



St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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

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.

**POPE FRANCIS EXPLAINS
"Who am I to judge?"**

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, gave an interview to journalist Andrea Tornielli in July of 2015 the content of which will be found in his new book, now released, called, *The Name of God is Mercy*.

On a plane trip in July 2013 returning from his 10-day visit to Rio de Janeiro, while speaking with reporters, Pope Francis was asked a question about the possibility of a gay lobby in the Vatican. Pope Francis answered, "There's a lot of talk about the gay lobby, but I've never seen it on the Vatican ID card." He went on to say,

"When I meet a gay person, I have to distinguish between their being gay and being part of a lobby. If they accept the Lord and have goodwill, who am I to judge them? They shouldn't be marginalized. The tendency [to homosexuality] is not the problem ... they're our brothers."

My mother used to say, "Error is half way around the world before truth gets its boots on". A pope can respond informally to a question but a line or phrase or even part of a contextual response is the part that some people will interpret as license and can quickly become as if it was the only thing the Holy Father said. And we know that it did become interpreted by so many in that precise manner.

The Holy Father's response was in fact directly in line with the Church's teaching on homosexuality and the pope's words reflected this, although he was addressing the possibility of a gay lobby in the Vatican. The pope also made a distinction between the possible issue of a gay lobby group and a gay person. To the lobby group he admitted he didn't know anything about its existence and, if it did in fact exist, "I have to distinguish between their being gay and being part of a lobby group". Obviously, to Pope Francis a gay lobby group would present a problem while a homosexual person themselves isn't a problem.

The following article was written by the National Catholic Register in advance of the now released book.

Interviewing Pope Francis in July, Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli asked the Pope how he might act as a confessor to a gay person in light of his now famous remarks in a press conference in 2013, when he asked: "Who am I to judge?" Francis' reply appears in a new book *The Name of God is Mercy* to be released Tuesday.

"On that occasion I said this: If a person is gay and seeks out the Lord and is willing, who am I to judge that person?" the Pope says. "I was paraphrasing by heart the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized." Did you hear that? Yes, Pope Francis said

he was paraphrasing the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This means, of course, that his thinking was and is with the teaching of the Church he is leading as pontiff.

"I am glad that we are talking about 'homosexual people' because before all else comes the individual person, in his wholeness and dignity," he continues. "And people should not be defined only by their sexual tendencies: let us not forget that God loves all his creatures and we are destined to receive his infinite love."

"I prefer that homosexuals come to confession, that they stay close to the Lord, and that we pray all together," says Francis. "You can advise them to pray, show goodwill, show them the way, and accompany them along it."

Asked whether there is an opposition between truth and mercy, or doctrine and mercy, the Pontiff responds: "I will say this: mercy is real; it is the first attribute of God."

"Theological reflections on doctrine or mercy may then follow, but let us not forget that mercy is doctrine," says the Pope. "Even so, I love saying: mercy is true."

The Name of God is Mercy is the result of an interview between the pope and Tornielli, the coordinator for the Vatican Insider website. The book is being published in 86 countries and about 20 languages on Tuesday (last week). NCR received an advance copy of the English-language version of the text.

At one point in the book, Tornielli asks Francis why God never tires of forgiving humanity.

"Because he is God, because he is mercy, and because mercy is the first attribute of God," the Pope responds. "The name of God is mercy."

"There are no situations we cannot get out of, we are not condemned to sink into quicksand, in which the more we move the deeper we sink," he continues. "Jesus is there, his hand extended, ready to reach out to us and pull us out of the mud, out of sin, out of the abyss of evil into which we have fallen."

"We need only be conscious of our state, be honest with ourselves, and not lick our wounds," says Francis. "We need to ask for the grace to recognize ourselves as sinners."

The interview ends with Francis reflecting on the traditional spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

"By welcoming a marginalized person whose body is wounded and by welcoming the sinner whose soul is wounded, we put our credibility as Christians on the line," the Pope says. "Let us always remember the words of Saint John of the Cross: 'In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone.'"

