



# 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**

**Director of Catechetics: Patrick Sullivan • Parish Secretary: Maureen Holly**  
905-655-3286 x 103 905-655-3286 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.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 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 pick up a baptism package from Fr. Charles after mass.

### 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 Manuel Duterte* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If Father Manuel 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.

My wife and I are atheists, but our daughter wants to be baptized Catholic!

*Lest anyone should think that I'm not interested in writing my own bulletin articles any longer, I want you to know that I fully intend to continue to drain the life out of you in future articles but so often lately I have become aware of excellent stories which serve to give our parishioners more to chew on and reflect upon beyond the Sunday Homily.*

*This article was taken from the online newspaper, The Guardian, written by columnist James Harrington just this past week – (Jan. 14, 2014) where he speaks about his shock when he and his wife, self-professed atheists, learned of their daughter's desire to be baptized in the Roman Catholic Church. At a time when media tends to present the Church as being emptied out of its members, there are just so many of these emerging stories which speak of God's call in the lives of individuals to join the Church's pilgrim parade of saints. Who knows where this young woman's journey will lead her and her parents? God knows. (Fr. Charles)*

For decades, god and [religion](#) have played no part in my life. I was baptised as a baby, but didn't make it as far as first communion. That may officially make me a Catholic in the broadest sense, but if it does, I'm one who's not so much "lapsed" as "stalled before I started".

Apart from morning assemblies and weekly hymn practices at primary school, followed by a couple of years of religious education classes at comprehensive (which I dropped as soon as exam options allowed), I have barely considered my immortal soul, much less the direction it may be heading when I die.

Over the years, when I bothered to think about it at all, I came to the conclusion that I prefer the scientific theory of life and the universe to the spiritual one. I'm most likely an atheist, but one leaning to the agnostic side of the spectrum. I know I'm a sceptic, in the true sense of the word. Or shallow. One of the two.

I was, however, inclined to agree when my wife, who's a pretty vehement atheist, said that she could cope with just about any life decision our children may make – apart from them wanting to join the military or the clergy. So what happened when our oldest daughter decided that, not only does she believe in God (capital G), but that she also wants to be baptised into the Catholic faith?

This shouldn't have been as big of a surprise as it was. About five years ago, work took me, my fellow-journalist wife and our then three-year-old child from eastern England to southwest France. We enrolled our little girl at a local Catholic school, selected purely on the recommendation of a colleague for the quality of its education. And frankly, the school had a place when we needed it. She has stayed at the same school, and we have had no cause for complaint. Quite the contrary. We have had every reason to thank our colleague for her on-the-money insight.

Being a Catholic school, an hour is set aside each week for catechism (aka "caté") lessons. Technically, our daughter should not have started going to caté as she's not (yet) Catholic,

but we never thought to stop her and it's never been a problem.

A friend takes the class. She has often told us that our daughter is keen to learn and is visibly moved on high days and holidays, when the pupils are taken to church. But it's one thing taking caté in school. That's a bit like Catholic-centric RE (religion education for those who don't use that term). It's something quite different to want to go the whole hog and get baptised. And, it's apparently another thing again to *knowingly* want to be baptised.

At the risk of upsetting my parents, I have to say, I had no choice. I was baptised before I could have any opinion about it. Not that it matters. I was baptised. Other than talking about it here, it has had almost no impact on my life. End of story.

Our little girl, however, has made a life-defining decision by herself. I couldn't be more proud of her. But I cannot deny that what she said to my wife and I stopped us briefly in our slightly smug, religiously disinterested, bleeding-heart liberal tracks.

What courage had it taken for her to tell us what she wanted? It was clear that our brave, sweet daughter had thought about her faith long and hard.

Looking back, we realised we had regularly discussed our differing beliefs. Our daughter brought us Genesis. We gave her the Michael Bay-friendly Big Bang. She brought us the Nativity and peace and goodwill at Christmas. We gave her family, friends and good food. She brought us the crucifixion. We gave her the Easter Bunny. She brought us heaven, god and an afterlife. We gave her 21st-century life and a brief future as worm fodder.

After all that – and in spite of our gentle antipathy to god and creation – she still had the courage of her convictions to say to both of us, to our faces and again in front of the priest, that our world view isn't enough for her. She believes. She wants to be baptised and she wants to be Catholic.

For me, it means regular trips to the presbytery for extra "Catholic lessons". It means going to church for family mass on Sundays and not knowing when to sit or stand; and hoping that the priest doesn't come at me with the microphone when he delivers his Jerry Springer-style sermon (he probably won't).

It means a little extra effort on my part and no small amount of frustration for my wife, who tries – and often fails – to understand the attraction of all this. But it means everything to my daughter. She's taken a first step down a road that, ultimately, she'll have to travel on her own. I'll go with her as far as I can, but she knows, even now, that this is her journey. She's heading where I cannot follow.

