



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, March 7th

8:30 a.m. + Bob Nelitz

4:30 p.m. + Antonio Tamburro

Sunday, March 8th

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

11:00 a.m. Carmen McInerney

Tuesday, March 10th

8:30 a.m. + Romeo Asselin

+ Marjorie Asselin

Wednesday, March 11th

7:00 p.m. + Kenise Kilbride

Cecilia Meireles Goncalves

Thursday, March 12th

8.30 a.m. Unborn due to miscarriage

Friday, March 13th

8.30 a.m. + Guy Asselin

+ Paul Frenedo-Cumbo

Saturday, March 14th

4:30 p.m. + Ed Fox

Sunday, March 15th

9:00 a.m. + Robert, Domenic & Rocchina De-Giorgia

11:00 a.m. + Hector Anselmo

Pray for our deceased parishioners:

For: Sanctuary Light - Kenise Kilbride

For: Vigil Light for Marjorie Asselin

For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.

For a visit by the parish priest.

Make your request at the office

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Lenten Poverty Soup & Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent, join us in the hall from 5:00pm to 6:45pm for soup, bread and water.

Following the soup meal is Stations of the Cross in church at 7:00pm.

RESCHEDULED

Breakfast in the Church Hall

is now:

Sunday, MARCH 15th
after both masses 9am and 11am
Offered by The Knights of Columbus

Sunday, April 26th at 11:00am
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo will be celebrating Mass at Holy Redeemer Parish /Pickering 60th Anniversary
RSVP before March 15th to holyredeemerPI@archtoronto.org

A Day with Mary

Advanced Announcement

May 30th, 2026

11:00am – 4pm

Villanova College

King City, Ontario

Additional details to follow

Annual Financial Report for 2025:

Available at the Welcome Centre for your convenience.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Day of Reconciliation –

March 25th, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm

March 28th, from 9:00am – 10:30am

Volunteer Help is needed for USHERS especially for the Saturday (4:30pm) Mass and the Sunday (9:00am) Mass

If you are available and interested, please speak to Richard Lawrence on Sundays after 11:00am Mass or email Richard.a.Lawrence@outlook.com

Additional Volunteers are needed for Sacramental Preparations and Events Committee. Please email the office at officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com

We are hiring!

Secretary Position at our office – St. Leo the Great Parish

if you are looking for full time (Tuesday – Friday) and long term position with our parish.

Book Keeper position –

Must be familiar with finances and reports (preferably church) such as monthly consolidation, payroll, tax reports, mid year and end of year reports. Also, taxation filing and HST rebates, etc.

Send your resume to the office
ATTENTION: Fr. EL-Rassi



GOSPEL

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39a, 40-42

Would you do a favor for someone who snubbed you or treated you like an enemy? Jesus did just that and more! He treated the Samaritans, the sworn enemies of the Jews, with great kindness and respect. The Samaritans who lived in middle region of Israel between Galilee and Judaea and the Jews who lived in the rest of the land of Israel had been divided for centuries. They had no dealings with one another, avoiding all social contact, even trade, and inter-marriage. If their paths crossed it would not be unusual for hostility to break out.

When Jesus decided to pass through Samaria he stopped at Jacob's well because it was mid-day and he was both tired from the journey and thirsty. Jacob's well was a good mile

and a half from the nearest town, called Sychar. It wasn't easy to draw water from this well since it was over a hundred feet deep. Jesus had neither rope nor bucket to fetch the water.

When a Samaritan woman showed up at the well, both were caught by surprise. Why would a Samaritan woman walk a mile and a half in the mid-day heat to fetch her water at a remote well rather than in her local town? She was an outcast and not welcomed among her own townspeople. Jesus then did something no respectable Jew would think of doing. He reached out to her, thus risking ritual impurity and scorn from his fellow Jews. He also did something no strict Rabbi would dare to do in public without loss to his reputation. He treated the woman like he would treat one of his friends - he greeted her and spoke at length with her. Jesus' welcoming approach to her was scandalous to both Jews and Samaritans because this woman was an adulteress and public sinner as well. No decent Jew or Samaritan would even think of being seen with such a woman, let alone exchanging a word with her!

