



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

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.

HOLY HOUR

Every Friday morning at 7:30 am. – 8:30 am.
followed by morning Mass at 8:30 am.

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 18 at 9 – 11 am and 7 – 9 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

NET TESTIMONIES

Last weekend Abbra from our NET team gave a short testimony of a quick background to her life and her conversion to a deeper life with Christ which has brought her to give time out of her life to serving Christ in doing missionary work with NET which has brought her to us. Each week at the 4:30 Saturday Youth Mass we will feature a testimonial from one of the NET members which will span into the new year since the Team will be leaving us in mid-December to first regroup with their NET friends in Ottawa before going home for Christmas.

While hearing testimonials from Catholics has never really been a popular thing as we Catholics tend to be so private about our personal journeys, I think we all are inspired and benefit from hearing of another fellow Catholics journey either to the Catholic Church or their return to the Church through grace, forgiveness or some transforming event blessed by these which has seen that person "home" in the Church.

All of us have our stories and for the most part won't share those realities except with a few trusted persons close to us. But the value of sharing some part of our lives or how we conquered a problem, an addiction, tragedy, suffering or battle not only gives evidence of endurance in the human spirit but also helps the hearers, who may never share anything about themselves, fresh courage and hope or at least a sense that they are not alone in their own struggles.

I know that sometimes when people are in a retreat type of setting and there is time for people to share something from their lives, some will be most reluctant to be find themselves in a sharing situation. It could be shyness or some form of fear of others judging them, and perhaps it is better for them and their sense of wellbeing that they just listen to others. Yet, even in these situations, the listeners glean so much from the witness of others and can grow themselves from the experience of others. We weren't meant to live in our own bubbles but truly share our common humanity with others which can be freeing, helpful and create a greater bond with one another.

I think we all admire those people who have shared the struggles of their lives with other people given the right situation to do it.

Anyone who has attended an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, no matter how shy or awkward you may feel, will listen to others who admit they've got an ongoing problem with no cure, save the love and support of God and others who have travelled the same road and who, one day at a time, have learned and are learning how to live again. They become wounded healers which is really the power of AA, a God-given program where people help other people in the same struggle, recognizing that they can never return to their former lives and the hell it produced for them.

I remember only once hearing my father speak at an AA meeting, giving his story of how he went from a life centered on alcohol and self, and the myriad problems it brought, to a new life of sobriety and good friends and family who supported him. He shared that he was grateful to God for his sobriety which he expressed to the Lord personally after every Sunday Mass by kneeling down and praying for a moment before he left the church. He also said that he was grateful for the gift of remorse because it made him realize he never wanted to be that person, his old self, again. It kept him sober, happy and content with his new life which has, undoubtedly, helped to shape all of us, his children and into future generations. The power of testimony.

So, when you hear the NET's individual team members share their brief testimony, appreciate their honesty and courage in sharing that which is personal to them but also hear of their journey that has led not only to meaning and truth but THE meaning and truth for their living that is Jesus.

Advent Waiting

While Advent falls on the most hectic, hurried time of the year in the days leading up to Christmas, it's good that we should all be careful and mindful not to let the stress of it all win out. We celebrate at Christmas the most wonderful news the earth had ever received and was fulfilled when Christ came to us in the most unthinkable way possible - as a mere infant baby. His coming won't have much of an impact on those who have yet to contemplate the fact that we needed and still need to be saved by Someone outside of ourselves.

Perhaps that is a good question to ponder in this Advent Season, as Mary pondered, especially as we, now in the Second Sunday of Advent near the Third Sunday of Advent when the Church reminds us to "rejoice!" Just what does a Saviour, The Saviour, say to our lives today?

Looking back in history, we know that Christ came into the world filled with darkness, death and sin, knowing that his coming, his life, his death and resurrection would win for us something we could not ever possibly do for ourselves. God knew what we needed and, therefore, sent his Son, Jesus, as had been foretold, into the world as the Messiah, the Saviour, the Redeemer.

