

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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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.

HUMAN LIFE

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote:

**"THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME:
'BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB
I KNEW YOU FOR MY OWN;
BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I CONSECRATED YOU.
I APPOINTED YOU A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS.'"**

(Jer. 1:4-6)

Last weekend I spoke about this line from the first reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, and because God was speaking to and through the prophet and to us, I addressed (yet again) the horrific reality of abortion in our time which, while perhaps slowly declining over the last few years in some places is obviously ramping up in intensity of the ends to which some are willing to go to ensure it continues and even beyond birth itself. It has become a war of words, and people on both sides continue to use verbiage that has become only too familiar to the point where we no longer really hear or even care about the constant momentum, unseen largely, of the death, no, the murder of our children.

And for the believers of God – there are the few who stand up for all human life from the womb to the tomb who tirelessly pray for and work toward the realization of the end of the affliction of abortion on the face of the earth. But these walk a lonely road with little company from others who are loud in their defense of a woman's "right" to kill her child, or even worse, from those who believe abortion is the taking of a human life but do nothing, say nothing, or, as my mother would say "are nothing" in the defense of human life. Women's rights begin at conception.

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, said that which so fittingly speaks to the holocaust of abortion:

"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever."

We presume God's mercy and forget God's justice while we veil the atrocity committed every day in the face of most people's indifference and talk of a woman's right to choose, reproductive health, and shout bitter slogans the likes of "my body, my choice". Do we really think that God will not bring his swift justice to this affront to the life he designs and creates even before conception? Do we really think that we can continue this affront to human life without any divine retribution? I remember 30 years ago when I was a seminarian at St. Augustine's Seminary and one of the priests on faculty was preaching about the dignity and sanctity of human life in his homily at a weekday Mass. He finished his homily and began to walk toward the presider's chair when, suddenly, he stopped, turned around and said about the famous Canadian abortionist;

"I admire Dr. Henry Morgentaler, because he has more guts in his baby finger than most of us do in our whole bodies!"

Some American politicians have proposed abortion defenses stating that it should be "safe, legal and rare", which on the surface can sound as though they are interested in limiting the reality of abortion and yet all the while this statement is an admission of guilt in the taking of innocent human life for why would it need to be "rare" if it is not a baby or a child or a human being. If abortion is but a procedure to remove an unwanted glob of cells why need it be rare? It needs to be "rare" because it is a baby,

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

In our time we are seeing the effects of a largely passive culture in the midst of an aggressive and very angry, in-your-face group of abortion promoters and defenders, among them politicians and some clergy, who attack anyone who would stand against the "right" to abortion. And this has led to the current revelations of politicians who are now proposing laws to kill a child which has been delivered alive or resuscitated after a discussion between the mother and her doctor has taken place and the mother chooses for her child not to live but to die. If this is not evil I don't know what evil is! This demonic proposal comes on the heels of New York states' passing of a law that says a woman can have an abortion any time whether it is in the first, second or third trimester right up until the moment the baby is to be delivered.

The Father of life is God. The father of abortion is the father of lies – Satan. Some, who have been silent about abortion up until now are only now beginning to speak out about this latest idea of killing innocence even after the baby has been born, yet this reaction in itself suggests that it is somehow okay or tolerable before birth or that it's not moral in the third trimester only. God is clear on the fact that He is the author of all life and that life exists in God even *before* conception. All the while we engage in the endless monotony of talk about when life begins, when is it a child? It is a child from the moment of conception as well as when the mother discovers for the first time that she is pregnant, and forevermore, the child in the woman remains a child, a human boy or girl. Semantics and slogans and arguments from the most extreme cases cannot change that reality.

