



# 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: st.leos@bellnet.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 6:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Mass: 7:00 p.m.

Rosary prayed 20 minutes before weekday masses.

### **SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday 5:00 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 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 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](http://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.



## FAREWELL TO MY BELOVED 'JIGS' (Pt.II)

I find it affirming and somewhat comforting to know that whenever I place a 'dog story' or poem in the bulletin I get so many positive responses from our parishioners as many of them also share with me their dog stories, particularly the difficult and sad ones when they have had to

put a beloved family pet down.

As we share our 'tails' there is always the same question that comes up around why so many of our dogs, whether mixed breeds or pure bred, rescues or adopted as puppies, are winding up with so much cancer and many medical problems. Obviously dogs today get far more veterinary care than all of the dogs before them put together with shots for this worm and that bug and a vet annually looking them over and yet the ominous threat of cancer seems to be plaguing our dogs as it is among us humans. Dog diet also seems to be considerably irrelevant too, as the man who runs a pet crematorium told me, for it seems that whether a dog is on strict raw diet, high cost dog food or plain old kibble or canned, so many of them are dying of cancer of one kind or another and far too early at that. Perhaps we should be invoking the prayerful assistance of St. Joseph, the patron Saint of a Happy Death (which many of our dogs don't seem to be having) or maybe asking for the intercession of St. Peregrine – the patron saint of cancer victims – for our pets' blessing and protection. As one person said to me recently, "Maybe our dogs are the *canary in the coal mine* as to what is happening in our environment and is happening also to us." All I know is that in a matter of ten days it cost me over \$1400. on tests, an x-ray and the fee for putting poor Jigs down without him getting so much as a pain pill to ease any discomfort my loyal old friend might have had as he quickly declined and was quietly suffering before my eyes. His passing, unfortunately, was his final relief and healing.

It seems that every once in a while in the midst of sorrow, pain and sadness over loss – God winks at us. He did just that after I had returned home last Sunday without my friend Jigs. After I had a good cry with Red and Teddy at my sides, I dried my tears, took some deep breaths and went to check my emails. As you know, I have several clocks in my house from floor clocks and wall clocks to mantel clocks. I have one clock in my dining room on the buffet that has a beautiful set of 9 brass bells that haven't worked for the last 3 years. Each week I still wind the center spring so that the pendulum and therefore the clock will still keep time though without the quarterly and hourly chimes. As I was at my computer my clocks simultaneously started to chime out 8:00 pm. and, much to my surprise, the 9-bell mantel clock also merrily joined in, distinctly chiming out the 32-note melody and then striking 8 bells for the hour. And it hadn't chimed before nor since. God winked at me and with a simple but bright clock chime said to me, "I see you and I am with you." And the same goes for all of us. (Fr. Charles)



## " \_\_\_\_\_ FENCE ME IN"

If you know what the missing word is in the song title above you're at least as old or older than I am. Of course, I left out the word 'don't' on purpose as this article is about the fencing-in of our parish church as a beautifying enhancement and suitable addition which will serve to fittingly frame our

dignified edifice dedicated to God.

A year or two ago I was approached by **Vince and Teresa Corvinelli** of our parish who asked me if I had seen the fence around St. Mary of the People church in Oshawa. I replied that I had and they went on to say that they thought a fence would also look good around our church. They not only offered the idea of a fence but generously said that they would pay for such a fence at no expense whatever to the parish! And so, the idea of a decorative fence to frame and beautify our parish property was born. Over time different fence designs were considered with the oversight and assistance of our parish's designing architect, Mr. David Mills. These design ideas were submitted to the Town of Whitby for approval which narrowed the design choices down somewhat. Once the go-ahead was given by Town officials a final fence proposal, similar to the image above except for the added addition of circles below the top bars, was approved of by the Corvinelli's, the architect and myself. Again, time passed and as the weather got colder it looked like the fence installation would not take place until the spring of 2017. However, early last week trucks, men and some equipment appeared and it became evident that our idea of a fence was about to become an imminent reality. The fence post installation took place first with the sight-lines perfectly aligned and marked out before the subsequent drilling of the post holes and the placement of the poles themselves in concrete. This is followed by the spans of fencing installed between the posts and running along the front and sides of the parish church, ending in line with the westerly wall of the parish hall. The finished fence is meant to resemble arms encircling us rather than keeping us or anyone out and will add a defined boundary of dignity to our spiritual and physical landscape.

On behalf of all our parish family I extend a heartfelt appreciation to the Corvinelli's, Vincent and Teresa, both for their expressed and visible generosity toward their parish with the donation of the fence and among their many and considerable beneficences in the past. I invite our parishioners to take a moment when next they see Vince and Teresa, to personally thank them for their great and generous kindness which benefits all of us. The Corvinelli's have so often treated this parish as their own children and for their many and various acts of kindness we are grateful. (I just wish they would consider adopting me.) (Fr. Charles) *A little fence humour:*

*A cow photobombing a horse caught in a fence and a dog climbing one!*



### ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSION

#### ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH

Thursday, December 15;

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.; and 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(Please see our Nov. 27 bulletin for other local confession times.)



