

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

L E N T in the PARISH

LENTEN RETREAT at St. Leo the Great **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 7-9 pm (in church)**

Retreat will be given by Fr. Charles, Pastor
(The evening Mass will be moved to the morning)

Each Friday the **Soup & Bread** will be followed by

- **6:30 pm. STATIONS OF THE CROSS** and
- **7:00 pm. MASS**

Please note: **MASS TIME CHANGE THROUGHOUT LENT**
The regularly scheduled Holy Hour and morning Mass each Friday is cancelled during Lent as there is the Stations of the Cross and Mass each Friday evening.

BE RECONCILED: Go to Confession

It may be that some of the parts of our faith we hold as highly important have been assumed by many as being 'optional', like going to confession. Of course it's not the 'going' part that concerns many people but the 'confession' part. Maybe you feel that you personally don't need the sacrament because your relationship with the Lord is such that He knows you and you know Him and there's nothing else needed to be said. But that smacks of the same problem found in the youth group song I learned many years ago (mentioned in my homily last Sunday) as a teen when some well-intentioned person tore it out of some fundamentalist hymnal and brought it to our youth group meetings where it found its way into our song books. And each week we'd be singing that happy-clappy song *Me And Jesus*. The lyrics went:

*Me and Jesus, got our own thing goin',
Me and Jesus, got it all worked out.
Me and Jesus, got our own thing goin',
We don't need anybody to tell us what it's all about.*

*We can't afford any fancy preachers,
We can't afford any fancy church.
We can't afford any fancy singers,
But the Good Lord's got a lot of good people
out doing his work....*

This song would be the anthem of all who would say, "I'm not religious, I'm spiritual". It can't be just me and Jesus exclusively because Christ obviously founded a Church "... and upon this rock I will build my church...", and that 'rock' was Peter the first Pope. And as the song's lyrics imply there isn't any need for priests, churches, choirs or anyone else besides me in that relationship, not to mention clear, timeless, unchanging teachings, the Mass itself which is the Summit and Source of our faith and relationship with Jesus as the Body of Christ. In the Church, justice is always found in the center: it's not one or the other but both *Me and We*. From Christ Himself who founded His Church, a Church he said the Gates of Hell would never prevail against, we get all of the Sacraments, one of them being the awesome treasure of being

able, through a priest, to not only have our sins forgiven but even better, to KNOW they are forgiven!

Now, if you're a bit rusty as to how you should prepare to go to confession or what you should say when you're in the confessional, please see the two pamphlets I put together for this Lent, found on the Lenten table in the vestibule.

Eleven priests were asked what recommendations they would make to those preparing for and going to confession, and these were their responses:

1. *By doing an examination of conscience we are confronted with our sins, but when we go to confession we are confronted with God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.*
2. *After saying about how long it's been since your last Confession, briefly tell the priest about yourself. (Are you single, dating, remarried, a religious sister?) If we know your situation, it helps us to counsel you.*
3. *Sins are bad choices, not unpleasant emotions; so, confess your sins, not your emotional states.*
4. *Sins committed are an offense to God, but sins confessed are a Canticle to God. So, when you confess your sins to a priest in the sacrament of reconciliation, know that you are also singing praise to God for his great mercy.*
5. *Frequent confession is edifying for your priest and good for your soul! Sins, especially deep-seated or habitual sins, require patience and persistence. Never give up, no matter how many times you've committed the same sin... confession is a sacrament of healing, and just like physical wounds, spiritual wounds can take some time to fully heal.*
6. *Confession is not so much about how bad you are but about how good God is.*
7. *The priest is like a physician: when you go to the doctor, you tell him what has been hurting you and with more or less detail so that he knows how best to heal you. And remember: he has seen many patients with the same symptoms. Trust him, listen to his counsel, and you'll get better soon!*
8. *God works best with a simple, humble confession of sins. God doesn't need a novel. He's read it already. Pride and impenitence sometimes hide beneath our many words. Speaking simply and plainly, naming our sins: it's like being stripped for the Cross, for the death of our sins and the resurrection of forgiveness.*
9. *Just go, no matter what. God's love is stronger than our sins.*
10. *For many people, the biggest improvement in confession would be switching from viewing it as an obligatory, abstract listing of sins to the renewal of a relationship with God.*
11. *Confession is not just a removal of sin, it's an encounter with Christ.*

