

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

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.

Welcome into the Church!

Last Saturday at the Easter Vigil we welcomed those candidates for baptism or entry into the Catholic Church and full communion with us through the Easter sacraments. Two of our RCIA members were catechumens which means they were not baptized and one of our members was baptized in the Anglican Church and wanted to become a Catholic. Sinthiya D'Souza and Anthony Barrett were both baptized, Confirmed and received their First Holy Communion at the Vigil while Lesley was received into the Church, Confirmed and received her First Holy Communion. Also among them, Anthony and Pamela Barrett's young son Anthony Jr. was baptized right after Anthony was and a young man, Marcello Gordon, who would have been away for Confirmation on May 16 was Confirmed, having already been baptized and made his First Communion.

THE PROMISE OF RESURRECTION

It is little wonder that Easter is celebrated for fifty days as we need time to recover what Christ has done for us in the terrible and glorious events of his Passion, Death and Resurrection. We live at this moment in the history of the world within the reality that Jesus is alive these two thousand years after the historical event of His promised Resurrection. The power that comes from the reality of the Resurrection does and should speak to our lives today and address those things that frightened the apostles then and frighten us now.

Depicted above is a painting by artist Kerelos Safwat called "First Day in Heaven". It was sent to me by a parishioner and the look on the woman's face says it all. Images are powerful but even the best of them can't really come close to a depiction of heaven. The picture below (by Bryan McGregor) shows Jesus holding a child who has died. Again, this is a powerful image projecting a young child that has died being with Jesus. One of the hardest forms of death is dealing with the death of a child. The most intimate relationship on the face of the earth is between a mother and her child or a child with their parents. When a child dies the parents so often feel that it should be them and not their young child. But to commend the soul of a child to Jesus is hard enough because the child cannot be seen any longer.



Images like this one help in some small way with the child being alive, sleeping in the arms of Jesus. Yet every fibre of my being says that whatever we can say heaven is, whatever we can do to somehow describe heaven – is not heaven. Heaven is so beyond

anything we can say about it. In all of the 73 books of the Bible we are not really given any description of heaven while at the same time it is mentioned 494 times in the NRSV. To me, it makes sense when God's Word itself doesn't attempt to reveal to mortals what is unfathomable to describe about the life that is to come. In our world's understanding of the heavenly we routinely make big mistakes about our portrayal of the life of heaven. Little children who have died are depicted as angels, but humans are not angels nor do they become angels. Angels are separate beings from humans and we are made lower than them and yet we are the stewards of all God has created. (Psalm 8:5) Angels don't take on humanity and humans don't take on becoming an angel. We are destined by God's invitation in Jesus to live forever with him but what we will become has not yet been revealed.

In 1 John 3:2-3 it says: "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is." And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." Many people have had what are called NDE's, Near Death Experiences, though it can't be proven that the soul leaves the body for a time and travels somewhere else. What I have always found as fascinating is what those individuals who have quietly kept their experience to themselves have said about what they learned from their experience. They are not concerned in the least about whether people believe them or not but their gleaning from their experience tells us so much about what we don't know. Some people who have had a NDE relate that life as we know it isn't all that complicated but that *WE* have made it so. Others have tried to describe what they saw but there was nothing on earth that they could compare it to. Some have described the colours of what their eyes saw and that there were colours in heaven that are outside of our spectrum of colour on earth. The materials that people saw were indescribable and no description using human, earthly language could convey adequate explanations of them. As the quote from 1 John above states, "what we will be has not been revealed". If God hasn't revealed something it cannot be known or discovered. The revelation of heaven is awaiting us and just as we cannot understand what Jesus looks like we will become like him which will enable us to see him.

The other night I had a wee small inkling of heaven as I visited my mother at the nursing home who has had Dementia for the past 18 years. She had said nothing to me throughout my visit while I gave her Communion and prayed with her and after while we watched another episode of *The Walton's*. However, as I was about to get ready to leave, I said to my mother who was comfortably laying in her bed, "Momma, I'm going to have to say goodnight to you now." Then I said to her, "I suppose that is what you and dad said to each other before you went to sleep each night." Then I mimicked what they would have said, saying, "Good night, Johnny" and dad replying back, "Good night, Margaret." "Änd just think, mom", I said, "one day soon you're going to see papa again and you won't ever have to say goodbye or good night ever again because you will never be parted. You will be there in Paradise with Jesus, who must be so beautiful to look at, and dad, and your baby Michael, you lost and never got to hold fifty four years ago. You will live in peace and joy with all the Saints and those people who loved Jesus here on earth." My mom, smiled and gave a bit of a chuckle.

