

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

Youth Director: Dennis Wardle x 109

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.

St. Leo the Great Parish, Brooklin

THREE-DAY LENTEN RETREAT

with Catholic Evangelist, Mark Mallett

Sunday February 25, Monday February 26
& Tuesday February 27

Each evening from 7-9 pm. in the church.

*A free-will offering will take place each evening to support
Mark's family and ministry.*

Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Info. & Registration Meetings



St. Leo the Great Parish wishes to invite all parents and their child candidates who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Feast of Pentecost in May 2018 to **attend one** of the following two offered Parent Info. Meetings.

- **Sunday March 4 at 12:30 pm. in the church**
- **OR Tuesday March 6 at 7 pm. in the church**

At these meetings we will give parents/guardians full information about:

- the preparation classes and class dates
- sponsor information
- the date of the Confirmation Retreat
- the date of Confirmation
- Registration for the Sacrament will take place at the end of the meeting

Parents are asked to bring with them

- their child-candidate
- a copy of their child's baptismal certificate (even if child was baptized at St. Leo the Great Parish)
- a \$50. donation to the parish to assist in covering costs.

If you should have any questions prior to the meeting either speak to Fr. Charles following any Sunday Mass or call the parish at 905-655-3286 ext. 101.

LENTEN PREPARATIONS

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 (Valentine's Day) with Ash Wednesday Masses at 12 noon and 7 p.m.

Each Friday of Lent we will have

Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

followed by **Mass at 7:00 p.m.**

We will no longer have a poverty meal of soup & bread as previous years had low attendance.

During Lent only the **Holy Hour** will be changed from Friday mornings to **Thursday mornings from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.** followed by Mass at 8:30 am.

A few weeks ago I composed an article for our parish bulletin about my own sense of a greater need to pray beyond my experience throughout my life and to the present. It was a desire to go deeper in prayer and not just stick to the routine of prayer found in the Mass, Breviary and devotions. Anthony Esolen's article from nine years ago is timely and current in my estimation and experience and I offer it here for your spiritual reading. (Fr. Charles)

Where Have All the Prayers Gone?

by *Anthony Esolen* March 2009

"Lord, teach us to pray, even as John also taught his disciples" (Lk 11:1).

Then Jesus gave us the Our Father. But that was by no means the limit of His teaching or His example. We hear Jesus bursting out into praise, glorifying the Father for concealing things from the wise and prudent of the world, and revealing them unto babes. We see Him venturing alone into the silence of the mountains to fast and pray. We are with Him at the table of the Last Supper, when He gives the traditional Jewish blessing of the bread and the wine, and then transforms that prayer into the first Eucharist. We watch with Him in the garden, as He kneels and pleads with the Father that His cup of suffering might pass, though "not my will, but thine be done." We hear His terrible cry of loneliness upon the Cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And then the quiet, intimate words of faith and obedience, words that storm the kingdom of death: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

When Jesus is risen from the dead, prayer rises with Him, too. "Peace be with you," He says to the Eleven hiding in fear. When He parts from them, He blesses them, and instructs them to baptize all nations, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. They receive the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and speak in tongues. It is the birthday of the Church, and she has, throughout the centuries, in the power of the Holy Spirit, continued to teach us how to pray.

Yet here I am, Catholic from my infancy, and I am almost as speechless as an infant when it comes to prayer. No doubt I'm partly to blame. But during the dry decades of my youth, the Church's rich heritage of prayer was quietly stowed away in some subterranean vestry. Formal prayers, except for the few that make up the Rosary, were out; but then so too were those devotional practices, like Eucharistic adoration, or fasting, or keeping silence, that lent themselves to spontaneous prayer, even to those prayers that are the groanings of a troubled heart, to be interpreted only by the Spirit. I recall years ago hearing the Angelus, and suddenly realizing that I could not say it by myself, since I had only a dim recollection of it from childhood.

It's never too late to learn, but in these matters I feel sometimes like a person who is trying to figure out what baseball is — 30 or 40 years after I should have begun. I open the terrific medieval handbook of spiritual counsel, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and read:

Feel sin in its totality — as a lump — without specifying any particular part, and that all of it is you. And then cry ceaselessly in your spirit this one thing: "Sin! Sin! Sin! Help! Help! Help!"

