



# 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: 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 (Welcome Cards) 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 Victor Amole* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If Father Victor 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.

## A Prayer for Married Couples

Father of life and love,  
 You created us in your image – woman and man.  
 We rejoice and thank you for the gift of each other.  
 Sustain us in our love  
 and lead us to a deeper understanding of your love.  
 Jesus, we come before you,  
 seeking your guidance and direction in our relationship.  
 In marriage you call and challenge us  
 to a permanent, exclusive and sacred friendship.  
 Be our strength and support, therefore,  
 as we continue this journey together.  
 Holy Spirit, help us to strive towards  
 a lasting, honest commitment united in love.  
 Give us your strength to carry each other  
 in times of darkness, your joy in times of happiness,  
 and your gift of awe in the uniqueness and sacredness  
 of each other.  
 May our love be a reflection and a sign  
 of your love in the world.  
 Amen.

## Preparing for LENT *now*.

This year has already found us scratching our heads and saying, "Gee, it feels like we've just finished celebrating Christmas and now we're beginning Lent?" Our surprise over Lent 2016's arrival shouldn't leave us there however, for now is the time to think about what we would like to accomplish spiritually as we follow Jesus through the desert of forty days.



Jesus, led by the Spirit to meet the spirit (temptation through the Devil) entered into and experienced a real stripping away of the externals so that He would be focused on His own preparation for His public life and eventually His own Passion and Death as our Redeemer. Of course, we're not going to move away for Lent and enter a monastery or convent or go into the woods to live out our Lent, but in a very real sense that is what we need to do in the midst of the Lenten landscape of our lives – to somehow make a change in what we do for this time period so that we are saying to the Lord, "I want to be with you more and draw closer to your love, reconciliation and mercy in this time of Lent." I've always thought that the Lent we enter into will determine the Easter we will celebrate. Lent could come and go without our noticing leaving Easter as a flower-filled Sunday and not much more. Why do we celebrate Lent anyway?

Good question. And the answer is found in the first reading of every Ash Wednesday Mass:

*"Even now, says the Lord,  
 return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
 Return to the Lord, your God,  
 for he is gracious and merciful,  
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
 and relents from punishing. [Mercy]  
 Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sanctify a fast;  
 call a solemn assembly;  
 gather the people.  
 Sanctify the congregation;  
 assemble the aged;  
 gather the children, even infants at the breast.  
 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests,  
 the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
 Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord!'"*

All of these elements are found in our Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent. Our schools call for an assembly of all the children and through the Liturgy of the Word and prayer they distribute the ashes blessed and sent by the parish for the purpose of communal entering into the spirit of Lent itself. The parish celebrates two Masses on Ash Wednesday (noon and 7 pm.) as a gathering of our parishioners and the words of the priest which reflect the call on God to have mercy and spare His people.... from themselves.

Lent is for us. We are the beneficiaries of anything we can offer up, give up, take on or do without. God is God and therefore He doesn't need anything from us, but we need God and out of this truth we seek to draw closer in a variety of ways to Him who, in His goodness, created us and made us for Himself.

Yet there is much more to Lent.

We are all sinners. We admit it every time we gather to celebrate the Mass right from the beginning in the Penitential Rite. But to speak of sin in a general way is to downplay the seriousness of what Lent can help us do for our own good and the good of our immortal souls.

There is a tendency sometimes to look at sin as though the really bad sin is committed by the people who make the news. The adulterers, fornicators, embezzlers, cheats and liars make headline news all the time and if we compare ourselves to them we can be fooled into thinking that we're alright but they are 'real' sinners. No, the difference is: they have been caught. Archbishop Fulton Sheen was once visiting a prison to give a retreat. He began his talk to the inmates by saying, "You may think I am visiting you today as a man with a white hat while you're wearing the black hats because of what you have done that brought you here. Yet in reality, the only difference between you and me is that you got caught, I didn't."

I think that's a good way of looking at sin and to compare ourselves, not to one another when taking a personal moral inventory, but compare ourselves to Christ, our model.

