

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.

LENT in the PARISH

**LENTEN RETREAT at St. Leo the Great
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 7-9 pm (in church)**

*Retreat will be given by Fr. Charles, Pastor
(The Mass will be moved to the morning)*

Soup and Bread Poverty Meal



Lenten Soup & Bread each Friday throughout Lent in the parish hall from 5 pm. to 6:20 pm. featuring a variety of hearty homemade soups and bread and organized by our Catholic

Women's League. The proceeds from the freewill offering from participants goes to our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Each Friday the Soup & Bread will be followed by

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

Please note: **MASS TIME CHANGE THROUGHOUT LENT**

The regularly scheduled Holy Hour and morning Mass each Friday is cancelled during Lent as there is the Stations of the Cross and Mass each Friday evening.

Christians and the Corona Virus

May your faithful be strengthened,
O God, by your blessing:
In grief, may you be their consolation,
In tribulation, their power to endure,
And in peril, their protection.

Over the last month or more we have heard more and more about the Corona Virus believed to have started in China. On Ash Wednesday there were 40 countries showing as having the Corona Virus and by the following Sunday that number had jumped to over 70 countries. Naturally people begin to wonder when and how it will hit Canada, how it is spread in the first place and what precautions can be taken to stave off this pandemic that has hit the earth. At the time of my writing the World Health Organization said that worldwide 90,000 people have been diagnosed with the disease. The death toll in China was 2,981, Iran at 92, Italy at 79 and 9 in Washington state, US. While it is believed to continue to spread experts say that it is not as easily transmitted from one person to another as originally thought.

Here in Canada as in other countries, people are talking about it and wondering what they should do to prevent it in themselves and what we should do to prepare. Currently, store shelves are empty of hand sanitizer and some people are stocking up on some household items should things get much worse. It is the great unfolding unknown.

What should Christians make of this situation? What do believers pray for and expect from the Lord?

The beautiful prayer at the top of this article wasn't written by me and wasn't created by someone in light of the looming pandemic.

In fact, it originates when the New Missal came out for use in parishes all over North America about a decade ago and is the *Prayer Over the People* at the end of the Mass for this past Tuesday. That prayer was prayed last year and the year before and the year before that but now, in light of the current serious health scare, it seems all the more fitting.

Throughout the year we are reminded through the Word of God in the scriptures and the teachings of the Church to the sound preaching of both that God will take care of us. Sure, it is much easier to trust in God's promises when we're hoping for good weather for our garage sale over praying for God's protection on us and our family when a pandemic is spreading throughout the earth. Yet the promises of Christ should always ring true for the Christian, the true follower of Christ in any and every situation life presents to us.

Recently, one of the psalm responses assured us, God's people, that *"In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge"*. The meaning and purpose for our lives is Jesus; to live with and for him. While life is a beautiful and precious gift there are many, many things far worse than the thought of dying, like dying with no hope, no faith, no trust that God is in charge of all things; that he loves us and cares for not only 'our' lives but yours. As Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said, *"The tragedy of life is not what we suffer. The tragedy of life is what we miss."* To not see the protection, care and love of God who promises faithfulness to those who love him is to miss everything. God can be trusted because he is God and all things are in his hands including our individual lives. And even beyond the calamities that can come to us in this life is the promise of Christ that these are only for a time and that we will be free, at peace and filled with joy with him in the Kingdom promised and in which we walk in here on the earth. We are to know now God's presence and peace. If I have a hefty bank account, a comfortable and trouble-free life, good health and people who love me, I still need to trust God, not because I might lose these but that they are not the most important things in life. So, if we are supposed to trust God in all things – even pandemics – how are we supposed to muster up this trust? By trusting. By handing our lives over to the will and care of God. We grow in trusting by being in situations where we must trust him. When we see how God is faithful (and not just in giving us what we want) we have already grown in our sense of his nearness, his faithfulness and our trust in him in the little and the big things life throws our way.

**"Everything you are going through
is preparing you for everything you prayed for."**

Even though it was the Catholic Church who gave the Bible to the world and pre-existed it, Catholics often don't trust that God will really take care of them. Yet look at the scriptures we hear Sunday after Sunday, week after week. Never do we hear God say to us that we should work alone by ourselves and figure things out. Nor does our God say that it's a good thing for us to be stressed out or filled with worry because in the end it will pay off and work itself out. No! God says, trust Me! Let go of the things that worry you, concern you and keep you up at night. Give them to me and trust that I am working always on your life, your needs and in the lives of those you entrust to me. Blessed Lent. *(Fr. Charles)*

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Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK



Tuesday, March 10th

8:30 a.m. † Shannon Frank

Wednesday, March 11th

7:00 p.m. † Catherine Neagle

Thursday, March 12th

8:30 a.m. † Blake Marshall

Friday, March 13th

7:00 p.m. † Catalina & Faustin Wadden
All Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, March 14th

4:30 p.m. † Anabela Wardell

Sunday, March 15th

9:00 a.m. † Margaret Forget

11:00 a.m. † Michele Cavallari

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for intentions of
Enoia Pacheco
Week of March 6 - 12



CWL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MARCH 8 at 12:15 pm
in the parish hall.
New members welcome.

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 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 Wednesday February 26th and will end on Palm Sunday April 5th. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule.

Exemplification Ceremony for Knights of Columbus

For anyone who has ever wanted to join the KofC and for those who would like to watch our ceremony, you are invited on Sunday March 29, at 12:30 in the Parish. We will be installing new Members into the full Knighthood Degree. St Leo the Great Council. All parishioners are welcome to attend as guests. A reception will be held in the Church Hall afterwards, all are welcome. We encourage Candidates to bring their families and friends to the Exemplification Ceremony and Reception. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Larry Hallihan 416-795-4501 or Alex Sgroi 416-894-7233.



The NET Team is looking for some bean bags (either new or second hand) to have as part of our youth nights, and for our open office. We have no preference about size, color, texture, etc. If you would like to donate, please drop off at the parish office. Thank you for considering to donate towards our youth programming!



Join the 11:00 a.m. choir.

The Sunday 11:00 am choir would like to invite all members of the congregation to think about joining our wonderful choir. We are regularly looking for new members to join the ranks. All ages and vocal abilities are wanted. Music is taught on a weekly basis in a fun and simple way for those who don't read music. If you have been thinking about joining, come out for a week or two and give it a try. Bring a friend with you. The choir sings at the 11:00 mass on Sundays and we rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. For more information about joining the choir, please see Ted, the director, after the 11:00 mass, call 647-302-6996 (cell) or come out to the church on Thursday night at 7:30 pm. Thank you.

Nurture Life, Oppose Death on Demand!
Contact Your Member of Parliament Today!

The federal government has tabled legislation to expand what they refer to as medical assistance in dying but is more accurately called euthanasia/assisted suicide. More than 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized since 2016. New legislation would make assisted death available to those without life-threatening illnesses including those with disabilities and those no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. Some Canadians may even be euthanized on the same day they make the request. Visit www.helptheliving.ca to send a letter (prepared for you) to your Member of Parliament expressing deep concern. The process takes less than 5 minutes. More information can also be found at: www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia. We continue to pray and advocate for the vulnerable among us.



ShareLife: It's who we are!

Catholic agencies have been serving those among us who are poor, sick and marginalized since the founding of our diocese 178 years ago – it's who we are as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto! We continue that legacy through ShareLife, which funds over 40 agencies that provide unconditional care, regardless of religious affiliation.

March 29 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.




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St. Leo's Knights of Columbus
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