

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: francavasco1@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, January 10th

4:30 p.m. + Steven Lynett + Dennis
+ Dennis Daniels

Sunday, January 11th

9:00 a.m. + Tomasina & + Frances
Parente

11:00 a.m. + Christopher Borysenko

Tuesday, January 13th

8:30 a.m. Stefania

Wednesday, January 14th

7:00 p.m. + Maria Mastropietro
+ Suad Anton

Thursday, January 15th

9:00 a.m. + Innocenzo & + Vincenzina
Mammone & + Attilio &
+ Maria Tuzi

Friday, January 16th

9:00 a.m. + Armenio Medeiros &
Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, January 17th

4:30 p.m. + William Daly

Sunday, January 18th

9:00 am + Susan & + Alex Quinn
11:00 a.m. + Francesco Caruso

Pray for our deceased parishioners:

Maria Mastropietro, Kenise Kilbride, Vincent
Murphy, Suad Anton, Carlos Felipa

For: Sanctuary Light -Veronica Duarte

For: Vigil Light for Mary. Veronica Duarte

For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.

For a visit by the parish priest.

Make your request at the office

2nd Collection
January 10th & 11th, 2026
Building and Maintenance
Fund

Knights of Columbus
Breakfast Sunday
January 11, 2026

Knights of Columbus breakfast in the hall this coming weekend after the 9am and 11 am mass on January 11.

St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. Leo's Parish

With the utmost gratitude we thank our wonderful parishioners for their generosity during this past year's St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal for our 'Neighbours in Need'.

All told, we received \$12,960 in Christmas Donations and were able to help 38 Families (71 Adults and 50 Children). We distributed: \$5,500 in Walmart cards, with the additional funds going to continuing support throughout the year.

Our Vincentian team wants to say
THANK YOU, you've made a big difference!

BASKiTS

Purveyors of Fine Gifts

We would like to acknowledge the generous Christmas Basket from Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services Archdiocese of Toronto.

2026 Offertory Envelopes

Reminder to 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.

Employment Opportunities

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

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY
NO GREATER LOVE

Lift Jesus Higher Rally registration is now OPEN!

For more than thirty years, the Lift Jesus Higher Rally has brought together Catholics of all ages from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond for a day of fellowship, inspiration, and drawing closer to the Lord. We often hear from attendees that the rally is the highlight of their year! The 2026 rally will be held Saturday, March 14, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. A youth rally will be held at the same time in the John Basset Theatre.

<https://ljhr.ca/>

Annual Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity Prayer Service
2026

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 4 p.m.
Venue: Runnymede United Church,
432 Runnymede Rd, Toronto, ON
M6S 2Y8

Theme: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4)
Join Bishop John A. Boissonneau and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations and the GTA Council of Christian Churches.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Come & See – Discernment
Weekend Retreat – February 27 –
March 1, 2026, at St. Augustine's
Seminary

Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director
The Office of Vocations will be hosting a Come & See Weekend Discernment Retreat for men 18 years and older, at St.

Augustine's Seminary on Friday, February 27 (6:30 p.m.) until Sunday, March 1 (2 p.m.). This Retreat offers a way for men to discern a possible call to priesthood at our seminary.

Registration must be done online at www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee
For more information, please email vocations@archtoronto.org.

Sunday Gospel
January 11, 2026
Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"

Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us

to fulfill all righteousness."

Then he allowed him.

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold,

the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Reflection on the Baptism of the Lord

John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets, entrusted with the mission to immediately prepare the way for the Messiah. Today's feast marks a pivotal transition from the Old Law to the New. Prior to Jesus' baptism, John's mission was in full motion. With Jesus' baptism, the mission of the Old Testament prophets is fulfilled, and the New Law of grace begins.

Why did Jesus enter the waters of baptism? He was sinless and had no need of repentance. Yet, in His

divine wisdom, Jesus chose to be baptized to sanctify the waters, opening the gateway of grace for all who would follow. By entering the waters of baptism, Jesus set a precedent. Every Christian who enters the waters of baptism meets our Lord there, sharing in His life of grace.

As we reflect on Christ's baptism today, we are invited to consider our own. Most of us were baptized as infants and have no memory of the event. Others came to baptism later in life, fully aware of the grace they were receiving. Regardless of when it occurred, baptism's effects are profound and enduring. That singular moment of sanctification forever changed us, and its transformative power remains active within us.

Through baptism, Jesus meets us under the waters. When baptism is performed by full immersion, it powerfully symbolizes the reality of this encounter. We enter the waters of repentance, as John offered, but we emerge united with Christ. Just as the Father's voice declared at Jesus' baptism, "You are my beloved Son...", so too does the Father continually speak to us after our baptism, affirming our identity as His beloved children. The Holy Spirit descends upon us, and we are offered every gift of the Spirit, provided our hearts remain open.

Baptism occurs only once in our lives and imprints on our souls an "indelible spiritual mark (character)" (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1272 and 1274). This mark configures us to Christ and signifies our permanent belonging to Him and His Church. It cannot be lost or removed, even by mortal sin. However, while this character endures forever, the state of sanctifying grace within our souls can be lost through mortal sin. In such cases, the grace of baptism is restored through the

Sacrament of Reconciliation in which our souls are once again cleansed and brought back into full communion with God. Marked as members of Christ's Body, we are continually disposed to receive sanctifying grace through the other sacraments, as long as we remain in a state of grace. Baptism accomplishes this disposition, enabling us to participate fully in the life of grace that flows from Christ.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, reflect today on your own baptism. You are forever marked as a child of God. You encountered our Lord under the waters of baptism, were cleansed of all sin, and were filled with sanctifying grace. Though sin diminishes or even extinguishes that grace when it is mortal, the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores it, and the Eucharist and other sacraments increase it. Always return to your baptismal grace, seeking to live out your identity as God's son or daughter, as this sacred mark intends.

<https://www.mycatholiclife.org/>

We are called to Reflection

We who are baptized into Him are called to participate in this ongoing redemptive mission. The public mission and ministry of Jesus began at the waters of Jordan. However, it continues through His Church, of which we are made members through Baptism.

The Christian vocation, no matter what our state in life, job, or specific response to God's call, is to reveal the Love of the Trinity to the entire human race, to bring them to the Waters of Baptism in order to encounter the Lord and experience New Life and be incorporated into the new humanity of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. There, joined in Him and with one another, we are called to participate in His ongoing redemptive mission until

He returns to make all things new. We are invited on this Feast to grasp ever more deeply the heart of the Christian life and to choose to live our lives in the Lord, by living in the heart of the Church for the sake of the world.

<https://catholicresources.education/>

Positive Message for 2026

As we embrace the New Year 2026, the Catholic Church invites us to receive God's ancient and enduring blessing, proclaimed through Moses: **"The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace"** This is no fleeting wish, but a divine promise of strength, courage, and hope rooted in God's providence, renewed each January 1 on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

In the face of global uncertainties, **only God can touch the depths of the human soul; his peace alone can restore hope to humanity.** Through Mary's intercession as Mother of God, whose divine maternity was affirmed by the faithful at Ephesus—we ask for this blessing to fill our days with good fruits, justice, and peace for the whole world. May 2026 bring abundant graces, consolations, and the joy of Christ's light to you and your loved ones.

Let us begin this year by entrusting ourselves to the Lord, who protects and unites families in unbreakable love. **May God bless you richly in 2026, granting health, unity, and the peace that surpasses understanding.**

<https://www.magisterium.com/>





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