

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.

You may remember a while back when in one of my Sunday homilies I spoke of the danger of assuming that those people we've known and loved who have died are in heaven, for in so doing we will not only cease to pray for their souls but will not deem it necessary because, they're in heaven. Recently, (Jan. 27, 2020) an online article appeared on onepeterfive.com by a Ken Foye who teaches an English Writing, Reading, Presentation, Discussion and Conversation class in Japan.

MY DYING WISH: Don't Canonize Me at the Funeral

I'm not planning on dying any time soon. I'm nearly 53 years old, and life expectancy statistics tell me that I have at least another 20 to 25 years left on this Earth. And research shows that people of faith tend to be healthier and live longer than those who don't — about seven years longer, in fact, according to one study. That's not the reason why I believe, but it is a factor in my favor.

But just in case things don't work out that way, there's one temporal affair I'd like to set in order right now. It involves my interment rites.

Simply put, I don't want to be canonized at my own wake or funeral Mass.

I'm putting it in writing now — no milquetoast platitudes about how "he's in Heaven now" or "he's in a better place." This is a person's soul we're talking about — namely, mine — and it is not the time for such fluffy sentimentalities. This "eternal spiritual destination" stuff is far too serious business for that.

Nothing to the effect of "he's in Heaven now" is to be said at my wake service; during the homily or any other part of the funeral; at any social gathering prior to my funeral or after it; or at any other time in the days, weeks, months, years, or even decades following my death. Unless there are miracles occurring that are clearly and undeniably occurring due to my intercession, or unless I undoubtedly died a martyr for the Faith, nobody knows that I'm Heaven.

Well-meaning but hasty thoughts about me being in Heaven are not going to help my soul in the slightest. Instead, I'm asking now — and will repeat this plea as many times as I have to, until I die — that everyone who remembers me assume that I am in Purgatory. And that means I will need prayers, and lots of them — not pronouncements of canonization, including ones that are meant to make my wife feel better, assuming that I "check out" before she does.

It's a grave mistake to automatically assume that someone who's died is definitely in Heaven now. That may seem unkind or heartless, but in fact, it's uncharitable to assume that someone is already "set" eternally and that he doesn't need our prayers anymore. That's what "canonizing" someone by saying "he's in Heaven" or "he's in a better place" amounts to. It's an act of concluding that we don't need to pray for him.

What is Purgatory? The Catechism (no. 1030) explains it thus: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly

purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." It goes on to say that Purgatory's purpose is the "final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" ([CCC 1031](#)).

Every soul in Purgatory will be admitted to Heaven eventually — with the help of us Catholics here on Earth, which is why the Church has always stressed "the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture" and calls for "almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" ([CCC 1032](#)).

Is praying for the dead still a priority in modern Catholicism? Do we Catholics as a group even believe very strongly, or at all, in Purgatory anymore? The answer to both questions seems to be "not really," given the frequent habit of "canonizing" those who have died at their own funeral Masses, with the aforementioned "he is in Heaven now" declarations and the constant "better place" references.

Do we think it's just too unpleasant for many of us to imagine that our relatives, friends, and loved ones are suffering in Purgatory? We shouldn't think that way; instead, we should look at the bright side. Purgatory isn't a pleasant place, but it sure beats being in Hell — which is not only far more unpleasant, but is, unlike Purgatory, also eternal. And the suffering that exists in Purgatory has a purifying point to it, one from which God draws goodness and beauty. Not to mention our salvation.

One priest, in a funeral homily, analogized Purgatory to mining for precious metals. Only with a furnace can gold or diamonds be separated from the useless ore in which they're found so that they can be made perfect and pure. Without the furnace, the metals couldn't be made precious; likewise, without Purgatory, it can be reasonably argued that few of our souls could be admitted to Heaven, where Scripture tells us nothing unclean is allowed (Revelation 21:27).

Think about it: if we die with no mortal sins on our souls, and even if we've made the best confession possible right before death, how many of us would be so free from the effects of or attachments to sin that our souls would meet Revelation 21:27's requirements? It's reasonable to believe that not many of us would qualify. Even the non-Catholic 18th-century literary luminary Samuel Johnson, "arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history," saw this: asked about the Catholic belief in Purgatory, Johnson said, "It is a very harmless doctrine. They [Catholics] are of opinion that the generality of mankind are neither so obstinately wicked as to deserve everlasting punishment, nor so good as to merit being admitted into the society of blessed spirits; and therefore that God is graciously pleased to allow of a middle state, where they may be purified by certain degrees of suffering."

