



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.

HOLY HOUR

This **Tuesday Dec. 4** we will have our monthly Holy Hour from **7-8pm.** with music provided by our NET Team.

We will be joined by our parish teens in Impact.

"Could you not stay awake one hour with me?" (Matt. 26:40)

Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon

Our **Wednesday evening Mass at 7 pm. on December 5th** will be dedicated to this title of Our Lady asking Our Lady's intercession for Christians the world over who continue to suffer persecution and even death for their faith in Jesus. An icon entitled Our Lady of Persecuted Christians icon has been making parish visits throughout the various parishes with a Knights of Columbus council and will be in our parish until this coming Friday December 7. Plan to attend the Wednesday Dec. 5 Mass and pray, grateful for our present freedoms which might also one day be lost.

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

NUTRITION AND HYDRATION AND THE DYING



I am writing this article, not to dredge up guilt or blame but, to inform and instruct Catholic consciences in anyone who has ever allowed a doctor to convince family members that it

is best to remove nutrition and hydration when medical treatment has run its course and there is no hope of a change in the prognosis of the dying persons state.

As a priest, called to hospital to administer the Sacraments to those who are dying, I have come upon more and more situations where the person who is dying has had all nutrition and hydration removed, which means no feeding tube, no IV and no food by mouth or water to drink. Whenever I have been informed of this by the family members, because this is not always immediately obvious to me outside of the absence of an IV, I am told that the

doctor told them that it is best because they are only prolonging the dying person's life in continuing to administer food and water. Sometimes the family has been told that continuing to feed and hydrate the dying person will only prolong their life and their suffering and that to do so would be extraordinary (which means optional) treatment.

Much of the following information I have gleaned from an article written by contributing author Barbara Kralis in her article with Catholic Online from 2005. She cites many studies and even Pope John Paul II himself, who chose to no longer receive treatment but only food and hydration until the very end.

Barbara states, "A terminally ill or dying person does have the right to refuse 'extra-ordinary' medical means so long as nothing is done or omitted with the intention to hasten or cause the person's death. Compassionate family members, doctors and nurses will continue to provide the person with ordinary care and treatment, which include nutrition and hydration, comfort care, and effective pain management.

Food and hydration, except in extreme and rare cases, is not an optional treatment nor is it extraordinary or treatment at all. I believe in most cases those who go along with the doctors' advice are not informed of what the doctor is really telling them, but in short, it is tantamount to allowing the person to starve to death and die of thirst. No matter the time left to the dying person, which is known only by God, removing food and hydration leads to the cause of death which is due to the lack of both of these, a rather cruel way to leave this world. Like all forms of euthanasia it is masked in language that sounds comforting and compassionate, like, "allowing the person to die", "alleviating their suffering" or that feeding them would "prolong" their life.

Most of us are not medical experts and far from it. We assume that when a doctor tells us something that it is the final word on the subject, after all, the doctor knows what I don't know and knows what is best, right? Doctors are indeed highly trained and specialized in their fields of understanding the body, dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of disease and pain control. But doctors are not God and therefore, should not advise unknowing family members that starvation is the best form of treatment, which is the absence of treatment and that which is vital to life, comfort and human dignity.

An April 2005 U.S. study conducted by *Catholic World News* found that "almost 90% of U.S. Catholic physicians supported medical treatments and ethical stances contrary to Church teachings.

In March of 2004, Pope John Paul II gave an address to a large group of physicians. Part of his talk was the following:

"I should like particularly to underline how the administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, ordinary and proportionate, and as such morally obligatory, insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality, which in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of his suffering.

"The obligation to provide the 'normal care due to the sick in such cases' includes, in fact, the use of nutrition and hydration. The evaluation of probabilities, founded on waning hopes for recovery when the vegetative state is prolonged beyond a year, cannot ethically justify the cessation or interruption of minimal care for the patient, including nutrition and hydration. Death by starvation or dehydration is, in fact, the only possible outcome as a result of their withdrawal. In this sense, it ends up becoming, if done knowingly and willingly, true and proper euthanasia by omission.

"In this regard, I recall what I wrote in the Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* making it clear that "by euthanasia in the true and proper sense must be understood an action or omission which by its very nature and intention brings about death, with the purpose of eliminating all pain"; such an act is always "a serious violation of the law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person"

(n. 65). [Pope John Paul II, *To the Congress on Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State*, 20 March 2004.]

As I was thinking this important and increasingly prevalent issue over I got to reflecting on the fact that the very things a dying person should not be deprived of are the very things Jesus left us until He comes again – food and drink – in His Body and Blood, the Eucharist. Food and drink represent our life-long need for sustenance and Jesus remains with us and feeds us spiritually with the same things that are to be the last things in our living. Each Sunday in the offertory bread and wine are brought forward because they represent us who are flesh and blood as well as representing that we need food and drink to be physically nourished. The Blessed Sacrament in the Catholic Tabernacles of churches and chapels the world over is the visible sign and sacrament of Jesus who is with us until the end of our lives when He then becomes the beginning of our lives with Him forever in the eternal.

In May of 1980, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its Declaration on Euthanasia, declared:

"It is necessary to state firmly once more that nothing and no one can in any way permit the killing of an innocent human being, whether a fetus or an embryo, an infant or an adult, an old person, or one suffering from an incurable disease, or a person who is dying. Furthermore, no one is permitted to

ask for this act of killing, either for himself or herself or for another person entrusted to his or her care, nor can he or she consent to it, either explicitly or implicitly, nor can any authority legitimately recommend or permit such an action."

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 4th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Benedetto Tuzi

Wednesday, December 5th

7:00 p.m. Heather +

Thursday, December 6th

8:30 a.m. + Mary Mulcahy

Friday, December 7th

8:30 a.m. + Ricardo Reyes

+ Dr. Jerry Maguire

Intentions of Fr. Taras

Saturday, December 8th

4:30 p.m. + Joan Bowles

Sunday, December 9th

9:00 a.m. + Rosa DeCarlo

11:00 a.m. Deceased friends of Anna Maria & Benedetto

Tuzi

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our mother's ministry this month as we prepare for Advent! We will enjoy some Christmas treats, make cards, 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.shoeboxproject.com.

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

P.A.G. ENVELOPES

If you are currently giving through PAG, you will receive a box of Special Collections envelopes for 2019. However, if you would still prefer to have a box of regular donation envelopes, please contact the office by **Wednesday, December 5**.

KofC BREAKFAST

St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast in the Church hall on December 9th. 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 - \$5.00, Children ages 4 - 12 - \$3.00, and Children under 4 - free. Hope to see you there. Funds raised will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

KofC MEETING

The next Knights of Columbus General Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, December 3rd.




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