



St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

905.655.3286 • Fax: 905.655.4519

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.

ADVENT: WHAT TO DO?

Advent is already upon us and I'm sure most parishioners already have oodles of plans to make and commitments to fulfill. Yet if we choose now to take advantage of what Advent has to offer us – what Christ has to offer us – then we will find our celebration richer and more meaningful beyond the exhaustion which often follows.

Here are some things you can decide to do for yourself.

1. **Go to weekday Mass** once or twice a week.
2. **Attend the weekly Holy Hour** of silent, beautiful, peaceful prayer before the exposed Host. (Friday mornings from 7:30 – 8:30 am followed by Mass)
3. **Read a passage of scripture** each day from one of the Gospels, particularly St. Matthew's Gospel since this is the Gospel we will hear proclaimed in this Year A in the cycle of readings on Sundays.
4. **Look over the Sunday readings** before you go to Mass. This will better enable you to hear the Word of God.
5. **Pray the Rosary** every day.
6. **Prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) during the season of Advent, before Christmas... and try not to wait until the last minute.
(Take a copy of the Examination of Conscience home with you for this preparation.)
7. **Make a Good Confession.** Do not be afraid of this challenging yet freeing, satisfying sacrament that brings us directly in touch with Jesus' forgiveness.
8. **Pray.** Speak to God when you rise in the morning, throughout your day when alone and before you go to bed. Life is filled with distractions for everyone. Take the time and simply say to Jesus wherever you are: Jesus, it's me. Thank you for.... Help me with.... Show yourself to me today....

I have always thought that the Advent we enter into will determine the Christmas we celebrate. The Church reminds us not to anticipate Christmas too much before it comes. Entering into Advent at a time when everyone has already been gearing up for Christmas is certainly a challenge but the beauty of this joyful Advent season isn't in preparing for December 24th and 25th with the exhaustion that often follows but seizing the opportunity to let Advent and its message, its readings and its active 'waiting' teach us about waiting for Jesus' birth in us at the Christmas celebrations as well as preparing our heads and hearts for the Second Coming of Jesus. For the prepared, waiting soul talk of Jesus' return isn't and should not be bad news or a scary event or even something to be feared, but rather a waiting for the arrival of Someone deeply known, One who loves us, and the One who promises us home with Him forever. It is for this reason that we can and do pray in Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

THE ADVENT WREATH: Some Common Questions

From the First Sunday of Advent through to the Fourth Sunday of Advent, progressively a single candle is lit as a way of counting down our time of Advent waiting. Perhaps you've seen different versions of an Advent Wreath and candles and wondered about the differences.

Four or Five Candles?



Traditionally, in Catholic churches, the Advent Wreath has just four candles, though we've all seen five candles on some wreathes. There are 3 purple candles and one rose or pink coloured candle. The order of the candles and

their lighting on each subsequent Sundays of Advent is Purple, Purple, Pink and then Purple. The pink candle reminds us (in case we forgot) that this is a season of joy, not sadness. Our Saviour is coming! The third Sunday when the rose or pink candle is lit is called Gaudete Sunday, which comes from the introduction of the Mass and means "Rejoice!"

The Advent Wreath, since it represents our waiting for the coming of the Lord at Christmas and at the end of time, has four candles, one for each of the four Sundays until Christmas. The entire Advent season is a season of joy and is not penitential in nature (as is Lent) though preparing to go to confession before Christmas is an obviously good and even necessary thing to prepare for the Feast of Christ's Birth. With the arrival of Christmas, our Advent waiting is over, therefore, in Catholic churches we remove the Advent Wreath after the Fourth Sunday and shortly after enter into the celebration of the Birth of Jesus the Messiah, Christmas. In many Protestant churches their wreathes have five candles with a white candle placed in the center of the wreath representing the birth of Jesus. In this case, the wreath is not only considered as representing waiting but also fulfillment. With our parish's lavish and abundant Christmas decorating in the church, having the Advent Wreath present in the midst of it all would start to feel like *Where's Waldo?*