It would be erroneous for us to somehow think that our sins are forgiven simply because Christ died on the Cross 2000 years ago. While his death put an end once and for all to our deaths and taking upon himself our sin would win for us the forgiveness of all our sins, Christ coupled the forgiveness won by his Cross with the sacrament of Reconciliation he would himself institute, so that until he comes again the sacramental reality of his forgiveness would meet our own spiritual need for that forgiveness each and every time we came before him in confession. In this great yet humbling and sometimes difficult sacrament of forgiveness, Christ himself

transplants his redemptive Cross firmly before us so that, from that Cross he can speak those eternal yet fresh words in our hearing, "Father, forgive them....". As he had so freely and willingly forgiven the sins of those people he met and we read of in the Gospels, setting them free indeed, he comes to us afresh with mercy and love and asks that we, too, humble ourselves before him, acknowledge our sins and our hatred of them in his presence, and desire to be truly forgiven.

The world needed a Saviour then and we need a Saviour today! If Christ only came in history to pay the price of our forgiveness then there would be no need of forgiveness and reconciliation in our lives today because we would live in a world where there was no sin.

If the world had a huge and unbearable debt upon it, and someone came and said "I will pay and leave money for all the debts to be incurred", then that would mean that in the future any new debt an individual would take upon themselves would be paid for on the account of the one who forgave all debts - but the individual would still have to lay claim to and write a cheque for the new debt from the account of the one who left the money. That is what Christ did for us. Yes, he died once and for all for our sins. And we get rid of our sins on the account he has left us in the sacrament of Reconciliation. The priest is the 'teller', so to speak, who is charged with writing off the debt our sins have brought about. The 'bank' with its wealth of mercy, forgiveness and boundless love is Christ. The work of Christ is present and alive among us still in the present-day Saviour we still need.

The Saviour is also at work in us who receive him truly in the great mystery of the Eucharist, 'the Source and Summit' of our Catholic Faith. The One who saved us also chose to be present with us and in us so that when we received him in our hands or on our tongues during Communion, we would be receiving *him* just as his disciples did at that Last Supper and First Mass. And while we may not ever on this earth and in this life time be able to understand what this Eucharist means for our lives and the necessity of it for our spiritual well-being and life journey, we do know that Christ himself knew that we needed it and chose for us to receive him in this way - it was his idea and, therefore, we can trust him directly that it is essential for our lives.

The Advent roads we choose will determine the Christmas we celebrate. On a spiritual journey one needs spiritual helps, and Christ has supplied them in abundance. Let us heed now the good teaching of the Church in the Advent Season, where everything is being sped up at a fevered pitch, to slow down, take stock, be grateful, share what we have, and draw closer to the One who in history, mystery and future is With Us. (*Blessings. Fr. Charles*)

GIFT OF SECURITIES

You can now support the Church using securities (stocks, mutual funds, bonds.). You will not have to pay any capital gains on your gift and you will get a tax receipt for the full amount. Also, you can divide up your gift to as many Archdiocesan charities as you wish (e.g. Parish Offertory or building fund, ShareLife, The Shepherds' Trust etc.). For more information please contact the Parish Office or the Development Office or the Archdiocese at 416-93403411 or at development@archtoronto.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 11th

8:30 a.m. † Bernice Nolan

Wednesday, December 12th

7:00 p.m. † Matthew Foley
† Geraldine Mueller

Thursday, December 13th

8:30 a.m. † Alice Launay

Friday, December 14th

8:30 a.m. † Brian Foley
† Peter Quittenton
Intentions of Stan Felix

Saturday, December 15th

4:30 p.m. † Michele LaBarre Huinink

Sunday, December 16th

9:00 a.m. † Michele LaBarre Huinink
11:00 a.m. Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Before and after today's Mass members of Saint Vincent de Paul will have Christmas Angel Cards available.

Please drop by and pick an Angel to shop for. Help make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate than yourself. ***Unwrapped gifts are to be returned at Mass on December 15 and 16.***

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our mother's ministry this month as we prepare for Advent! We will enjoy some Christmas treats, do some crafts, listen to an inspirational podcast and put together gift boxes for the Durham Region Shoebox Project which collects and distributes gift-filled shoeboxes to women impacted by homelessness in our community. You may drop-off items into the donation box in the church foyer or bring them with you to our meeting on ***Wed Dec 12 at 8pm in the Quiet Room.*** For a list of suggested items, please visit www.shooboxproject.com.

Contact annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com or visit www.catholicmomsgroup.com for more information. ***New members are always welcome!***

CHRISTMAS CARDS, MAGNETS & SIGNS

St Leo Knights of Columbus will be selling ***Christmas Cards*** and ***Keep Christ in Christmas Lawn Signs*** after the Saturday and Sunday Masses starting on November 24th for four weeks.

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. 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.




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