Jesus broke through the barriers of prejudice, hostility, and tradition to bring the good news of peace and reconciliation to Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles alike. He demonstrated the universality of the gospel both in word and deed. No one is barred from the love of God and the good news of salvation. There is only one thing that can keep us from God and his redeeming love - our stubborn pride and willful rebellion.

What is the point of Jesus' exchange with the Samaritan woman about water? Water in the arid land was scarce. Jacob's well was located in a strategic fork of the road between Samaria and Galilee. One can live without food for several days, but not without water. Water is a source of

life and growth for all living things. When rain came to the desert, the water transformed the wasteland into a fertile field.

The kind of water which Jesus spoke about was living, running, fresh, pure water. Fresh water from a cool running stream was always preferred to the still water one might find in a pool or reservoir. When the Israelites complained about lack of water in the wilderness, God instructed Moses to strike the rock and a stream of fresh living water gushed out (Exodus 17:6). Even though the Israelites did not trust God to care for them in the wilderness, God, nonetheless gave them abundant water and provision through the intercession of his servant Moses.

The image of "living water" is used throughout the scriptures as a symbol of God's wisdom, a wisdom that imparts life and blessing to all who receive it. "The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life" (Proverbs 13:14). "Living water" was also a symbol for the Jews of thirst of the soul for God. The water which Jesus spoke of symbolized the Holy Spirit and his work of recreating us in God's image and sustaining in us the new life which comes from God. The life which the Holy Spirit produces in us makes us a "new creation" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Do you thirst for God and for the life of the Holy Spirit within you?
(Meditation from Laudate)



Saints Perpetua and Felicity

Saints Perpetua and Felicity were early Christian martyrs who died in 203 AD in Carthage (modern Tunisia) during the persecution of Christians under the Roman emperor Septimius Severus. Their story is preserved in The Passion of Saints

Perpetua and Felicity, one of the earliest surviving Christian texts written partly by a woman.

Perpetua was a 22-year-old noblewoman and new mother, while Felicity was her enslaved companion, pregnant at the time of their arrest. Both were catechumens preparing for baptism when they were imprisoned for refusing to renounce their Christian faith. Perpetua's prison diary records vivid spiritual visions that strengthened her resolve. Despite intense pressure from her father to deny Christ for the sake of her infant son, she remained steadfast.

Felicity gave birth prematurely in prison only days before the scheduled execution, allowing her to face martyrdom with the others. The two women, along with fellow Christians Revocatus, Saturninus, and Secundulus, were condemned to die in the arena. After being attacked by wild animals, they were executed by the sword.

Their witness became a powerful symbol of faith, courage, equality in Christ, and steadfast loyalty to conscience. Perpetua and Felicity are honored together in both Eastern and Western Christian traditions, with their feast celebrated on March 7.
(biography Google summary)



Saint John of God

Saint John of God (1495–1550) was a Portuguese-born Catholic saint renowned for his radical compassion toward the sick and poor and for pioneering organized hospital care in early modern Europe. Born João Cidade in Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal, he spent much of his early life as a shepherd, soldier, and bookseller before undergoing a

profound religious conversion in Granada, Spain in 1539.

After hearing a sermon by Saint John of Ávila, John experienced a spiritual awakening that led him to dedicate his life to serving the suffering. Initially misunderstood and even confined to a psychiatric hospital due to his intense public acts of repentance, he soon began personally caring for the poor, the mentally ill, and the abandoned in Granada.

John gathered the sick from the streets, bathing them, feeding them, and providing shelter. His work evolved into a structured charitable hospital that became the foundation for the Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God, a religious order devoted to compassionate healthcare.

He died on March 8, 1550, after exhausting himself while rescuing a drowning man. Canonized in 1690, he is now recognized as the patron saint of hospitals, nurses, and the sick, remembered for transforming Christian charity into organized, dignified medical care.
(biography Google summary)

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfill the whole of your commands. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.





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