

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.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU'S



Often, when people remark to me how good the church looked at Christmas, a few might be led to think that I set up everything from trees to flowers myself. Well, hardly. Each year we get volunteers from the parish who together as a team work over the period of a week to haul out the decorations, trees and lights, assemble

and 'fluff' the trees and put the whole thing together in the church. While I have always enjoyed being a part of the setup for Christmas I am but one person out of many who bring it all together.

This year we were particularly challenged with the quick following of Christmas Eve on the very heels of the Fourth Sunday of Advent warranting us to have the complete set up of the church before the final weekend of Advent Masses. Kudos to all who assisted with Christmas this year.

TAKING DOWN OF DECORATIONS:

Andrzej Nowak, Matthew Nowak, Jed DeLeon

FLUFFING OF TREES:

Yvonne Naterer, Monika Naterer, Maria Kczik, Mark Kczik, Ferma Collings, Stephanie Collings, Joan Barker, Fr.C

SET UP OF CHURCH:

Marko Naterer, Maria Kczik, Mark Kczik, Magda Nowak, Matthew Nowak, Joan Barker, Fr.C, Sandy Yatabe, Silvia Elek, Melissa Tai.

On behalf of the parish I wish to thank the above parishioners for their kind assistance and hard work in making the birth of Our Saviour as festive and solemn as it was.

I would also like to recognize the many parishioners who serve in various ministries throughout the year and in particular at this time of year when there is so much scheduling to be done and observed.

In particular I would like to thank all of our musicians and Mass music leaders for their efforts and work toward a more worthy celebration of the Birth of Jesus. I wish to thank Ted Schuck, director of the 11 am. Mass choir, for his leadership and preparation which served at 2 out of 4 Christmas Masses. Ted also assisted as leader/coordinator in the first Christmas Pageant our parish has ever seen here. It was beautifully done and moved so smoothly in their enactment of how Jesus was born. (Fr.C)

A NEW YEAR....

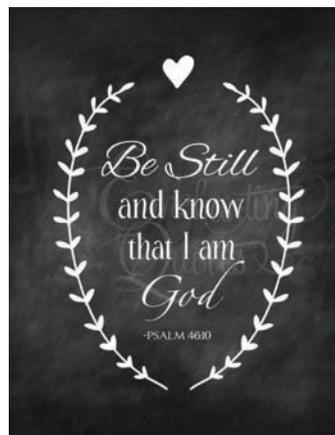


NEW YEARS' MOST GLORIOUS LIGHT IS NEW HOPE!

While this is normally the time when one hears people speak of new year's resolutions – to lose weight, tackle an addiction or change a bad habit or even make a positive resolution to become a better person – I haven't heard anyone mention a new year's resolution yet. I'm sure many people keep their

self-imposed mandates to themselves either because it's personal and between them and God or perhaps they don't want anyone to catch them if they break their own commitments. The top ten resolutions familiar to most people are: Exercise, Get Organized, Help Others More, Learn Something New, Get Out of Debt, More Family Time, Quit Smoking, Lose Weight, Quit Drinking, Enjoy Life More. Some of these are specific while others tend to be more general, and the general ones tend to get dropped earlier on because of the vastness of their scope. They are too vague and non-specific and it is only when we resolve to address one thing that we stand some chance in seeing it through.

I've personally given some thought to the one thing I would like to do in 2018 that I feel will benefit me, what I do, and others and what I've realized is my personal need to pray. Notice I didn't say pray "more". Prayer is not about quantity but quality when the individual in the relationship with Jesus moves toward Him in thought and speech and intention. I always think of a woman saying about her husband, "Yes, I only talk to him for a minute or two per day but I'd like to increase that." What is obviously missing from this statement is relationship. When I recognize that I'm living my priesthood more as an administrator of a parish than a shepherd of souls then I've moved away from the truth of my vocation and the very center of it. As in all things of life, balance is necessary and essential. Prayer grounds me. It gives me fresh eyes to see what I would otherwise see with new vision and perspective. It most often changes, not the things I am praying about or for, but it changes me.



Prayer is water when I am thirsty and food when I am hungry. I sense it is missing from my living when I attempt to tackle, solve, accomplish or resolve some problem on my own steam. The awareness of this itself is a God-given gift when in silence He summons my heart to, as Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." The Rosary provides a beautiful rhythm to prayer but is not of and by itself prayer for it leads us into sweet communion with Him

and His Blessed Mother. Our weekly Holy Hours (*each Friday morning from 7:30 – 8:30*) are mysterious silence comingled with the communion with God whom I can see in the Most Sacred Host within the monstrance right before my eyes.... if I choose to actually come, look and see.