That isn't meant to be a random impulse. The author attempts to lead his spiritual charges, step by step, away from admiring themselves as they mouth empty words, and into the mystery of the imperious love of God. For He "will brook no rival," says the author. "His will is that you should look at him, and let him have his way." I read these things and hardly know where or when to stand or sit or kneel. Such spiritual discipline as this — in one sense patient and formal, in another utterly thrown open to the cry of the moment — is a part of the Church's spiritual heritage I can as yet only admire from without, not understanding more than a trace of what is there.

Or I open the Sarum Missal, and read this communion prayer: LORD Jesus Christ, Who didst commune Thy disciples, eating in common with Thee, with Thy Body and Blood, and as a friend didst establish between them the communion of all their goods: grant me Thy wretched and unworthy servant that in the hour of my death, having worthily and savingly received the same communing, I might be worthy to feast in common with my brethren, the Saints and the Angels, at Thy table. Who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit reignest, God: through all the ages of ages, Amen.

And I know that never once in my life have I returned from communion with such thoughts; never once have I prayed that at the hour of my passing I might one final time partake of the wayfarer's food, so as to be admitted to the feast that knows no end. I have returned to the pew, knelt down, thought in some perfunctory way of some intention or other, said in my mind one of the few formal prayers I know, and that is all. There's nothing wrong with that, in itself. But there has been little else in my repertory. And so I have had to make an effort, in some sense an unnatural and awkward effort, to think the thoughts of Catholics who composed and said prayers such as the one above. The effort is far from entirely successful.

Or I open a book of the prayers of St. Anselm, selections of whose philosophy and theology I have taught for many years. And I read:

A thing to be wondered at —
at what a height do I behold the place of Mary!
Nothing equals Mary,
nothing but God is greater than Mary.

Then I understand, with a start, that I really know very little about this Anselm, who could conceive such a prayer. I recall my many years of shame: my being ashamed of what was looked down upon as the foolish devotion of simple old ladies. So I was taught by the theologians *au courant*, when, for sheer intelligence, not to mention fidelity, Anselm could have bought up the whole lot of them. I know now that the children of Fatima were right and the theologians were wrong; but knowing it still does not restore to me either my knowledge of the saints or a childlike turning to the woman full of grace.

I must exert myself, I know. And there are plenty of handbooks and prayer books now available to help. It's a start, anyway, to admit that I know far too little for my own good, or for the good of those for whom I am praying. I write this essay mainly in the hope that it will move someone who knows more than I do, and who is in a position to instruct me and thousands of people like me, to get out the rusty keys, open the closet, and take out the Church's treasures of prayer for all to behold.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 6th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Alex Mitchell

Wednesday, February 7th

7:00 p.m. Intentions of Charity De Guzman

Thursday, February 8th

8:30 a.m. † Philip Launay

Friday, February 9th

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 10th

4:30 p.m. † Maria Bianco

Sunday, February 11th

9:00 a.m. † Joseph Molica

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

Canada Summer Jobs Program

Reach Out to Your Member of Parliament

The federal government has introduced new requirements for employers applying for the Canada Summer Jobs grant. To be eligible for funding, employers must attest that both the job and the organization's core mandate respect certain "values" as determined by the federal government including the government's position on abortion, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Organizations unable or unwilling to make this attestation in whole or in part will be deemed ineligible for the grant. This requirement is clearly unjust.

Many Catholic organizations throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto and many other faiths involved in charitable activity at soup kitchens, shelters, refugee welcome centres or summer camps are impacted by this decision. Please take a moment to visit www.archtoronto.org/summerjobs for more information and to find a template letter to send to your MP and the minister responsible for this portfolio.

Want to Join the 11:00 Choir? (:

The Sunday 11:00 am mass choir is looking for new members to join this already wonderful group. All ages and vocal abilities are welcome. The only requirement is that you like singing. The choir sings at the 11:00 mass on Sundays and we rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, then now is the time to give it a try. Also, if you know someone who may be interested in joining, please encourage them to try it out too. For more information about joining this talented and fun group, please see Ted, the director, after the 11:00 mass or come out to the church on Thursday night at 7:30pm. He can also be reached by phone at 647-302-6996. Thank you.

CATHOLIC MOMS GROUP MEETING

Come join us for some faith and friendship! St. Leo the Great's Catholic Moms Group is meeting every second Thursday of each month at 8 pm in Boardroom 1.

Next meeting on February 8



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