



# 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: st.leos@bellnet.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 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](http://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.

## THE GIFT OF PRIESTHOOD



A couple of weeks ago, May 8 marked the twenty-fourth anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. It seems unbelievable to me that I have been ordained this long and I would imagine that married couples experience the same disbelief with the quick passing of the years as well. Anniversaries, as someone once told me, are not so much a marking of the number of years since a major event occurred, but rather, they mean that "you are". This most recent

anniversary echoes this truth to me, reminding me that I am and have been called to be a priest.

In reality, this anniversary itself says to me that this was the time twenty-four years ago when the Church officially called me to the priesthood, but the journey goes back my lifetime to my spiritual beginning at baptism. It could very well be that I received the call to be a priest on the day I was baptized, for as long as I can remember I wanted to be a priest. I can recall very serious moments when I would have a bath towel slung over my shoulders and would be celebrating "Mass" on top of the TV set when I was about 4 or 5 years old. There would be snickers and chiding coming from my older siblings who were in the kitchen, but I remember the stern looks I would return in response to their seeming sacrilege on what I was doing. While those days were more imitation than knowledge about who a priest was and what his calling entailed, the sense of the nobility and the call to be a priest was very much a present reality to me even then.

I particularly remember so well the incident that happened in my grade one class at St. John the Evangelist school. (*It just so happens that one of our parishioners is now the principal of that school – Mr. Robert Fortin.*) Back in those days, in the early sixties, the Order of Grey Sisters we had, (now almost all the Sisters regardless of the order they belong to are literally 'grey'), were already such a powerful witness and symbol of dedication to one's vocational call. I remember their long flowing habits, the large rosary beads which hung from their belts, and my early sense that nuns did not possess feet but had wheels, as they seemed to glide noiselessly down halls and across rooms. Their veil and the white brim that were visible at the top of their foreheads only assisted in perpetuating the rumours that we all had heard: that nuns were bald! Of course, I would later have this belief shattered when one day Sr. Mary Jacqueline, my grade one teacher, was leaning over my desk to check on my work. I realized that as I had moved

my hands to the sides of my desk top that her veil was under my left thumb. With full intention and mortal sin in mind I pressed my thumb firmly on the black mesh of that veil, and as she went to move on to the next student, my grasp caused her veil to pull ever so slightly to one side. There, in my disbelief of what I had actually done, I saw brown wisps of hair, proving once and for all that the rumours about bald nuns were false. If my memory serves me well, Sr. Mary Jacqueline believed my deliberate act was just an accident and I suffered no consequences for this event, though in my heart I knew, as I know now, that it was just wrong. I suppose Sr. Mary Jacqueline, now having gone to glory, knows differently and, I hope, is having a little chuckle over the truth of it all. I would think that purgatory for me would have a few months or years added to it for a little boy who would do this to a nun, but I just had to know for sure - and now I do.

The real incident I wish to recall from that grade one class with Sr. Mary Jacqueline, however, is the day she asked our class what we would like to be when we grew up. (My mother loved to tell people that I used to say, "*If I grow up....*".) I remember my fellow classmates, girls and boys, raising their hands and naming off professions such as a nurse, a doctor, a farmer, an astronaut, a policeman, a fireman, etc. And I remember raising my hand and pronouncing so clearly those seven simple yet profoundly prophetic words, "I WOULD LIKE TO BE A PRIEST". In hindsight, it was quite a diplomatic move to say to a Roman Catholic nun that you were destined to be a priest, for you were sure to pass on to the next grade no matter how bad your grades, or so my thinking was at the time. It wasn't so much the words themselves that struck me as they poured out of my mouth, but the truth of them and what happened after they were uttered. I remember that my heart began to pound in my little six year old chest and that I suddenly was filled with the most wonderful sensation that I can only liken to being filled with cotton candy. Today, as I look back to that incident, I had received what is called a 'witness of the Spirit', which is when God's Holy Spirit gives you a real sense of His presence and power and truth. Way back then, in that classroom of that rather small school, God had again called me and let me know that I belonged to Him.

I did pass from grade one to grade two that year, despite my lack of zeal and interest in anything that had to do with school, and I would like to think that like Jesus, I too grew in "age, grace and wisdom".