**CALLING ALL  
PARISHIONERS...  
COME AND LOOK  
ON GOD IN THE  
FLESH !**

**THE HOLY HOUR** each Wednesday 6-7 pm.

Suppose someone told you that Jesus was actually appearing in a nearby Catholic church, or even in your parish you are so used to attending Mass at each Sunday. Would you be surprised? Shocked? Curious? or perhaps just yawn because it sounds like the stuff the preaching priest says each Sunday? Or how many of us if pushed by a non-Catholic Christian at work about the Mass being a mere empty ritual where nothing really happens would stand up to them and say, "Actually, that's not true at all."? If someone cornered you on the Eucharist would you or could you defend it or would you cave and assert that of course it's not *really* Jesus' body?

For the past six years we have had a Holy Hour each Wednesday evening from 6 – 7 pm. but generally it is not well attended and those who regularly attend (God bless them, and has) are the same faithful Holy Hour attendees each week. I've said before that it's the best kept secret because it **REALLY IS JESUS!** So, either it is only a symbolic remembrance of the man Jesus who lived long ago and died, symbolic because it's not real and we're only sharing bread and remembering Jesus, as He asked us to do OR it really is Jesus in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity as the Church teaches and we are obviously just too busy to behold Him at a Holy Hour or to receive Him at Mass each Sunday. If we are talking about essentials here, the Church tells us that the every-Sunday worship and reception of Jesus in the Eucharist is the center of our faith, in fact, it's so crucial to our spiritual living and survival that the Church put a law behind it saying you must attend Mass each Sunday and if you don't it is a sin.

Take the case of seatbelts in Ontario. I remember a time when vehicles didn't even have seat belts (they were an option) and I'm sure the mandatory use of seatbelts came from repeated accidents where people were killed to the point that, because it was proven that wearing seatbelts would greatly save lives, they put a law behind it and said that we must wear them at all times. So the Church has done the same, building on the law of God itself where the third commandment tells us that we are to "keep holy the Sabbath Day", which is Sunday for the followers of Jesus and Saturday for the Jewish people.

**WHAT HAPPENS AT A HOLY HOUR?**

At a Holy Hour, the priest, wearing a stole about the neck, a cope over his shoulders and down to the floor, removes a larger Host from the Tabernacle and carefully places the consecrated Host into the monstrance, genuflects to it, incenses it, and prays in silence before it, joined by all who have come to be with Jesus truly present. For an hour the gathered people simply look at Jesus and adore Him, speak to Him, listen to Him and love Him back. It deepens our relationship with Him and affords us the privilege and ability to commune by sight and soul the same Jesus who healed, taught, told stories about His Truth, forgave, renewed, strengthened and gave hope to His followers, then and now. St. John Paul II said: "In that little Host is the solution to all the problems of the world". Come, spend an hour with God. (Fr. C.)

**MASS INTENTIONS – Dec 7 - 11, 2016**

Tue, Dec 6	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Wed, Dec 7	7:00 p.m.	Deceased members of KofC
Thu, Dec 8	8:30 a.m.	St. Leo School Mass
Fri, Dec 9	8:30 a.m.	Thomas Creron+ Peggy Murphy+
Sat, Dec 10	5:00 p.m.	Tony Tamburro+
Sun, Dec 11	9:00 a.m.	Teodoro & Nunzia DiSalle+
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased friends of Benedetto & Anna Maria Tuzi

**BAZAAR UPDATE**

Under the direction of the CWL, parishioners worked together to raise **\$6434.15** for St. Leo's. With the Knights all day BBQ, and ladies of CWL serving soup and samosas, we were well fed. Thank you to everyone who had a part in this year's bazaar. Many hands accomplished much.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIES**

Christmas Cookies will be available to purchase after all Masses on December 17 & 18 in the vestibule.

**EUTHANASIA / ASSISTED SUICIDE – DID YOU KNOW?**

Now that Canada has legalized assisted suicide / euthanasia, did you know that doctors in Ontario are forced to provide direct referrals for patients seeking to end their lives? Doctors who object to helping to kill their patients see a direct referral as being an accomplice to assisted suicide. No foreign jurisdiction in the world that has legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide has forced health care workers or facilities to act against their conscience. 8 other provinces in Canada have adopted protocols to protect doctors and institutions.

Visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more and to write directly to the Ontario government.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS, CAKES & SIGNS**

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Campaign Life Christmas Cards, Christmas Cakes 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.




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