

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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.

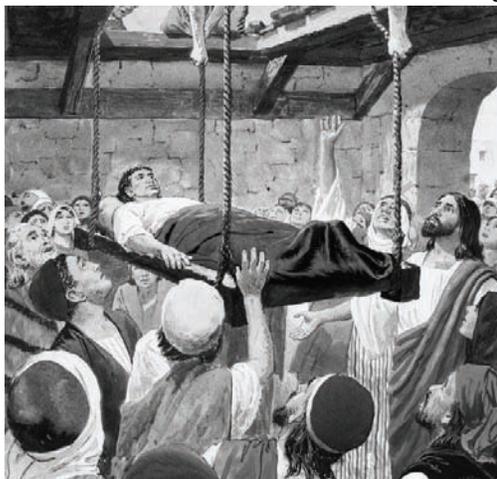
Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the church.

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.

MIRACLES vs MESSAGE

Recall for a moment the scene of Christ hanging upon the Cross



on the Hill of Calvary. The crowds beneath Him mock Him as soldiers deride Him and put in time as they wait for Him to die. For those closest to Jesus they suffer with Him in seeing one they love in great agony and suffering.

A voice from the crowd cries out, not in faith but in

tempt of Jesus' so-called divinity; "If you are the Son of God, come down from that cross and we will believe!" The word "if" is used, which means that the person is demanding proof of who Jesus really is. Even those who lived with Jesus, heard His teaching and witnessed His miracles did not completely know who Jesus was. Perhaps if Jesus had given in to this demand for yet another sign, some may have believed in Him but many others would not have. The thirst for the spectacular cannot be satisfied with a miracle as human minds and hearts quickly forget and look for something else. Jesus did not come down from the cross. He would not give them what they demanded but out of love for them and for all of us, hung there in agony, pain and abandonment for sinful humanity in all ages past, present and future. Jesus knew that beyond the miracles people must hear the message of His life, death and resurrection.

In more recent history great wonders have taken place in different parts of the world that are well documented and visited by many millions of people. Mary, the Mother of God, appeared to St. Bernadette in the first of 18 visions on February 11, 1858 in Lourdes, France when she was just 14 years old. At the request of the Queen of Heaven, Bernadette dug into the ground from which sprung healing, cleansing water that flows to this day. Many miracles have taken place in the lives of the faithful who have visited the Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes as over five million people per year flock there from around the world. Yet the miracles only point to the message of Lourdes which is the universal call from God through His Mother to return to Him, to get rid of their sins and turn their lives over to the will and care of God.

Even St. Bernadette's body is a miracle in itself as it has remained intact and beautiful since her death on April 15th, 1879.

Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal on the 13th day of every month from May to October in 1917. The three children who ranged in age from 7 to 10 together saw the Blessed Virgin Mary and on the last day of her visitation with them were accompanied by over 70,000 people, many of them unbelievers, who witnessed the "miracle of the sun" as Mary had promised in an earlier appearance. The sun spun in the sky and appeared to dance, spinning off many colours, it went dark for a moment and then appeared to plunge towards the earth. Everyone screamed in fear thinking it was the Last Judgment and the end of the world. Suddenly, though, it stopped and returned to its place. Although it had been raining heavily and the ground had been muddy and everyone was wet, once the sun had returned to its place everyone and everything was completely dry and many who were sick or crippled were healed. Fatima is another sight

where millions have traveled on pilgrimage. Yet there is also the message of Fatima which speaks still of the reality of hell as eternal life without God, the need for people to turn back to the Lord with their lives, and the summons to all to return to the love Jesus has for them.

In Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, on June 24, 1981, Mary, the Mother of Jesus began appearing to six young people in this remote area where they lived, went to school and played with their friends. She has appeared to them every day since for the past 37 years. Many pilgrims have gone there and the Church has opened an official investigation into the apparitions. Miracles have taken place, conversions are in the thousands, people line up to go to confession and God is once again speaking through His Mother, Mary. The message is the same: turn back to God's love. Leave the ways of the world behind. Live for God and be prepared for His coming.

God can do anything. He also knows us through and through and knows that we look for signs and wonders in order that we might come to believe in Him. But the signs, the miracles, the wonders only serve to point to Him and the message we have been hearing as the Catholic Church for 2000 years through the Gospels. It is the same universal message and call we hear each Sunday when we go to Mass about God's salvation and our need to return to Him and His great love, mercy and forgiveness.

Today, as when Jesus walked the earth, the miracles stand to make us ask the same question that so many asked of Jesus once they met Him: "Who is this?" Over and over again in the scriptures this same question has been asked as it has continually been asked through the centuries to the present. The miracles of Jesus served as announcements of who He was and what He was all about as God in the flesh and the Saviour. Yet we are not left or meant to remain with the miracles only and even the announcement of Jesus as the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah. With the announcement comes the invitation to follow. The question found on the lips and in the minds and hearts of so many who have witnessed the incredible in God has been the same - "What must I do?" The answer is not to look at the miracles but to look at and live out the message which is always the same - return to God.

