



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.

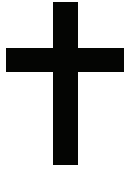
PARISH REGISTRATION:

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Lent begins this coming **Ash Wednesday**, which is **Wednesday March 1st**, and we will celebrate two parish Masses on that day –

12:00 noon and 7:00 pm.

Ashes will be distributed immediately following the homily. Our three Catholic elementary schools will have the distribution of ashes at the school in special Lenten celebrations.

CONFESSION TIMES: Our parish offers the opportunity for confession every Saturday afternoon from 4:00 pm. to 4:30 pm. or by making an appointment with the parish office during regular office hours. Our parish will hold our Day of Reconciliation on Tues. Mar. 28, with times to be announced.

THROUGHOUT LENT IN OUR PARISH:

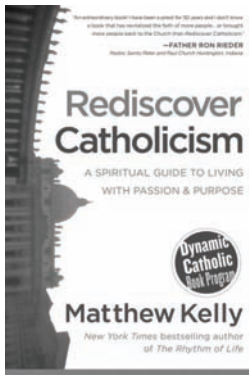
We will again hold a **Poverty Meal** of homemade soup and fresh bread in the hall each Friday throughout Lent, beginning Friday March 3rd from 5 – 6:15 pm. There is no charge for this meal though you may make a donation which will be given to our parish's St. Vincent de Paul for the poor.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS

- each Friday (foll. the Poverty Meal) at 6:30 pm. with Mass at 7:00 pm. There are no Friday morning Masses during Lent.

REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM BOOK

Do you have a copy? Can you donate it?



A couple of years ago our parish offered parishioners copies of the book *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly of Dynamic Catholic ministries. Our parish acquired the books inexpensively by buying high volumes and selling them for just 2 or 3 dollars each. If you bought a copy but have never read it, perhaps this Lent would be a good time to use this book as great Lenten spiritual renewal material. If you *have* read the book and it is sitting all lonely on a book shelf in your house, would you consider returning it

to our parish so that we can donate the book to a rural parish in the Diocese of Pembroke, Ontario? I was contacted a few months ago by an old friend who told me that her parish is too small for them to order this book for the price we were able to sell it for. She had heard that we had purchased the book for our parishioners and asked whether parishioners who might read the book for Lent as well as parishioners who had already read the book might be willing to donate them back to the parish so that we could forward them to small, rural parishes in the Pembroke Diocese after Lent is over. If you would like to donate your book back, please bring it in and leave it on the desk of the Welcome Centre in the vestibule anytime between now and Easter. Thank you. (Fr. Charles)

PREPARING FOR LENT... NOW.



On Wednesday March 1st Lent for 2017 begins with two Masses that day in the parish with the distribution of ashes. The mandate from Christ as we receive blessed ashes is that of our whole

life in following Jesus: *“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”.*

“TURN AWAY FROM SIN...”

This serious Lenten is an invitation which serves to remind us that to sin means that with full knowledge and will we have chosen to do that which we know is contrary to the will of God.

We have in fact turned to sin as evidenced by our weakness, habit, or the will to give in to temptation and, in doing so, have effectively turned away from God. When we sin, God doesn't get mad at us and turn away from us in disgust, rather, when we sin we consciously turn away from God. God does not move in his relationship with us – he is always there, always with us, but when we sin we move away from God's love, call and grace. Yet *where sin abounds, grace all the more abounds*; grace being God's free gift of himself to us, his free help, his remedy for us to find our way out of sin.

Many have said that our contemporary times have lost a sense of sin, and I would tend to agree mainly due to my own, perhaps reluctant admission, that I sin and that I am a sinner. As a priest I can assist others in dealing with sin principally because I am a sinner myself. Yet qualifying as a sinner isn't the only reason that I can speak about human sin. I must speak about it because Christ addressed it, not only with his words of teaching but principally through his death on the Cross. Human sin was and is so serious that Jesus took it upon himself – all of it – and put it to death in his death on the Cross. It is because of sin and what sin had brought into the world that was the reason for Jesus' coming to us as Messiah and Saviour. He is the Saviour because he saves us from sin.

The remedy for sin is forgiveness which comes from God. If God is love itself then forgiveness from God is a sign of that great love that longs to see us whole, forgiven, reconciled and restored in him. St. John's Gospel tells us of just how great God's love for us is in Romans 5:8: *“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”* God has not only shown us this tremendous love but he died for us, proof of just how great his love really is.

