

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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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.

Christmas, Clean-Up and Thanks

Arriving at church this weekend makes it abundantly clear that Christmas is over and the decorations are all taken down and packed away for another year. Of course, the decorations don't disappear by themselves but as a result of some hard-working people who came last Sunday to attend to that less glamorous task of removing the adornments of Christmas from the church and sanctuary. It's always kind of exciting to get out the decorations and create the beautiful Christmas scene that transforms our sanctuary into the place of the Manger scene, the travelling Magi, the Poinsettia tree and the splendid colours of the poinsettia plants arranged in clusters near and around the altar area. It's obviously a bit of a downer to take everything down and apart and pack it away until next Christmas. I think parishioners feel the same thing at home in the big difference felt in decorating for Christmas and dismantling it. Few are interested in the second part.

We have never had so many comments on the appearance of the sanctuary as we did this year. One woman told me that in all her life she has never seen a church decorated as magnificently as ours this year. Every year we make slight changes to groupings of flowers, the location of the many trees both lit and unlit and this year added the poinsettia tree. Years ago a Mr. Ernie Allard skillfully made the wood structure of the tree and it was used for many years until the parish decided it no longer wanted it. I was contacted and happily accepted it for use in our church. In a large church edifice like ours you can't decorate with small things but need large items to fill and beautify so much empty space. The poinsettia tree looked magnificent with the statue of Our Lady beside it.

POWERFUL SYMBOLISM

Yet the decorations do so much more than simply appeal to the eye, they are filled with meaning. In fact, one parishioner with a theological background remarked how he was impressed by the clear layout which spoke about the three comings of the Lord, which admittedly I hadn't intended nor even thought about. He pointed out that the first coming of Christ was obviously evidenced in the large manger scene representative of the birth of Jesus Our Saviour and the adorned altar at the center of the sanctuary is where Christ comes to us in the present in the great mystery and gift of the Eucharist, and the statue of Our Lady with the large poinsettia tree represents the Second Coming of the Lord heralded by the messages of and the image of Mary, the Mother of God. Christ's three comings in history, mystery and at the end of all things was the unintended but truthful scene of the sanctuary this Christmas. And the addition of the stunning white and bountifully decorated Christmas tree in royal colours right next to the manger contained the proclamations of the various names of Jesus – "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, King of Kings, Son of David, Mighty Lord, Prince of Peace" among others. Our communal celebration of the birth of Jesus was greatly enhanced by the fitting setting of the sanctuary this year.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following people who worked very hard for 3 ½ hours last Sunday afternoon in dismantling the beautiful and meaningful symbols of Christmas.

Andrzej, Matthew and Jacob Nowak; Ferma and Stephanie Collings; Angela Meagher; David Forget (my brother who decorated the white *Christ the King* tree) and Jeremy and Ben Carruthers and myself. Also KofC for the chairs.

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal and on Saturday May 13th will mark the anniversary of the first apparition of Mary to the children on the same date in 1917. As throughout salvation history God has revealed not only Himself through the



prophets and world events but also His commands and teachings on how we are to live in relationship with Him and with one another. Again and again God has made covenants with man – always kept faithfully by God but not at all on man's part. The final covenant with humanity has been made through Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Saviour of the world and through His Church He established to exist until the end of time. Throughout the Church's history has come revelations of God to peoples living in various times but none so plentiful as in the last two centuries when God has chosen to send Our Blessed Lady to simple, every day and often poor people, some of them children. In the case of Fatima, Our Lady appeared to three poor shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal on May 13, 1917. The three little children were Lúcia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto.



