

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: office@stleothegreat.ca

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:

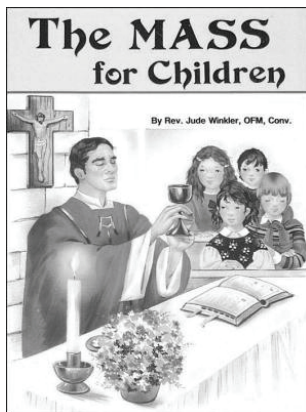
All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.

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.

MASS BOOK FOR CHILDREN



The parish has now purchased 100 copies of THE MASS FOR CHILDREN, a book we are inviting children from Grades 1 – 4 to pick when they come to church and to use throughout the Mass, returning it in the same place they picked it up before they leave the church.

We have placed 50 copies each on either shelves just behind the back pews in the church. As children arrive for Mass they can go and pick up a copy of the book and return it to the same place

after Mass is over.

The book allows children to follow along with the Mass which helps them to learn about the meaning of the Eucharist and the various parts of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist from beginning to end.

The books were purchased from the proceeds of the sale of Missals, Children's Advent calendars and the Devotional book for the season of Advent.

The books are now available for use by the children and we would ask that parents make sure their children use the books respectfully and not take them outside of the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR LENT 2018:

A PARISH MISSION WITH MARK MALLET

Sun. Feb. 25 – Tues. Feb. 27, 7-9 pm.



I am excited to announce that our parish will host Catholic Singer/Song Writer Mark Mallett to our parish in February of 2018 for a Lenten Mission which will begin on a Sunday evening (Feb. 25) and end on the Tuesday evening (Feb. 27). Each evening session will run from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Singing and playing guitar since the age of nine, **Mark Mallett** is a Canadian singer/songwriter, Catholic evangelist and author. Since leaving his career as a successful television journalist in 2000, Mark has been touring extensively throughout North

America and abroad giving parish missions & concerts, as well as speaking and ministering at retreats, conferences and Catholic schools. He had the privilege of singing at the Vatican and presenting his music to Pope Benedict XVI. Mark has appeared on EWTN's *Life on the Rock* as well as many other television and radio broadcasts.

While singing a song he had written for the Mass several years ago, Mark felt drawn to go to the church and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. It was there that He heard the Lord calling

him in his heart to become a watchman for this generation, as Pope John Paul II asked the youth at World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada.

So under the care of his spiritual director, Mark began to publish a regular Blog Journal to help prepare the Church for the dramatic times we live in. A summary of those writings was also published in the Fall of 2009 in a book called **The Final Confrontation**.

Around the same time, Mark also launched the second phase of his ministry in a periodical webcast called **EmbracingHope.tv**.

Mark and his wife Lea have eight beautiful children together (3 girls & 5 boys—in that order) and make their home on a small farm in Western Canada.

There will be more information about our Lenten Parish Mission in the weeks and months ahead, but for now – please mark your calendars.

You can check out Mark's blog at markmallett.com and click on Blog. (Fr. Charles)



WATCH AND PRAY

I came across this picture of Jesus standing among his sleeping disciples. In last Sunday's Gospel from Mark Jesus said "Beware, keep alert" and "keep awake". All of these warnings speak of a relationship of time for we do not know "when" Jesus will return. We've heard this from Jesus in the scriptures all our lives and the passing of time can find us actually asleep to this message and truth we are used to hearing. We can sleep as did the apostles

themselves becoming weary of the power of the message and not being aware of what is going on around us in the spiritual realm. Worried men don't sleep, yet the apostles slept as Jesus endured His agony, knowing that He was going to be crucified and would die the following day. But they slept. Jesus had told them on several occasions that this was going to happen but... still, they slept. Any message, no matter how serious or dire, will lose its importance in us if over time we simply forget about it or if we just crowd it out with the busyness of life. We can be grateful that in the wisdom of the Church we are given the season of Lent to again hear and become awake to the message that Jesus will return at a time we do not know. Individually though, it also means that Jesus' coming could be today for any one of us. Are we ready? If not, what do we have to do or change today in order to become ready? Enter the season of Advent.

