



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

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.

EACH FRIDAY...

- **5:00 – 6:30 pm. Soup & Bread in the Hall**
- **6:30 pm. STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
- **7:00 pm. MASS**

***Note: this Friday April 12th will be the last Friday for Soup & Bread for the Lenten season.**

A big note of appreciation to the Catholic Women’s League of our parish for organizing this series of Lenten gatherings which directly benefit those in need in our community, for all those great cooks who made the most delicious soups and our three elementary schools who assisted at designated Soup & Bread Fridays. Blessings!

ANATOMY OF AN ACT OF CONTRITION

Last week the Archdiocese of Toronto called for all parishes to hold a day of Reconciliation where a day of the parishes’ choosing would be designated with various times for Lenten confessions to be heard. Our parish saw four hours dedicated to this end.

For each penitent who goes to confession, after they have confessed their sins they are given a penance and asked to say an Act of Contrition before they receive absolution. Many people may not have learned or put to memory an Act of Contrition from their First Confession days but it is never too late to learn one of the many that are out there so that you are prepared in the confessional for what will most certainly be asked of you. (Our confessional has one posted to the right of the confessional screen.)

I thought it would be good to dissect the Act of Contrition in its various elements in order to better understand the context of our sins and how they affect us and God.

O MY GOD

How often this grouping of words are said without any intention of talking to God in everyday life. Even atheists use this phrase. This salutation is intended as reverence in prayer before God as we approach His throne of mercy and forgiveness with a sense of awe and sorrow for our sins at the same time. God is rightly the God of all, yet He has become personal through the Incarnation of His Son, Jesus, who taught us to call on God as “Our Father”.

I AM HEARTILY SORRY

Sometimes, to the priests’ ears, the word ‘heartily’ can sound like “hardly”. At any rate, it is with our whole heart that we should hate our sins because we should love God with our whole heart.... “Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart...” (Luke 10:27). We should have an attitude of true sorrow for our sins in the face of the great goodness and holiness of our God. Our sins aren’t simply pesky little things that we need to drop off at a confessional, we bring

them to Christ Himself who is already there, waiting for us to come and accept and receive His pardon, mercy and love. I am sure that every priest who heard a woman confess to having had an abortion has done so with tears and great sadness. Sin never and can never make us happy.

FOR HAVING OFFENDED THEE.

Our sin is an offense to God, our neighbour and ourselves. It has a social implication and separates us from the Body of Christ just as when we are reconciled we are reconnected to the Body of Christ, the Church. When the New Missal came out a few years ago, some commentators, when hearing of the changes to the wording of the Confiteor recited at the beginning of Mass, said that “through my most grievous fault” wouldn’t fairly apply to nuns, for example, living in cloisters in a life of prayer because they wouldn’t or shouldn’t have ‘grievously’ sinned. However, as St. Paul said in his letter to the Romans (3:23), “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”, the emphasis being on *all*. The closer we come to Christ the more we are aware of sin and how it grieves our God. No holy person I know would suggest that they should be exempt from saying the word *grievous*. Jesus isn’t so close to us that He’s simply reduced to buddy status who loves us so much that He can’t see our sins. Nee sees them. He died for them. We, too, should see our sins as the offense they are, no matter to what degree.

AND I DETEST ALL OF MY SINS

Sin is delicious (temporarily) but it will kill you! If we don’t hate our sins they can easily become our companions like hanging out with people who were a bad influence on you when you were a kid. How many lives have been ruined because people were led down the wrong path which changed the course of their lives or led to their destruction? People who suffer an addiction to gambling, alcohol, pornography or any of the many addictions, even though they hate their addictive behaviour in the long run eventually become a slave to it and hate their master. When we see our sin for what it is then and only then can we hate it. And if we hate it enough we will seek to get rid of it through the beautiful door of mercy called the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

BECAUSE I FEAR THE LOSS OF HEAVEN

Heaven can seem, especially when we are younger, as if it is on the far distant horizon and we can worry about it when it comes apparently closer. In Luke’s Gospel, (12:18) is found the parable Jesus told in response to the love of wealth over life. The man in the parable decides to tear down his barns and build even bigger ones so that he can take life easy, eat, drink and enjoy himself. In response, God said to him, “You fool, this very night you must surrender your life”. At the end of all our lives are what are known as the Four Last Things, of which everyone will receive three: death,

judgment, heaven or hell. (I got to thinking that Our Blessed Mother would have only received one of these: heaven!) Heaven should be our dream, our desire, even our longing which will give a proper and important context to our lives today. Do we truly want to go to heaven? Have we even thought of it? Are we ready for heaven today? Heaven is Jesus!

