



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

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.

**SAINT LEO THE GREAT PARISH'S
FAMILY OF FAITH CAMPAIGN**
We're there... and climbing!

St. Leo the Great Parish

Family of Faith Campaign Update



Campaign Goal – \$390,000.

Pledges received (as of Wed. Dec. 9) – **\$535,500.!**

That's over **137%** of our goal!

This weekend is our last weekend for what is called Pledge Sunday in our parish. This is an opportunity for all of our parishioners who may not have had an opportunity to participate in this Archdiocesan campaign that will both benefit our parish and the larger Archdiocese.

Again, now that we've reached our goal please remember that our campaign isn't over. After this weekend and for all those who indicated on their pledge card that they needed some time to consider participating in this most worthy and historic campaign, we will follow up on our people's discernment in this regard by phone calls asking whether they have made a decision on a pledge. Also, for all the money raised above our target amount of \$390,000. our parish will keep 75% to be used toward our hiring of a full-time Youth Minister, replacement of our current church lighting for LED lighting as well as paying down the debt on our parish.

For full information about the Family of Faith or to speak to one of our parish campaign team members, visit the Family of Faith table located in the vestibule. There you will find brochures, information pamphlets as well as pledge forms.

Thanks be to God for this campaigns continued success and for all of the generous hearts who continue to trust in the Lord! Please note: Since the Archdiocese will assume responsibility of all pledges made if you should need to make an inquiry or change some part of your pledge or payment information, please call the Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-934-0606 ext. 804 or 805 or email: familyoffaith@archtoronto.org (Fr. Charles)



Christmas

MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday December 24

5:00 pm. & 8:00 pm. only

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday December 25

9:00 am. & 11:00 am.

* Incense will be used at all Christmas Masses.

**A YEAR OF MERCY
IS UPON US**

This past week on Tuesday December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis officially began the Year of Mercy by opening the Holy Doors at the Vatican. This will be a good time to think about what mercy means and why St. Faustina, a Polish nun and visionary who saw Our Lord depicted with rays of light emanating from His body and revealing His Sacred Heart, received the message of mercy for the Church and the world in our time.

In this season of Advent, a time of hope, expectation and joy, we find a perfect launch to the turning of our minds to mercy since God is the source of all mercy. At Christmas we often see those who might only come to church once or twice a year to receive mercy whilst they are here not condemnation or judgment. This opportunity for them and all of us is to draw closer to Christ and His great message of mercy, love and peace.

St. Ambrose wrote, "Mercy, also, is a good thing, for it makes men perfect, in that it imitates the perfect Father. Nothing graces the Christian soul so much as mercy." So often when one has taken their own life we are left to wonder what has happened to their souls before Christ. Yet, as St. Augustine said, "The mercy of God may be found between the bridge and the water." Miguel de Cervantes stated that "Among the attributes of God, although they are all equal, mercy shines with even more brilliancy than justice." Mercy, in fact, goes further than justice in that while justice may stir the passions and impel one to do something, mercy is more of a challenge and yet a mandate for the Christian and indeed the citizen of the word.

Jeremy Taylor said that "If we refuse mercy here, we shall have justice in eternity." How true these words are for the Gospels are filled with stories from Jesus' own lips of those who receive mercy and then afterward turn on their fellow man in demand of them what they themselves have been forgiven but in turn show no mercy.



St. John Chrysostom said that *"Mercy imitates God and disappoints Satan."* Mercy is rooted in compassion for, as Alexander Pope penned;

*Teach me to feel another's woe,
to hide the fault I see;
that mercy I to others show,
that mercy show to me.*

"Whoever falls from God's right hand is caught in his left", wrote Edwin Markham and what a beautiful image for us to keep in our minds as we reflect on God's great and mysterious mercy toward us.



The Heavenly Father is the image of mercy itself. Period. The expectation is real that we will do to others in forgiveness what we ourselves have received from the Lord. It's hard and that's precisely why this Year of Mercy can be such a valuable time if we dare seize it. This time between December 8, 2015 and November 20, 2016 is exactly 348 days (17 days short of a year) and also 99 weekends for us ourselves to experience that 'mercy known is mercy shown'.

The youth oriented study version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "Christians must look after the needy of this earth with great consideration, love and perseverance. After all, on no other point will they be evaluated by Christ so decisively as on their way of treating the poor." (YouCat 449) Which brings us to the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy and the Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy.

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. feed the hungry
2. give drink to the thirsty
3. clothe the naked
4. shelter the homeless
5. visit the sick
6. visit the imprisoned
7. to bury the dead

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. to instruct the ignorant
2. to counsel the doubtful
3. comfort the sorrowful
4. admonish the sinner
5. bear wrongs patiently
6. forgive all injuries
7. to pray for the living and the dead

This would be a fitting and worthwhile list to keep before us throughout this Year of Mercy, examining not so much the checklist of what we are doing, which is commendable, but perhaps to pay attention to that which we tend to neglect. Our biggest enemy is time which we never seems to have enough of but also can be seized and harnessed through self-discipline and practice where we find and make time to show mercy. (Fr. C)

Mass Intentions – Dec. 15 - 20

Tues. Dec.15-8:30am–Antonio Tamburro+req. Iolanda Tamburro
Wed. Dec.16 - 7:00 pm – Joan Bushell+ req. Madge St. Denis
Thurs. Dec.17 - 8:30 am – Eileen Ann Cahill+ req. Thornhill Family
Fri. Dec. 18- 8:30 am – Tara Lawlor+ req. Edie McDermott
Sat. Dec. 19 - 5:00 pm - John & Mary Fox+ req. Catherine Duncan
Sun. Dec.20 – 9:00 am – Melinda Larocque req. Pearson Family
11:00 am – Damien Maraj+ req. Edmund Emmanuel Family

**PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION:
Tuesday December 15 from 9:00-11:00 am
and from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Other parish Advent Reconciliation information:
St. John the Evangelist Advent Reconciliation
Sunday Dec. 13 at 7:00 pm.
Holy Family Advent Reconciliation
Wednesday Dec. 16 at 8:00 pm.

CWL NEWS

Christmas Cookies will be available to purchase after all masses on **December 19 & 20** in the church vestibule.
A special Invitation to all the ladies of the parish.
Please come and join us for our **Christmas Pot Luck** supper on **Thursday December 17 at 6:30 pm** in the parish hall.

Knights of Columbus News

A very grateful **Thank You** to all those who attended and supported the Knights of Columbus Breakfast on Sunday December 6. Your time, effort and generosity helped us to raise \$571.00 for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Christmas 2015 – Cornerstone Men's Hostel

Thank you for your continued support for the Men's Hostel. Next weekend December 19/20 will be our final weekend to receive items.

NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES 2016

Thursday Dec.31 (New Year's Eve) 5:00 pm Mass only
Friday Jan. 1 (New Year's Day) 11:00 am Mass only

Reminder: In Canada, New Year's Day is the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and is a Holy Day of Obligation.


IMPORTANT: 2016 WEEKLY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE 'QUIET ROOM' PLEASE PICK THEM UP AS THEY WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CHURCH ON MONDAY Dec. 21.




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