

# 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](mailto:office@stleothegreat.ca)

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

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

**Youth Director: Dennis Wardle x 109**

### 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](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.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE****HOLY THURSDAY***(Thursday of the Lord's Supper)***Mass at 7 pm. with procession of Bl. Sacrament****GOOD FRIDAY***(Friday of the Passion of Our Lord)***3:00 pm. Holy Communion & Veneration****Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm.****EASTER VIGIL***(The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night)***8:00 pm. Highest Liturgy of the Year****EASTER SUNDAY MASSES****9:00 am. and 11 am.****Becoming a Catholic**

Each year (well, almost every year) our parish, along with Catholic parishes all over the world, initiates new members into the Church through the RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Some of its participants come without having any prior religious affiliation and are not baptized, some may have belonged to another of the several world religions (Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish) while others may have been baptized in another Christian denomination already and seek to become full members of the Catholic Church.

Among those who have attended the weekly Saturday morning classes since last fall, two of our participants will be Baptized, Confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil and one person, already having the dignity of Baptism, will be received into Full Communion in the Catholic Church by Reception into the Church, Confirmation and First Communion.

Each person who went through the RCIA process this year (as in all other years) came with their own ideas of why they wanted to be one with us in the Catholic Church. It is the privilege of priests and RCIA leaders and sponsors to witness the growth and call of those seeking to discern God's call in their lives.

I remember many years ago in a former parish when one of the new members who had come into the Church at Easter related that her call came from an experience she had while visiting our parish for the first time. She attended a Christmas Eve Mass at the parish a few years before with her boyfriend who was Catholic, though not practicing regularly. At Communion, I made the usual announcement that those who are not Catholic are invited to come forward and receive a blessing instead of Communion. She made her way up to the front and as soon as she received a blessing she said "time stopped" and she was filled with the most beautiful experience of Jesus' love for her. It was the beginning of a journey in her life in coming to discover and unfold the mystery that is Jesus in the midst of the Church.

I think we 'cradle Catholics' can easily take for granted what others see and discover as pure gift. The treasures of our Catholic faith can become like fine stones to a jeweller: we get used to them. So many are searching for a meaning and a purpose to their lives as they put the world together. Often the worlds people have become used to leave them feeling empty, isolated or unhappy and they are left in search of something or 'Someone' more who can satisfy the longings of their hearts. That's why we can say that the journey of the RCIA candidate is one that is shared by us as well since we are all looking for the same thing that will answer and address our need for the beyond.

There are many people whom I have observed as regularly attending Mass at our parish with their spouse and their children and who do not partake of the Eucharist because they are not Catholic. Sometimes I have approached individuals to inquire whether they had ever thought about joining the Church. Some have said that they had considered it but that they weren't sure how becoming a Catholic would be received by their non-Catholic families. Others have shared with me that they attend both our parish

**Looking Back: Our Parish's Friday Lenten Poverty Meals**

What can I say but marvel at the fact that a small but extraordinary occurrence took place this year in our parish's every-Friday Lenten Poverty Meals. Originally I had to announce at the beginning of Lent that the CWL were no longer going to host the event, and rightly so, because attendance had been down last year and it appeared to be a lot of work for low participation. Fewer and fewer parishioners attended the Soup & Bread event each Lenten Friday though the homemade soups were second to none and they came in so many choices. I continuously announced the great soup and invited parishioners to come out and participate in this worthwhile cause begun by our dedicated CWL members and continued over the past few years but to no avail. So, in one way I wasn't surprised to hear that the CWL didn't feel this was an event they would continue to hold.

Then, some people got together and thought they would like to give it another go. Nothing had changed as far as the fact that they would continue to make and offer homemade soups and provide the same rolls and bread as before, but for some strange reason the numbers of people who began to attend not only were good but continually grew each week. The women who have shown so much weekly dedication in shopping for and making the most incredible variety of delicious soups give not only their time but have been covering the cost of making the soups themselves. All the money that is collected each week in the free-will offering goes to our parish's St. Vincent de Paul in turn meets the needs of the poor among us. While our parishioners contributed greatly to the poor through this Lenten project so too did those who out of their own pockets provided the soup and bread and as a parish we have great admiration and our appreciation for what they have done and made possible. The event has also brought so many of our people together to share a simple but awesome meal and to host a venue of community and fellowship in Lent. This past Friday marked the end of our Lenten Soup and Bread for this year and it has been amazing to see the crowd of people gathered, as Jesus often did, over a meal and an opportunity to share life and faith with one another. Thank you to the women of the Soup & Bread and to all.

