



# 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](http://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.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

This Palm Sunday leads us into Holy Week as we have heard the rehearsal of what is to come in the reading of the Passion from Great Three Days, known as the Triduum, consisting of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

**HOLY THURSDAY:** *The Mass of the Lord's Supper, the institution of the Priesthood and the Call to Serve* **7:00 pm.**

**GOOD FRIDAY:** *The memorial of the Lord's Passion and Death on Calvary* **3:00 pm.**

**EASTER VIGIL:** *The Resurrection of Jesus!* **8:00 pm.**

**EASTER SUNDAY:** **9:00 am. and 11:00 am.**

**INCENSE:** Please be advised that incense will be used on Holy Thursday, the Easter Vigil and the Easter Sunday Masses.

**SEATING:** Parishioners are reminded that the Good Friday service as well as the Masses of Easter Sunday can be crowded so please plan to come early if you want to get a seat.

**EASTER VIGIL & EASTER SUNDAY:** Often people will ask whether the Easter Vigil 'counts' for Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil, as St. Augustine said, is the "Mother of all vigils", therefore, you have truly celebrate Easter if you have attended the Easter Vigil and it is not necessary to attend Mass again on Easter Sunday if you have celebrated Easter at the Vigil.

### **THANK YOU Catholic Women's League You're Souper!**

Our gratitude goes to the women in our Catholic Women's League who organized this year's Lenten Soup & Bread and to all who made and donated their homemade soup, those who served it each week and to our three Catholic elementary schools who participated over the past six weeks. Also, thank you to our parishioners who made a free-will offering which, through our St. Vincent de Paul society, will reach those locally in need. Blessings!

### **Life and the Cross**

I often will come across stories on the internet and cut and paste them and save them on my computer. I never know when they might come in handy to illustrate a point in teaching or giving a homily.

I came across the following story but it didn't have a title or a reference as to who the author was or the source I got it from. At first glance I thought that I may have written it as we share the same first name and birthday, but no, it's not from me. I did a quick search on the internet with the first line but didn't come up with a match, so it remains a

mystery who is speaking and sharing part of the story of their life. It is written in a simple, straight-forward way but to me, Charles speaks of the reality of the Cross in his life and yet the closeness of Christ to him. He addresses a truth I have been reflecting on lately and one that several other people have been speaking to as well, including Bishop Christian Riesbeck, the Aux. Bishop of Ottawa who gave us a one-evening Lenten retreat in the second week of Lent. Charles spoke of "experiencing" the Lord.

We have embarked in our parish on the rather tricky road of youth ministry over the past two years. It's tricky because everyone who wants to provide ministry to Catholic youth is faced with things that work and things that don't. The hope is that individuals will benefit from the activities offered to the group and it's slow, requires much planning, work and energy as well as time. Yet the one thing that our young people need, yes, need, is an experience of Christ that is personal and real and sets them on a course which suddenly sees the world and their own lives differently. No, it's not magic but it is mysterious because it is encounter with none other than the Living God. It is possible for people to go to Mass every week and be involved in their parish's life and not have had an experience of God. People might even accept this as normal and that we are supposed to live our lives simply trusting and hoping that at the end of the road of life we will meet Jesus for the first time.

We are meant to meet Jesus in our lives now, not later or in some future meeting in the clouds. I often preach this at funeral home funerals because funerals are as much if not more for the living than the dead. A funeral can find us standing in the road of life wondering, perhaps even for the first time, what this life is really all about in light of the fact that someone we have known and loved is now simply, "gone". We start to think or are forced to reflect on the mystery of life and death and grapple with the question of what the meaning of this life really is. People can cope with a "what" if they have a "Who". The God of Jesus Christ is personal and desires to relate to us on a personal level. Charles speaks of this in his experiences of the cross in his life but also in his prayers. I have made no corrections to the text as it appears because I think it is beautiful in the simple way it is written. (*Fr. Charles*)

Hi, I would like to tell you a story about me. I would like to tell you a little about myself.

My name is Charles, I was born on December the 27th, 1965. As I grew up I had a few good friends. We had a loving close family. My parents raised us as practicing Catholics. We had a lot of faith in the Lord. When I was a kid we went to church as far as I can remember. We always said night prayers and had devotion to the Rosary. For awhile it was cool until I became a teenager. It was at that point that I

went to church only because I had to. When I reached my twentieth year I shy-ed away from the church. I always prayed but I felt that I had no time to go to church. I did not realize at the time that there was something missing. A couple of years later it was so much better when I went back to church. I felt closer to the Lord.

I was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy when I was 18. I had symptoms when I was 13. I had many other struggles in my life. When I was younger, not a whole lot bothered me. I was happy go lucky. I took things as they came. When I was diagnosed it was no big deal at the time. I didn't imagine it would get this bad. As time went on the disease progressed and I wondered when it would stop. I never thought I would have so many limitations. My limitations are walking, talking, raising my arms, using my hands, holding my head up and swallowing. When I was younger I took these things for granted. A few other medical issues were added to my life: from the third grade onward I was teased and made fun of because I was different.

The biggest devastation in my life was losing my Dad.

I think I have had my share of suffering. I used to wonder when it would stop. I used to wonder what I did to deserve this; but that is wrong. It is easy to feel sorry for yourself. It is hard to offer up the struggles and pain and the crosses the Lord gives. I think the Lord has given me these crosses to bear for Him.

My Mom taught us, and I believe that the Lord only gives us as much as we can handle.

God has a plan for me and I just don't know what it is, yet.

I think the Lord wants me to accept the crosses; and, I say thank You when I am in pain and give the Lord praise and I ask Him for mercy. That is how I deal with it.

If I didn't have faith and the Lord in my life I would not be here.

I would like to tell you one more experience I had. It happened to me three times in my life. When I have a problem I pray about it, and three times I was answered before I stopped praying and I knew they were answered. You cannot imagine how wonderful and peaceful it is. You can not imagine unless you experience it yourself: an inner feeling. Peacefulness. It is like, "wow!"

I hope you enjoyed my story; and I hope that my story has helped someone. (Author Unknown)

In the Holy Week ahead, may we all experience the Living God beyond the words proclaimed, the things we see and the people we touch and who touch us. May the presence of Jesus become real and close as we contemplate the Greatest Love the world can ever know in Jesus Christ! Let us make space for the Lord to enter our tombs with LIFE!

## MASS INTENTIONS

*Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>*

**8:30 a.m.** † Shannon Frank

*There will be no Tuesday morning Mass.*

**SAVE the DATE!!!** On **Sat, May 18th** we will be hosting a mix and mingle, **Parish Pot Luck**, to say our **Good-Byes to our beloved NETTERS!** It will take place in the parish hall immediately **following the 4:30 pm Mass**. All are welcome. Stay tuned for more info and a sign up poster in the coming weeks.

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

It's party time! Come celebrate the end of **Alpha** this **Tuesday, April 16**. Bring your friends! **6:30-8:30 pm**, in the Parish Hall.

We would also like to extend **a HUGE thank you** to everyone who made our Alpha Weekend Retreat possible! Thank you to **Geralyn and Frank Thornhill, Lisa and Bill Heaney, Sylvia, the CWL, everyone else** for all of your hard work and support. The retreat would not have been the success it was without you!

Calling all high school students! **Impact is coming back next Tuesday, April 23!** 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 pm**, in the St. Leo the Great Parish Hall.

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

**BIG NEWS!** Save the date for the **Edge Retreat** coming up **April 26-27!** All students grades 6-8 welcome. Schedule and waivers to follow.



## 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.




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