Having talked to many seminarians and priests in my life, I know that each person's vocation story is unique and personal to them and, in many ways, is not always easy to describe or define. My own experience of call has been one of many personal and memorable experiences of the power and presence of God, incidences when I just knew God was speaking to my heart and allowing me to get to know Him better and more personally. I can recall always feeling a special relationship with the Lord Jesus as being God's little boy. Thankfully, though the stresses of day to day living have changed and increased in my life as responsibilities and challenges have come my way, I have never lost that sense of being, like Mary, 'favoured'. And that sense has

led me to feel and know that no matter what happens, I belong to the Lord and I am in his hands.

Priesthood is not a martyrdom. It is a pull from above and not a push from below. Of myself, I could not simply choose to be a priest, and I've always said that "I want to be someone who is sent, not someone who just went". Having "the call" and responding to it doesn't of course mean that life will always be smooth sailing - it isn't for anybody. It does mean, however, that once again heaven has touched the earth as God's whisper can speak to the heart, and that a soul created in the image and likeness of God - even mine - has been called to make that image and likeness visible in his own, and I hope that in many ways I have.

I believe that God has not ceased calling men (and little boys) to be priests, but that His voice is so often drowned out or is not audible in a noisy world in pursuit of its own earthly desires. I thank God for the privilege and call to priesthood and have never once looked back on my own decision to say yes to that call with any sense of regret or second thoughts. It is pure gift. I am grateful also for all those priests who during my childhood and teenage years stood as models of joy and commitment in serving the Lord, and still do, especially those priests who have such an evident love and reverence for the Eucharist. The reality of doing the unimaginable through the gift of the priesthood and in touching lives even as my life continues to be touched, continues to fill me with joy and a sense of peace that I never knew was possible.

If any boy, young man or adult male who reads this and has felt the tug of the Holy Spirit calling you, don't hesitate in saying yes to the Lord for, *"the Lord will not lead you where His grace will not keep you"*. Also, I am here for you and with you as you journey, discern and walk with the Lord. (Fr. Charles)

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Wed, June 7	7:00 p.m.	
Thur, June 8	8:30 a.m.	
Fri, June 9	8:30 a.m.	
Sat, June 10	5:00 p.m.	Antonio Tamburro +
Sun, June 11	9:00 a.m.	Antonio Mastropietro +
	11:00 a.m.	Andrea Belanger +

**There will be no Mass on Tuesday, June 6.**

### MARYGROVE CAMP COLLECTION

Next week the annual collection for Marygrove Camp will take place. Your donation will help send over 1,100 less fortunate girls to the Society of Saint Vincent the Paul' Marygrove Camp this summer. Help turn concern into action. For more information about Marygrove Camp or any of our other Special Works, visit: [www.ssvptoronto.ca](http://www.ssvptoronto.ca)



### **Catholic Moms Group at St. Leo the Great**

First meeting on June 6, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.  
All Moms, Moms-to-be and Grandmoms are Welcome!

### MOTHER'S DAY BASKET RAFFLE

Congratulations to Madelaine Vonk, the winner of Mother's Day Basket

### ST. LEO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

On June 11th. following the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a **full breakfast** of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice in the Church hall. Adults - \$5.00, Children ages 4-12 - \$3.00 and Children under 4 - free.

### TOTUS TUUS

#### **Evening program for students entering grades 7 -12**

From Sunday July 23 to Thursday July 27, 6:45 – 9 p.m.

Cost: \$20. per child. Evening Program maximum: 35.

#### **Day Program for children in Grade 1-6**

From Monday July 24 to Friday July 28, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$70 per child. Day Program maximum: 60.

### STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCE

Calling all parish teens (entering Gr. 9 in the fall of 2017 through Gr. 12) – please reserve the weekend of July 28-30. Our parish is organizing a group of teens and chaperones to attend "Steubenville Toronto", to be held on the campus of UOIT in Oshawa. Information is available in the vestibule.

### SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN

**Working wonders for those who need help in our neighbourhood...**

Working with St. Elizabeth HealthCare, ShareLife, through Catholic Charities, has implemented a shared services initiative that has provided support to agencies in the areas of human resources (16 agencies) and financial services (5 agencies). Now in its fourth year of activity, agencies participating in this initiative report that they are able to improve the quality, competency and accuracy of their work in these areas. Some Executive Directors reported on the impact of this initiative to their agency. "It has enhanced our agency's competence." shares one Executive Director, "Before, I was in way over my head, but trying to do my best. Now, I have expertise at my disposal and feel comfortable." **Our goal is \$38,400.00 and we have raised \$19,780.00 so far.**


Today is ShareLife Sunday – June 4, 2017. Thank you for your generosity.




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*All Are Welcome*



**Michael Mullin, FIC**  
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