

# St. Leo The Great

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

905.655.3286

www.stleothegreat.ca e-mail: officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com

**Pastor:** Father Mounir El- Rassi

**Parish Secretary:** Sandy Yatabe 905-655-3286 ext. 1

### Office Hours (Summer Schedule)

Monday, Saturday & Sunday: closed

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00 pm

### Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:30 am

Wednesday: 7:00 pm

First Saturday: 8:30 am

### Benediction and Adoration

Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

### Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am - with Children's Liturgy

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday: 9:15 am - 9:45 am

Saturday: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

### Ave Rosarium Cenacle Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Contact: francavascol@gmail.com

### Sacrament of Baptism

Go to our website Forms

### Sacrament of Marriage

Contact your parish priest at least one year in advance. 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.

### Altar Servers' Ministry

Altar Servers / children serve the mass they attend. Arrive 15 minutes before your mass if possible. Please register children for this ministry at the Welcome Centre.

### Knights of Columbus

Peter Darcy Grand Knight Contact: stleokoc@gmail.com

### Saint Vincent de Paul

President: Maureen Kerr maureen.kerr100@gmail.com  
905-655-3286 ext 3

### Catholic Women's League (CWL)

President: Shannon Rogers smarogers@gmail.com

### Catering Services

Franca Vasco 905-621-9658

### Federation of North American Explorers (FNE)

Founder: Paul Ritchi Paul.ritchi@gmail.com 416-435-6593

**To become a Catholic** Please contact the parish office

### Local Hospitals & Emergency Pastoral Visits

There is a full-time Catholic priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week: Oshawa, Whitby and Port Perry. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether Hospital Chaplain is present in the Hospital or when he will be. If there is an emergency, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286, ext 8

## MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 13th

4:30 p.m. + Edward Fox

### Sunday, December 14th

9:00 a.m. + Larry Hallihan

11:00 a.m. + Michael Giardullo

### Tuesday, December 16th

8:30 a.m. + Innocenzo & + Vincenzina & + Attilio  
& Maria Tuzi

### Wednesday, December 17th

7:00 p.m. ackie Teevan

### Thursday, December 18th

8:30 a.m. + Innocenzo & + Vincenzina & + Attilio  
& Maria Tuzi

### Friday, December 19th

8:30 a.m. + Lorraine Yatabe

### Saturday, December 20th

4:30 p.m. + Edward Fox

### Sunday, December 21st

9:00 a.m. + Harold Coker

11:00 a.m. Family of Harold Coker

**Pray for our deceased parishioners:**

**For: Sanctuary Light Request**

**For: Vigil Light for Mary.**

**For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**For a visit by the parish priest.**

*Make your request at the office*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **Christmas Bake Sale** **December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**

Sale of baked goods will take place this weekend after all Masses on Dec 13 & 14. Proceeds from the bake sale will go towards the Building Fund

### **Kitchen & Hall Floors**

We are in the process of getting quotes for our Kitchen & Hall Floors. Your Comments or suggestions are welcome.

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to the CWL for their generous donation of \$ 500 from the CWL Vendors Fair. This gift is going towards our Parish Maintenance costs.

### **ST. LEO THE GREAT** **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Saturday December 20  
Featuring the Clarington Concert Band  
Starts at 7:00 PM.  
Admission: Freewill Offering

### **CWL Christmas Basket**

CWL Christmas Basket worth over \$600 featuring Maple Leaf Max Domi Jersey on sale in the vestibule. \$ 2 each or 3 for \$ 5. Draw at noon on December 21st.

### **Advent Confession at St. Leo's**

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am -10: 30 am

### **2026 Offertory Envelopes**

Kindly pickup your 2026 Offertory Envelopes that are on a table in the vestibule. If you need any help finding your box of envelopes, please ask an Usher. For PAG Parishioners requiring special envelopes, please put your name down on the sheet.

### **Christmas Decoration** **December 19,2025**

We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas. If you are available, come join us. We are meeting at 10:00am in the hall.

### **Employment Opportunities**

Looking for work, please check the board next to the Welcome Centre for Job Postings.

**Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year**  
Archdiocese of Toronto Year of Jubilee Committee wish to extend a warm invitation to the faithful of the archdiocese to join with Cardinal Leo for the Closing Mass for the Year of Jubilee on **Sunday, December 28, 2025**, at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 5 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with numerous priests present from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. All are most welcome. Each Jubilee Pilgrimage Church will also celebrate a Closing Mass for the Year of the Jubilee on Sunday, December 28, 2025,

at a regularly scheduled mass of their own choice. Please visit the pilgrimage church websites for further details: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/year-of-prayer/home/pilgrimage-churches/>

### **Year-End ShareLife Parish** **Campaign & Matching Gift** **Program**

Make your gift to ShareLife: Your gift will double in value! From November 3 until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. The ShareLife Parish Campaign brings our Catholic faith and Gospel values to life, uniting us as a strong and compassionate Catholic community. With your loving support, ShareLife-funded agencies are helping the most vulnerable in

our community and around the world. Thank you for living the Gospel this Christmas by providing for those in need. Our goal this year is [insert goal amount]. To date we have achieved [insert amount raised]. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](https://sharelife.org/donate)

### **Third Sunday of Advent** **December 14,2025**

#### **What does the Gospel reading say?**

The reading contains two parts.