Our modern world marvels at the wonders of technology, the latest gadget, and the personalities of the rich, the famous and the godless. But these can only serve to help us forget that we are a world in trouble. Even so, so many of those who have been 'baptized' in the Faith have fallen away and freely give priority in their lives to everything and everyone else other than God. For those with eyes to see, the miracles of God continue every Sunday in churches and celebrations of the Mass throughout the world and will continue to do so until the Lord comes. Yet the message from God remains the same - "Come back to Me!". (Fr. Charles)

KNOWING THE TRUTH

In this "information age", as the electronic times of media and vast information availability has been dubbed, it is so vitally important that we become plugged into and take full advantage of the truth of Jesus Christ from reliable sources and not just the headlines and articles of the daily news media. So often in the modern media, persons do not matter as much as stories do. As Catholics we need to be reading, listening, contemplating and watching what is going on in our world with a full view of what the Church has to say, which is to say, what Christ has to say. Jesus said to Peter, our first pope and to the apostles, "*He who belongs to God hears what God says.*" (John. 8:47) The Church must be that tireless voice of the tireless Christ with the tireless message of good over evil, right over wrong, truth over falsehood and life over death. The question is, outside of going to Mass and listening to a homily,

how are we being “fed” by the truth if we only have recourse to novels, movies of fantasy and what we hear on the radio, watch on television or read in the media?

If I could make any recommendation to Catholics seeking to know the truth it would be to refer you to a dynamic, intelligent, wise and learned Bishop who is originally from Boston, bishop Robert Barron. His website, *Word on Fire* is, I think, one of the best sources of solid Catholic teaching and commentary for those who have use of the internet. The following article is from his website wordonfire.org and addresses the topic of blasphemy in a current commercial that was run during the World Cup of soccer. This article was from a few years ago but is fairly typical of much of the loss of the sense of the sacred in our time.

CULTURAL BLASPHEMY REVISITED

During coverage of the World Cup, a Hyundai commercial premiered which depicts a representation of the Catholic Mass that is dedicated, instead, to the sport of soccer.

“I just watched a commercial for Hyundai which relies, strangely enough, on the quasi-religious devotion that some people have for soccer. The piece commences with a group of devotees carrying a miniature soccer ball into church in a kind of monstrosity and singing the Latin words, “Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, ora pro nobis,” (Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, pray for us). Later in the video, a man kneels down at an altar rail and opens his mouth in the manner of a communicant about to receive the Eucharist, but the “minister” gives him, not a host, but a piece of pizza. And word has begun to circulate about a Comedy Central program which is in the works. It deals, apparently, with Jesus Christ as “a regular guy who flees to New York in order to get away from his oppressive father.”

I’ll leave aside for the moment the obvious double standard that obtains in the media regarding the mocking of Christianity and, say, Islam, but I would like to draw attention to the perhaps quaint-sounding issue of blasphemy. Blasphemy (from the Greek word meaning “to injure”) is a conscious attack against God or those things associated with God. In our country, up until recent years, there were laws in most of the states against blasphemy, and in the Middle Ages, blasphemy was seen as a crime greater than murder since it involved an attack, not simply against a creature, but against the Creator himself. Thomas Aquinas specified that blasphemy is an act of injustice, since it involves the denigration of the one who is supremely owed our thanks and praise. Thomas’ clarification allows us to see that blasphemy does not in any sense injure God; rather it injures those who blaspheme. When we give God the honor that is due to him, we become more rightly ordered both as individuals and as members of society. One of the great liturgical prayers of the Catholic Church catches this when it says, “Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.” The point is that there is a causal link between the giving of highest praise to God and the establishment of right order among us. Concomitantly, when we denigrate God and holy things, we tend to fall apart, both individually and collectively, the act of supreme injustice conducing to the many lesser forms of injustice. Now I don’t think for a minute that we ought to bring back anti-blasphemy laws, but I do think we should be attentive to the psychological and societal implications of mocking holy things. Bob Dylan gave an interview not long after issuing his recent Christmas album. The interviewer remarked that he was surprised that Dylan’s readings were so traditional and reverent. Bob Dylan responded simply, “Why should I be irreverent? Isn’t there enough irreverence in the world?” Wise words from someone who knows a thing or two about the relationship between honoring God and establishing justice.” So, pray for the world!

God warms his hands at man's heart when he prays. — John Masefield

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, June 12th	
8:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, June 13th	
7:00 p.m.	
Thursday, June 14th	
8:30 a.m.	† Michael Power
Friday, June 15th	
8:30 a.m.	† Philippa Daly
Saturday, June 16th	
4:30 p.m.	† Rodrigo Nieto & Jose Reyes
Sunday, June 17th	
9:00 a.m.	† Lloyd Buggie
11:00 a.m.	Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

Save Summer Jobs & Reach Out to Your Member of Parliament

Is it fair that Canadians must agree with the government to be eligible to participate in a federal program? Groups applying for the 2018 Canada Summer Jobs grant were required to indicate their agreement with certain beliefs held by the current federal government. This contravenes the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which guarantees the freedom of religion and conscience, of thought, belief, opinion and expression, as well as “equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination.”

Dozens of Catholic organizations throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto were impacted by this policy. 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. It will take less than 3 minutes. You can also donate at the same site to support those organizations directly impacted.



Living the Gospel by helping youth rebuild their lives

Sarah couldn’t get along with her mother, so she tried living on the streets at age 14. She hitchhiked to Toronto to move in with her cousin, who soon kicked her out. Having no place to go, Sarah decided to try Sancta Maria House. She initially hated the structure and rules. However, the supportive staff won her trust and helped her return to school. At the end of her stay, she restored her relationship with her mother. ShareLife-funded agencies like Sancta Maria House are helping at-risk youth turn their lives around.

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

VOCATION SEEDS

Today’s readings speak of prophets sent by God. Could God be calling you to be His voice in His Church at this time? If so, you could give it a try by responding to that inclination towards priesthood, religious life or the diaconate. Call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org



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