



# 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: Maureen Holly**

**905-655-3286 x 101**

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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](http://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.

**WEEKLY LENTEN POVERTY MEAL:  
SOUP & BREAD – Every Friday**



**SOUP & BREAD –  
5:30 – 6:30 pm.**

**STATIONS OF THE  
CROSS 6:30 – 7 pm.**

**MASS – 7:00 pm.**

**GREAT ARTICLE: “What Would Our  
Ancestors Think of Us?”**

I came across a well written article recently by Catholic writer, Anthony Esolen, where he proposes the situation of a person from our time going back in time – perhaps just 50 or 60 years – to have a conversation with people living at that time and attempting to tell them what the world we live in now is like. For me, the article says so much about our sad state of living in the modern world after the great changes that have taken place since the sexual revolution and over the last 50, 25 and even the last ten years. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once said “We are living at a time in history when that which one generation abhors the next generation passively accepts.” Man, is that true! The article is too lengthy for the bulletin and not appropriate to children as it describes the thoughts, ideas and agendas of so many in the modern world.

*I have made copies of this article and left them on the Lenten table for those adults who would like to take one and read it.*

I was privileged this past Tuesday to have attended an evening event at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Mississauga featuring the dynamic speaker/evangelist Chris Stefanick. Chris is the author of the *Chosen* program we have been using over the last 2 years for our Confirmation program. He has written several books and is a flawless speaker of high energy fueled by his love for Jesus, the Catholic Church and his wife and six children.

**PLEASE IGNORE ‘FALSE’ NOVENAS**

Over the years as a priest I have been made aware of some prayer novenas that are not in keeping with our Catholic faith and teaching at all but still appear now and then, deposited in church vestibules and always in a series of 9 copies over a 9-day period. The silly and superstitious line is always found on the bottom of these novena copies: *“This prayer has never been known to fail.”*

For the first time as pastor of St. Leo the Great parish I came across these sheets over the past two weeks and I only hope that none of our parishioners picked them up or took them seriously.

\*If you see any of these, please gather all copies and leave them on the counter in the sacristy. These should not be left out for our parishioners to pick up.

Novenas are a good and time-honoured form of committed prayer where the petitioner before God commits to pray for a need or request for nine consecutive days. Originating in pagan Rome, the Christian idea of nine days of prayer took over and was approved by the Church as it was most often seen as a form of preparation prayer. The death of a pope would warrant 9 days of Masses to be said for his soul after his death, a practice which is still in use today. The reason for the number ‘9’ as the number of days for prayer comes from sound reasoning. For the Jews, the number 7 was viewed as the most perfect number but for Christians the use of the number 9 has a most interesting rationale.

*“The number ten is the highest, the numerus maximus, simply the most perfect, which is fitting for God; the number nine, which is lacking of ten, is the number of imperfection, which is fitting for mortal kind. In some such way the Pythagoreans, Philo the Jew, the Fathers of the Church, and the monks of the Middle Ages, philosophized on the meaning of the number nine. For this reason it was adapted for use where man’s imperfection turned in prayer to God.”*

*(New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia)*

So the idea of committed prayer over a certain number of days is a good thing and has a time honoured history within Christianity. However, where this form of prayer quickly goes off the rails is when it adds statements like,

*“Your prayer will be answered before the ninth day. This novena has never been known to fail. Make 81 copies and leave 9 of them in a church over a nine-day period.”*

The problem isn’t that these statements border on the superstitious – they are superstitious, pure and simple. It implies that God’s hands are tied by us where He is forced to give us what we want because we have fulfilled all the requirements with human conditions placed upon it. It leaves no room for God’s will at all and is tantamount to saying your request will be granted if you stand on your head and spin around 9 times over 9 days. It’s pure hogwash, made only worse by the demand that one makes 81 copies and leaves 9 each day in a church over the nine day period. I’ve always found it strange that the copies are of such poor quality which may be evidence that some who have found copies in churches have themselves photocopied these bad copies for further deposit in churches.

As well, the method of ‘deposit’ of these false novenas is odd and I have never once caught someone dropping them off. Those who have left them in churches seem to sneak them in in hopes of not being caught and fulfilling the novenas requirements. In former parishes some have slipped their 9 copies through the cracks of the church doors, where they end up strewn all over the floor. The depositer obviously thought that this method would meet the requirements of the novena while in reality I was just gathering 9 copies each day and putting them in their rightful place – the garbage.

While this practice is an obvious waste of paper it is capable of leading people into erroneous ideas about God and how our needs are to be met. In fact, it seems to me that this superstitious approach to prayer suggests our power over





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