



# 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.

**CHRISTMAS SET-UP HELP**

Every year at Christmas visitors and parishioners alike remark at how beautiful the church looks once decorated for the celebration of Christ's birth. Parishioners leave on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and return a few days later to see the sanctuary of the church wonderfully transformed with trees, flowers, lighting, the manger and all the fitting adornments meant to give the festive sense of the mystery of the Incarnation – God coming to the earth and being born in time as our Saviour and Redeemer.

Yet, the seemingly sudden decoration of the church each year actually takes a lot of work and requires many hands. Decorations have to be brought out and unpacked and trees need to be carefully put together and 'fluffed' lest they should look like poor Charlie Brown's Christmas tree. Then everything has to be thoughtfully and creatively placed – the manger, the trees surrounding the manger, the poinsettias adorning the edge of the sanctuary, the tabernacle, the altar, the statue of Our Lady and the crèche itself. Each year Allan Frank brings us straw from his farm which gives a living warmth to the manger scene as the image of the newborn Jesus is nestled in it. As well, 176 chairs are placed in the church along the walls to accommodate the large crowds for the Christmas Masses. Joan Barker keeps the plants alive and watered and trims any fading plants.

And then when it's all over, there is the far-less exciting task of taking it all down and packing it away for another year.

On behalf of the parish I would like to note and thank the following people who assisted in great and little ways in helping to make our Christmas celebrations the beautiful liturgies they were.

Pina Floris; Magda & Andrzej Nowak; David Forget; Paula, Paul, David, Matthew Podesta; Ferma Collings; GERALYN Thornhill; Angela Meagher; Claire, Liam, Jeremy & Benjamin Carruthers; Joan & Tom Barker; Maria and Mark Kchik; bringing out the decorations: Tom Bushell; Knights of Columbus: set up of chairs; and Fr. Charles.

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Both Jesus and every Christian has undergone baptism, but we should always be clear, as this Sunday's feast reminds us,



that Jesus underwent a baptism not *from* sin, as is ours, but *for* His mission as the Messiah in His public life. Our baptism unites us to Jesus Christ in His Passion and Death and rising to new life and removes original sin, but Jesus had no sin and never sinned.

According to St. Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist at first hesitated to baptize Jesus as Jesus had asked but Jesus' insistence brought John to a better understanding of Jesus' role and mission.

The scene from the Gospel of St. Luke along with St. Mark and St. Matthew all give evidence to the same thing – a great manifestation of the Trinity. Once Jesus was baptized and as soon as He came out of the water, the Spirit is seen to alight on Jesus and the voice of the Heavenly Father is heard, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased".

We no sooner celebrate the birth of Jesus when the Feast of the Holy Family whisks us ahead to the time of Jesus being 12-years-old and being lost by His parents, Mary and Joseph. Now, with Jesus' baptism, Jesus is approaching 30-years-old and preparing to go public in His ministry as Saviour.

**FAMILY OF FAITH UPDATE**

The tremendous success of the outpouring of generosity by our parishioners toward the Family of Faith campaign had just taken place a few weeks ago when the Season of Christmas came upon us and rightly demanded our attention. Now with the new year upon us and a return to the normal routine of life, it is good to again look on God's great blessing among us which has moved so many to make a commitment over a five year period or, in some, to make a one-time donation to the campaign.

**Updated Total: \$852,400.**  
(219% of our goal) from 190 parishioners

I still can't fully get my head around how our parish has more than doubled our goal and how the money that will remain in our parish will so greatly benefit our parish. In all of the 48 other parishes in Wave 4 of the Archdiocese's Family of Faith campaign, ours is the only parish that doubled and even more than doubled its goal. This campaign has also helped me, as pastor, to more realistically see our parish's standing among other parishes within our region. Each parish was given a goal based on its regular offertory collection and, therefore, the assigned target of each parish was relative to its size. I had always thought that Holy Family parish in Whitby, for example, was more than twice the size of our parish since they have two priests but, in fact, our parish continues to grow and the Family of Faith goals for both our parishes show that our parish is now about 2/3 the size of Holy Family Parish. Our parish is also about 25% larger than Immaculate Conception Parish in Port Perry. Our parishioners are generous and able and willing to step up and do their part when called upon and I am so proud of our people, not only with the Family of Faith campaign but as a people serving the Lord and working for the good of the Church on earth as well as our own local needs. We have seen this in the many ways our parishioners show care for the poor, the homeless, those in need and those who need our help on a more global stage when disaster strikes.

I thank all of our parishioners who have personally made a commitment to the Family of Faith campaign of our parish which has collectively made our campaign successful!