Sometimes in life found silence robs us of this prayerful focus when we become so task-oriented that even our time for thoughts in prayer are robbed by the frenetic need to get things done, to plan, organize and thus allow our thoughts to be taken over by the self-imposed need to fill up even the gift of silence with 'stuff'. As the psalm tells us that even when our bodies and our thoughts are still we will slowly enter into a knowledge that God is right here with us, with me and be led to wonder how we never knew this or discovered this before. That this tremendous God loves me, personally, and wants to speak to my heart as He listens to it. He knows it well for He made it and placed it within me so that I can love Him and all that He

has created and given me. In prayer I can look at Him and He at me and converse with the language of love.

Our attempts at prayer, like the cause of dashed resolutions because they were too great, should be marked with little efforts rather than grand ones. Small efforts will always have the largest impact on our overall living and have the reputation for lasting.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen spoke of the importance of little things in life that make such a difference and I think it speaks to the same being said of prayer. Little prayers said to the Lord throughout the day increase our sense of unity with Jesus and His walking with us.

"Faithfulness in great things is not uncommon; faithfulness in little things is rare but most indicative of character. Almost any husband would leap into the sea or rush into a burning building to rescue his perishing wife. But to anticipate the convenience or happiness of the wife in some small matter, the neglect of which would go unnoticed, is a more eloquent proof of tenderness.

Our lives for the most part are made up of little things, and by these our character is to be tested. There are very few who have to take a prominent place in the great conflicts of our age; the vast majority must dwell in humbler scenes and be content to do a more humble work. The conflicts which we have to endure either against evil in our own soul or in the moral circle where our influence would seem to be trivial are in reality the struggle of the battle for life and decency; and true heroism is shown here as well as in those grander scales in which others win the leader's fame or the martyr's crown. Little duties carefully discharged; little temptations earnestly resisted with the strength which God supplies; little sins crucified - these all together help to form that character which is to be described not as popular or glamorous, but as moral and noble."

"Little things make up the universe. The clouds gather up the rain and moisture and part with them in drops; time is so precious that it is given out second by second; stars do not leap about in their orbits but keep a measured pace. In like manner, humans will find little to do if they save their energy for great occasions. In every direction the great is reached through the little. The turning of a tiny needle steadily toward a fixed point is a little common thing, but it guides navies along the uncharted seas. The most significant trifle becomes a great thing if the alternative of obedience or rebellion is involved in it. To live by the day and to watch each step is the true pilgrimage method, for there is nothing little if God requires it." (Fulton J. Sheen from *Way to Inner Peace*, 1949)

A new year marks a time-given opportunity for new and fresh hope that we can draw closer in the small things in life to the Greatest that can be known – union with God. I feel and know that the draw within me to move inward and outward to God in the privilege of prayer will assist me in recognizing that which is most necessary for this life. To see God winking at me in the spiritual dialogue that has no words gives an ineffable joy to my thirsty soul and makes me long for and yearn for more. Faithfulness in the little things like allotting myself specific times of prayer when I am not tired or weary will bear the fruit of prayer: inner peace, perspective and a hatred of those things that, if left unchecked within me, will slowly pull me away from the Source of peace I so desperately need in my life. God, who never changes, changes me when I approach His wisdom, truth, guidance and most of all, His tremendous and unending love. O the sweet gift of prayer with the Divine! (FrC)

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, January 9th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Father Charles

Wednesday, January 10th

7:00 p.m. † Ken Wesley
† Waclaw Sabala

Thursday, January 11th

8:30 a.m. Private Intention

Friday, January 12th

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 13th

4:30 p.m. Deceased members of the Duarte Family

Sunday, January 14th

9:00 a.m. Intentions of the Catholic Mothers Group
11:00 a.m. † Isabella Jardim

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the **Children's Christmas choir and the Christmas pageant** a success. The kids did a wonderful job sharing the message of Jesus' birth through song and pageantry. A special thanks to those who gave up their Sunday afternoons and more all through December. Thank you Dennis Wardle, Stephanie Collings, Glen Tai, the 5:00 Mass musicians, Teagan Schuck, Linda Vachon and Joan Barker. An extra note of appreciation goes to the parents who spent weeks preparing their kids. Thank you all for your time and support. It was a blessed event. (Ted Schuck)

2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please write your name and address on envelopes for the first few weeks of 2018 to confirm your contact information.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

This time of year when we enter into a new year, is a good time for the members of our parish who use Pre Authorized Giving (PAG) to consider annually what they are able to contribute to the Lord through the Church in our parish. While every day of our lives is offered opportunity to show our gratitude to the Lord for our faith and blessings, now is a blessed time to express our commitment to the Lord in the support of His Church. If you wish to change your amount of giving through PAG, simply email the office at office@stleothegreat.ca with your new increased amount.



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 January 11



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