



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.

Last Bulletin

This bulletin is the last bulletin until the new year.

PARISH RECONCILIATION THIS TUESDAY

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

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

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18 at 9 – 11 am and 7 – 9 pm

Other area parishes are holding 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

Youth Ministry and our Parish

Since October 1 of this year our parishioners have met, worked with, talked with and celebrated our Catholic faith together with the fabulous NET team God has been so good to send us. They have had a great impact on



our young people – which is their reason for being here – and have brought so many of them in for the weekly Thursday *Edge* program for children grades 6-8 and the *Impact* program for high school teens, which is always more of a challenge to promote and attract high school aged student to attend.

Our NET team is superb in their witness to the young and their enthusiasm and genuine joy catches our young people in the 'net' of God's great love. And they have caught us as parishioners who have come to know them and love them for their commitment, sacrifice and love for Christ and His Church.

I have heard from so many of our parishioners, teachers, principals and parents who have seen firsthand the wonderful work of The reason for this endeavour of having NET teams work in our parish for the next two years is solidly built on the need for a foundation on which future youth ministry can be sustained and grow.

"If you aspire to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for an ordeal." (*Sirach 2:1*)

Our youth-oriented ambitions haven't been without their challenges. It was disappointing to have been turned down this year by the Archdiocese of Toronto in our application for the Youth Subsidy, an incentive of the Family of Faith campaign which would have granted us \$25,000. toward our youth ministry start up, because it was deemed we didn't hire a youth minister but got a whole NET team instead, (though the cost of having seven young adults evangelizing our youth for a year was cheaper than hiring a single youth minister). The subsidy was intended specifically for parishes just like ours whose financial situations impeded their

ability to properly afford to have youth ministry, meanwhile, I had knowledge of a parish which had little to no debt, already had an established youth ministry and a full time youth minister who had been hired well before the campaign. I appealed the board's decision with five reasons for why we should be granted the subsidy, among them the information about the parish which didn't qualify for it but got it anyway, but we were simply turned down. Here, I am not being vindictive about what seems to me to be unfair and unjust but realize I should have made this known to our parishioners in September when it took place just as we would make it known if we had received the subsidy again.

However, our parishioners and service groups have been so generous in their financial contributions and their kind donations of snacks for the youth nights as well as the hearts of those who opened their homes to host the NET team members. As well, our parishioners who sit on the Youth Committee with me have given so much of themselves to not only guide the youth work being done but also see it into the future.

It was sad news to hear that a member of our NET team of seven, Catherine, the youngest of our team who has been battling sickness from the time she first arrived in Brooklin, had to return home to BC this past week as her bouts of illness had pervaded the time she was with us and the first priority for her should be her health and wellbeing. We are grateful for her time and gifts shared with us and pray for her wellness and healing.

We wish our 'netters' a good Christmas break as they spend time with their families and friends and celebrate the joy that comes from the knowledge and truth that Jesus Christ was born and is again in us when we give Him our "yes". (*Fr. Charles*)

In the Bleak Midwinter By poet Christina Rossetti

One of my favourite Christmas hymns is this one, which addresses what we can give as a gift to the Jesus, born in Bethlehem. The poem is set to the most beautiful music and I love it. (*Fr.C*)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 18th
 8:30 a.m. † Innocenzo, Angela, Giuseppe & Maria Mammone

Wednesday, December 19th
 7:00 p.m. † Mark Maison

Thursday, December 20th
 8:30 a.m. † Miroslawa Vasin

Friday, December 21st
 8:30 a.m. † Bernice Nolan
 † Armenio Medeiros
 All the souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 22nd
 4:30 p.m. † John & Mary Fox

Sunday, December 23rd
 9:00 a.m. † Antonio Tamburo
 11:00 a.m. † John Johnson & Mariane Laverty Johnson

Monday, December 24th
 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 25th
 9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
 11:00 a.m. Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 29th
 4:30 p.m. † Pino & Carmine Bruni

Sunday, December 30th
 9:00 a.m. † Frank Utrosa
 11:00 a.m. † Vincenzina Mammone & Attilio & Maria Tuzi

Monday, December 31st
 4:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass

Tuesday, January 1st
 4:30 p.m. New Year's Mass

Wednesday, January 2nd
 7:00 p.m. Intentions of Casey & Benny Euale

Thursday, January 3rd
 8:30 a.m. † Stefan, Joanna & Anna Sabala

Friday, January 4th
 8:30 a.m. † Fred Molica

Saturday, January 5th
 4:30 p.m. † Patricia Neville

Sunday, January 6th
 9:00 a.m. † Michael Higgins
 11:00 a.m. † Henry Freve

There will be no daily Mass on Dec 26, 27 & 28

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 416-934-3411 or at development@archtoronto.org

2019 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

2019 offertory envelopes are available for pick up in the vestibule. **Please do not use 2019 envelopes until the New Year.** Please write your name and address on envelopes for the first few weeks of 2019 to confirm your contact information.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed between December 26th and January 4th inclusive and will reopen on Monday, January 7th.

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.

Register for Grade 1 French Immersion

You are invited to enrol your child into the French Immersion program at schools across the Durham Catholic District School Board. Online registration opens **December 10, 2018 to January 18, 2019**. Students entering Grade 1 in September 2019 are eligible to register. Visit dcdsb.ca and click on the French Immersion banner to register. Opening Doors to Opportunities!

Kindergarten Registration

You are invited to register your child for Kindergarten at one of the Durham Catholic schools across the region. Your child must be turning 4 years of age by December 31, 2019 in order to enrol. Online registration will take place from **January 14-19, 2019**. Visit dcdsb.ca to register. For questions, email admissions@dcdsb.ca.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

**Sunday, December 16, 3:00 p.m.
 1710 Scugog St., Port Perry, ON**

Join us in preparing for Christmas by recalling the prophecies of salvation in nine biblical readings, carols, and anthems. The Immaculate Conception Sparrows Youth Choir will lead us in song. The Service will end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted. Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.



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