



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

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.

ADVENT: WHAT TO DO? Part II

Advent is not a penitential season in that it is primarily a season of joy in preparation for the coming of Christ. When? At any moment, in looking back in history to the birth of Jesus, in looking to His promise that He would return at a time not of our knowing – at an unexpected hour – and that He comes to us now in the today moment of our lives. “Jesus came in history, Jesus comes in mystery and He will come again at the end of time, the end of the world” is an old saying which summarizes the three comings of the Lord.

And yet, in the Church as Catholics we know that one of the greatest forms of response to Jesus is to be prepared for Him.



And the way we do it is the way the whole Old Testament people were told how to do it, repent. John the Baptist, one of the principal figures of the Advent season in the scriptures we will hear is so focused on the mission he has been foretold to do, for even through the Prophet Isaiah we hear: “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make

his paths straight.’” Yet first, as John fulfills his heaven-sent mandate to point to Christ, the Messiah, he himself tells the people, as he appears in the desert as a dishevelled looking figure, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Repent, or ‘turn your life around’ is to recognize ones sin and seek to get rid of it. And Christ Our Blessed Lord gave us a way out through his priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or confession. We make a path that is straight and without winds and curves, hills and potholes so that the image of making a straight path for Christ to come into your heart means to ready that heart and the path that leads to it as straight and even as possible.

There are so many paintings of St. John the Baptist and in many of them John cuts a handsome figure as he stands in the Jordan about to baptize Jesus. But the Gospels tell us that he would have appeared as a strange man indeed. His diet is eating locusts (bugs) and wild honey. He appeared in the wilderness and remained there most of the time as the people went out to see him and heed his words of repentance. I’ve always pictured him as a slimmer, rough and wild looking Fred Flintstone with caveman-like clothing. As a biblical figure, John the Baptist appears as strange in many ways to the people he was sent to call out to. He is bold and unafraid in many instances yet he can speak gently and powerfully about the fact that he himself is not the Messiah, but the one who prepares the way of the Messiah and expected Saviour.

And even though John is tenacious and persistent, he himself, experiences his own doubts as to whether Jesus is the One who will fulfill the prophecies of God’s Messiah? Having been thrown in prison, John sends some of his disciples to Jesus to ask Him whether He is the Messiah or should they look for someone else? Jesus, unlike any other man who might simply answer the question with an affirmative “yes”, doesn’t give a yes or no answer at all. Rather, he tells John’s messengers to relay to John, “The blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead are raised and the good news is proclaimed!” In other words, tell John that this is the proof that the Messiah has come. We will note that in all of the Gospels Jesus never plainly says “I am the Messiah”. His works, His words, His miracles and His teaching stand alone as the evidence of who He is. Often enough, the demons would recognize who Jesus was and would proclaim it aloud, but Jesus would immediately silence them. Why? Because, as in your and my life and that of the apostles and all disciples of Jesus, He is to be proclaimed as Saviour by those who have come to believe. Just think on the many figures in the Gospels and in the New Testament as a whole who came to believe that Jesus was from God. The centurion, after he thrusts the spear into Jesus’ side as he hung upon the cross dead, immediately said, after seeing how Jesus died, “Truly, this man was God’s Son!” The thief on Jesus’ right said, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom”.



Mary and Joseph must have contemplated constantly on the greatness and mystery of their Son who with them lived this obscure life in relative poverty. The greatest knowing amidst such a simple poor life on the earth, that Jesus was part of with them.

John the Baptist, even with his doubts about Jesus at one time, would in the end prove resolute and faithful to his call to make the Messiah known. Yet, how is it possible that God who can do all things and who told Mary plainly through an angel that God had a plan to save the world through her, used a man like John to point with his very life to Jesus? “He must increase; I must decrease”, said John of Jesus. Often John was thought to be the Messiah, which is a great compliment to his integrity and bold service to God, just as a Christian can be labelled as a follower of Jesus by the life they are living.

Advent, which to be honest seems to pale in its power to compete with the flash and dazzle of a pre-celebrated Christmas so often void of the One who is its meaning, is actually alike to the faithful voice of John, who once said of Jesus: “Behold, the Lamb of God....”. (Fr. Charles)

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Tuesday, December 10th

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 11th

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 12th

8:30 a.m. † Brian & Matthew Foley

Friday, December 13th

8:30 a.m. Deceased family members of Benedetto Tuzi
† Lucia Colangelo

Saturday, December 14th

4:30 p.m. † John & Mary Fox

Sunday, December 15th

9:00 a.m. † Adriana Sgroi

11:00 a.m. † Mary Oldman

Sanctuary Lamp Intention: Kevin & Robert de Grasse



Once again the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is running the **Christmas Angel program** to provide gifts and assistance to our Neighbours in Need over the Christmas holidays. On Nov 30/Dec 1 and Dec 7/8,

Christmas Angels cards will be available for pick up in the foyer before and after each of the masses. Please note that gifts should be dropped off to an SVDP member at the Christmas Angel table (not the church office). Please drop gifts off before any of the masses between Dec 7 and the 11:00am mass on Dec 15. God bless you for your ongoing generosity.

St Leo Knights of Columbus will be selling **Christmas Cards** and **Keep Christ in Christmas Lawn Signs** after the Saturday and Sunday Masses until December 15th.



St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast in the Church hall on December 15th. following the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Masses. Everyone is invited to enjoy a **full Breakfast** of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice. Adults - \$6.00, Children ages 4 - 10 - \$4.00, and Children under 4 - free. Funds raised from this Breakfast will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Please join us.**

Once again this Advent Season, St. Leo the Great Parish will be collecting items for the **Cornerstone Men's Hostel in Oshawa**. Items necessary to the men who live on the streets include: new-only socks, underwear, toothbrushes and deodorant, shaving cream, foot powder, lip balm and Kleenex tissues. We cannot accept used clothing. Please drop off these items in the bins located in the vestibule of the church.

Thank you for your continued support.

Advent Schedule

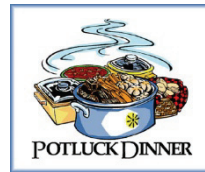
PARISH RECONCILIATION

A holy act to give yourself over to in the Advent Season is to prepare for and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

During the *Week of Advent Reconciliations* in the Archdiocese of Toronto, (December 18 – 21), our parish will offer a total of 4-hours of confession on

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 at 9 – 11 am and 6 – 8 pm

Other area parishes will hold their own days and times for the opportunity for confession and these will be either posted on their websites or are available through the Archdiocese's website – archtoronto.org



PARISH POTLUCK

We are happy to announce that our Parish is having another Potluck! It will be on **Sat, Dec 14 after 4:30 p.m. Mass**, organized by the NET Team and parish volunteers. We ask you to please sign up

at the back of the church so that we know how many are attending and what food we have in each category. It is our chance to say good bye to our NET team before they head off for Christmas with their families. This is the third Sunday of Advent, Laudate Sunday, and we hope you will join us for this joyous celebration in anticipation of Christmas.

VOCATION SEEDS

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? If God is calling you, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca**



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This year's Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854, was transferred from the 8th because of the Sunday Liturgy. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

Catechism of the Catholic Church




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