



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.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 26** with distribution of ashes at both of the parish Masses at 12:00 noon and 7 pm. Now is the time to prepare to enter Lent with a spirit of personal renewal in Christ Jesus.

SOUP AND BREAD POVERTY MEAL



We will once again hold our Friday **Lenten Soup & Bread** each Friday throughout Lent in the parish hall from **5 pm. to 6:30 pm.** featuring a variety of hearty homemade soups and bread. We ask only for a

freewill offering from participants with all proceeds going to our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

EACH FRIDAY the Soup & Bread will be followed by

- **6:30 pm. STATIONS OF THE CROSS** and
- **7:00 pm. MASS**



Okay. So indulge me. The sense of the loss of my mother, Margaret, recently and the fact that I'm the priest dude writing the bulletin articles each week grants me the privilege and you, the reader, the disadvantage of having to read my continuing musings on the subject of

death. But then again, so too did the readings speak of the immortal last weekend with St. Paul himself quoting:

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

And of course St. Paul is speaking of "prepared" in reference to heaven, the life that is to come, the Eternal with God. God made the heavens and the earth; the earth we know, the heavens we don't.

A grade two teacher had asked her class to draw a picture of some story from the Bible. As she walked up and down the rows of desks she looked at the pictures the children were drawing. She came to one child's desk and asked what she was drawing. The girl responded, "I'm drawing a picture of God." "But", said the teacher, "No one knows what God looks like." The little girl remarked, "Well, they will when I'm finished!"

Unfortunately for us, it's not that easy with the question of the life that is to come as the Bible remains fairly silent about it except to say that it is real and it is where those who truly love God go after this earthly existence is completed. Yet the same

word seems to continually come to the fore in my own trying to use words that could possibly describe what I haven't actually seen – beyond! Anything we can say that heaven is, is not heaven. It seems that all of the videos and articles written and produced to try and depict heaven fall short, of course, of somehow making it visible because it is all done within human dimensions and restrictions.

Often enough, when I am making class visits to our schools, children will ask me what heaven is like. I have always laughed at the question in the sense that the children seem to think I have the inside scoop on this as a priest. It is good that they would see the priest as someone who should be close to God and therefore know what God is and does and what the heaven He made is like. But, of course, I don't have any inside information on this. However, that is not to say that I haven't come up with my own analogy for heaven. One day, when contemplating the 'beyond' of heaven, I was reminded of an experience I have had several times throughout my life and know that others have had the same. I posed this to the children:

At a time in your life when you are generally happy and contented with your life, your family, your friends and your well being, have you ever had a dream that was so beautiful, so amazing and filled you with glorious joy that when you suddenly woke up and realized it was just a dream, you were suddenly sad for having awakened from the beautiful dream? I believe that is but a glimpse of a glimpse of a glimpse of what St. Paul was trying to describe when he said, quoting Isaiah 64:4, "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him."

How can one not think of the word 'beyond' when contemplating this passage?

So many times, and rightly so, people who wished to offer their condolences on the news of the death of my mother, Margaret, tried to comfort me with a heart-felt truth: "She's in a better place". While I understand what they are trying to say our words so desperately fall short of trying to describe the undescrivable, unknown of our present existence. Yet, if someone were to have suffered greatly before their death I would assume that to just be dead would be a 'better place' even without any hope or dream of heaven. The beautiful Isaiah quote above reveals that God is *working* for those who wait for Him. I say Wow! Because if the One, True God of Jesus Christ who made all things made the plethora of colours and shades and applied them to fish and animals and flowers and people on the earth, what must the 'beyond' of the Eternal be like? While people might have had their own personal revelations of heaven which may be true and real to them in their own experience, all of us are left to have to trust that the individual actually saw what they said they saw. Yet, it is the common descriptions, or rather their inability to describe what they saw, that makes one perceive that the things of God's

heaven are beyond human words and description. The more they tried to express in human language what they saw, the more frustrated they became.

