

# *St. Leo The Great*

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget**

**Parish Secretary: Magda Nowak 905-655-3286 x 101**



*We saw his star in the East  
and have come to worship Him*

## DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: IT'S A LOT OF WORK

Once again this Christmas the church sanctuary was a sight to behold. No, we're not in competition with other parishes in the way they might prepare their church environment for the celebration of the Birth of Our Messiah, Jesus Christ; we simply want to decorate our worship space in a way that is worthy of Our Great Saviour and to do Him just homage. Our parish, in some remote way, advanced toward that goal in the decorations for this year.

The canvas we had to work with was already greatly changed with the recent painting of the sanctuary walls with warm, earthy colours. The new sacred image of Christ Crucified at the center of the sanctuary wall is such a moving reflection of Jesus' ultimate cost in saving us – His death on that Cross – the very reason He was born and came into this world, to die for our sins and to put to death, death forever for those who have come to believe in Him. All else in decorations was only to frame and point to that reality between the Christmas Crib and the Cross of Calvary. At first sight, it might appear that set up for the church at Christmas is simply a matter of setting things out like the manger, the flowers and the trees, but in reality the setting up of the church takes place over days and with many hours of work and planning.

STEP 1. All of the Christmas decorations, trees, wreathes, lights and various materials need to be taken out of storage.

STEP 2. The Christmas trees need to be unpacked from their boxes, assembled and 'fluffed' to make them appear full and 'real'. The wreathes also are fluffed to appear full and round.

STEP 3. This is the actual day of assembling all the various parts of trees, wreathes, the manger and its figures in the various areas of our large sanctuary and on this day the ordered poinsettia flowers arrive. The areas to be decorated are the manger, the statue of Our Lady, the altar itself and the altar area as well as the Tabernacle. This year we spent about 9-hours from start to finish of the sanctuary set-up on the Friday before Christmas.

STEP 4. The set-up of the extra chairs in the church for the overflow crowds of Christmas Eve which is usually done by the Knights of Columbus the day before Christmas or following the last Mass of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

The key to good decorating for Christmas is to keep your decorations proportional to the size and shape of the church sanctuary itself. With a large, wide sanctuary like ours, small decorations and flowers would appear sparse and puny compared to the large space. The flowers, manger figures as well as the number of trees must be in keeping with the vast size of the space to be decorated. Materials used, since they adorn the Real Presence of Jesus

in the Eucharist and God's House, should be of good quality and worthy of the reality and presence of our God.

This year the following people assisted with the various parts of church decoration:

STEP 1 – Andrzej, Matthew, Jacob Nowak

STEP 2 – Yvonne, Marko and Monika Naterer; Magda Nowak, Karen, Cindy Schillings; Joan Barker; Maria, Markian Kchik

STEP 3 – Maria, Markian Kchik; Ferma Collings; Silvia Elek; Rosemary White; Fr. Charles; Magda, Matthew Nowak

This year, more than ever before, so many people went forward to the foot of the sanctuary area following the Christmas Masses to take in the splendour of the Christmas decorating, to visit the Manger and to take pictures of the beauty that Christmas is to the Christian heart and soul.

STEP 5. This is the less popular part of Christmas when we disassemble all of the Christmas decorations which adorned the sanctuary of the church and restore it to the way it was before Advent and Christmas.

The artful and important work of decorating a church for any liturgical season and celebration requires much time and effort as well as planning and team work. As pastor I am grateful for the various people who have come together once again this year to work toward making our parish church a bright reflection of the good news of our Saviours birth.

Thanks goes out also to all those who work within the various ministries in the parish and show such dedication and faithfulness to what they have been called to do.

### THANKS TO THE 11:00 AM. MASS CHOIR



A special note of gratitude goes out to Mr. Ted Schuck, choir director for the 11 am. Sunday Mass and all of the choir members who, this year,

covered three of the four Christmas Masses. This year, with the NET Team present and active in the development of youth ministry, we have been hard pressed to find someone who could cover the 4:30 pm. Saturday Mass during the interim when our NET team is not available. Also, once mid-May comes the Team will be leaving us and we will again need someone to cover the NET team Masses. Ted was good enough to offer covering the first Mass of Christmas – the 4:30 pm. with his daughter, but then when his choir heard about this they themselves offered to sing at the 4:30 pm and the 7:00 pm., along with the 11 am. Sunday Mass.