The origin of the Advent Wreath dates back to the middle ages. The winter months were times of longer nights and shorter days and, therefore, candle-use was extended through the darkness. There were pagan customs of making a wheel and placing candles on it symbolizing their desire that the god of light would steer the wheel of darkness back to warmer and brighter and longer days. As with so many pagan customs, Christians took them over to overshadow the false beliefs of many gods (pagan) to the One God of Jesus Christ. The Germanic peoples changed the wheel of light into use in Advent to symbolize the waiting for Christ the Light and was brought to North America in the 18th century. (FrC)

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Tuesday, December 3rd

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4th

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 5th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Benedetto Tuzi

Friday, December 6th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Fr. Taras

Saturday, December 7th

4:30 p.m. † Bp. John Sherlock

Sunday, December 8th

9:00 a.m. † Reg Rochon

11:00 a.m. † Ivan Krizmanic

Sanctuary Lamp Intention: Intentions of Enoia Pacheco



Once again the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is running **the Christmas Angel program** to provide gifts and assistance to our Neighbours in Need over the Christmas holidays. On Nov 30/Dec 1 and Dec 7/8,

Christmas Angels cards will be available for pick up in the foyer before and after each of the masses. Please note that gifts should be dropped off to an SVDP member at the Christmas Angel table (not the church office). Please drop gifts off before any of the masses between Dec 7 and the 11:00am mass on Dec 15. God bless you for your ongoing generosity

St Leo Knights of Columbus will be selling **Christmas Cards and Keep Christ in Christmas Lawn Signs** after the Saturday and Sunday Masses until December 15th.



St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast in the Church hall on December 15th. 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 - \$6.00, Children ages 4 - 10 - \$4.00, and Children under 4 - free. Funds raised from this Breakfast will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Please join us.**

Once again this Advent Season, St. Leo the Great Parish will be collecting items for the **Cornerstone Men's Hostel in Oshawa**. Items necessary to the men who live on the streets include: new-only socks, underwear, toothbrushes and deodorant, shaving cream, foot powder, lip balm and Kleenex tissues. We cannot accept used clothing. Please drop off these items in the bins located in the vestibule of the church.

Thank you for your continued support.

Advent Schedule

PARISH RECONCILIATION

A holy act to give yourself over to in the Advent Season is to prepare for and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

During the *Week of Advent Reconciliations* in the Archdiocese of Toronto, (December 18 – 21), our parish will offer a total of 4-hours of confession on

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 at 9 – 11 am and 6 – 8 pm

Other area parishes will hold their own days and times for the opportunity for confession and these will be either posted on their websites or are available through the Archdiocese's website – archtoronto.org

PARISH POTLUCK



We are happy to announce that our Parish is having another Potluck! It will be on **Sat, Dec 14 after 4:30 p.m. Mass**, organized by the NET Team and parish volunteers. We ask you to please sign up

at the back of the church so that we know how many are attending and what food we have in each category. It is our chance to say good bye to our NET team before they head off for Christmas with their families. This is the third Sunday of Advent, Laudate Sunday, and we hope you will join us for this joyous celebration in anticipation of Christmas.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry as we continue the Momnipotent program which validates the dignity and importance of motherhood by recognizing uniquely feminine strengths, and how to use those strengths to find peace, purpose, balance, and joy in being the woman God created us to be. Our next meeting is on Wed December 11th at 8pm.

Contact annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com or visit www.catholicmomsgroup.com for more information. New members are always welcome!



Handicraft Holy Land Christians

The weekend of December 14-15 we will have with us a special guest from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in The Holy Land. Christians in the Holy land graciously ask your support trough conscience prayers and the purchase of these special religious art pieces.

Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment four our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. Cash, debit and credit cards will be accepted.

May God Bless you for your generosity, for help, and for your prayers." www.HolylandChristians.ca






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