Ben Shapiro, whom I cited in last Sunday's bulletin article, when debating the issue of abortion with university students, states that in the abortion debate people often will use the issue of rape to call into question whether it would be permitted to abort the child that is a result of this violent act to a woman. But Mr. Shapiro says that he always asks them straight out, before discussing the issue of abortion in the face of rape, whether they are still okay with

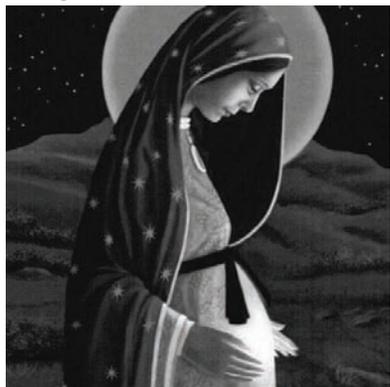
abortion in the other 99% of cases outside of rape. If they are still okay with abortion at any time and for any reason, then there is no point discussing any other circumstances for abortion, he says. To talk about the rare examples when people think it's justified to take the life of the unborn child while supporting any and all reasons for abortion at any time is merely changing the subject if your intention is that abortion is always okay.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said,

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you want."

WHY USE THE WORD 'MURDER'?

Let's face it, as much as people don't like the word abortion and politicians use other terms which puts the focus on the mother and not the child, it is still a euphemism which is to say let's not talk about the child but of the mother so that we will speak of compassion for her and her rights, her body, her choices. It gets the focus off of the child in the womb and distracts. To speak of the 'murder' of the unborn, while hard-hitting and confrontational, is honest and the reality. It remembers the victims of abortion which is not only the child but also the mother as she will have to live with the memory and the consequences of taking the human life within her. We are not protesting a woman's right to getting rid of a clump of cells from her body but her taking of her child's life which by law is defined as murder. When someone kills a pregnant woman the perpetrator is charged with two murders of both the mother and the child.



THE BLESSED MOTHER

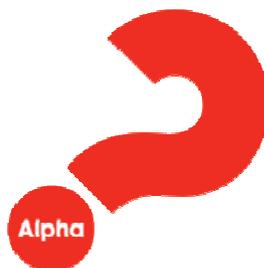
The Church has not only stood against abortion but she has also always stood with the mother and the baby. The Church, through her agencies has and continues to offer help, aid and shelter to mothers who are afraid

or alone with the reality of pregnancy with a child and has supported women before they chose abortions to dissuade them from making a choice they will have to live with for the rest of their lives.

Our Blessed Lord's own Mother, Mary, is a powerful witness to the radical openness to life under God. Mary was engaged to Joseph but wasn't married to him and yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was pregnant by her yes to God's summons, yet still appearing to have the stigma of being with child but not married. But Mary stood for life and for God's unfolding plan for her. In doing so she brought forth the Saviour of the world – Jesus Christ. Let us, with her, stand for life from the womb to the tomb. (FrC)

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 12th	
8:30 a.m.	+ Irene Whittaker
Wednesday, February 13th	
7:00 p.m.	+ Vladimir Pulat
Thursday, February 14th	
8:30 a.m.	+ Elizabeth Davison
Friday, February 15th	
8:30 a.m.	+ Geraldine Crinnion
Saturday, February 16th	
4:30 p.m.	+ Hector Anselmo
Sunday, February 17th	
9:00 a.m.	Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group
11:00 a.m.	+ Attilio Tuzi



Calling all students grade 9 to recent high school grads!

Alpha has launched and it's not too late to join! Come, bring some friends, and ask life's biggest questions over food and hot beverages!

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm in the parish hall, all are welcome.



Edge is continuing on **Thursdays 6:30-8:30 pm in the parish hall.**

For students grades 6-8.

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Wanna keep up to date with all upcoming youth events? Follow us on instagram! @youthatstleo=

CWL monthly meeting Sunday February 10 – from 12:15 to 2:30. All women are welcome to come to the meeting.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry! Mothers of all ages are invited to join us this month for a special Q & A Session with Fr. Charles. See you on **Wed February 13th at 8pm in the Quiet Room.**

Contact annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com or visit www.catholicmomsgroup.com for more information.

New members are always welcome!



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