I remember an incident I had while I was a Seminarian and in my Pastoral Internship year at St. Brigid's Parish in Toronto. I was visiting the local hospital on a Friday night and went in to see a man named Frank who, I was told, was dying. He was surprisingly candid with me over the fact that he knew he was dying. His wife had been in to see him and had spent the days with him for several weeks. I asked him, "Are you afraid of dying?" To my surprise he said, "No, not at all." He went on to tell me about an incident that had happened to him several years before when he was at work. He had terrible chest pains at work one day and went to see the company doctor, only to suddenly collapse in the waiting area. The doctor heard the commotion and came out to assist but Frank said that he suddenly was rising out of his body and could see the doctor trying to work on him, but he seemed unconcerned about what was taking place. He could observe all manner of details from the scene, including the doctor's pen flying from his pocket and landing in the corner, yet he had no emotional connection to his own body lying on the floor below him. Suddenly, as he was slowly rising above his body, his focus shifted to above him and to this marvelous brilliant light that didn't hurt his eyes. He felt he was being drawn close to great love, the love of God Himself, and he wanted to go toward it. He said he sensed that life as we know it is very complicated because we make it so and yet everything was quite simple and straightforward. As he was being drawn toward this light above him and was in an absolute reality of peace, just as suddenly his ascent stopped and he was being drawn back to his body with great speed. When he was back in his body he was met with a great rush of pain and the doctor still working on him. He told me that he never saw his life in the same way again and that he had been living and waiting to go to see Jesus again. Beautiful. And I believed him for he was peaceful and waiting still for Jesus to take him to heaven to be with him.

Suffice it to say that anything, any description we can say about heaven is not heaven. Wait for the Lord doing the things He asked, loving the things He loved and living in close relationship with Him in the here and now until... Heaven! (FrC)



SNACKS ON SNACKS:

The NET Team needs snacks for their impact youth night on Tuesday's and Edge Youth night on Thursday's. Please consider supporting the NET

Team through donating snacks. Thank you!!

Calling All Youth Grades 6-12:

The NET Team has open office, which is a time to hangout with the NET Team, play games, eat snacks and enjoy some good company! We have our open offices on Wednesday's 3-5pm, Friday's 3-5pm, and Saturday's 1:30pm-4pm, 5pm-6:30pm. We would love to see you there!



Tuesday, February 25th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Napoleon Edward Enriquez

Wednesday, February 26th - Ash Wednesday

12:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. † Mary Kendall Head
 † Mary & James Sr Gallagher
 † Joe & Lubelia Giesta

Thursday, February 27th

8:30 a.m. † Joe Camarata

Friday, February 28th

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

Saturday, February 29th

4:30 p.m. † Paul Joseph Czuczman

Sunday, March 1st

9:00 a.m. † Rafael Bravo & James Mullaney

11:00 a.m. † Michele Cavallari

**The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of
 William Verstraete
 Week of February 21 - 27**

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food"

As part of the Knights of Columbus 'Food For Families' program, we are inviting the St. Leo the Great community to donate NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS/CANNED ITEMS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT. The reality is that food insecurity is a year-round problem and the numbers of people accessing food banks across Durham Region is sadly increasing. Our local food banks and kitchens depend on the generosity of others to provide food to those who cannot afford food and often struggle to purchase these items as well. The Knights of Columbus hope you can donate to this worthy endeavour. The food drive will begin on Wednesday February 26th and will end on Palm Sunday April 5th. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule.

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC YOUTH

The *re:gen* mission of the Archdiocese of Toronto is currently hiring young adults to become chastity or campus missionaries for 15 months starting in June 2020 until August 2021. If you or someone you know would be interested in this great opportunity, please contact Genicia Dabu at regen@ocytoronto.org

You can count on our prayers as you discern joining our team!

