

St. Leo The Great ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: office@stleothegreat.ca

Pastor: Father Mounir El-Rassi

Parish Secretary: Magda Nowak 905-655-3286 ext. 1001

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday 8 am to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday by appointment only.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30 a.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 *Hospital Chaplain* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If the Hospital Chaplain 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. Mounir 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. Mounir, please call the parish office and leave a message with the parish secretary at 905-655-3286 ext. 1001.

LENT

Reprinted from hallow.com

When Ash Wednesday rolls around each year, it can catch us off guard when it comes to our prayer life. We *know* Lent is important and that it helps prepare us for Easter. Most Catholics recognize Lent as a solemn period where we repent. As such, during Lent, we might feel pressure to "up our game" when it comes to prayer. The reality is that prayer *is* important during Lent. Very important. But fasting and almsgiving matter too. So do all the other actions we might take to help us let go of our own desires and align with God's call for us.

God doesn't call us to pray *longer* during this time. Or prayer "better"—whatever that means.

A great starting point for drawing closer to God and improving our prayer life during Lent is simply the *desire* to improve our prayer life during Lent. If you're reading this, chances are you already have that desire. So let's start there.

Short Lent Prayers

Short Lent prayers are an easy way to go from *desiring* to pray more during Lent to actually doing so. After all, Lent includes (and prepares us for) some of the longest liturgies of the year. Palm Sunday features the first reading of the Passion of Christ before we hear it again on Good Friday. Holy Week also features Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil, two liturgies that are unique and beautiful. And longer than normal. When we're not at Mass, sometimes we just need short, simple prayers to remain close to God during our busy days. Lent is no different.

Here are some easy prayers you can say to feel connected to God during Lent this year:

- "God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace. Amen."
- "God, may my sacrifice of today of (state your Lenten sacrifice) remind me of my dependence on You for all the blessings I enjoy. Amen."
- "May I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I work to build your kingdom here on earth."
- "Heavenly Father, I'm truly sorry for the moments today where I missed the mark. I ask for your forgiveness and the strength to better follow Your call tomorrow. Amen."
- "God, I lift up (name of the person you'd like to pray for) today. I ask that you bless them abundantly today and throughout Lent. Amen."
- "Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything. Amen."

Hallow offers "Minute Meditations"-short, simple prayers that can help build your Lenten prayer habit in just a few minutes each day.

Lenten Bible Study: Verses to Reflect on

Just as short prayers can help enrich our faith lives during Lent, Bible passages can also help us reflect on and draw meaning from the season.

And as with short prayers, just because a Bible verse is not long or complex does not mean it lacks substance. Some of the most powerful scriptures or Sermons in the Bible and directly from Jesus are a few simple words such as the 7 last words of Christ. You can also consider these short Bible verses to reflect on this Lent:

"Then Job replied to the Lord: 2 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42: 1-6

"Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke? 7 Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh? 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: "Here I am!" *Isaiah* 58: 6-9 "

"By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." *Genesis* 3:19

"So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. 9 Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you." *James 4: 7-10*

Daily Readings for Lent

Like all daily readings at Mass, Bible passages for the season of Lent revolve around a calendar cycle.

Sunday readings are on a three-year rotation of readings identified by the letters A, B, and C. In 2022, the Church follows Year C readings, which highlight the Gospel of Luke. Daily Mass readings—that form the basis of the Liturgy of the Word for weekday Masses—operate on a two-year cycle. In 2022, the Church will use readings from Cycle II for weekday liturgies. The USCCB is a helpful

<u>resource</u> for all daily Mass readings from the Bible, and the same is true during Lent.

The Hallow app also offers daily Mass readings, morning prayers, daily reflections and more each day. Listen to and reflect on each reading right from your phone.

Pray with Hallow this Lent

Praying the Stations of the Cross

The <u>Stations of the Cross</u> are a popular devotion during Lent. Known as *Via Crucis* in Latin, this form of prayer commemorates the journey Jesus made to Calvary, and the various steps he made in that journey. Fourteen "stations" are featured in total. Each station usually begins with a verse by someone leading the prayer. The group responds in unison. Short words of meditation then lead into a shared prayer, recited by all. Those gathered process around the church, stopping at the artwork depicting each step in Jesus' path to the cross. Stations of the Cross have a rich history within the Church. In modern times, Stations of the Cross often take place on Friday evenings during Lent.

Many churches will hold a special service for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

7 Last Words

The seven last words, or sayings, of Jesus refer to the final phrases he gave us before he handed over his spirit on the cross. Lent is a popular time to reflect on these words. Hallow will have plenty of prayer resources devoted to helping you spend time with Jesus' final words.

The parish will have two Masses on Ash Wednesday: 8:30 am and 12 noon

Come & See – Day Retreat at St. Augustin's Seminary Saturday, March 19, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Inviting single Catholic men 18 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to a better discernment of God's call for their lives. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee

For more information, please contact (your Parish Priest) or the Office of Vocations via email: vocations@archtoronto.org. Poster:

https://bit.ly/ComeandSeeMarch2022

Congratulation to our parishioner Alan Tonna on the opening of his new pharmacy: Way Street Pharmacy, 72 Baldwin Street, Unit 106, Brooklin, phone number 905-6559898



MASS INTENTIONS

OF THE WEEK-

Saturday, February 26th

4:30 p.m. † Joyce & Norman Gay

† Margaret Ann Bunker

Sunday, February 27th

9:00 a.m. † Giovanna Russomano

11:00 a.m. † Deolinda & Everisto Medeiros

Tuesday, March 1st

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Olga and Fr. Taras

Wednesday, March 2nd

8:30 a.m. † Isabel Isakiewicz

† Jose Maria Da Silva

† Victoria Maria Dos Remedios

Thursday, March 3rd

8:30 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

Friday, March 4th

8:30 a.m. † Anthony Wadden

† Martin Rego

Saturday, March 5th

8:30 a.m. † Rafael Bravo & James Mullaney

4:30 p.m. † Stephen Jakabfy

Sunday, March 6th

9:00 a.m. † Tomasina & Franceso Parente

11:00 a.m. Pro populo

Virtual Ordinandi Dinner

Sponsored by the Serra Foundation of Canada and the six Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese of Toronto, the annual Ordinandi Dinner celebrates the men being ordained to the priesthood from St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Seminary.

Please join in as we gather virtually this year to celebrate nine men, who with God's grace, will be ordained to the priesthood in 2022.

Virtual Ordinandi Dinner Tuesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. via youtube.com/archtoronto

Come share this special opportunity to meet these fine men and to hear about the unique faith journeys that led them to this most noble commitment. There is no cost to view this event. If you would like to make a donation to help cover the costs of program and support the work our two seminaries, the Office of Vocations and Serra House, or obtain further information about this event, please visit: serracanada.com/2022- ordinandi-dinner



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