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and a church of a different denomination by their own choice. And still others have said that they had never seriously considered becoming a Catholic because no one had ever asked them before. In fact, statistically, more people become Catholics for this last reason: because someone asked them and invited them to consider membership in the Church. And there is always the other great factor in conversions found in those who are inspired by a Catholic they know whom they greatly admired for their stance on morals and principals as applied to daily living. The witness of those who live their Catholic faith has a tremendous influence on others, particularly when others view it as authentic and real. There is a great attraction in looking at the lives of another who seems to be happy, upstanding and good living and who possess a healthy and positive attitude towards living that has been shaped by their faith.

While the Mass is often the greatest attraction to those seeking membership in the Catholic Church, more people are brought into the Church through funeral liturgies than any other liturgy of the Church. When the rubber meets the road in the jumping off part of life, it is where people are aware of their own hungers, thirsts, longing and need and where they are most open to another point of view and particularly an attitude towards a firm, celebrated belief in the life that is to come and the One we follow, Jesus Christ. Conversion is all about a relationship sought and a lived experience desired in those who are looking for far more than what the world has to offer, and it is truly heartening to witness the new-found faith in those who have sensed God's call in their lives in considering the Catholic Church, founded by Christ Himself. My own experience with RCIA tells me that most often those who have begun the process have already committed to attending Sunday Mass and fully intend to become members of the Church either because they are already convinced this is where they belong or because an experience they have had has already summoned them to become a full and active member.

Ultimately, it is all God's wonderful work and we can do no better than marvel at what He does and is doing in our own lives and those of others.

I would ask all of our parishioners to pray for our two catechumens who will approach the baptismal font and be baptized and then become fully initiated members of the Church at the Easter Vigil this coming Saturday:

- **Anthony Barrett**
- **Sinthiya D'Souza**

and for

- **Leslie Lawrence**

who will be received into the Church and fully initiated in the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation as she is already baptized.

Their journey is also our life journey as we approach the blessedness of life in Jesus Christ through the Sacraments of the Church instituted by Christ, particularly the Eucharist which is Jesus' great and mysterious gift to us of His very Self in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Let us as a parish hold them in our prayers asking that the Lord will fill them with His every grace and blessing as they become one with us in Christ. (Fr. Charles)

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – No Mass**

**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m.

† Philip Suyyagh

Intentions of Eileen Walls

Intentions of Gloria Manapul

## **TOTUS TUUS IS COMING BACK!**

The children and youth of the parish are invited to join us once again for *Totus Tuus* (Latin for *Totally Yours*) this summer from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. Totus Tuus is an Archdiocesan program whereby seminarians and college/university students travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechetical instruction, mass, confession, adoration songs and games. This year's theme is the Apostles Creed. The program will also be focusing on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. More information is available at [www.totustuustoronto.ca](http://www.totustuustoronto.ca)

**Children entering grades 1 thru 6,**

**Cost is \$80 per person for the entire week**

**Runs Monday - Friday from 9am - 2:30pm**

**For Intermediate/High School grades 7 thru 12**

**Cost of \$20 for all five nights**

**Runs Sunday - Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 pm**

More news and information on how to register will be announced in the coming weeks! Also if there are any adults interested in helping out as missionary assistants for the week please contact me personally at the church (905) 655-3286 ext. 109 or by email [youth@stleothegreat.ca](mailto:youth@stleothegreat.ca). Thank you for your continued prayers and support, (Dennis Wardle, Youth Director)

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Holy Family Parish (91 Ribblesdale Dr Whitby ON) will be having Marriage Preparation Course from April 19 to May 31 from 7pm - 9pm (6 Thursday except May 10). For more information and details, please call the office at 905-6656470.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELP LINE

Sometimes we are challenged with an unexpected crisis. If you are suddenly faced with a change in your circumstances, such as an illness, loss of employment, separation or any number of situations and need help, consider calling the parish St. Vincent de Paul help line. A Vincentian will contact you and arrange a home visit to discuss further what assistance we can offer. We are available to assist anyone, regardless of their religion, who are experiencing financial or domestic hardships. All calls and assistance are strictly confidential.

**HELP LINE: 905-655-3286 ext. 221**

### SPRING FASHION SHOW

featuring fashions from Alia / Tan Jay  
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