“BE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL”

The second part of the words which accompany the marking with ashes is to *“be faithful to the Gospel”*. The word 'Gospel' means Good News, but what is this good news? It is nothing less than the awesome news that we don't have to die but have the opportunity to live forever with God in heaven. How did this happen? Again, when Jesus died on the Cross in your and my place. But it isn't just given to us like water is poured into a glass. God wants us to ask for it, to desire it, to really want it and, if we do, he will give it to us in the bestowal of abundant, blessed life in this world and forever in the world that will never end – eternal life.

So the invitation to be faithful to the promise of God means to authentically live out each day we are given according to God's plan and purpose. A dog is considered faithful because it never relents in its loyalty and love for us. We are faithful as humans to our relationships as wives, husbands, children, single people, widows and widowers and friends when we are constant in our loyalty to those people in our lives and in our unspoken, unwritten promise to be true, honest and of service to them. That's what God wants us to do first and foremost in our highest relationship with him; to know and follow the commandments, to love others and ourselves as he himself has loved us, to seek the good and do the good, to forgive

others and ourselves and to seek reconciliation with one another and ultimately with God in the areas of our life where we have sinned and broken our relationships. If we are honest with ourselves we will admit that this task of faithfulness is, quite frankly, impossible to achieve except for the wondrous and real help of God. It's called 'grace'; unmerited, undeserved, and ours for the asking. Jesus will help us as we wander through our Lenten landscape. It's a promise. (Fr. C.)

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tue, Feb 28	8:30 a.m.	Vincenzina Mammone +
Wed, Mar 1	12:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday
Thu, Mar 2	8:30 a.m.	Intention of Fr. Adam
Fri, Mar 3	7:00 p.m.	All Souls in Purgatory
Sat, Mar 4	5:00 p.m.	Betty Riddle +
Sun, Mar 5	9:00 a.m.	Armenio Medeiros +
	11:00 a.m.	Sebastiana Collens +

COME AND SEE WEEKEND

Friday, March 17 (Begins at 7 p.m.) to Sunday, March 19, 2017 at St. Augustine's Seminary. 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. Please contact (the Parish Priest) or the Office of Vocations at 416 968 0997; email vocations@archtoronto.org

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE - 50th Anniversary

Did you know that after the devastating earthquake in 2010, Canadians donated \$21 million to Development and Peace to provide for the needs of people in Haiti? To find out more about the work of Development and Peace or to become a member or donor, visit the website at <http://www.devp.org/en/get-involved>

St. Vincent de Paul, CWL, KofC

If you are interested in learning more about any of these organizations, please call Peggy Primeau – President of St. Vincent de Paul - 905-655-9692, Donna Shaddick – President of Catholic Women's League - 905-620-0724 and Larry Hallihan – Knights of Columbus - 905-620-0351.

FASHION SHOW

St. Leo's CWL will be holding a Fashion Show on Sunday, April 30th at 1:00 featuring clothing from Alia in the Oshawa Mall. Tickets \$15 each. Tea / Coffee and Sweets will be served. Available at Coffee Sunday or by calling 905-620-0724.

COINS FOR LIFE 2017

Would you, your family and friends put aside your townies, loonies, quarters, nickels, dimes during the next 4-6 weeks, and contribute these savings to help in the struggle to end abortion and to create a **Culture of Life in Canada**? If so coins for life boxes are available at the Welcome Cent This project helps us to continue to run the National March for Life in Ottawa **on May 11, 2017**.

Be sure that your small change can lead to a BIG change in our land and does help to save countless innocent lives now and in the future. God's preborn children in the womb have no voice but ours. You may even wish to make this a family, school, office project? Spread the good news of the sanctity of every life from conception to natural death which God created as no one has the right to destroy that life. In our present-day culture of death society we all have a role to play to reverse the tide even with this **'little project' for life**. The Parish will post the date to return the boxes and if you wish, leave your name/address/email/cell so CLC can thank you personally for your kindness. For more information call Jenny or Jeff at CLC, 416 204 9749. Volunteers are always needed!

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.

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.

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

VOCATION SEEDS


"No one can serve two masters." If God is calling you to serve him as 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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