Now here I'm trying to avoid the often heard "Advent is..." monologue but let's face it, as a priest I must have a sense of the purpose and meaning of this annual grouping of roughly 4 quick weeks which run alongside the frantic race to Christmas. Here the secular and the spiritual are similar in time but lead to very different intended outcomes. The 'holiday season' is really the holy-day season but stripped of its spiritual content and meaning. One radio station runs a program each year at this time called 'sounds of the seasons' but for me it begs the question, just what is the season? It's a purposeful avoidance of using the words Advent or Christmas and seems to mysteriously end on or around what we call Christmas. Once

the celebration of the birth of Jesus commences the so-called season is apparently over. Now, it can't be the winter season because winter sure isn't over on the 25th of December. It's a made up season with the intent to be politically correct and avoid any reference to the incarnation of the Lord which is the "reason for the season", as they say.

Yet in many ways the differing 'seasons' often have the same intent: doing good for others, making a change in one's life with a greater awareness of the needs of others who may be poor or struggling or suffering. They both have a great deal to do with how one sees themselves in relationship to others. However, Advent is a spiritual season for looking within at the same time. For the ancient peoples the waiting for the promised Messiah was an external thing because the Messiah would be a person who would come in time and would shake off the oppressors of the people. They longed to see the day when the physical appearance of their Saviour would come when they would witness external changes all around. But now that this was realized two millennia ago in the birth of Jesus and in many ways so radically different from how they thought the Messiah would appear, the time since this momentous event has led to the same search and need inward ever since. We need not roam the earth looking for the Promised One nor do we need to listen to news of His appearance somewhere. We turn inward to see whether the Messiah, who lives in us who ascribe to His name, is evident and realized more fully in who and what we are or have become. We look inside ourselves to see whether we are living a life that is ready for the coming of the Messiah in this present moment and at the end of our lives, individually and collectively. Jesus' own words in the season of Advent through the Church's selection of readings from the scriptures makes evident that our time of waiting is to allow God to do something within us, to come to us, to correct our looking if it be in the wrong directions. Part of the Advent waiting is necessary in order to be, as Jesus said, alert, watchful, aware because it's awfully hard to do these things when we're too busy.

As a priest I know that this time of year can be very busy and even though the tasks that I must attend to and make preparations for are necessary they can also lead me to be inattentive to how I can allow this season to distract me from what I really need it to do for me in my walk with Jesus.

Let's face it, there is not much any of us can do to lessen the demands made on us at this time of year, though we can take more control over them lest they have control over us. Perhaps the best evidence of our Advent waiting is in the way we feel after Christmas is over. Are we enlivened or are we just relieved that it's over for another year.

As a priest I find that the longer I am a priest the less influenced I have become over the fuss and stuff of the busy pre-Christmas season. I do feel excitement when preparing for the various homilies and ministerial tasks that I face at this time of year and I have the same excitement in helping to plan and decorate the church as I did when I was a child and anticipating gifts from Santa Claus. I don't really need any 'thing' but I do need so much that Christ, the center and Source of Christmas meaning, can and wants to give me.

To watch and pray is to be attentive to those real needs I have as a beloved disciple, frail and sinful as I am toward a stronger and more holy individual and priest that Christ wants me to be. Looking without leads me to emptiness and far, far less than the riches and joy Christ wants to bring to me where I live and therefore I say within, "O Come, Emmanuel!" (Fr. C.)

Mass Intentions for the Week

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|--------------|------------|--|
| Tue, Dec 12 | 8:30 a.m. | Barry Strong + |
| Wed, Dec 13 | 7:00 p.m. | Matthew & Brian Foley + Living & Deceased members of CWL |
| Thur, Dec 14 | 8:30 a.m. | Oscaro Ciceri + |
| Fri, Dec 15 | 8:30 a.m. | Cristeta & Julio Enriquez + Gord Hallam + |
| Sat, Dec 16 | 4:30 p.m. | John & Mary Fox + |
| Sun, Dec 17 | 9:00 a.m. | Mark Mason + |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Ints of Catholic Moms Group |



A big 'THANK YOU' to all of the volunteers who assisted with the First Reconciliation Classes and the evening of First Reconciliation!

CHRISTMAS CARDS, MAGNETS & SIGNS

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Campaign Life Christmas Cards, Magnets and Christmas Lawn Signs after all weekend Masses in the vestibule.

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.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our very generous parishioners who came through again. Four cars were loaded with full non perishable food boxes and delivered to the Settlement House Food Bank in Oshawa. Many grateful workers were happy and pleased to help us unload. All used eye glasses were dropped at Dr Dana Blakolmer 's for the 3rd world Eye Care Society. Well done everyone, God bless.

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 Dec 14

All those called to Mothering are Welcome!
To be added to our email list contact:

annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com. Check out:
www.catholicmomsgroup.com





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