn
Lt. Thomas A. Flynn
Cpt. Sean Flynn
Aaron Gaudet
Thomas Geanuracos
Carlos Gonzales
Lt. Andrew D. Holt
Brian Howlett
Lt. Com. Matthew Kleine
Lt. Wm. Reed Leesman
Lt. Col. Nicholas LoRusso

Joseph McDermond
Daniel McDonald
Cpt. Kyle Martin
Michael Oliveira
Sgt. Thomas Pauls
Nick Parrozzio
Cpt. Evan Razzano
Cpt. Brayden Reichenbach
Lt. Riley N. Schliem
Lt. Col. Jonathan W. Schwarz
Lt. Col. Peter Shayhorn
*All serving in the military,
especially those in combat.*

We pray today for...

Linda Aquino
Clayton Aunkle
Linda Bardol
Jeffrey Bogart
Bob Brock
Hildi Brown
Larry Brown
Denise Buk
Isabelle Marie Caiola
Patrick Cain
Peter Castro
Michelle Chiarulli
Scott Cochell
Lourdes Coll
Jeff Davis
Tara DeRoma
Robby Dirks
Jaden Anthony Droz
Jim Esposito
Brad Fairfield
Rudolph & Mary Fazio
Michael Federico
Brynn Forlizzi
Cory Fredericksen
Gisette Lupita Garcia
Ellie Gaspar
Paul Gaspar
Vincent Gil
Kevin Glowacki
Ben Gondersone
Rich Gonzalez
Karen Grimshaw
Luke Hass
Chie Herron
Jackie Herron
Robbin Holcomb
Mathew Hughes
Kendall Hunter
Nolan Kane
Matt Knight
Mary Kobel

Robert Kochalka
Jeff Lally
Karen Lamont
Joanne Laurenzana
Emily Lienesch
Mark Lips
Mary Mavilla
Tim McAuliff
Beverly McDowell
Audrey Grace Neeley
Glenn Nelson
Rita Off
Paul Orzech
Rev. Marcel Pasciak
Mary Pearce
Beverly Pecor
Michelle Pennell
Connie Phillips
Aiden Putnam
Mary Ritt
Tessa Santagate
Cindy Santiago
Gary Schomaker
Louis Simonini
Michael Anthony Sforza
Charlie Sweeney Jr.
Bonnie Tenhaken
Vivian Thomas
Eleanor Trevison
Debra Vannotti
Justin VanNorstrand
Jane Venuti-Tontodonato
Tim Young
William Welch
Shelly Yuhas Lowry
Ray Zonghetti
Fabiala, Krislin, Michael,
Michael R., Tray.
Present & past parish priests.

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



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
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
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Lector Coordinator for Weekdays	Dan Bardauskis.....992-0901
Mass in Polish Coordinator	Maryla Basara..405-2151
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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

JOURNEY TOGETHER IN FAITH AND HOPE



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.



Father Tim has asked for your prayers as he recovers from his recent knee replacement surgery.

We Pray for the Recently Deceased Of Our Parish

William Grotevant
Donna Koul
Gary Becker
Robert Hach
Amalia Soto Torres



Please join us at a special 8am Mass this Friday, the 25th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, as we honor those who were killed, and those courageous people who risked their lives to help others.

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.



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!

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.

El personal de Educación Religiosa estará en el vestíbulo (nártex) de la iglesia después de las misas de las 9:30 am, 11:30 am y 3 pm, a partir del próximo fin de semana, para ayudarle con la inscripción y responder a sus preguntas.



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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