When we first think about confession and whether we should go, the Holy Spirit is pre-charging our ability to do so as the Spirit convicts us of sin – a necessary thing – and provides us with the ability to prepare ourselves so that we can make a good, thorough confession. If we truly want to be free we should pray to the Holy Spirit to bring to our minds all of our sins, using an *Examination of Conscience* (see parish pamphlet 1) as a solid resource for particular sins we may have forgotten about and then we can go and experience this awesome, powerful and freeing sacrament of Christ's love and forgiveness. (*Fr. Charles*)

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK



Tuesday, March 17th

8:30 a.m. † Alice Launay

Wednesday, March 18th

7:00 p.m. Intentions of Greg McPherson
Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

Thursday, March 19th

8:30 a.m. † Philip Launay

Friday, March 20th

7:00 p.m. † Margaret Forget

Saturday, March 21st

4:30 p.m. † Margaret Forget

Sunday, March 22nd

9:00 a.m. † Margaret Forget

11:00 a.m. † Michele Cavallari

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for intentions of
Enoia Pacheco
Week of March 13 - 19

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food"

As part of the Knights of Columbus 'Food For Families' program, we are inviting the St. Leo the Great community to donate NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS/CANNED ITEMS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT. The reality is that food insecurity is a year-round problem and the numbers of people accessing food banks across Durham Region is sadly increasing. Our local food banks and kitchens depend on the generosity of others to provide food to those who cannot afford food and often struggle to purchase these items as well. The Knights of Columbus hope you can donate to this worthy endeavour. The food drive will begin on Wednesday February 26th and will end on Palm Sunday April 5th. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule.

Exemplification Ceremony for Knights of Columbus

For anyone who has ever wanted to join the KofC and for those who would like to watch our ceremony, you are invited on Sunday March 29, at 12:30 in the Parish. We will be installing new Members into the full Knighthood Degree. St Leo the Great Council. All parishioners are welcome to attend as guests. A reception will be held in the Church Hall afterwards, all are welcome. We encourage Candidates to bring their families and friends to the Exemplification Ceremony and Reception. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Larry Hallihan 416-795-4501 or Alex Sgroi 416-894-7233.

WREATH REMOVAL AT RESURRECTION CEMETERY

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services - Archdiocese of Toronto wishes to remind all families that all wreaths and other articles that are currently at their loved ones' grave to which the family wishes to keep must be removed by Wednesday, April 1st. Articles and wreaths left at the grave after Wednesday, April 1st will be removed and disposed of.



The NET Team is looking for some bean bags (either new or second hand) to have as part of our youth nights, and for our open office. We have no preference about size, color, texture, etc. If you would like to donate, please drop off at the parish office. Thank you for considering to donate towards our youth programming!



Join the 11:00 a.m. choir.

The Sunday 11:00 am choir would like to invite all members of the congregation to think about joining our wonderful choir. We are regularly looking for new members to join the ranks. All ages and vocal abilities are wanted. Music is taught on a weekly basis in a fun and simple way for those who don't read music. If you have been thinking about joining, come out for a week or two and give it a try. Bring a friend with you. The choir sings at the 11:00 mass on Sundays and we rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. For more information about joining the choir, please see Ted, the director, after the 11:00 mass, call 647-302-6996 (cell) or come out to the church on Thursday night at 7:30 pm. Thank you.

**Nurture Life, Oppose Death on Demand!
Contact Your Member of Parliament Today!**

The federal government has tabled legislation to expand what they refer to as medical assistance in dying but is more accurately called euthanasia/assisted suicide. More than 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized since 2016. New legislation would make assisted death available to those without life-threatening illnesses including those with disabilities and those no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. Some Canadians may even be euthanized on the same day they make the request. Visit www.helptheliving.ca to send a letter (prepared for you) to your Member of Parliament expressing deep concern. The process takes less than 5 minutes. More information can also be found at: www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia. We continue to pray and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preventative Measures in Place

The Archdiocese of Toronto continues to work with health officials to monitor the local situation regarding active cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time, Cardinal Collins has asked all parishes to implement the following measures:

- At the Sign of Peace, refrain from shaking hands – a simple bow, nod or "Peace be with you" to your neighbour is appropriate.
- For parishes offering communion under both species, forgo the distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice for the congregation at this time.
- Parishes should ensure that those distributing communion wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of communion.

Please also continue to practice healthy hygiene – wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer regularly, remain home if you are sick, sneeze/cough into your sleeve and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Let us continue to care for ourselves and one another as we pray for all those impacted worldwide by COVID-19.




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