In the first, John the Baptist, who is in prison, sends messengers to Jesus to ask "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?"

Jesus replies by telling them to report to John what they have seen: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

He adds: And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.

In the second part of the reading, as the messengers are preparing to leave, Jesus pays tribute to John the Baptist by asking the crowd a series of rhetorical questions about why they went out into the desert to see John when he was ministering.

The implied answer to the questions is "no" (no, they did not go out to see a reed shaken by the wind or someone dressed in fine clothing) until he names going out to see a prophet.

At this point Jesus affirms that they did go out to see a prophet, "and more than a prophet."

He then identifies why John is more than a prophet: He is the fulfillment of Malachi 3:1, in which it is said:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

Finally, Jesus states:

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist;

yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

What does this mean?

The Jewish people in Jesus’ day had certain ideas about what the Messiah would be like and what he would do.

It was common to envision him as an earthly king who would deliver Israel from the dominion of the hated Romans by violent revolution.

John the Baptist may have shared some of this expectation, for even though he had received a revelation pointing to Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:30-34).

Despite this revelation, Jesus’ subsequent actions (his failure to start a revolution?) apparently caused John to question whether Jesus was the Messiah.

Rather than lose faith or let his doubts eat away at him, John decided to confront the issue directly, and so he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if his understanding of Jesus’ Messianism was correct.

Jesus indicated that it was, pointing to the fact that he had been fulfilling the predicted miracles and the preaching of the good news proper to the Messianic age.

One of these miracles was the recovery of sight to the blind (already mentioned in the first reading and the responsorial Psalm).

Jesus then states that those who do not take offense at him (i.e., who do not reject him) are blessed.

In the original context, it applies to John the Baptist (he will be blessed for maintaining faith in Jesus, despite his doubts).

The same principle, however, applies to us as well.

As John’s messengers are departing, Jesus pays tribute to their master, stating that he was a genuine prophet—and even more than that—he was the messenger prophesied in

Malachi, who would be the herald of the Messiah.

This makes him the greatest prophet of all, which is why Jesus says that among those born of women, none has been greater than John.

Despite this, Jesus states that “the least in the kingdom of heaven” is even greater.

In this context, the kingdom of heaven is understood in its earthly manifestation as the Church, in the Christian age, which John did not live to see.

Every Christian—man, woman, and child—is more blessed than John because we didn’t just get to herald him. We get to live in the age he inaugurated, to share in its many blessings, and to be part of his mystical Body.

<https://ewtn.co.uk/>

### **Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?**

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

### **Reflection: The justice of God is the joy of the poor**

On this Gaudete Sunday, the gospel invites us to reflect on something unique as the foundation of the source of our Joy: Sharing what we have as a source of God’s justice for the poor. Today, the third Sunday of Advent, let us remind ourselves that the true sense of joy is sharing what we can with those in need.

In the gospel, the crowd asks the prophet John the Baptist, “What should we do?” the prophet responds by inviting them to stop amassing unnecessary stuff as they wait for Jesus’ coming: Stop collecting more than what is prescribed. Be open and let us share what we have.

We are invited to make this advent the most pedagogical spiritual season of our lives, where we can learn how to

wait and meet Christ in others. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*

(The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis says, “Whenever we encounter another person in love [by giving], we learn something new about God.” We become closer to God, and therefore, we are happier.

This Sunday, John the Baptist reminds us that the coming of our Lord requires a certain emptiness on our part. We must let go of our attachments, get closer to Christ, and empty ourselves of everything holding us back.

Sometimes, in our faith, we can still be like children. We might not immediately understand the spiritual reason behind what God is asking of us, yet if we pray, if we have faith, hope, and love, we can empty ourselves and discover that joy.

This sense of joy that the gospel invites us today is not a “feeling good” joy. It’s not like a drink that makes us happy. It requires work to learn to detach ourselves from whatever is holding us back from meeting our Lord. Advent is about waiting, sharing, and joy. Let us share what we have as we wait for the one who is coming. While we wait, let us make this time the most joyful experience of our faith by detaching ourselves from what holds us back from being fully joyful.





The church invites us to pray and reflect on what gives us joy other than pouring ourselves out for the poor. I may want to pray with the following questions: What is holding me back in this season? How can I happily empty myself to receive the Lord? How would I feel if I found that my reluctance to share what I have would impact the coming of our Christ in the life of someone in need?

May this season of waiting and giving be our greatest joy of emptying ourselves to receive Jesus.

<https://uscatholic.org>





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