

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

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

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.

OUR PARISH LENTEN MISSION



Way back when I was in the seminary we would have a week-long retreat in the seminary building in May for all of the seminarians. We were not to avail ourselves of the recreation room or other facilities during the retreat which meant that certain parts of the Seminary were off limits for the duration of the week so that we could give over our time to reflection, prayer and spiritual reading. I remember in one particular year having to go the

restricted part of the building for a legitimate purpose during the retreat when I heard the sound of pool balls clacking together. I went to the room where the pool table was only to find one of the seminarians, an older gentleman whose wife had died several years before leaving him to pursue the discernment of priesthood, happily shooting pool by himself. I remember saying to him, "Ron, what are you doing playing pool during retreat?" He lined up another shot as he told me, "Every retreat is one day too long!"

The same cannot be said of our parish Mission with the gifted and blessed man of God, Mark Mallett, as many, I'm sure, could have listened to him for a good time more. He showed us Jesus up close and personal and prepared our hearts for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a greater appreciation of the Eucharist and an authentic love of the Church. His witness each night was powerful as he sang, prayed and spoke to us about the question, "Are we living in the end times?" He showed us how we are living in, not the end of the world, but the end of an era; a time when we are going to be sifted to test what we are made of in the spiritual sense and our fidelity to God. Will we stand for Christ now by the witness of our lives as followers of Jesus or will we live for the world, which is so often a spirit that is opposite to Christ and the will of Christ?

Many Christians have sensed for some time that the ground on which we have been standing is shifting and that 'something' is coming. The world is not getting better and better but further away from Christ. Even Christians may find themselves distant from the Lord without even knowing they have left him.

This Mission has given us the opportunity to return to the Lord if we were far off; to hear again the gentle, merciful voice of Jesus tell us he loves us and doesn't want to leave us where we are in a life of mediocrity, selfishness and sin. He wants us to experience him and the joy having relationship with him brings. This was a time to be ministered to as Mark did among us so beautifully what the Blessed Mother has always done as she pointed to her Son, Jesus.

Many times over the course of our three day mission Mark physically looked in the direction of and pointed to the tabernacle and the crucifix over it. Those objects have been in our midst for years and yet we were shown them again, had a spotlight put on them through Mark's words so that we would appreciate again or perhaps for the first time, Jesus in our midst. Yet, he wasn't shown to us as just being 'there' in the center of the sanctuary but here, among us, waiting for us, loving us, longing to heal our wounds, and offering us the renewal again of really following him.

Those who came (each evening was well attended) felt the reality of meeting face to face with the great mystery of God. Yet so many related to me their own personal experiences of being touched by a story Mark told, an example he used, a song he sang or the moments of prayer. On the first evening of the Mission, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for the last half hour of the evening. Mark played adoration songs softly as he invited people to come forward and kneel at the foot of the sanctuary in front of Jesus. Many came forward and knelt for some time and it was moving to all in the church as people poured out their souls in silence to him.

The 3-days of blessing touched us as a people but also individually. Mark did not bring Jesus to us but rather Jesus has been with us, among us all along and perhaps we haven't always seen him. Mark helped us to see Jesus who is Love itself, who knows our wounds, our hurts, our pain and also our faithfulness and our struggle to follow him. Jesus needs to be invited and Mark so gently helped us to open our hearts to doing that and the Lord touched them, spoke to them, and made himself manifestly known. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for Mark Mallett. Bless him as he has blessed us! (*Fr. Charles*)

I THOUGHT I WAS A CHRISTIAN by Mark Mallett

(Mark was inspired with the beginnings of this poem while he attended weekday Mass in our parish.)

