

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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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.

NOTRE DAME: A FIERY SIGN?

Excerpt from Crisis Magazine, April 18, 2019 by William Kilpatrick)

Was the near destruction of Notre Dame Cathedral simply the result of an accidental fire? Or was it also a prophetic sign?

In the Bible, the destruction of a city or a temple is often linked to immorality or unbelief. The fire and brimstone that was rained down on Sodom was punishment for the sins of its people. Likewise, Jesus warned the people of Capernaum and other cities that their fate could be worse than Sodom's because they did not repent despite the "mighty works" he had performed in their midst (Matt. 11:20-24). When Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem, he prophesied that its enemies "will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation" (Luke 19:41-44).

The "sign" of Notre Dame ablaze comes on top of other disturbing signs. Since the beginning of the year, dozens of churches in France have been vandalized, desecrated, and torched. In 2018, 1,063 attacks on Christian churches or symbols were registered in France—a 17 percent increase over 2017 when "only" 878 attacks were registered. Other signs that the times are out of joint are not hard to find. Among the more horrific were the massacre at the office of the Charlie Hebdo publishers, the Bataclan Theatre attack, the truck jihad in Nice, and the Christmas Market massacre in Strasbourg.

Church desecrations and terror attacks are not confined to France, but since France is one of the most aggressively secular states in Europe, it may be more in need of signs than most. And it may require more spectacular signs to call France—once considered the "eldest daughter of the Church"—back to the faith.

When asked why her stories were full of grotesque characters and shocking violence, Flannery O'Connor replied: "When you write for the blind, you have to write in big letters." Those who live in overly-secularized societies, such as France, often become blinded to what is truly important in life, and may, therefore, require fiery signs to wake them up to reality.

The truth is that unbelief in France is probably as great as, if not greater than, in the biblical cities and towns cited in Christ's warning to the unrepentant. Only 4 percent of French Catholics attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis, and in the larger cathedrals the number of tourists far exceeds the number of worshippers.

After visiting several churches in France, including Notre Dame, Mark Steyn was struck by their emptiness: "One gets the sense that a living, breathing faith is just becoming, actually, a museum, an art gallery, a storage facility." The cathedrals of Europe are truly magnificent and awe-inspiring, but the awe is for achievements that we no longer seem capable of because we lack the requisite faith.

The damage to Notre Dame is a wake-up call not only for Christians who have let their faith lapse, but also for dyed-in-the-wool secularists. Though run by the Church, Notre Dame, like other historic churches in France, is owned by the French state. Notre Dame is important to France not only because of

its history, art, and architecture, but also because it is one of the main reasons that people visit France. Notre Dame draws more visitors than the Eiffel Tower. Many who visit the Cathedral come not just as tourists, but also as pilgrims. For them, "Our Lady's" Cathedral means far more than one more historic site to check off the list. Ironically, secular France's greatest attraction is a spiritual treasure.

French President Emmanuel Macron promises to raise enough funds to rebuild Notre Dame within five years. But to what purpose? For the greater glory of God? To worship and praise him? Not quite. The damage to Notre Dame could be a fatal blow to France's tourist economy which is already reeling from rising crime rates and the constant threat of terrorism. The haste to rebuild suggests that the state is far more dependent on the Christian faith than it had thought.

Many moderns assume that the secular can get along fine without the sacred. But much of the glory and greatness of France—and of Europe as a whole—is bound up inextricably with its Christian faith. Take that away and much of the glory and greatness would disappear with it. There would be no parliamentary democracies to boast of, little sense of the dignity of man or of his inalienable rights, and, quite possibly, no planes, trains, or automobiles.

But Europe's leaders seem disinclined to admit any of this. In a fine essay on the subject, historian Paul Kengor writes: "The burning cathedral, and the state's inability to stop the blaze, seemed a harsh symbol of France's failure to protect its religious heritage."

Or even to acknowledge it.

Kengor reminds us: "In the early 2000s, a battle raged within the European Union over whether to include a reference to God in the EU constitution." In the end, the European Union decided to keep God and Christianity out of its constitution. Having rejected the cornerstone, the builders are now discovering that the whole edifice of secular Europe is crumbling.

