



St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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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.

A NEW START IN LENT – IN LIFE

FOLLOWING BISHOP RIESBECK'S TALK

This past Wednesday evening we were pleased to have had Ottawa Auxiliary Bishop Christian Riesbeck with us as he gave a Lenten talk to our gathered parishioners. At the end of his message the Bishop distributed copies of and we projected on the sanctuary walls a Prayer of Commitment/Surrender to the Lord. Bishop Riesbeck is a member of the religious order of the Companions of the Cross and this prayer was written by their founder, the late Father Bob Bedard.

The prayer is a straight forward but powerful giving of one's self to the Lord much along the lines of people who have given their lives over to the will and care of God for centuries. This kind of prayer is meant to follow a soul-stirring Gospel message of Jesus' great love and His will that the sinner not die but live and invite the Lord to be Lord of his or her life. When one is open to the invitation of God to come to Him, then the Holy Spirit so beautifully moves in us toward God, even and especially for those who may have been living anything but a God-centered life. God is faithful and when we make a commitment from the heart to follow Him and to surrender our lives to Him, He accepts that surrender we offer and a new form of close relationship begins in our lives and living.

This prayer reflects the very spirit of Lent which calls us to turn inward and examine our lives. Are we following Jesus or the world? Are we living with burdens of sin that are weighing us down and keeping us from a freeing relationship with Jesus? Have we experienced the grace of making a good confession, after first properly reviewing our conscience with an Examination of Conscience, and known the beautiful grace of the forgiveness of our sins by Jesus' great love and mercy?

The human condition finds us trying to take advantage of a new start in our lives, most often at the beginning of a new calendar year. We make resolutions to lose weight, eat better, exercise more and a plethora of other possible decisions to in some way change our poor or bad habits. Lent affords the Christian heart the season-long opportunity to approach the changing of our lives or the reorientation of our lives back toward Jesus. Because Jesus longs to be personal to us, we are accepting what He has always been waiting to give us in His love, mercy and grace. He wants to walk with us every step of this life journey and as we walk with Him His presence changes us, summons us on to closer union with Him. The unhealthy, ungodly habits we have formed over time will start to fall away as our relationship with Him deepens. Only Jesus can give us a joy that no one or nothing can take away from us as long as we are united with Him in our daily giving of our lives to Him. We can't

outdo Jesus in generosity. Any part of us we surrender to Him receives revival and renewal. On our own it is difficult to follow God just as it would be difficult to adhere to a collection of laws to govern our behavior. Jesus has written His law on our hearts and not on paper so that they are living laws which will bring about a new, free and grace-filled way of living in us.

Father Bob's Prayer of Commitment/Surrender is such a moving speaking of the heart to God as it acknowledges our human weakness before the power of Jesus. It brings us to Jesus by way of His Cross, (prominently visible on our church sanctuary wall) which has saved us. We see in His body hanging on the cross not defeat but tremendous love which goes to death for you and me. And yet that death and our death to sin leads to Resurrection power and life which will enable us to live as never before, like a true disciple, servant and follower of the Greatest Love, Our Lord Jesus Christ!

I have published this commitment prayer here so that even if you were unable to attend the Lenten evening retreat this past week, you may be able to make and take some quiet time and prayerfully ask Jesus to come to you, speak to you, accept you in this beautiful prayer of commitment as you accept Him as your Lord, your Saviour, your all.

Prayer of Commitment/Surrender to the Lord (Fr. Robert Bedard, CC)

Father, I place myself in your presence now as I make this commitment that I believe your Son, Jesus, is calling me to make. Send your Holy Spirit upon me to help me to pray.

I worship you as Creator, God of heaven and earth, and I want to give you all the praise you expect from me.

My Lord Jesus, I want to follow your call. You have accomplished my salvation, and that of all the world, upon the Cross by the shedding of your blood. I accept that salvation.

You have died to take away the sins of the world. On the Cross, you bore all of my sins, and your forgiveness is available to me. I confess my sinfulness. I claim that forgiveness, and I forgive all those who have ever offended me.

Jesus, it was out of love for all of us that you gave up your life. And you would have given it up out of love for me alone. I now accept that love.

I want you to be the Lord of my life in every possible way. I give you my understanding, my will, my spirit, my physical being, my possessions, my desires, my plans. I want to surrender to you completely. I desire a personal relationship with you as my Lord and Saviour.

I give you my cares, my worries, my fears, my hang-ups, all my difficulties, and I ask you to set me free.

Father, my faith is weak. I want to believe but doubts cause me to hesitate. Grant me, I pray, through Jesus, your Son, the gift of divine faith. Sweep away all my doubts and give me that assurance that only your gift of faith can impart.

Father, your Son, Jesus, said that if we asked you anything in his name, you would faithfully grant it. I ask you now in Jesus' name to answer my prayer.

May all glory, all praise be to you, Father, all worship and honour, homage and blessing, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, reigning with you, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

OUR PARISH LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSION
TUESDAY APRIL 2
10:00 am – 12:00 noon
6:00 pm. – 8:00 pm.

A WORD FOR LENT

If you haven't already chosen a 'Word' from one of the two boxes of words on the Lenten table in the vestibule, please do so. This will be your word from God, because God directed your hand, to reflect upon through Lent. It's the Spirit's way of telling you something. Pray on it. Think about it. Do it.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

SOUP AND BREAD POVERTY MEAL



If you haven't come out to our **Lenten Soup & Bread** each Friday in the parish hall from 5 pm. to 6:30 pm. featuring a variety of hearty homemade soups and bread, you've been missing out on

some of the best homemade soup on the planet and great community spirit and warmth. We ask only for a freewill offering from participants with all proceeds going to our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Our three elementary schools are participating which is a great way to see schools and the parish coming together in community and fellowship while identifying in our own small way our outreach to the less fortunate.

EACH FRIDAY the Soup & Bread will be followed by

- **6:30 pm. STATIONS OF THE CROSS** and
- **7:00 pm. MASS**

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 26th

7:00 p.m. † Rob Parkhill

Wednesday, March 27th

7:00 p.m. † Betty Fusco

Thursday, March 28th

8:30 a.m. † Shannon Frank

Friday, March 29th

7:00 p.m. † Shannon Frank

Saturday, March 30th

4:30 p.m. † Patrick Alton Trail

Sunday, March 31st

9:00 a.m. † Michael Fedy

11:00 a.m. † Vincenzina Mammone & Attilio & Maria Tuzi

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food..."

As part of the Knights of Columbus Food For Families' program, we are inviting each family in the St. Leo the Great community to donate **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS / CANNED ITEMS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT**. The reality is that food insecurity is a year-round problem and the numbers of people accessing food banks across Durham Region is sadly increasing. Our local food banks and kitchens depend on the generosity of others to provide food to those who cannot afford food and often struggle to purchase these items as well. The Knights of Columbus hope you can donate to this worthy endeavour. The food drive will begin on Friday March 8th and will end on Sunday April 21st. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule.



St. Leo Knights of Columbus will serve Breakfast in the Church hall on April 7th following the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. Masses. Everyone is invited to enjoy a **full Breakfast** of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice. Adults - \$5.00, Children ages 4 - 12 - \$3.00, and Children under 4 - free. Hope to see you there.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOMS!

Join our Mother's Ministry! We meet once a month to discuss different topics but most importantly we laugh, learn and share with like-minded Catholic women. We pray together and for each other and learn how to grow our own faith and our families' too. **New members are always welcome!**

Contact annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com or visit www.catholicmomsgroup.com for more information.

Join us as we host Sr Helena Burns [on Wed March 27th, 7:30pm](#) in the Parish Hall!



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