**I thought I was a Christian, till He revealed myself to me
I protested and cried, "Lord, it cannot be."
"Be not afraid, My child, it is necessary to see,
that to be My disciple, the truth must set you free."**

**Burning tears descended, as shame rose in my heart
I realized my deception, the blindness on my part
So rising from true ashes, I made a brand-new start
On the pathway of humility, I began to chart.**

**Standing ahead, I saw, a barren wooden cross
No one hung upon it, and I was at a loss
"Be not afraid, My child, at what it's going to cost
To find the peace you long for, you must embrace your cross."**

**Into darkness, I entered, leaving myself behind
For only when you seek Him, will you truly find
Nails and thorns, they pierced me, as I transformed my mind
So that appetites that bound me, began now to unwind.**

**I thought I was a Christian, till He revealed to me
The one who is His follower hangs also on the Tree
"Be not afraid, My child, trust what you cannot see,
For the grain of wheat that dies, will rise in eternity."**

SHARE YOUR GLORY STORIES

One of the best ways to give glory to God in recognition of the ways in which he may have touched you during our parish's 3-Day Lenten Mission with Mark Mallett is to share with fellow parishioners (using an acronym if you wish) how the Lord touched you during the three evenings through the music, testimony or Mark's talks. If you would like to submit your comments or remarks please send them to the parish email address listed on the front cover of this bulletin. Doing so gives due glory to the Lord for his great goodness.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 6th

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 7th

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 8th

8:30 a.m.

Friday, March 9th

7:00 p.m. † Mary & John Fox

Saturday, March 10th

4:30 p.m. † Stefan Danielewski

Sunday, March 11th

9:00 a.m. † Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group

11:00 a.m. † Ana & Manuel Medeiros

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 22nd to the 27th. 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

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. Thank you for your continued prayers and support, *(Dennis Wardle, Youth Director)* His new book is titled *Why There Is a God: And Why It Matters*. (Above article from CrisisMagazine, Feb. 21, 2018)

40 CANS FOR LENT

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 ONE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR EACH DAY 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 Saturday March 3rd and will end on Sunday April 8th. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule.

\$25 LOBLAW CARDS

If you have completed the application for the Loblaws (Superstore, No Frills) \$25 gift certificate rebate and plan to donate the certificate to a charity please consider donating it to the Parish's Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Your donation will help feed the Neighbours In Need in our parish and community. If you decide to donate your gift card please drop it in the poor box at the end of mass. Thank You!

Sign-Up Sundays!

February 24/25 & March 3/4. We Need Your Help!

Cardinal Collins and bishops across Ontario are asking for an email address from every Catholic family in their community, with a goal of 100,000 email addresses collected by the end of February 2018. This information will be used locally by Cardinal Collins and trusted faith partners to communicate periodically (approximately 6-8 times each year) on issues of particular importance for the Catholic community.

The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience, inviting our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith-based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide. The work builds on a similar campaign in 2017.

Please visit <http://bit.ly/SignUpSundayRegistration> to register yourself for this initiative or use one of the many clipboards that are in the vestibule. Thank you for living a faith that acts!

COME & SEE WEEKEND

The Office of Vocations is hosting a day retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, on Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. This retreat will provide time to pray, interact & socialize with other young Catholic men. Seminarians deliver talks on practical aspects of faith. The day includes Holy Mass, Adoration & Confession. Registration for the retreat is to be done online at: www.vocationstoronto.ca (under Programs) or <http://bit.ly/2xh8uMA>

For more information please call the Office of Vocations at: 416-968-0997 or email: vocations@archtoronto.org.

Living the Gospel by providing for homeless youth

On any given night, 6,000 people across Canada between 16 and 24 have nowhere to call home. This represents 20 per cent of the total homeless population. The ShareLife-supported Rights of Passage program at Covenant House has been active in making a positive difference in the lives of homeless youth on the streets of Toronto. The program matches adolescents with mentors, who help them build life skills. By supporting ShareLife, you're helping at-risk youth prepare for life on their own.

March 18 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.




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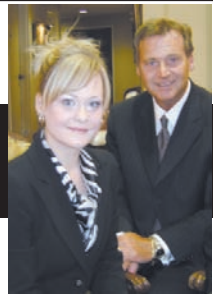
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