*Fr. Charles*

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

4:30 p.m. † Ken Wesley & members of the Foley Family

**Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

11:00 a.m. † Jackie Ford

***There will be no daily Mass on January 8, 9, 10 & 11***

### GIFT OF SECURITIES

You can now support the Church using securities (stocks, mutual funds, bonds.). You will not have to pay any capital gains on your gift and you will get a tax receipt for the full amount. Also, you can divide up your gift to as many Archdiocesan charities as you wish (e.g. Parish Offertory or building fund, ShareLife, The Shepherds' Trust etc.). For more information please contact the Parish Office or the Development Office or the Archdiocese at 416-934-3411 or at [development@archtoronto.org](mailto:development@archtoronto.org)

### 2019 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

2019 offertory envelopes are available in the Quiet Room. Please write your name and address on envelopes for the first few weeks of 2019 to confirm your contact information.

**Please do not use previous years envelopes**

### PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Anyone wishing to register for Pre-Authorized Giving can pick up forms in the vestibule. You can return the form to the office or put in the donation basket.

If you wish to increase your current monthly donation, please email the parish office at [office@stleothegreat.ca](mailto:office@stleothegreat.ca)

### FAMILY of FAITH DONATIONS

Tax receipts for Family of Faith donations will be issued by the office of Family of Faith.

### Register for Grade 1 French Immersion

You are invited to enrol your child into the French Immersion program at schools across the Durham Catholic District School Board. Online registration opens **December 10, 2018 to January 18, 2019**. Students entering Grade 1 in September 2019 are eligible to register. Visit [dcdsb.ca](http://dcdsb.ca) and click on the French Immersion banner to register. Opening Doors to Opportunities!

### Kindergarten Registration

You are invited to register your child for Kindergarten at one of the Durham Catholic schools across the region. Your child must be turning 4 years of age by December 31, 2019 in order to enrol. Online registration will take place from **January 14-19, 2019**. Visit [dcdsb.ca](http://dcdsb.ca) to register. For questions, email [admissions@dcdsb.ca](mailto:admissions@dcdsb.ca).

### VOCATION SEEDS

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ's name? 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**, [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org), [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

### Catholic Family Services

#### Heart to Heart Gala

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 23, 2019 Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility, Ajax. 14th Annual Heart to Heart Gala for Catholic Family Services of Durham. Tickets are just \$100 each, and are available for purchase now! Contact Tania McClean (905) 725-3513 x 121 [www.cfsdurham.com](http://www.cfsdurham.com) for more information.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

Ecumenical Prayer Service Theme: "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20)

Come and join us in an ecumenical prayer service led by Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox bishops along with Leaders from Christian Churches in GTA. Sunday January 27, 2019 at 4:30pm, St James Anglican Cathedral, 106 King St. E., Toronto, ON (King & Church Sts.) Organized by Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches (GTACCC). Refreshments to follow. For further information, please contact The Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs Office at (416) 934-3400 x 344 or [ecumenical@archtoronto.org](mailto:ecumenical@archtoronto.org)

### CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry! We meet once a month to talk about all different topics of interest. Meet other likeminded Catholic women, pray together and for each other and learn how to grow your own Faith and your families'. Join us for our next meeting on **Wed January 9 at 8pm in the Quiet Room.**

Contact [annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com](mailto:annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com) or visit [www.catholicmomsgroup.com](http://www.catholicmomsgroup.com) for more information.

### DAILY MASS READINGS

Parishioners throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto can now find the Canadian daily readings on the [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) website. The Daily Readings tab can be found under the Our Catholic Faith drop-down menu on the archdiocesan website. Please visit the website to make the readings part of your daily faith routine.



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