

# St. Leo The Great

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2  
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www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: st.leos@bellnet.ca

**Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget**  
**Parish Secretary: Maureen Holly**  
905-655-3286 x 101

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 6:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Mass: 7:00 p.m.  
Rosary prayed 20 minutes before weekday masses.

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5:00 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 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 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:

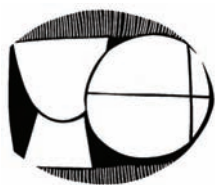
The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year  
in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage  
preparation course. Please call the Parish Office.

### PARISH REGISTRATION:

All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.  
Registration forms (Welcome Cards) 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 Victor Amole* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If  
Father Victor 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.



## St. Leo the Great Parish Congratulates the First Communion Recipients

On behalf of all our parishioners we pray God's blessing on the children who this weekend will have received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. With their parents they have covered the beautiful materials in the *Jesus Brings Us Life* book which helped to prepare them with catechesis for their First Reconciliation (last December) and their First Communion now. They have been nourished these many past months with the Word of God in the midst of this Catholic community as they attended Sunday Mass. We thank God for His gift of His Son, Jesus, who feeds them with His Body and Blood, our spiritual food for the journey of life. God bless them and their families.

### THE NIGHT MAN: NICODEMUS



Throughout the season of Easter (50 days from Easter Sunday to the Feast of Pentecost) the Church in her wisdom does what the apostles did following the many resurrection appearances to them: they looked back to the three years they lived with and ate and drank with Jesus – remembering all that He had said and done and most especially what He had told them about His rising from the dead. The apostles,

unfortunately, never quite understood what Jesus meant when He said He would die but also that He would be raised from the dead. Only after the resurrection appearances were they able to recall that Jesus had in fact told them what was to come with precision and accuracy.

Today, we in the Church are being reminded that we must do the same when 'celebrating' the Easter mysteries. The resurrection of Jesus makes no sense unless we have a handle on what Jesus had taught and said while He was with the apostles. It's not as if Jesus just gathered apostles, taught them and then was killed because if so the resurrection wouldn't make any sense to them. The very reason Jesus was killed was so that in so doing He was taking our place in what all sinners of the world would have coming to them if they were not saved from it - death. Jesus did the saving. The red letter day in our Christian lives isn't when we realize how much we love God, rather, it is when we realize just how much God loves us – that He sent His Son to suffer and die.

This past Tuesday the Gospel reading from John 3:7-15 dealt with Jesus meeting with Nicodemus who is often referred to as the "Night Man" since he only came to see Jesus at night under the cover of darkness. Nicodemus was a well-known teacher in Israel and at night Jesus was teaching the teacher. Jesus had told him that he must be born again but Nicodemus thought it meant

something like returning to the womb. Jesus, however, was speaking of the spiritual reality of being born all over again with meaning and purpose and power. Everyone who has ever lived has been born into this world but Christ doesn't want to leave us there. In one sense we were all born against our wills or without an act of the will on our part. But in becoming 'born again' Jesus was calling for that assent of the mind, heart and will from those who would believe in him not only through baptism but also in the giving of one's life to the Lord.

At one point in the Gospel, Nicodemus seems utterly perplexed over the idea of being born again from above – which means that God is doing something, not only us. He states, "How is this possible?" In Jesus' reply is found the profound statement which Christ could be saying to us: "***If you disbelieve me when I talk to you about things on earth, how are you to believe if I should talk about the things of heaven?***" (John 3:12) If we can't see and judge things on the earth when Jesus speaks to us about them, (through His Word and the teaching of the Church, how can we understand the great mysteries being revealed to us about those things that pertain to the Spirit? We have to remember that it is Jesus Himself who is teaching us, revealing His truth to us.

What Jesus said to Nicodemus makes me think about the rapidly changing world we are living in, and here I'm not speaking about technological progress but rather the general moral decline of governments (our own included), an overemphasis of social justice to the neglect of individual justice (the unborn).

If we take the issue of abortion as an example, our advancements in technology only prove all the more without a doubt that there is not only life in the womb but human life. If this is one of the "things on earth" Jesus was addressing with Nicodemus, how can one possibly perceive the things of heaven that are of the Spirit? Would the federal Liberal party leader, Justin Trudeau, who is a Catholic but has stated publicly that no one can have a place in his party if they are not pro choice, hold as a Catholic that Jesus Christ is pro choice? Pro choice = for abortion, for the taking of the life of the unborn child. Would Mr. Trudeau hold that the Christ He knows and follows actually agree with his political and public stance on being for abortion? Perhaps Trudeau would consider Jesus who is loving and kind to be pro choice, but of course, he would be totally out of touch and out of step with the Christ of the Bible. Jesus as God is the Author of all life and is in Himself The Life! Yes, He is life itself.

The Church Christ founded cannot teach that which is contrary to what Christ Himself taught and has revealed to us. The Catholic Church's stand on the defense of the right to life of the unborn cannot possibly be wrong, period. It flows out of everything we know about Christ Himself and His teaching. This reality, therefore, puts great emphasis on the Catholic to live according to the Church's teachings which are not mysterious and non-sensical but come from logic, sound reasoning and founded in the teachings of Jesus the Lord.