So there it is — Purgatory, not Heaven, is what we should be thinking about first when someone we know passes away, even a close family member or friend, because there's every good chance that his soul will be in need of purification there. Just as we should not implode an old building until we know absolutely that no one

is inside, we should err on the side of caution when we are not sure that someone who has died is in Heaven. Souls in Heaven don't need our prayers, but those in Purgatory do, and that's where we must presume a departed soul is — again, absent a clear-cut case of martyrdom for the Faith or miracles due to the person's intercession.

So when I die, please pray for me — don't canonize me. Do I hope to go straight to Heaven after my time on Earth runs out? Of course I do, but unless they know for sure that I have, I hope people don't bet on it. That's why I offer each of the individual prayers in my rosary for one soul in Purgatory. I ask that others pay it forward after I die — or in this case, maybe I should say pay it backward — by assuming the very real possibility of my being in Purgatory, and thus praying for my soul's release into the eternal glory of God's Presence.



Tuesday, February 4th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Innocenzo Mammone

Wednesday, February 5th

7:00 p.m. † Constanta Gitej
† Gerry Brezina

Thursday, February 6th

8:30 a.m. † Vincenzina Mammone and Attilio & Maria Tuzi

Friday, February 7th

8:30 a.m. † Valerie Hotner
† Armenio Medeiros and all souls in purgatory
† Intentions of Charity De Guzman

Saturday, February 8th

4:30 p.m. † Frank Utrosa

Sunday, February 9th

9:00 a.m. † Deceased members of the Utrosa and Horvath Families
11:00 a.m. † Kathleen Power

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the intentions of Maria Mastropietro Week of February 7 - 13

St. Leo Knights of Columbus Annual Valentine's Day Dance

will be held on February 8, 2020. Everyone is invited for another enjoyable evening with friends and family.

- Location - St. Leo Church Hall
- Time- Doors open at 6:45 P.M.
- Refreshments at 7:00 P.M.
- Dinner at 7:30 P.M.
- Dinner - Full meal with desert
- Cash Bar
- Music – Live Band
- Prizes - Door prizes and draws during evening
- Price - \$30.00 individual, \$50.00 couple

The 11:00 a.m. choir is inviting you to join them

The Sunday 11:00 am choir would like to invite members of the congregation to join our amazing group. We are currently looking for new members, particularly tenors and basses but all are welcome. All ages and vocal abilities are wanted. Music is taught on a weekly basis in a fun and simple way to those who don't read music so don't let that stop you if you have been thinking about joining us. We are in a new calendar year and with that comes new schedules and new opportunities. We hope that you will strongly consider coming out and giving the choir a try. You will be glad that you did. The choir sings at the 11:00 mass on Sundays and we rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. For more information about joining this notable group of singers, please see Ted, the director, after the 11:00 mass or come out to the church on Thursday night at 7:30 pm. Ted can also be reached by phone at 647-302-6996. Thank you.

VOCATION SEEDS

“Jesus did not come to help Angels, but the descendants of Abraham.” If God is calling you to consider the priesthood, diaconate, brother or sister, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca**

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry and make some new friends! Our next meeting is on Wed Feb 12 at 8pm. We continue with the Momnipotent program which validates the dignity and importance of motherhood by recognizing uniquely feminine strengths, and how to use those strengths to find peace, purpose, balance, and joy in being the woman God created us to be.

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

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HERE IN DURHAM!

Yes, it's true. You are invited to attend an evening with our guest speakers from Victim Services - Durham Region. They will give you information on Human Trafficking in Durham; what it looks like; as a parent what should I be looking for; what can I do. Please join us on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Parish Centre. All are welcome, light refreshments. Admission is free, however a good-will offering is appreciated to help defray costs.

MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS 50 +

St Bernadette Parish , Ajax (Harwood and Bayly)
Guest Speaker: Fr Peter Marr, Director of Pastoral Formation, St Augustine Seminary
Topic: “ The Spiritual Preparation for a Good Death”
When : Tuesday February 18 @ 10:00 – 12:00 lunch




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