

# 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

#### **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.



### TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

We are planning to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land near the beginning of Lent 2019, leaving on Saturday, March 2 and returning Tuesday, March 12, 2019 and I plan to go. If any of our parishioners would be interested in being part of this 10-day spiritual quest with us the cost with taxes would be approximately \$3400. Cdn.

We would like to open this trip to the Holy Land to our own parishioners first before we possibly extend the invitation to those outside our parish as there will be a limited number of tickets available.

If you would be interested in this journey to the Holy Land with our parish please email –

### Catherine Duncan at <a href="mailto:catherine.duncan@sympatico.ca">catherine.duncan@sympatico.ca</a>

We plan to hold an Information Meeting in September for those interested in going. To walk in the places Jesus walked and to hear the Gospel proclaimed in the very places it was first heard and to invite Jesus our Lord and Saviour to journey with us as we journey to Him in faith is the dream of a lifetime for many. Make it yours and come with us. Details to come.

I came across this article written by Bishop Robert Barron who, (at the time was Father Barron), is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles. He wrote this piece in 2011 just as he was approaching his 25th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Here Fr. Barron reflects on his 25 years as a priest citing the fact that what has been a context for his priestly ministry has been the reality of the Church living in the midst of the priest sex abuse scandal that rocked North America and then Europe. In a recent article Bishop Robert Barron again points to the Church's loss of credibility in being able to speak out and address any and all issues in the "culture of death", as St. John Paul II coined it. We shrink for what has been done by some members of the clergy to the vulnerable and innocent and not only fear speaking out but the culture itself has treated the Church with contempt and the abortion referendum in Ireland with its 2/3 vote in favour of free access to abortion is proof of that reaction to how the Church is viewed.

Bishop Barron remarks at the 'glee' with which the citizens of Ireland celebrated the news that the killing of innocent children in the womb was great news to be celebrated. The more recent article is well written and so I will post it in next week's bulletin.

(Fr. Charles)

### A GREAT TIME TO BE A PRIEST



This May 24th, (May 23, 2011) I will celebrate my 25th anniversary as a priest. This past quarter century—just shy of half my life—has been joyful indeed, and I have never once regretted my decision to become а priest. The priesthood has taken me all over the world and deep into the hearts of people I've been privileged to serve. Some warned me long ago that I would be lonely as a priest, but

I have never found this to be true. On the contrary, the priesthood has connected me to an incredible number of people in a wide variety of contexts. My life as a priest of Jesus Christ has been unconventional, creative, energizing, unpredictable, and exciting.

However I'd be far less than honest if I didn't admit that a shadow has brooded over almost the whole of my twenty-five years of priesthood. I'm speaking, of course, of the clerical sex-abuse scandal. The first wave of the crisis hit in the early 1990's when I was a doctoral student in Paris, just a handful of years after my ordination. Upon my return to this country, my deeply Catholic mother blithely informed me that when people asked what I did for a living, she responded "he's a writer." That's when I knew that something had gone terribly awry. Suddenly, it was embarrassing to be seen publicly with the Roman collar; suddenly, I found myself worrying, as I watched the news every night, what the latest revelation would be.

After the accusation against Cardinal Bernardin proved to be phony, things calmed down a bit, but in 2002, the scandal re-erupted with even greater destructive force. It seemed as though devastating reports were emerging on a daily basis. Some priests—far too many—had engaged in the most vile and disgusting behavior, and some bishops far too many—had looked the other way, or even, it seems, had countenanced and enabled the wickedness. Priests began to be seen as members of "a criminal class," as Cardinal George of Chicago put it so memorably. Late night comedians commenced to use "the pedophile priest" as a standard comic type. Just when this second wave began to die down, a third wave, in 2010, swept through Europe, as the crimes of priests and bishops in Germany, Italy, Belgium, and especially Ireland came to public attention. And to be frank, the pitifully inadequate response to the European outbreak on the part of the official church just made matters worse.

The Bible has much to say about this time. When you have a moment, consider the story of Eli the priest and his evil sons in 1 Samuel or the account of the angel army protecting the prophet Elisha in 2 Kings. But I would like to draw special attention to a passage in the 8th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, which recounts a fierce persecution of the early church in the wake of the stoning of St. Stephen.