The children said they saw a woman "*brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal goblet filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun.*" The

woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. She asked them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray "the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war". While the children had never told anyone about seeing the angel, Jacinta told her family about seeing the brightly lit woman. Lúcia had earlier said that the three should keep this experience private but Jacinta's disbelieving mother told neighbours about it as a joke, and within a day the whole village knew of the children's vision. However, this appearance would only be the first of six appearances to the children, revealing many things to them but also some secrets that were only many decades later revealed. The culmination of the appearances of Our Lady were seen in *The Miracle of the Sun* when hundreds of disbelieving people had gathered in the pouring rain around the children who were expecting a sign from Mary. The miracle seen by all would lead to a great outpouring of faith evidenced there and around the world to this day. I will write more about this in the coming year as there is so much to say about God's message to us through Mary. (Fr. Charles)

Mass Intentions for the Week



Tue, Jan 17	8:30 a.m.	Tony Stranges +
Wed, Jan 18	7:00 p.m.	Ernie Laton + Intention of Joan Barker
Thu, Jan 19	8:30 a.m.	Valerie Hotner +
Fri, Jan 20	8:30 a.m.	Cala Dimitroff +
Sat, Jan 21	5:00 p.m.	Francesco Caruso +
Sun, Jan 22	9:00 a.m.	Maria Cavaliere +
	11 a.m.	Valerie Hotner +

THANK YOU

A very sincere thank you to the parishioners of St Leo's who responded to our Christmas Angels project again this year. Through your overwhelming generosity we were able to assist three families in the Brooklin / Port Perry area as well as 16 families from St. Gertrude's parish who are overwhelmed with requests each year. Thirty-two adults and 44 children / teens enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and we thank you from St. Vincent de Paul St. Leo's Conference for your assistance. Many people dropped envelopes in the poor box as well so our coffers did not have to be emptied for Christmas. We are thankful for the many generous members of the parish, as well as visitors who contributed this year and wish you all the blessings of the New Year.

CWL GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting for CWL will be on Sunday, January 22 in the Parish Hall after the 11 Mass. Membership fees (\$25) are now due for 2017 and can be paid at the meeting or by dropping an envelope into the collection basket (cheque made to St. Leo's CWL and marked CWL Membership).

FR. LEO AUSTIN GRADE 8 INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents of Grade 8 students are invited to attend an information session regarding Grade 9 at Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School on **January 18, 2017 at 7 p.m.** and not as previously announced on January 17, 2017. Take a tour, speak to students and educators, check out our sports teams and clubs and learn what makes our school community special.

VALENTINE'S DANCE – February 11, 2017

Sponsored by St. Leo Knights of Columbus in the St. Leo Church Hall complete with a full hot meal followed by a variety of music by D.J. and dancing. Cash Bar throughout the evening. Door prizes will be awarded. Tickets will be \$30.00 single and \$50.00 per couple. Refreshments at 6:30 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM and Dance at 8:00 PM. Enjoy!

MOTHER TERESA: THE LEGACY

In commemoration of the Canonization of Mother Teresa, Durham Region Catholic Women's League is hosting a special screening of the film *Mother Teresa: The Legacy*, on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 903 Giffard St., Whitby. The Presentation is by the two-time Emmy Award winning filmmaker Ann Petrie. Admission is FREE and ALL ARE WELCOME!

The film includes intimate and never-before-seen footage of Mother Teresa. But it is Mother Teresa's words, finally, that reveal why she has captivated the hearts and admiration of the world. Ann Petrie will speak about her experience as she and her sister Jeanette filmed (this new saint) in ten different countries over a period of five years. She was honored to be invited to Mother Teresa's canonization.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Oshawa Little Theatre is proud to present the Robert Bolt classic play about the life of St. Thomas More *A Man for all Seasons* on February 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 at 8:00 p.m. and a 2:00 p.m. matinee on February 12th. The theatre is making a special offer to church groups who might wish to attend by offering a 15% discount to all orders of 10 seats or more and a 20% discount on orders of 20 seats or more. In addition, orders of over 20 seats will also receive a complimentary ticket (the regular ticket price is \$25). The theatre is located at 62 Russett Ave, Oshawa, phone number (905) 723 0282.

VOCATION SEEDS


St. Paul tells us that we have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people. Could it be that you or someone in your family is being called 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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