## CATHOLICS AND THE MASONS

Every once in a while the topic comes up about the Catholic Church and the Masons. Many of our towns and cities have a Masonic Temple, as does Brooklin, and without giving it much thought by many the Masons might easily be considered a service group like the Lion's Club, the Rotary Club or the Knights of Columbus. It needs to be said clearly that the Masons are not just another service club nor are they in harmony in any way, shape or form with Catholicism. In fact, Catholics are forbidden to belong to the Masons. First of all those in the lower echelons of Freemasonry wouldn't be privy to the knowledge and firsthand experience the Church at large and in history has had with the Masons. One of the interesting and rather telling things about the Masons is that any man cannot just join them, rather, you must be invited by the Masons themselves. I'm sure that for many Masons they wouldn't have the foggiest sense that Masonry is incompatible with the Catholic Church and they likely would see no signs of this truth in their Lodges.

On November 26, 1983 the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (S.C.D.F.) published a declaration on Masonic associations. From the Vatican's website (Vatican.va) you can read about the clear stance of the Church as regards the Masons.

Since the Church began to declare her mind concerning Freemasonry, her negative judgment has been inspired by many reasons, both practical and doctrinal. She judged Freemasonry not merely responsible for subversive activity in her regard, but from the earliest pontifical documents on the subject and in particular in the Encyclical *Humanum Genus* by Leo XIII (20 April 1884), the Magisterium of the Church has denounced in Freemasonry philosophical ideas and moral conceptions opposed to Catholic doctrine. For Leo XIII, they essentially led back to a rationalistic naturalism, the inspiration of its plans and activities against the Church. In his Letter to the Italian people *Custodi* (8 December 1892), he wrote: "Let us remember that **Christianity and Freemasonry are essentially irreconcilable**, so that enrolment in one means separation from the other".

One of the recurring problems mentioned in all Church documents regarding the Masons and the Catholic Church is 'naturalism'. Naturalism is 180 degrees in opposition to the teaching of Christ and the Church because it holds that there is nothing real beyond nature itself leaving man to be a prisoner of his environment and heredity.

For the purposes of this article, the words of the document influenced by then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, (Pope Benedict XVI) and promulgated by Pope John Paul II himself in 1983 sums up clearly and leaves no room for any other interpretations that Catholics cannot be Masons.

**Declaration on Masonic Associations** (*Quaesitum est*)

"It has been asked whether there has been any change in the Church's decision in regard to Masonic associations since the new Code of Canon Law does not mention them expressly, unlike the previous code. This sacred

congregation is in a position to reply that this circumstance is due to an editorial criterion which was followed also in the case of other associations likewise unmentioned inasmuch as they are contained in wider categories.

Therefore, the Church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic associations remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and, therefore, membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful, who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion.

It is not within the competence of local ecclesiastical authorities to give a judgment on the nature of Masonic associations which would imply a derogation from what has been decided above, and this in line with the declaration of this sacred congregation issued Feb. 17, 1981.

In an audience granted to the undersigned cardinal prefect, the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II approved and ordered the publication of this declaration which had been decided in an ordinary meeting of this sacred congregation.

Someone who was not aware of these facts would, of course, not be guilty of mortal sin. However, once a Catholic is aware of the Church's position, he is obliged to follow it. From that point forward, to disregard the judgment of the Church would be, as the Congregation declares, seriously wrong." (*Fr. Charles*)

### Mass Intentions – Jan 12- 17, 2016

Tues. Jan 12 8:30 am – Joe Mercer+ req. Hilde Schmid  
 Tues. Jan. 12 9:30 am – PJPII School Mass at the School  
 Wed. Jan 13 7:00 pm – Deceased members: The Mulcahy Family  
 Thurs. Jan 14 8:30 am – Ints of Fr. Charles  
 Fri. Jan. 15 8:30 am – Private Intention  
 Fri. Jan 15 9:30 am – St. Bridget School Mass at the School  
 Sat. Jan. 16 – 5:00 pm – Minda Figuracion+ req. Madge St. Denis  
 Sun. Jan 17 9:00 am – Francesco Caruso+ req. Caruso Family  
 11:00 am – Stefan Sabala+ req. The Kozlakowski Family

### CONFIRMATION GRADE 7 2016

Parent Information & Registration Meetings will be held on Thursday January 14 at 7:00 pm and on Sunday January 17 at 12:30 pm . Please plan to **attend one** of these meetings, and **bring your child candidate to the meeting** also. The meetings will be held in the parish hall, so please enter through the north Carson Street doors. Please go on the parish website at [www.stleothegreat.ca](http://www.stleothegreat.ca) for more information and paperwork required to bring to the meeting. Thank you.

### Reminder: 2016 Envelopes: Need to be Picked UP

Please print your name & full address on the front of each envelope for the month of January 2016 to ensure correctness of information. Do not use 2015 envelopes. If you have not used offertory envelopes before, and wish to do so, please call the parish office for further information.






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