



St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

905.655.3286 • Fax: 905.655.4519

www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: office@stleothegreat.ca

Pastor: Father Mounir El-Rassi

Parish Secretary: Magda Nowak 905-655-3286 ext. 1001

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday 8 am to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday by appointment only.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Friday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass)

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Youth Mass

Sunday 9:00 a.m. (with Children's Liturgy JK, SK, Grade 1 & 2) & 11:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please download the Baptism Information Kit and Registration Form from the parish website, www.stleothegreat.ca

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage preparation course. Please call the Parish Office.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.

Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the church.

LOCAL HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY PASTORAL VISITATION

If you or someone in your family is in the Oshawa, Whitby or Port Perry Hospitals and would like to have a priest (for serious reasons) visit the person who is sick for Anointing of the Sick, Last Rites, Confession or Communion, please note that there is a full-time Catholic Priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether *Hospital Chaplain* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If the Hospital Chaplain is not available and there is an emergency requiring a Catholic priest, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286 and when prompted, press "8" and leave your message. Fr. Mounir will receive your message (if he is available) and return your call. If there is no emergency but you would like to speak to Fr. Mounir, please call the parish office and leave a message with the parish secretary at 905-655-3286 ext. 1001.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Saturday, December 4th

4:30 p.m. † Stephen Jakabfy

Sunday, December 5th

9:00 a.m. † Fred Molica

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Benedetto Tuzi

Tuesday, December 7th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Fr. Taras

Wednesday, December 8th

8:30 a.m. † Vera Creron

† Delia Marquez

All souls in purgatory

Thursday, December 9th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Sonia Palencia

Friday, December 10th

8:30 a.m. To the Holy Spirit for the youth of the parish

Saturday, December 11th

4:30 p.m. † Antonio Tamburro & Annibale & Angelina Cirignano

Sunday, December 12th

9:00 a.m. † Richard & Elizabeth Murphy

11:00 a.m. † Vince Corvinelli

Once again this Advent Season, St. Leo the Great Parish will be collecting items for the **Cornerstone Men's Hostel in Oshawa**. Items necessary to the men who live on the streets include: new-only socks, underwear, toothbrushes and deodorant, shaving cream, foot powder, lip balm and Kleenex tissues. We cannot accept used clothing. Please drop off these items in the bins located in the vestibule of the church beginning Dec 4. Thank you for your continued support.

Friars' Student Writing Contest 2022 Win Great Prizes!

It is time once again for the Friars' Student Writing Award. Students aged 13-19 are invited to submit a 450-500-word essay for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated from January 18 to 25, 2022. This year, the theme and the resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 have been prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches based in Beirut, Lebanon. The theme of the contest is: "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Mt.2:2). The deadline for the writing contest is Monday, February 14, 2022 at 2 p.m. Please see the poster for more contest details:

<https://bit.ly/FriarsStudentWritingContest2022>

Virtual Rosary Prayer Group:

Wednesday 4:30 pm (30 minutes)

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/efc-tvjz-ctv>

Leader: Marianne Amodeo

Divine Mercy Lectio Divina Prayer Group:

Thursday 4:30 pm (1 hr)

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/efc-tvjz-ctv>

Leader: Marianne Amodeo

Saints Series with Chris Woodward (M.A., M.Div)

Fridays 7:30 pm (1 hr)

Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/jyi-pkge-ghu>

Join Chris for a virtual seminar on the life and times of a particular Catholic saint, exploring the history and spirituality of these heroic men and women.

Donating Securities

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The Illuminating Story of the Advent Wreath

Of the many symbols that mark the liturgical seasons of the Latin Church calendar, few are better known or more beloved than the Advent wreath, which marks the passage of the four weeks preceding Christmas.

What are the origins of the Advent wreath?

While it might seem unthinkable to celebrate the season of Advent without the longstanding custom of using a wreath to mark its progress, the origins of the Advent wreath are mysterious.

Pre-Christian Germanic peoples mounted lit candles on boughs in the month of December as a sign of hope during the darkest time of the year. In the Middle Ages, Christians adapted the tradition and used the bright candles as a preparation for the coming of Christ – the true light of the world – at Christmas. By the 16th century, use of the wreath became more formalized in Catholic and Lutheran circles.

What is the meaning of Advent?

Because Advent is so closely related to Christmas, it can scarcely be understood apart from that joyous feast. The word Advent comes from the Latin, *Adventus*, which means “coming.” It is the season in which we look forward to Christ’s coming at Christmas, and, less obviously, his Second Coming as well.

By the 10th century, influenced by Gallican traditions, the Roman Church had come to emphasize fasting and penance as a way of preparing the soul to receive Christ at Christmas.

What is the symbolism of the Advent wreath?

This penitential tradition helps explain the colour of the four candles found on the classic Advent wreath. Violet is a colour associated with penance, hence, the three violet candles call to mind the prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works to be undertaken as we await Christ’s coming.

The rose-coloured candle, used on the third Sunday of Advent, represents the joy that the Christian experiences as they have reached the halfway point of the season and await the revelation of the light of Christ. Priests also wear rose vestments during this Sunday, which is known as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for “rejoicing.”

Some modern adaptations include the use of a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ, and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The circular shape of the wreath which has no discernable beginning or end, along with the evergreens of which it is made, symbolize God’s eternity, the immortality of the soul and the eternal life found in Christ, to whom the wreath points.

Meditating on the Advent wreath

Next time we look at the flickering candles of the wreath, perhaps we can call to mind the invitation to prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming at Christmas and be filled with hope as “The true light, which enlightens everyone, [is] coming into the world” (Jn. 1:9).

Fr. Seamus Hogan is an associate professor of Church history at St. Augustine’s Seminary.

Saint Nicholas’ Story

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.


Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.




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