...AND THE PAINS OF HELL

Fearing the pains of hell is a good thing because hell is not so much a place but a torment of eternal separation from God by our own choosing. Hell IS the absence of God forever. We can really only have a fear of hell if we desire heaven and Jesus. God's judgment of our lives won't be a surprise to us as if God were somehow unfair or lacking information about our circumstances or motives. God knows us through and through. As the Book of Samuel says, "God judges the heart".

BUT MOST OF ALL BECAUSE THEY OFFEND THEE

If we stop to ponder the fact that is found in this line – that God is offended by my persistence in sin – we will realize that this is true because choosing to sin is a rejection of God because we do it or persist in it with full knowledge. Jesus came and died to save sinners so our rejection of God is also a rejection of the saving Cross of Christ.

WHOM I SHOULD LOVE ABOVE ALL THINGS.

First of all, we should love God above all else. Secondly, we should use things and love people, and not the other way around. Sin is a type of idolatry which can become an end in itself if not kept in check.

I FIRMLY RESOLVE WITH THE HELP OF THY GRACE

Repentance is something we must make up our minds to do through resolve and a willingness to change. Grace is God's free gift of help to us to help us avoid sin in the future.

TO CONFESS MY SINS

The Church reminds us that we should go to confession, after having done a personal moral inventory, at least once a year. Good preparation before the celebration of the sacrament makes a world of difference between the act of confession and making a good confession. We want to confess all our sins and not just those that come to mind or happened in the last couple of weeks.

TO DO PENANCE

Our forgiveness has with it the attachment to do the penance given to us by the priest, which we shouldn't delay or neglect.

AND AMEND MY LIFE.

To amend our lives is to resolve to change them or better them after the model of Jesus. "From whom much is given, much is expected", said Jesus. We are made a new creation when all our sins are wiped away. We are not just free but forgiven in Reconciliation. We are given a new start to live differently than before, with God's grace. (Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS

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|---|------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 9th | |
| 8:30 a.m. | + Fred Molica |
| Wednesday, April 10th | |
| 7:00 p.m. | Intentions of Violet & Silvia Elek |
| Thursday, April 11th | |
| 8:30 a.m. | + Shannon Frank |
| Friday, April 12th | |
| 7:00 p.m. | + Shannon Frank |
| Saturday, April 13th | |
| 4:30 p.m. | + Andrew Steen |
| Sunday, April 14th | |
| 9:00 a.m. | Palm Sunday |
| 11:00 a.m. | Palm Sunday |



St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast in the Church hall on April 7th following the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is invited to enjoy a **full**

Breakfast of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice. Adults - \$5.00, Children ages 4 - 12 - \$3.00, and Children under 4 - free. Hope to see you there.



CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry! Mothers of all ages are invited to join us on **Wed Apr 10 at 8pm in the Quiet Room**. Our topic this month is family planning. Spend some time with us as we laugh, learn and share with likeminded Catholic women.

Contact annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com or visit www.catholicmomsgroup.com for more information.

New members are always welcome!

Upcoming Giant Garage Sale/Flea Market



Saturday May 11 organized by the CWL, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul and Mom's Group. This is a Parish wide fundraiser to support the Youth Ministry at St. Leo's. As you spring clean please set aside sporting goods, books, pottery, toys, art work, plants, knick knacks, china and other useful items to donate for sale. Any parishioners who would like to volunteer in any capacity including children's games and baking please call 905 493 4677. More details to follow over upcoming weeks.

SPRING FASHION SHOW

St. Leo CWL presents a Spring Fashion show Sunday April 14 - 1:00 pm. Come for lunch and shop with vendors \$15. Call 905-493-4677 for tickets.




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