Writer Peter Stanford wrote an article in *The Observer* on January 10, 2016, about his obvious disappointment with the Pope Francis he found in the content of Tornielli's new

book *The Name of God is Mercy*. The title of his article is: "The Name of God Is Mercy review – mixed messages from the pope:" with the subtitle, "Pope Francis appears to have given the Catholic church a more forgiving face – but at its core, little has changed, as this Q& A reveals". Stanford stated that "Mercy, then, risks being nothing more than fine words. What sounds like a more measured message from the pope is, at heart, as inflexible as always. It is the old message my Christian Brother teachers drummed into us. "Hate the sin, love the sinner." "Yes, every believer has to accept that we are all sinners and so Francis seems to hope that under this blanket definition all of us will therefore seek the mercy he is so enticingly offering. But how many will want, as also appears necessary from the small print contained in this book, to label as a sin their failed marriage or their love for another person of the same gender? Those predicting that the undoubtedly sincere and compassionate Papa Francisco is about to dismantle and rebuild the Roman church need to downsize their hopes.", he wrote.

To me Mr. Stanford's words reflect what so many secularists and others would like to have believed about Pope Francis. They thought or hoped that by his love, his warmth and by his words he was signaling that the teaching of the Church is about to change through his papacy but, sadly for them, this is opposite to the truth. And he doesn't seem to know the teaching of the Church when he labels a failed marriage as a sin, which it is not. A failed marriage is just that, a failure, but it can be helped, reconciled, worked-on and hopefully renewed. And if the marriage is deemed "failed" by one of the parties themselves and brought before the Church recognizing that one of the ingredients necessary to marriage was missing before the marriage began, then the Church may 'annul' the marriage which therefore didn't exist. It may have visibly been seen as a marriage by all those who were at the wedding and by all those who knew the couple through their married years, and certainly by their children, but if something necessary to marriage was missing from the beginning in either one or both of the parties, then it wasn't a true marriage.

Also, when he speaks of "love for another person of the same gender" he is speaking of homosexuality. Again, the teaching of the Church is clear – homosexuality is not a sin as Mr. Stanford suggests it is. Homosexual 'acts' are deemed sinful as are heterosexual sexual acts that take place outside of marriage.

As for Mr. Stanford's being taught by the Christian Brothers to "Hate the sin, love the sinner", it's rock solid and certainly not to be scoffed at. What one of us, going to confession with the right disposition and attitude, doesn't first hate their sin which brought them before God and His representative, the priest, in the confessional in the first place? Or does he believe that we only confess our sins because some other authority told us that they were sins?

Pope Francis has declared this a Year of Mercy. In this year of grace in contemplating the Mercy of God known and the mercy shown to one another, let us strive to be faithful to Christ and to meaning. (*Fr. C.*)

Mass Intentions – Jan 19- 24, 2016

Tues. Jan 19 8:30 am – Rev. Bill Addley+
Wed. Jan 20 7:00 pm – Ints.of Felicity van der Zalm
req. Hotner Family
Thurs. Jan 21 8:30 am – Ken Wesley+ req. M. Wesley
Fri. Jan. 22 8:30 am – Honifemio Bautista+ req. R. Montelibano
Sat. Jan. 23 – 5:00 pm – Living & Deceased Members of CWL
Sun. Jan 24 - 9:00 am – Joe Mercer+ req. Peter & Linda Vachon
11:00 am – Janelle Ali+ req. Michael & Razia Ali

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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray to know how God wants to use your talents and abilities. Could it be He is calling you to consider priesthood or religious life? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-968-0997.

Rosary Apostolate in our Schools

The Rosary Apostolate in the Schools is seeking volunteers (male & female) who have devotion to the Mother of God and who are willing to visit our 3 elementary schools to pray the Rosary with the children once a month. Training will be provided. We are really in need to continue this wonderful ministry. If you are interested, please contact Judy at 905-655-0227. Thank you for your consideration.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016 Ecumenical Prayer Service – with emphasis on Refugees

Come and join us in an ecumenical prayer service with His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Anglican Archbishop Colin Johnson, Chaldean Catholic Bishop Emanuel Shaleta, Evangelical Lutheran Bishop Michael Pryse and other city-wide religious leaders on: **Sunday January 24 at 4:00 pm at Good Shepherd Chaldean Church, 2 High Meadow Place. Homilist: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins.** Parking available, refreshments will be served in the parish hall. For more information call 416-934-3400 ext. 344.


St. Leo Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast will be on Sunday February 7, 2016 following the 9:00 am & 11:00 am masses in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy a full breakfast. Adults \$5, children ages 4 – 12, \$3 and children 4 years and younger is free.




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