Turning back to Nicodemus' confusion and question about being "born again", we might still feel left with the question of how we can possibly perceive the things of the Spirit when we can't perceive many of the things of the earth. Left on our own we would be hard-pressed to answer that question were it not for

APRIL 19, 2015

the fact that it is by God's revelation to man that we are able to somehow understand and even relate to the spiritual realm. In last Sunday's Gospel in the resurrection appearance of Jesus to the frightened and locked-in disciples, Jesus breathes the Spirit on the disciples – which is to say that He gave them by His power and will the gift of being able to delve into spiritual things. Had Jesus not given the Holy Spirit to the apostles the Church would have quickly faded away and actually would have been killed off. But it was the work of the Holy Spirit, God knowing what we need and giving it to us, that enabled them and enables us to live a life that is spiritual.

In an increasingly secular world where religion and in particular Christianity is met with so much scorn and even hatred, there is no standard by which to judge anything by save one's own understanding and opinion of it. The Church seems to have lost its voice over the loud roar of those who wish to dictate what people ought to think, how they are to live and what they are to be taught regardless of God. They might call it personal autonomy and even freedom but Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis have called it what it is: moral relativism.

Nicodemus the great teacher became the great student of Jesus who taught him to seek after those things that are above and not to settle with merely what satisfies but briefly here below. And that's why we're a pilgrim people, a people on the way to the Kingdom. *(Fr. Charles)*

### **MORE JOKES**

In the vain of telling jokes in the Easter Season mindful that Christ in His death and resurrection has had the last laugh on the devil, here are some more jokes just off the top of my head.

#### **CROAK LIKE A FROG**

The two grandchildren, a boy and a girl, were visiting grandma and grandpa. Grandpa went outside to work in the garden and was soon visited by his grandson who asked him, "Grandpa, can you croak like a frog?" The grandfather, puzzled by this strange question answered, "What do you mean, can I croak like a frog? That's a silly question." The boy returned to the house only to be replaced by his little granddaughter who asked him the same question, "Grandpa, can you croak like a frog?" Exasperated, grandpa asked her, "Honey, why would you and your brother both ask me if I can croak like a frog?" She answered, "Well, grandma said that when grandpa croaks she's going to take us to Disneyland!"

#### **THREE OLD MEN**

One day, three older gentlemen were out for a walk together. All of them were hard of hearing. One man said, "It's windy!" "No", replied the second man, "It's Thursday." "So am I" added the third man, "Let's go for a drink."

**Confirmation Sessions Wednesday April 22 and 29 as usual**

### **Mass Intentions – April 21-26**

Tues. 8:30 am – St. Leo School Mass

Wed. 9:15 am – Bl. JP II School Mass in church –

Annibale Grande+ req. by Bl. JP II School

Wed. 7:00 pm – Annette A. Vesters+ req. The Vesters Family

Thurs. 8:30 am – Jean Marc Daga+ req. The Daga Family

Fri. 8:30 am – NO Mass – Fr. Charles attending a Conference

Sat. 5:00 pm – Tim Hutton+ req. The Delaney Family

Sunday 9:00 am – Tony Vesters+ req. The Hallihan Family

Sunday 11:00 am – Anna Roberti+ req. The Rocchetta Family

### **PARISH FAMILY FUN NIGHT, GAMES, PIZZA**

Please come and join us for a **Parish Family Fun Night & PIZZA** on **Saturday April 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm** in the parish hall, please enter by Carson Street. There will be lots of trivia games, guessing games, family challenges and many prizes to be won. Of course, it wouldn't be a fun night without Pizza, juice and desserts all for only \$5.00 per family. **We need families to register because we need to order the pizza. So please call 905-620-0724 ASAP to register.**

**Bundle Up for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul** who will be collecting donations here at the parish on the weekend of **April 25 & 26**. Please no appliances, baby furniture, books or mattresses. Thank you.

### **MARCH FOR LIFE IN OTTAWA**

On **Thursday May 14th the National March For Life** will take place in **Ottawa** on the front lawn of the Parliament Buildings and will weave through the streets of Ottawa. Last year there were 23,000 people who attended and it attracts men and women, children, families, grandparents, clergy and people of all stripes who wish to stand for the unborn child in this country. It is not a protest but a peaceful yet powerful witness to our country in our nation's capital of our defense for the right to life of all people here and in the world.

We have hired a coach to take people from our parish to Ottawa on that day, leaving in the morning and returning in the evening. The coach will accommodate 56 people and in order to cover the cost of the bus to the parish we are charging \$35.00 per person, not a bad price for a comfortable bus ride to and from Ottawa.

Tickets will be on sale beginning this weekend after all the masses and once the bus is full, it's full.

### **New Lighthouse Catholic Media CD's in Display in the Vestibule**

Becoming The Best Version of Yourself – Matthew Kelly

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