

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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

Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Parish Secretary: Magda Nowak 905-655-3286 x 101

Youth Director: Dennis Wardle x 109

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Friday Office Closed.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.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 *Father Pius Alejo* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If Father Pius Alejo 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. Charles 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. Charles, please call the parish office and leave a message with the parish secretary at 905-655-3286 x 101.

St. Leo the Great Parish, Brooklin

THREE-DAY LENTEN RETREAT
with Catholic Evangelist, Mark Mallett
Sunday February 25, Monday February 26
& Tuesday February 27

Each evening from 7-9 pm. in the church.

A free-will offering will take place each evening to support Mark's family and ministry.

BEAUTIFUL WORDS FOR A FAITHFUL SOUL

Parishioners will have often heard me express my personal sadness at the state of the way many people these days, and Catholics, treat the reality of death in the eulogies I hear delivered at funeral home services or in the way people act around the idea of death in general. Sometimes a person dies and you learn that the family isn't planning to have anything until six months down the road or so. Then there is the death of the Catholic Funeral in our time when one hears of a faithful Catholic who died and there isn't going to be a Funeral Mass, just a celebration of life. Faithful Catholic souls, I believe, will be granted the permission by God to haunt the lives of those who don't honour the faithful Christian with even a Mass let alone any mention of God at whatever way they decide they want to remember the deceased, if at all.

And yet, every once in a while there is a funeral that is truly filled with faith in God and his promises and the good news that the person who died had it as well as the members of the family who have gathered at a Funeral Mass to commend their soul to God. Such was the case in the sad death of a beloved woman, 51-year-old Catherine McAvoy who taught both at St. Leo's School and St. John Paul II schools here in Brooklin. I remember Catherine as a lively, joy-filled woman gifted with a love for music who brought that gift to our schools Masses. One of our schools had no music at their Masses and we used to have to put on a CD for the opening and closing hymns. Catherine wouldn't hear of it and arranged to be able to go to the school and provide the music even though it wasn't officially one of her schools – and beautiful music it was.

In the last few years Catherine battled, as it seems so many do these days, with that dreaded disease – cancer. She died on Wednesday January 31 at her home leaving behind her husband John of 24 years and their five children between the ages of 12 to 21. The following Monday I attended her funeral at St. Gertrude Parish in Oshawa and the church was literally packed with people who had come to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ and to commend the soul of our dear sister to Jesus Christ who is the Resurrection and the Life forever for all those who believe in him. At the beginning of the funeral a beautiful, faith-filled, God-centered eulogy was given by Catherine's brother-in-law and I thought I would share it here in our parish bulletin as it speaks of faith, hope, great love and give encouragement for any of us when we enter into that great mystery of death and dying in the context of faith.

Words of Remembrance for Catherine McAvoy



My name is John Ryan, and I am Catherine's brother-in-law. It is my great honour and privilege to speak about Catherine on behalf of her husband John, her children James, Patrick, Maria, Kathleen and Clare, her mother Maureen and her sisters Mary Anne, Jane Marie, Martha, Elizabeth and Sarah and the extended Gale and McAvoy families.

Our hearts are filled with sorrow; we have lost a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, teacher, friend, neighbour and parishioner. Today we gather to honour Catherine, to celebrate the way she freely shared the gifts that God bestowed upon her, and to commend her, as our faith teaches, into the arms of our good and loving God.

Catherine was blessed with an active faith. The seeds of her faith were planted by her parents Dan and Maureen and watered well in the family home at 106 Townline Road. It was a home where prayers were said, standards were high, friends and family were welcome, and music was played. One of the joys of the many family gatherings at Dan and Maureen's was when Catherine played the piano and Dan accompanied her on the fiddle. The jigs and reels that drew Maureen, aunts, uncles and children to the dance floor sometimes stopped while Catherine and Dan quickly worked out creative differences.

Catherine radiated God's love. She greeted one and all with a smile and a sparkle in her eye. She laughed freely, often after making a joke about herself. She connected with people wherever she went. Her mother Maureen remembers going one day with Catherine to Home Depot. The man who was helping them was grieving a loss. Catherine and he had a good talk that ended with her giving him a hug. Many of you likely had a similar experience, and for this we should give thanks to God.

One of Catherine's friends captured Catherine's essence in her tribute in the online funeral home guest book: "*Her beautiful smile was an extension of the joyous song she carried in her heart*".

