



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 Manuel Duterte* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If Father Manuel 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2014

The Christmas Mass times for 2014 are:

Christmas Eve – Wednesday December 24 -- 5 & 8 pm.

Christmas Day – Thursday December 25 -- 9 and 11 am.

EULOGY ON THE DOG

T'is the season for all of us to be busy and priests are no exception to the lack of time and so many things to do, especially when we are alone in our parishes as the lone priest. That being said, I love being a priest and the work it calls me to. Now it is just a couple of weeks before Christmas and I've got this self-imposed bulletin article deadline to meet and I'm weary of my own writings. What to write about now? I've been writing bulletin articles for 14 years now and I sometimes have to scramble for topics to write about.

Over the past few years I've been struck by the powerful videos online of dog rescues where canines have been reported as injured, abused or abandoned, were caught and their miserable lives saved through people who care. The majority of these heart-wrenching rescues are found on the website Hope For Paws (hopeforpaws.org) and as hard as they are to watch because of the pitiful sight of these poor and lost canines, they are always messages of hope and new life.

It's no secret that I'm a dog person and have had the experience of owning four great dogs since 1998, each of them with their own personality and traits and yet all very friendly, quiet and obedient. Three of them have been dogs that were rescued and one, Big Bear (who died two years ago of cancer) was from a farm where these big dogs – Wolfhound/Shepherd's -- have been in the family for generations.

As Christians we have to keep our priorities straight and no life is of more value than that of the human being. The right to life of all persons whether in the womb or walking the earth is the inalienable right of all human beings and to defend that life is the duty and mandate of all people of the earth, not only Christians. Our God has made us for Himself and He is the Author of all life.

Part of the life of the earth are the creatures he has created and among them the dog, which just so happens to be 'God' backwards. One should detest seeing any living, breathing and feeling animal come to harm, abuse, abandonment or neglect.

Years ago I came across the following article called [Eulogy On The Dog](#).

A George Graham Vest wrote and gave the speech, "Eulogy on the Dog," during a lawsuit in 1870. — *Congressional Record, October 16, 1914, vol. 51, Appendix, pp. 1235–36.*

A foxhound named Drum "was known far and near as one of the fastest and least uncertain of hunting dogs." He was shot and his owner sued for damages, \$150 being the maximum allowed. The case started before a Justice of the Peace, was appealed to another court and transferred to another. It was in the final trial, in the State Circuit Court at Warrensburg, Missouri, that Vest made his speech, the peroration of which is above.

According to the recollection of Thomas T. Crittenden, counsel

for the defendant and later governor of Missouri, Vest made no reference to the evidence but confined himself to a tribute to canine affection and fidelity. "He seemed to recall from history all the instances where dogs had displayed intelligence and fidelity to man. He quoted more lines of history and poetry about them than I had supposed had been written ... It was as perfect a piece of oratory as ever was heard from pulpit or bar. Court, jury, lawyers, and audience were entranced. I looked at the jury and saw all were in tears." — Gustav Kobbe, *A Tribute to the Dog*, pp. 9–18 (1911).

According to John F. Phillips, former law partner of Vest and a member of the House of Representatives, whose comments appear in the Congressional Record with the eulogy on the dog, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for \$500, far more than the sum sued for. The excess was remitted. Vest was elected to the Senate eight years later and served 1879–1904.

[Eulogy on the Dog](#) (from bartleby.com)

Gentlemen of the jury, the best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter whom he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us — those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name — may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolute, unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world — the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous — is his dog.

Gentlemen of the jury, a man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he can be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that had no food to offer, he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him to guard against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes the master in its embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even to death.

(Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS – WEEK OF Dec. 16 – 21, 2014

Dec.16 - 8:30 am – Oliveen Trainor+ req Tom & Geraldine Sullivan
Dec. 17 - 7:00 pm – Intentions of Anne Olejniczak req Karen O.
Dec. 18 - 8:30 am – For the souls in Purgatory
Dec .19 - 8:30 am - Francis Campos+ req. Athaide Family
Dec. 20 – 5:00 pm - Antonio Tamburro+ req. Yolanda Tamburro
Dec. 21 – 9:00 am - For the souls in Purgatory req. Noel Willis
11:00 am – Deceased members in Ireland of the Sullivan Family

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2014 TO FRIDAY JANUARY 2, 2015 AND WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2015. IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY REQUIRING A PRIEST, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 905-655-3286 EXT. 8.

**Weekday Masses will be cancelled on the following dates after Christmas, New Year's and the week following.
Friday, December 26, Tuesday, December 30, Friday, January 2, 2015.
Also the week of January 6 – 9, 2015 – Masses & Holy Hour cancelled as Fr. Charles is on a week's vacation.**

Christmas 2014 – Cornerstone Men's Hostel

Once again this Advent Season, St. Leo the Great Parish will be collecting items for the Cornerstone Men's Hostel in Oshawa. Cornerstone has asked us to restrict our donated items to items which are so necessary to the men who live on the street which include: new-only socks, underwear, toothbrushes and deodorant, shaving cream, foot powder, lip balm, and Kleenex tissues. We will not be taking any used clothing this season. You are asked to drop off these items in the church vestibule at the Welcome Table. Thank You for your continued support. The last weekend for items will be the weekend of December 20 & 21, 2014.

Knights of Columbus News

The Knights of Columbus extend a big Thank You to the parish as we sold out of Christmas Cards and Cakes in record time this year. All monies from these sales go towards the preservation of life in Canada. The Knights will continue to sell "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets and lawn signs during Advent.

We would also like to extend a big Thank You to all who attended the Knights Breakfast last Sunday. Donations received were in excess of \$600.00 which will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Prepare The Way For The King:
Making the most of Advent- Dr. Scott Hahn**

Dr. Scott Hahn, one of America's most influential Catholic theologians, challenges his listeners to re-evaluate the traditional Christmas story. He paints a different picture of the Nativity, especially the visitors and the gifts they gave to the newborn King. Who came to visit the newborn Jesus? "Meek and humble" shepherds and respected "wise men?" Not really. Those humble, meek and mild shepherds were seen by first century Jews as untrustworthy, lying scoundrels who were to be avoided at all costs. The "wise men" were considered to be worse than shepherds! The "Magi" were regarded as mysterious sorcerers who followed the black arts. Why were these unwanted people the first to see Jesus?

Dr. Hahn also provides insightful information about the "gifts" (gold, frankincense, and myrrh). Were they simply gifts for our Lord, or did they represent something much more meaningful? In addition to retelling the story of Jesus' Nativity, Dr. Hahn makes the events of the first Advent relevant to today's modern Christian, and North American social and political culture. He also touches upon the importance of the liturgical calendar.

Dr. Hahn has done his homework with this talk. The historical information is clear and very thoughtful. It gave me a deeper understanding of the people and the events surrounding the birth of our Lord. I really enjoyed how he ties Advent with today's consumerist society and provides important advice to keep us from being drawn into the diluted and materialistic version of being "prepared." I recommend you listen to this CD and truly prepare the way for the King during this Advent season. Francesco Bianco

Third Sunday of Advent - December 14, 2014

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Christ Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997.

RECONCILIATION DATES AT NEIGHBOURING PARISHES

On Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Parish.
On Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm at Holy Family Parish.

PAPAL BLESSING SCROLLS

The Archdiocese of Toronto will no longer facilitate ordering Papal Blessing Scrolls. Parishioners will be able to go online www.vatican.va. Under the Roman Curia tab, and then the Office of Papal Charities under 'Institutions Connected with the Holy See', download the order form and send it directly to the Vatican by fax or mail. The scroll order will be processed and sent to the parishioner, along with an invoice for the scroll including shipping costs.




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