There is much sin in all of us in vices and tendencies that can even become the addictions we may struggle with. Taking full advantage of a season of mercy in a time of mercy for the Church can find us realizing, perhaps even for the first time, the real help that the Lord can and desires to give to us.

Since Lent is a Penitential season of the Church there is a great emphasis on returning to the Lord. At the beginning of every Mass, during the Penitential Rite we admit we have sinned "... through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault". Why would we all say we have sinned through our "most grievous fault"? Because sin is hurting someone you love as it hurts the Lord who desires us to live in goodness and freedom. So all our sin, whether our lives be lived out in convents, monasteries or rectories, or in houses, condos, factories or offices – it grieves the Good Lord whom we should love, as we say in the Act of Contrition "above all things".

#### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE SHEETS

Perhaps one of the best ways to scan our conscience is to review an Examination of Conscience. (You know, that handout I am now famous for as if I'd invented it and the Ten Commandments.) These will be made available throughout Lent for our parishioners and we will have some available for younger children as well as teenagers and adults. Preparing for and availing ourselves of the mercy, love and forgiveness of Jesus found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation given us by Christ Himself will help us to see clearly our own personal sin with a genuine sense of sorrow for it, name it, confess it and be set free to, with God's real grace and help, begin again on the path of Christ. *(Fr. C)*

### WEEKLY LENTEN POVERTY MEAL: SOUP & BREAD



Come and join the St. Leo Parish community each Friday from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. for hot, homemade soup and fresh bread as we as a community enter into a spirit of communion with those who go without the world over and in so many ways right in our own country and cities. There is no cost but you can make a free-will offering if you'd like. At 6:30 pm., following the Poverty Meal we will have Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent (except Good Friday) followed by Mass at 7 pm.

**SOUP & BREAD – 5:30 – 6:30 pm.**  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS – 6:30 – 7 pm.**  
**MASS – 7:00 pm.**

#### Mass Intentions – Feb.9 – 14, 2016

Tues. Feb.9 8:30 am – Jack Morrissey+ req. Weeks Family  
Ash Wed. Feb. 10 – noon Service/Distribution Ashes  
7:00 pm Mass/Distribution Ashes  
Thurs. Feb. 11 8:30 am – Arthur Michea+ req. Weeks Family  
Fri. Feb. 12 5:30 pm – Poverty Meal – Hall  
6:30 pm – Stations of the Cross  
7:00 pm – Mass – John O'Neill+ req. Bravo Family  
Sat. Feb. 13 5:00 pm – Luis Cruz+ req. Carmelita Cruz  
Sun. Feb.14 9:00 am – Concetta Stazzellia+ req. M.Mastropietro  
11:00 am – Edgar Scully+ req. LeBlanc Family

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do not be afraid. If the Lord is calling you to be ordained or consecrated life, do not be afraid. Jesus calls and will give you the grace to respond wholeheartedly. If you think God is calling you, please contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-968-0997.

#### For Lent - Coins for Life 2016- "Deny Yourself and Give to Life"

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 will be handed out at the back of the church the weekend of February 20/21. The project helps Campaign Life Coalition continue to run the National March for Life in Ottawa on May 12, 2016.

**Thursday May 12, 2016** will be the date this year of the annual **Canadian National March for Life in Ottawa**. I have been to two March for Life marches over the past two years and have found it to be not only encouraging but a tremendous spiritual experience that is beyond words and description.

**Valentines Dance: Saturday February 13 at 6:30 pm** in the parish hall, entrance by Carson Street. Come and enjoy an evening of great music, dancing, cold buffet, spot prizes and more. Tickets \$20 each and can be purchased after the weekend masses in the vestibule of the church.

#### St. Leo St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Leo St. Vincent de Paul Members welcomes new members to our Council or anyone interested in finding out what's involved in membership. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the church. Please call one of the council members: President Peggy Primeau, 905-655-9692, Vice President Larry Hallihan, 905-620-0351, Secretary Maureen Kerr, 905-655-5150, Treasurer Anabela Wardell, 905-447-5486.

Cherub's Cupboard will be here next Sunday February 14.



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