Why does the secular need the sacred? The answer is that the sacred realm makes sense out of life—a service the state cannot perform for itself. If there is no fixed transcendent order, everything becomes relative. Without reference to a higher authority, laws are perceived as arbitrary impositions of the state. One follows them simply to avoid the state's penal institutions. As Dostoevsky put it, "If there is no God everything is permissible." Likewise, if there is no God, there is no ultimate standard by which the state itself can be judged. Hence, the state becomes the ultimate arbiter of what rights you can and cannot have.

Pope St. John Paul II was the most prominent proponent of keeping God in the European constitution. According to Kengor:

He made arguments akin to those made by the American Founding Fathers: It is crucial for citizens living under a constitution to understand the ultimate source from which their rights derive: their rights come not from government but God.

The hollow shell of Notre Dame should be a reminder to France that the secular state is itself a hollow shell when it fails to acknowledge the Creator who endows us with inalienable rights. The state has no lasting vision to offer. And its guarantee of liberty, equality, fraternity, and the rights of man are backed by absolutely nothing.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, April 30th

8:30 a.m. † Vincenzina Mammone

Wednesday, May 1st

7:00 p.m. † Rosemary McCanny

Thursday, May 2nd

8:30 a.m.

Friday, May 3rd

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Dianne Kerstens

Intentions of Tom Barker

Saturday, May 4th

4:30 p.m. † Lilian & Terry Foley

Sunday, May 5th

9:00 a.m. † Fred Molica

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Father Charles

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Calling all high school students! Impact is up and running! What is Impact? ! It's a place to spend time with friends, share about faith, play games, and eat snacks! What could be better on a Tuesday night? All are welcome, so bring all of your friends! **Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the St. Leo the Great Parish Hall.**

Edge is on for grade 6-8 students on **Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Come play games, share about your faith and enjoy delicious snacks!

Parish Adoration will be taking place this coming **Friday, May 3rd. Adoration is 7-8 p.m.** A social for high school students and young adults will take place in the youth office and the parish hall following adoration. Bring your friends!

**MARCH FOR LIFE – Parliament Hill-Ottawa
Thursday May, 9th 2019**

This 22nd National March for Life marks 50 years of abortion on demand in Canada. We march in memory of the 4 million + children killed before birth by abortion since 1969, the year abortion was decriminalized.

A bus will pick up passengers on Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 am from St. Leo's parking lot, returning approximately around 8:30 pm. Cost is \$30/person. Tickets will be sold before and after Mass in the vestibule. For further details please contact Larry Hallihan at 905-620-0351 or Francesco Bianco at 905-655-5943.

**CWL monthly meeting will take place on
Wednesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All
women are welcome to come to the meeting.**

Remember our Parish Pot Luck is on May 18.

We will be saying our good-byes and thank-yous to our lovely **NET Team.** If you are planning to attend please sign-up on the poster at the back of the church. Please keep in mind that this will be a no tables/ stand up to eat, event. We will be asking for finger foods and hors d'oeuvres. Suggestions can be found on the poster at the back of the church. Items can be dropped off at the church between 1 pm and 4:15 pm on the 18th. Please use disposable platters or put your name on them and be sure to take them home that evening. We look forward to seeing many families attend.

**Living the Gospel
by welcoming newcomers to Canada**

Rashida endured years of domestic abuse while living in Egypt. Fearing her husband would abuse their children, she successfully applied for refugee status in Canada. Rashida arrived in Toronto, not knowing the language, what to do, or who could help. Fortunately, she met an Arabic speaker who told her about Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS). CCS helped her navigate the immigration process and access the resources she needed. "CCS saved my life," Rashida says. "Today I have money of my own, an apartment, and my children are finally safe and happy."

Next Sunday, May 5 is ShareLife Sunday.

Please give generously.

**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. Drop off of goods will be Thursday May 9 and Friday May 10.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry! Mothers of all ages are invited to join us on **Wed May 8 at 8pm in the Quiet Room.**

This Mother's Day we are hosting a special baby shower after both Masses on May 12 in support of Pregnancy Help of Durham and Rose of Durham. Please consider bringing brand-new newborn layette and bath items such as receiving blankets, bedding, baby outfits, baby wash and baby wipes. Gently used items and gift cards are also welcome. Contact annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com or visit www.catholicmomsgroup.com for more information. New members are always welcome!




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