With the exception of the Apostles themselves, the first Christians fled from the dangers in Jerusalem and moved into the surrounding areas. As a result, they successfully spread the word of Jesus far and wide. Philip, we hear, even preached to an Ethiopian eunuch who, presumably, brought the Christian faith back to his native country. The point is this: it was the persecution itself which, in God's always strange and surprising providence, conduced to the great good of spreading the Gospel. Now please don't misunderstand me: I'm not insinuating for a second that I think the church is being "persecuted" unfairly today. I'm simply observing that God has a way of bringing great good out of even great evil. During desert times, people of faith, therefore, should always look for green shoots.

I can testify that one of the principal motivations for my work in evangelization through the media was to put forth a vibrant vision of the church precisely in this time of crisis. I was (and am) convinced that the Catholic thing in all of its beauty and truth and texture and power should not be reduced to the sex abuse scandal—as bad as that is and as surely as it needs to be addressed. I realized that many of the great saints were called forth during periods of crisis and corruption: St. Benedict just after the collapse of Roman order; Sts. Francis and Dominic, when the clerical culture had become decadent; St. Ignatius of Loyola during the Protestant Reformation, etc. I'm no saint, but I'm trying to imitate the saints in responding to our present day difficulties, not by retreating in fear or crouching defensively behind ecclesiastical walls, but rather by recovering the simplicity and integrity of the Gospel message. I am quite sure that my work in radio, TV, and internet, as well as the production of my documentary film on Catholicism, would not have happened had it not been for the scandals.

And this is why I would like to say to seminarians and to young priests just starting out: this is your time and it's a good time. I'm not engaging in wishful thinking here or whistling in the dark. I'm reminding them that this time of crisis—and it is the worst crisis in the history of the American church—should call forth their greatest creativity, energy, imagination, and evangelical enthusiasm. They should revel in the fact that they've been chosen by God, precisely at this moment, to be part of the solution.

# LAST PARISH BULLETIN NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend we will have our last parish bulletin publication until September. I would like to thank all of our bulletin advertisers (turn the bulletin over and see the back) who make our bulletin possible. These advertisers who wish to promote their businesses or services solely are the ones who make the bulletin possible and at no cost to our parish. We have always asked, and I would ask again, that you look at the ads of our advertisers and use their services if you are able. If you do give them your business, kindly tell them that you heard about them through the parish bulletin as this will let them know that their support of us is also good for them.

Thank you and our advertisers. (Fr. Charles)

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Tuesday, June 19th

8:30 a.m. † Joanna Sabala

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. † George Oreto

Thursday, June 21st

8:30 a.m. † Verna & Brian Gill

Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Judy McFadden

Intentions of Ingrid & Patrick McFadden

Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. † Vincenzo Mantia 11:00 a.m. † Armenio Medeiros

### Save Summer Jobs & Reach Out to Your Member of Parliament

Thousands of charitable organizations are being denied funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program. The federal government has introduced a litmus test. To qualify for funding, organizations must agree with the Liberal Government on issues such as abortion and gender expression. This has impacted more than 150 jobs and more than \$1 million in funding in the Archdiocese of Toronto alone. Across Canada 1,500 groups had their applications rejected this year vs. 126 in 2017.

Cardinal Collins invites you to write to your federal Member of Parliament to respectfully express your concerns. Visit **www.savesummerjobs.ca** to send a message to your MP, a process that will take less than 3 minutes. You can also donate at the same site to support those organizations impacted by the new application guidelines.



### Living the Gospel by helping isolated seniors

In partnership with Catholic Family Service agencies and six parishes in Peel Region and Simcoe County, ShareLife is funding a pilot project that connects trained volunteers with

isolated and lonely seniors. Volunteers cultivate relationships by conducting home visits, making phone calls, and linking seniors with community resources. Through your generosity, ShareLife is connecting these seniors with the support they need.

Please make a sacrificial gift to ShareLife through your parish or sharelife.org

### **VOCATION SEEDS**

Today's readings remind us that great things often have small beginnings. If you feel God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org



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