

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

Youth Director: Dennis Wardle x 109

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.

WHERE WAS GOD?



It was a tragedy of tremendous proportions on Friday April 6 in Saskatchewan when a bus carrying 29 members of a hockey team and just twenty minutes from the location they were to play in a playoff game, was in an accident with a tractor trailer. Sixteen members of the team were

killed and thirteen others were injured. The Humboldt Broncos hockey team was headed north to Nipawan where they were to play the Nipawan Hawks when the tractor trailer failed to stop at a stop sign and at high speed t-boned the bus ripping it in two.

The truck driver survived.

At a memorial in a community arena for the hockey players killed in the horrific accident, among the several speakers who shared words of sympathy and encouragement to those gathered in such terrible grief, was the team chaplain, Rev. Sean Brandow, who posed the question everyone asks in situations like this: Why did this happen? and Where was God? After himself seeing the site and devastation of the bus crash site, Rev. Brandow told the crowd "I needed to hear from God" as he himself sensed he needed God to help him make some sense of what didn't make sense at all. He related that at least four different scripture passages had been sent to him but as truthful as they were none of them hit the spot on what he was feeling. And then someone mentioned that to the one dark line in the famous 23rd Psalm better known as the Lord Is My Shepherd, "*though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death*", which speaks directly and strikingly against the backdrop of the rest of that tranquil, peace-filled psalm about the darkness that afflicts all our lives in some measure, it wasn't the end of the sentence or truth to that darkness, for it continues.... "I will fear no evil, for YOU are with me. Your staff and rod, these comfort me."

I felt the chaplain did a very good job in an almost hopeless situation of posing the questions that were on everyone's mind. I have often talked about this very thing at various funerals I have presided over in my priesthood citing the Rabbi and author Rabbi Harold S. Kushner who wrote the book *Why Bad Things Happen To Good People*. After the horror of 911 in New York and the events of that day, many talk shows invited him on asking the question as to why this happened. I remember hearing him say, (and I'm paraphrasing here from memory), "So often Jews, Christians and people of faith believe that if we are good, life should be fair to us and yet we know that life is not fair. It is ridiculous to somehow believe that an easy, untainted, unharmed living will be the result of our goodness because it doesn't make sense. Part of our frustration is from the fact that we know as self-evident that life isn't fair, that the good suffer along with the bad, etc." Rabbi Kushner wrote his doctoral thesis on the 23rd Psalm of David pointing out that one line Rev. Brandow and so many countless other ministers of God's Word have preached on in that psalm concerning the 'valley of the shadow of death'. He concluded that it is the line which follows that is our source of hope and light, that we would not fear even though we must walk through that valley, because the Good Shepherd, (Jesus), walks with us. We are not alone in our grief and sadness. Jesus truly walks along with us even if we are not conscious of it. Christ

will so often give us an extraordinary peace in the midst of terror, fear and grief, but He always walks with us and is one with us.

While I as a priest have not had to deal with such a tragedy as the loss of several lives at the same time, I have had these questions asked of me, not that anyone on the face of the earth, save Jesus, can adequately answer them. Yet, as impossible as these questions everyone asks in the face of human grief are, there are truths which can be known in the faith and life of those who believe and follow Jesus.

I remember many years ago when a 41-year-old man who was a husband and father had died quite tragically in a boating accident and I had presided over the funeral. He had been standing in the back of the boat with others when the boat made a quick turn and he was thrown into the water. The panicked passengers frantically circled the boat around to pick him up out of the water but by the time they did so he had already succumbed to the water and was dead. The family were in shock, deep grief and heartbroken to say the least. Following the funeral Mass we drove to the cemetery where I presided over the interment. As I finished the prayers and gave a blessing to the mourners, I stepped away from the grave to allow the family time before their last goodbyes. I remember it was a beautiful sunny, summer day with a gentle breeze that moved the trees and you could hear the happy sound of birds in the midst of this great time of sadness. The silence of the mourners was broken by a lone voice that, admittedly, startled me when someone from the crowd asked aloud but directed toward me, "Why, Father?" If I had to rehearse an answer to that question I know I could not have answered better than the one the Holy Spirit gave me in that moment. I stepped back toward the place where I had been standing at the grave and responded, "The question is not really why but who? Who is the One who created all things? Who is the One who made us and has blessed us in so many countless ways? Who is the One who promised to raise the dead back to life in a new heaven? Who is the One we believe in? The question of why will never be answered here on the earth and no Rabbi, Priest or Minister of God should ever hasten to recklessly do so. The question is Who? Jesus is that One who promised us that even though we die we shall live with Him forever." And the same voice replied, "Thank you, Father."



