

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

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.

Living With Down Syndrome: THE GIFT & BLESSING OF GOD



This past week a friend of mine sent me a video to watch about a woman named LynnMarie Rink, whom he heard speak at a Slovak Catholic church in Toronto recently. She is an accomplished

accordion player and Grammy nominated entertainer. A few years back she became pregnant and early on in her pregnancy it was determined by her doctor that she was going to give birth to a child with Down syndrome. Even after little James was born she couldn't bring herself to love him much less love herself. She wrote of the birth of her child:

When the doctors told me the news, my world stopped."

At that moment, LynnMarie Rink began a journey she did not wish to take. "I was frozen. I thought my life was over – much less my career. I even wished it were over. But in that "frozen" period, I slowly began to write, and just like the end of a winter thaw that leads to spring, through writing, I found a new beginning".

But her transformation from anger to acceptance wasn't as simple as that for Lynn Marie. Her beginnings in music started when she had made her First Communion where she recalls that after the Mass at a party at their family home everyone was quiet and bored until her father brought out his accordion and started to play. Everyone became joyous and celebratory at the bright, happy music and she thought to herself that she wanted to be able to bring the same to others, so she took up learning how to play the button accordion. Since that time her music career took off and she became what Jay Leno introduced her on his show as – "the Dixie Chick of Polka". She has played with Chet Atkins, Vince Gill, Hal Ketchum, Dobie Gray, Air Supply, Riders in the Sky, Ricky Skaggs and Willie Nelson.

During her pregnancy and for the first few years her son, James was born, LynnMarie could not truly bring herself to accept or truly love her son.

Four years following James' birth she started to hit walls in her career and her anger at God had not abated. She took some time off from the road and this is when she got to really know her son.

"It's amazing what happens when you take a break and breathe; take time off, take long walks and really get to know yourself. It's then that God speaks to you most creatively," LynnMarie admits. It was during this time she began to know – and to like – herself.

In an interview she gave on the Hour of Power Christian show over a decade ago, Lynn Marie spoke about one particular day when God so clearly was speaking to her through other people, but first through her broken clothes dryer. She heard that Sears had a sale on Electrolux dryers and she packed up James and off to the store they went. There was a band playing in the parking lot for the sale and she thought she would come out and support them after her

store visit. In the store and after LynnMarie found out even the sale price of the dryer she realized it was way out of her league so she asked to see the cheaper ones. As she was looking at appliances with the saleslady, there was an elderly woman following them. Finally, the woman asked her, pointing to James, "Is this your little boy?" The woman told her that she had just buried her Down syndrome son who was 62. She gave her lived secret to LynnMarie that she should not live in the future but in the present and that if she really loves this little boy she will discover unspeakable joy and love. Then the elderly woman was crying, LynnMarie was crying and so was the Sears saleslady. Afterward, in the parking lot, there were two other God-cidences that day where she met people who affirmed the same truth to her. In 2013, with songwriter Tom Douglas, LynnMarie wrote this beautiful song called **He Will Never Be**. Look it up on Youtube. It's truly beautiful. (Fr. C.)

You know what they call him
A boy with special needs
Easy to see all the things
He will never be
A rock star, a quarterback
Einstein or a Steinbeck
Never get an Oscar, never drive for Nascar
Win a million dollars playin' on Jeopardy
And then one day I saw him waiting' on a short bus
And I had an epiphany

He'll never be a pessimist
He'll never be prejudiced
A half glass empty kind of socialist
As a matter of fact
That boy is heaven kissed
And he showed me, all the things
He will never be

He lives in the moment
I'm stuck in the past
Standin' in the kitchen, sink full of dirty dishes
Watchin' sand run out of the hour glass
Then I meet him at the curb
Cause it's a quarter to three
I see him smile and I swear I hear
an angel whisper to me

He'll never be a chauvinist
A card-carrying bigamist
Laying on a couch, crying his eyes out with a therapist
My boy is heaven kissed
And he showed me
all the things
He will never be
At night we say our prayers
Down there on our knees
I see my reflection in his eyes and I thank God
He's not like me

'Cause he'll never be a cynic
A critic or jaded
He'll be misunderstood, pitied, and even hated
But at the end of the day
That boy is heaven kissed
And I thank God he showed me
what he will never be

Mass Intentions for the Week



Tue, Feb 21	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Wed, Feb 22	7:00 p.m.	No Mass
Thu, Feb 23	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Fri, Feb 24	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
Sat, Feb 25	5:00 p.m.	Margaret Bunker +
Sun, Feb 26	9:00 a.m.	Victoria Felipa +
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased Parents and Siblings of the Utrosa Family +

TOTUS TUUS – SAVE THE DATES

Totus Tuus is returning to St. Leo the Great Parish for the seventh year in a row! These are the dates to save:

Sunday July 23 – Thursday July 27 will be the Evening program for students entering grades 7 -12;

Monday July 24 – Friday July 28 will be the Day Program for students entering grades 1 – 6.

JOIN THE “CALL FOR CONSCIENCE”

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 feel a direct referral is akin to 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. Visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more, join the “Call for Conscience” and to write directly to your Member of Provincial Parliament asking them to protect conscience rights.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

St. Francis de Sales Parish is getting a bus for the Lift Jesus Higher Rally on March 4. We have room available on the bus and as well as tickets. The tickets are \$25 for the Adult Rally and \$15 for the Youth Rally. The bus is \$15. For tickets or information, those interested can contact Mildred Gallagher at 905-619-8078 or email Eleanor Carapiet at wanele03@yahoo.ca

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Celebrate your love and take a fresh look at your marriage! Spend a very special weekend together. A Weekend of discovery...a lifetime of love! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend getaway that helps married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The Weekend format helps couples communicate

openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling. Upcoming Weekends: March 17-19, October 20-22, 2017 at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga. For more information and application, please go to www.wwme.org or contact: Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or (905) 792-1925.

CWL

We invite all ladies of the parish to come and find out what the Catholic Women's League is all about. Come and enjoy grace-filled moments as you share your gifts to help work for our parish. Add your voice to a national sisterhood of Catholic women who promote awareness and respond to political and social issues that affect all Canadians. Give yourself the gift of the CWL. Membership dues (\$25) can be paid by contacting Jackie McVeigh at 905- 493-4677 or by cheque to St. Leo's CWL placed in an envelope marked CWL and placed in collection basket. Our next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26 in the parish hall after the 11:00 mass. Why not check us out?

COFFEE SUNDAY

Immediately following each of the Sunday morning Masses on February 26. It's a great opportunity for our parishioners to experience fellowship over a warm cup of coffee and some biscuits. Tickets will be available for the April 30th Fashion Show featuring clothing from Alia Tan Jay.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Will be held at St. Leo's at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3. This is an ecumenical prayer service and all are invited. The service this year is prepared by the women of the Philippines and the theme is “Have I Been Unfair to You?” Refreshments will be served in the parish hall after the service.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - 50th Anniversary

Did you know that in the early eighties a severe famine caused by drought killed more than 400,000 people in Ethiopia? Development and Peace launched an emergency appeal and raised \$20 million to aid those most affected. To find out more about the work of Development and Peace or to become a member or donor, visit the website at <http://www.devop.org/en/get-involved>

VOCATION SEEDS


“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Do you feel called to help people get closer to God? If you think God is calling you to be a, priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email at vocations@archtoronto.org




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