I know she is waiting for it and believes it too. (Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, April 10th

8:30 a.m. † Philip Suyyagh

Wednesday, April 11th

7:00 p.m. † Vincenzo Mantia
† Alice Launay

Thursday, April 12th

8:30 a.m. † Vincenzina Mammone

Friday, April 13th

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 14th

4:30 p.m. † Mary Mulcahy

Sunday, April 15th

9:00 a.m. † Mary Mulcahy
11:00 a.m. Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

***** SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, MAY 6 *****

**FR. CHARLES' 25th ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY.**

**Mass at 11 a.m. followed by a reception in the
Parish Hall.**

TOTUS TUUS IS COMING BACK!

The children and youth of the parish are invited to join us once again for *Totus Tuus* (Latin for *Totally Yours*) this summer from July 22nd to the 27th. Totus Tuus is an Archdiocesan program whereby seminarians and college/university students travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechetical instruction, mass, confession, adoration songs and games. This year's theme is the Apostles Creed. The program will also be focusing on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. More information is available at www.totustuustoronto.ca

**Children entering grades 1 thru 6,
Cost is \$80 per person for the entire week
Runs Monday - Friday from 9am - 2:30pm
For Intermediate/High School grades 7 thru 12
Cost of \$20 for all five nights
Runs Sunday - Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 pm**

More news and information on how to register will be announced in the coming weeks! Also if there are any adults interested in helping out as missionary assistants for the week please contact me personally at the church **(905) 655-3286 ext. 109** or by email youth@stleothegreat.ca. Thank you for your continued prayers and support, *(Dennis Wardle, Youth Director)*

Living the Gospel through immediate mental health services

Mental health problems can escalate if not addressed quickly. That's why the five Catholic Family Services agencies in the Archdiocese of Toronto now offer walk-in counselling. This initiative can often meet clients' need without requiring longer term counselling. Clients report a clinically significant increase in confidence that they can tackle their problems. By supporting ShareLife, you're helping restore hope to those in crisis.

April 22 is the next ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELP LINE

Sometimes we are challenged with an unexpected crisis. If you are suddenly faced with a change in your circumstances, such as an illness, loss of employment, separation or any number of situations and need help, consider calling the parish St. Vincent de Paul help line. A Vincentian will contact you and arrange a home visit to discuss further what assistance we can offer. We are available to assist anyone, regardless of their religion, who are experiencing financial or domestic hardships. All calls and assistance are strictly confidential.

HELP LINE: 905-655-3286 ext. 221

SPRING FASHION SHOW

Featuring fashions from Alia / Tan Jay. Save the afternoon of Sunday, April 22. Tickets \$15 per person. Lunch included. Tickets available after Easter. Sponsored by CWL to assist their foster child in Haiti

CATHOLIC MOTHERS GROUP

Come join us for some faith and friendship! **St. Leo the Great's Catholic Moms Group** is meeting every second Thursday of each month at 8 pm in Boardroom 1.

Next meeting on April 12

**Steubenville Toronto is coming to the UOIT
Campus, Oshawa this summer July 13-15th**

Steubenville is more than the name of a conference, it's a city in Ohio that is home to the Franciscan University of Steubenville, a vibrant Catholic College rooted in the Franciscan tradition and dedicated to proclaiming Jesus Christ as "the Way, the Truth, the Life." Once again St. Leo the Great will be taking a group of excited teens and chaperones to participate in Steubenville Toronto. This amazing conference is the highlight of the year for our high school youth. Fun is an understatement, youth will not only enjoy the food, fellowship and music, they will experience praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration and Mass fully, along with over 1,200 other teens. Talented recording artists, clergy and guest speakers are just part of what makes this event so special. Now in it's fifth year, Steubenville Toronto continues to grow and is Canada's largest Catholic youth conference. Who is eligible to go? Steubenville is open to all grades 9 thru 12, including any Grade 8's who are graduating this year and any students graduating from grade 12 this year.

Cost is \$275 per person for all 3 days. This price includes meals and accommodation at UOIT (please note: transportation to and from the venue is not included). Registration will begin April 1st and close June 7th.

We will arrive Friday afternoon and check out in the early afternoon Sunday. Words cannot express how great these conferences are, in fact life changing. Teens who attended last year's event truly fell in love with their faith even more. News and information on how to register will be announced in the coming weeks! Please feel free to contact me personally at the church to answer any of your questions. **(905) 655-3286 ext. 109** or by email youth@stleothegreat.ca. Thank you for your continued prayers and support, *(Dennis Wardle, Youth Director)*




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