I just hope that, the next time she faces a life-defining decision, she remembers this time when she told us she had faith in something we don't. And we believed in her. *(James Harrington)*

***"An atheist is a man without any invisible means of support."*** *(John Buchan)*

***"There are no atheists in fox holes."*** *(William T. Cummings)*

***"Every effort to prove there is no God is in itself an effort to reach for God."*** *(Charles Edward Locke)*

JANUARY 26, 2014

**PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:**

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

- Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$4515
  - Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1544 (December)
- ➔ TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: \$6059

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Tues., Jan. 28, 2014 – 8:30 am – Thomas Ormesher+  
Req. by Dorothy Ormesher

Wed., Jan. 29, 2014 – 7:00 pm – No Intention

Thurs., Jan. 30, 2014 – 8:30 am – No Intention

Fri., Jan. 31, 2014 – 8:30 am – No Intention

Sat., Feb. 1, 2014 – 5:00 pm - In Thanksgiving for Nerissa &  
Medardo Reyes

Sun., Feb. 2, 2014 – 9:00 am – Priscilla Pangilinan+ Req. by Lilia &  
Jeff Mahabir

Sun., Feb. 2, 2014 – 11:00 am – For the intentions of Mary Franssen  
Req. by Audrey Wassell

Nine Words – **KINDNESS** – How can  
**kindness** turn a good action into a  
righteous action?

**COME AND SEE WEEKEND**  
**January 31 to February 2, 2014**

**“The Love of Christ urges us on” to radically respond to His call**  
**To follow Him whole-heartily.**  
**Jesus is inviting you to spend time with Him**  
**So that you may discover His call.**  
**January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**  
**St. Augustine’s Seminary**

There will be an opportunity for young men of 18 years  
or older to spend a weekend for time of prayer, reflection  
and information on the process of becoming one  
of Christ’s disciples through the Catholic priesthood.

**\*We Need EDGE Leaders\***

Our Edge Program is designed for the purpose of helping each individual grow personally and spiritually. Learning about the Catholic faith while having fun. The team pays attention to what God is doing with Edge, helping us to spread the Good News to others and striving to be our best selves for them. Our team is praying so that God might bring us more Leaders. Be courageous and ambitious. Come support our Edge program in the New Year. Team Leader - Carly

For more information or to sign up as a Leader call Patrick Sullivan at 905-655-3286 ext. 103.

**The St. Leo Knights of Columbus** wish to thank parishioners for their generous donation of \$677.00 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society during the Knights Breakfast on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We also thank parishioners for donating 16 boxes of many beneficial items to those supported by the Cornerstone Community Association Durham Inc. Your donations for each of these charities is greatly appreciated.

**CATECHIST CORNER**

***Why is Jesus called Son of God if He is Really God?***

A: To clarify two things.

First, the title *Son of God* clarifies and preserves the fact that if Jesus is the Son then He cannot at the same time be the Father.

Second, the title *Son of God* shows us that Jesus is what the Father is. It works like this: If Jesus’ Father is God then Jesus too must be God. It is the same principle in play when I point out my son. He is not me but he certainly is human like me.

But now it gets interesting. My son can be a human like me because we know by definition that one can have billions upon billions of individual human beings.

But there is only one God. There is only one being that is all knowing, eternal, all powerful, all present, and lacking nothing in itself. So how can Jesus the Son be what the Father is if there is only one God?

St. Paul explains it well when he says that Jesus is ‘the exact imprint of God’s very being’ (Hebrews 1:3), and in Him ‘the fullness of God was pleased to dwell’ (Colossians 1:19).

You see, the Son is what the Father is, but He is not *who* the Father is. And the title *Son of God*, conveys this nicely.

**Offertory Envelopes 2014**

The 2014 offertory envelopes are available for pick up from the tables on the south side of the Church. **DO NOT USE 2013 ENVELOPES. You must print your full name and address on the front of each envelope for the month of January.** Parishioners who are currently on the Pre-Authorized Plan pick up your envelopes at the Welcome Table.

**St. Leo Knights of Columbus Breakfast** - Feb. 9th.  
following 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses. Everyone is invited to enjoy another full breakfast of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee and juice in the Church hall. Prices are: Adults \$5.00, Children ages 4 – 12 - \$3.00, Children under 4 are free.

**St. Leo’s Card Party Schedule for 2014**  
**(Please note night change – NOW FRIDAY NIGHTS)**

Doors open at 6:15 pm. Parking available (behind church, enter from Carson Ave.) \$10.00 per person – 15 Games – Starts at 7:00 pm **SHARP**. Euchre Dates for 2014 (First Friday of Every Month). January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5, 2014 For more info. contact Donna at (905) 620-0724 or Jeananne at (905) 579-6118.

**Canadian Blood Donor Clinic** on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4 pm to 8 pm in the parish hall. Please enter from Carson Street entrance.







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