To the often asked question of where is Jesus or where was Jesus comes the truth that He is here. "I am with you always until the end of the earth". (Matt. 28:20)

I am confident that when we meet the Lord in the fullness of time and see Him as He is, among the many realities and revelations we will know will be the knowledge of just how close Jesus was to us

through the many joys and sorrows of this life and we had no idea. Catholics, I think, in seeing the beautiful, loving, joyful face of Jesus will be reminded, as were the disciples on the road to Emmaus, that we saw Him so many, many times in the Eucharist but didn't really see Him because we never paid attention to His teaching, His words, His truth, His REAL PRESENCE among us. See Him! (Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, April 24th

8:30 a.m. † Bernadette Herold

Wednesday, April 25th

7:00 p.m. Intentions of Amelia Bravo
Intentions of Rachel Foley

Thursday, April 26th

8:30 a.m. † Frank Christey

Friday, April 27th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Father Charles

Saturday, April 28th

4:30 p.m. † Delia Marquez

Sunday, April 29th

9:00 a.m. † Mary Mulcahy

11:00 a.m. † Vincenzina Mammone

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Camp Registration Information**

If you are unable to take your children on vacation or send them to camp due to restricted income, illness, lack of funds etc, and would like to apply for one of our summer camps, contact our help line for further information: 905-655-3286 ext. 221. All enquirers are strictly CONFIDENTIAL.

Marygrove Camp for girls ages 5-13 is located near Penatang Ontario. Campers may attend one of seven 8 day sessions.

Camp Ozanam is for boys ages 7-12 and is located near Sunridge Ontario north of Huntsville. Campers may attend one of five, seven day sessions.

No fees are charged.

KofC BREAKFAST

St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast on April 29th. following the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a **full Breakfast** of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice in the Church hall. Adults - \$5.00, Children ages 4 - 12 - \$3.00 and Children under 4 - free. Hope to see you there.

CWL GENERAL MEETING

CWL monthly meeting **Monday April 30, 7pm to 9 pm** in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. If you need child minding please call Jackie McVeigh 905-493-4677



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“One of the core components of our Pastoral Plan is Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love. As a Catholic community we are called to be the hands and face of Jesus in our communities. ShareLife is a tangible way we can put the Gospel value to ‘love one another as I have loved you’ into action. I invite all parishioners to support the mission work of the church by making a sacrificial gift to ShareLife.” —*Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto.*

Today is ShareLife Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

**FATHER CHARLES’
25th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

A committee of Parishioners has met to plan a parish celebration for Father Charles' 25th Ordination Anniversary to be held on **May 6, 2018** after the 11 Mass. We hope to have as many parishioners as possible attend.

Each of our 3 weekend Masses will develop their own Spiritual Bouquet of Masses, Holy Communion, prayers etc for the intentions of Fr. Charles. A sheet for you to indicate your prayer offerings will be available in the foyer after Mass on the next few weekends.

A Reception is being planned by the ladies of the CWL for after the May 6, 11 Mass. If you and your family can attend we need you to complete the Attendance Form so that we have lots of delicious food for all. This form will be available at the back of the church.

There will be no parish gift however we will have a box in the vestibule available on the weekends of Apr 21/22, 28/29 & May 5/6. This box would be for cards of congratulations and any monetary gifts you would like to give Father which might assist his future plans for retirement.

Let's make this a great St. Leo Parish celebration in thanksgiving for our beautiful church, the goodness of our people and for God's providing us with Father Charles to guide our spiritual growth.

CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE SPEAKER

DR. BRIDGET CAMPION from the *Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute* will be speaking at **St. John the Evangelist Parish on Tuesday, April 24th at 7pm**. She will speak on the topic of *Conscience and the role our Catholic faith plays in the formation of Conscience*. All are welcome to attend the presentation which will be given in the church.

VOCATION SEEDS

This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well, leaders who will unselfishly care for the needs of God’s people and minister to them. If you feel God is calling you to priesthood, religious life or deaconate, call **Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997, email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca**



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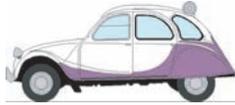
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