You can also find this employment opportunity online at www.archtoronto.org/contact-us/employment-opportunities To learn more about re:gen, visit their website at www.ocytoronto.org/regen



ONTARIO DUCT CLEANING
Do it for your home do it for the health of your family.
For a FREE No Obligation phone estimate, call:
905-655-1099



David Marshall
Sales & Leasing
1025 Dundas Street West
1-866-386-4792
david.marshall@whitbytoyota.ca



TOYOTA Co.
SALES • PARTS • SERVICE



Brooklin Dental Centre
Dr. Austin Saldanha
Parishioner
Care for your entire family
MABUHAY
INVISALIGN
SENIORS DISCOUNT
42 Baldwin Street
905-655-3385
brooklindentalcentre.com



Baldwin Animal Hospital
Daniel Baturensky, DVM
4160 Baldwin St. S. Unit 13, Whitby
P 905-655-CATS 905-655-BARK

Laura Kurucz, Bsc.
Sales Representative
"Serving Durham & Surrounding Areas"




O: 905-493-5220
TF: 800-496-9220
BuyandSellwithLaura.ca



For all your mortgage needs!



Caroline Anderson
Mortgage Agent
905.999.5776
caroline.anderson@migroup.ca



MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE
Brokerage #10428

QVN NAILS
Waxing/Ingrown & Diabetic Nails care
Pre-booked appointments only
100B Lupin Dr. Whitby
Linh: 416-882-9153



DE STEFANO
Funeral Home Services Inc.
1289 Keith Ross Drive
Oshawa, ON L1H 7K4
(905) 440-3595
info@destefanofuneralhomes.ca
www.destefanofuneralhomes.ca



62 Winchester Rd. E.
Brooklin Tax
& Bookkeeping Services Inc.
Accounting • Bookkeeping • Personal & Corporate Taxes
Alan Hogan 905.655.8556

Xpression
the salon
31 Baldwin St. S. Unit 4
905-655-8046
www.xpressionthesalon.ca



Knights of Columbus
Get involved. Inquire now!
Larry Hallihan 905 620 0351
lgba2008@yahoo.ca
www.StLeoTheGreat.ca/knights



St. Leo the Great CWL
Jackie McVeigh
President
905-493-4677
All Are Welcome



Síochána
Massage Therapy & Spa Inc.
Traditional Massage Therapy & Holistic Esthetic Services for men and women.
SENIORS DISCOUNT
42 Baldwin Street
905-233-8787 • Siochana.ca
(Located in front of Brooklin Dental Centre)

BROOKLIN OPTOMETRIC CENTRE
brooklineyecare.ca
DR. PUI-YEE HO
5959 Anderson St
905-655-6200

Funeral Director – Michael Lodge
W.C. Town Funeral Chapel
110 Dundas St. E., Whitby **905-668-3410**



Chris Leahy
DURHAM SECURITY
905-556-1801



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
FUNERAL SERVICES
In keeping with your Catholic faith
www.catholic-cemeteries.com
Resurrection Cemetery
905-668-8912



Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE
Alexander Sgroi MBA FIC
416-894-7233 alex.sgroi@kofc.org
Life Insurance • Disability Insurance • Long-Term Care • Retirement Annuities
Protecting Catholic families since 1882.



Turn your home into a Smart Home!
\$50 donated to St. Leo's
for every new contract.
chris@durhamsecurity.ca

Call 1-800-268-2637 for this space

The Cherub's Cupboard
Catholic Books & Gifts for all occasions
Religious Articles
www.cherubscupboard.com
82 Centre St. N. **905-432-2882**

FLAHERTY McCARTHY LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS
TODD J. McCARTHY
B.A., LL.B.
132 Dundas St. W. Whitby
905-666-0231



Serving our Community with Compassion



BARNES MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
Family owned and operated since 1863
905.655.3662
5295 Thickson Rd. N., Whitby (one minute North of Taunton on Thickson)



Melissa Barnes
Funeral Director
Richard Barnes
Managing Director



TOWNE CLEANERS
Brooklin Location
15% off with ad
31 Baldwin St.
905.655.6116