Music was a huge part of Catherine's life. She was part of the music ministry at the Durham District Catholic School Board and played at board masses. She shared her love of music as a teacher at St. Patrick, St. Leo and John Paul II Catholic schools. A parent wrote in the guest book: Mrs. McAvoy helped our daughter find her voice. She was such a beautiful, gentle soul. Catholic education was blessed to have had her as an educator.

And St. Gertrude's was blessed to have her as a parishioner. Even while managing a busy house with five children, Catherine played at Masses at St. Gertrude's and played and sang at funerals and weddings. While Catherine was growing up, she, her sisters and Dan sang and played in the folk group.

When Catherine's own children were about the same age, she and two other teachers started the children's choir at St. Gertrude's. Bells never sounded so good as when the children rang them while singing carols at Christmas.

While there was much joy in Catherine's life, there also was sorrow and pain. She showed great determination, strength and faith in the her last year. Catherine placed herself in God's hands and prayed for God's will and that she be healed so she could continue sharing the gifts she had been given on earth.

Catherine and John travelled to Mexico for treatment at a clinic that aligned with her principled beliefs about health and healing. Always thinking of others, she brought back bracelets she purchased from street vendors, and invited her nieces and nephews to choose one.

In August, Catherine, John, the children, Dan and Maureen travelled to London to attend a healing Mass at Holy Family Parish. It was a difficult, exhausting trip for Catherine but one she wanted to make.

In the midst of her suffering, and after the death of Dan in September, Catherine never lost her faith. Her mother Maureen brought her Communion every morning, and receiving it was such an important part of her day. In her final days, Maureen asked Catherine if she wanted to say the Divine Mercy prayer, and told her she didn't have to say the responses because she was so weak. Maureen started saying the devotion and looked over to see Catherine mouthing the words.

Words fail us when we try to understand why someone so young, so vibrant, so vital and so much fun to be around was taken far too soon. We ache, when looking at the choir loft at St. Gertrude's, that Catherine is not there, helping to fill the church with beautiful song. But our faith calls us to look a little higher — Catherine is resting in the loving arms of God, free from her suffering, and waiting for us to join her one day.

I came across a Youtube video of an interview with a Catholic priest who had been made Prior of the monastery in Norcia, Italy. He was an American in his early sixties who had been asked to serve as leader in this monestary which had been closed for many years, but was reopened at the urging of the townspeople. The Monks of Norcia make CD's of their beautiful Gregorian Chant.

The interviewer surprised me when she was conducting her interview of Fr. Cassian Folsom and suddenly spoke of the priests news that the cancer he had once battled had returned. But Fr. Cassian responded with such peace and calm as he said:

"We can look at death as a thief or as a messenger. A thief comes and steals what is most valuable to us - and so we are afraid.

A messenger comes to tell us that our Beloved is at the door:

we respond much differently, don't we?

That's the kind of choice we have to make, is it a thief or is it a messenger?

For me, it's a messenger."

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 20th

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 21st

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 22nd

8:30 a.m. † Frank Christey

Friday, February 23rd

7:00 p.m. † Lorraine Piccott

Saturday, February 24th

4:30 p.m. † Margaret Bunker

Sunday, February 25th

9:00 a.m. † Mario Orlandi

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Napoleon Edward Enriquez

COINS FOR LIFE 2018

Would you, your family and friends put aside your townies, loonies, quarters, nickels, dimes during the next 4-6 weeks, and contribute these savings to help in the struggle to end abortion and to create a **Culture of Life in Canada**? If so coins for life boxes will be handed out at the back of the church on **the weekend of April 7/8**. This project helps us to continue to run the National March for Life in Ottawa on **May 10, 2018**.

Be sure that your small change can lead to a BIG change in our land and does help to save countless innocent lives now and in the future. God's preborn children in the womb have no voice but ours. You may even wish to make this a family, school, office project? Spread the good news of the sanctity of every life from conception to natural death which God created as no one has the right to destroy that life. In our present-day culture of death society we all have a role to play to reverse the tide even with this **'little project' for life**. The Parish will post the date to return the boxes and if you wish, leave your name/address/email/cell so CLC can thank you personally for your kindness.

For more information call Jenny or Jeff at CLC, 416 204 9749. Volunteers are always needed!

COME & SEE WEEKEND



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Friday, March 23 (begins at 6:30 p.m.) to Sunday, March 25 (ends at 1:30 p.m.), at St. Augustine's Seminary: Inviting single Catholic

men 17 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to a better discernment of God's call for their lives. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca. Registrants 17 years old require parental consent. For more information, please contact Fr. Charles or the Office of Vocations at: 416 968 0997; email: vocations@archtoronto.org




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