

St. Leo The Great
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Director of Catechetics: Patrick Sullivan 905-655-3286 x 103

Parish Secretary: Maureen Holly 905-655-3286 x 101



*May the Blessings of this
Holy Season be with you Always.*

NEW 2013 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: Tues. Dec. 24 - 5 pm. and 8 pm.

Christmas Day: Wed. Dec. 25 - 9 am. and 11 am.

Christmas Eve Prayer

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

(Astronaut Frank Borman, Apollo 8 space mission, 1968)

Christmas Day Prayers

"May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom we dedicate this season prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom, worshiping as they see fit, loving others.

May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme."

(Soundings, Vol. 2, # 12)

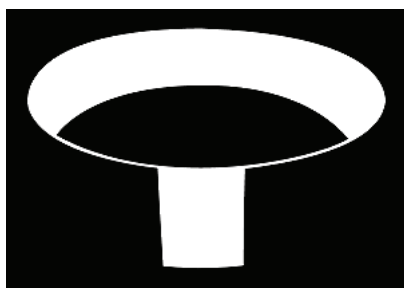
Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(Robert Louis Stevenson)



Wearing the Roman Collar

I suppose that long before I was ordained a priest I considered the idea of wearing the Roman collar of a priest as more honourable and perhaps a

bit prestigious. People would look at me wearing my "clerics"

and either admire me as a priest or admire the office of the priesthood. Like anything else in life, it was not quite what I had bargained for. Having been a priest for 20 years now I look back on my early and silly self-centered pride in wearing the collar with a very different outlook at what it really means to be a priest. I never would have guessed that to wear a Roman collar would also make you a target, an invitation, a symbol, a threat and a witness.

When I was first ordained I was quite conscious of wearing the collar when in public because of the various looks I would get. Sometimes people would make jokes, laugh, look the other way, smile or actually speak to me because I was in clerics. Over the years that sense of seeing myself wearing the collar wore off to the point where most often I forget that I'm even wearing it. It's not until someone looks at me straight on and I think they know me when suddenly I realize they're looking at my collar and the fact that I'm a priest – it's instant recognition. In fact, recently I saw one of our parishioners at Staples. I was there to drop off an order and he was there to pick one up. I wasn't wearing my clerics. When he looked at me I said "Hello". He nodded his head and went back to what he was attending to at the counter. It was only when I stepped forward to place my order that he approached me and said, "Sorry, Father. I didn't recognize you". Personally, I am proud to wear the garb of the Catholic priesthood. I think it is most of all a witness in the world that there are some people who visibly declare their lives for the Kingdom of God just as a police officers' uniform states protection and the upholding of the law. If one is looking for a police officer on a busy crowded street they are looking for a uniform. And while people are not looking up and down streets to find a priest it is a recognizable sign of one who works for God in the Church and I can't tell you the number of times it has opened the door for conversation and even conversion.

Now one might say that I may often be seen walking my dogs, etc., without being dressed as a priest. As a pastor of a busy and growing parish I am also the exclusive caretaker of the rectory where I house-clean, walk dogs, put out the garbage and recycling, do the laundry, and sundry other things. Black clothing and suit pants do not mix well with these duties not to mention dog hair on black pants (although by the looks of the top of my head it could just as easily be my own hair). My routine is such that if I have several scheduled priestly duties on a given day I wear my clerics. If most of what I am doing is office or rectory related for that day then I wear what my mother used to call my 'play clothes'. You will find that most priests who wear clerics all day and every day also have housekeepers and cooks and custodians. So, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

While the sight of a Roman collar can induce respect in some there are also those who hate it for what it stands for. I think of the time during Holy Week 2012 when I was walking on Yonge Street in Toronto on my way to the clergy luncheon following the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. As I walked accompanied by a deacon I had just met, I passed a young woman all dressed in black. As she passed she suddenly spat on me, clearly a deliberate act by someone who hated or despised what the priest stood for. By the time I realized what had happened she

was some distance behind me and she never looked back. Nothing, of course, compared to the insults and spitting heaped on Christ among the other tremendous mockeries, humiliation and physical sufferings he endured.

Everything we do as Catholics gives visible witness to what we believe inside. The way we dress when we come to God's house each Sunday, whether we bless ourselves and say Grace before a meal in our homes or in public, or what we do with our Sundays is a visible witness to our faith in Christ Jesus along side what we say, do, watch and listen to. For me, the Roman collar is a tangible sign that points, not so much to myself as both a sinner and servant of the Lord but most especially to the reality of Christ in the world. (*Fr. Charles*)

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues., Dec. 24 – 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Mass
Tues., Dec. 24 – 8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Mass
Wed., Dec. 25 – 9:00 am – Christmas Day Mass
Wed., Dec. 25 – 11:00 am – Christmas Day Mass
Thurs., Dec. 26 – NO MASS
Fri., Dec. 27 – NO MASS
Sat., Dec. 28 – 5:00 pm – No Intention
Sun., Dec. 29 – 9:00 am – Mariane Laverty+ Req. by Nellie &
Todd Johnson
Sun., Dec. 29 – 11:00 am – Josephine Minecucci+ Req. by Teresa &
Vince Corvinelli

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSALS ARE ON SALE AT A COST OF \$5.00 EACH AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME TABLE.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2013 TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2014 AND REOPENS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014. IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY REQUIRING A PRIEST, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (905) 655-3286 EXT. 8.

The Rose of Durham – Young Parents Support Services wish to thank all the parishioners who participated in the Baby Bottle Boomerang. A total of \$3,390.21 was raised. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Leo the Great Parish is seeking members who are interested in serving the needs of the poor. Please call Tony 905 655-2933 or Donna 905-620-0724 for more info.

The Rosary Apostolate in the Schools - Through the Rosary Apostolate, children are experiencing the power of the Rosary! Dedicate your time to praying the rosary with children once a month in our Catholic Elementary schools. The Rosary Apostolate is welcoming new members. Please call Judy Delaney (905-655-0227).



Psssst!
soon- 2014

The Catholic View is coming

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2013

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to ministerial service, **contact Fr. Hansoo Park 416-0997, email – vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca**

Offertory Envelopes 2014

The 2014 offertory envelopes are available for pick up from the tables at the windows on the south side of the Church. The envelopes are arranged in numerical order. If you wish to keep your same envelope number for 2014, please take your box this weekend. When you start to use your envelopes in January 2014, you must print your full name and address on the front of each envelope for the month of January. This allows us to enter the correct information in the parish database. Failure to do this will result in your not receiving a tax receipt for 2014.

For parishioners who have not used offertory envelopes before, and wish to do so, please complete a parish registration form at the Welcome Table in the church vestibule and there you will receive your box of envelopes. Parishioners who are currently on the Pre-Authorized Plan – your envelopes will be available next weekend. Parishioners who wish to join the Pre-Authorized Plan can do so by completing the PAP pamphlet found in the Church vestibule.

Weekday Masses will be cancelled on the following dates after Christmas, New Year's and the week following. This allows Father Charles to catch up on some rest and take some holidays before the busyness of mid-January to June begins. The Wednesday Holy Hours for three weeks during this time are also cancelled.

THERE WILL BE NO MASS & HOLY HOUR:

Thurs., Dec. 26, Fri., Dec. 27, 2013 &

Thurs., Jan. 2 & Fri., Jan. 3, 2014

4-days of holiday: Tues., Jan. 7, Wed., Jan. 8,


Thurs., Jan. 9 & Fri., Jan. 10




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