

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: Maureen Holly

905-655-3286 x 101

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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

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.

TOTUS TUUS REGISTRATION
TO ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH:
SAVE THE DATES!

TOTUS TUUS REGISTRATION – May 14/15

July 17-21 for students entering grades 7-12

July 18-22 for students entering grades 1-6

To obtain a Registration Form for Totus Tuus, go to our parish website (stleothegreat.ca) and print off the registration form. Bring the completed form with you when you come to Mass on the weekend of May 14/15 along with your payment using cash or a cheque made out to St. Leo the Great Parish.

What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus is a unique and fun-filled program featuring a team of 4 college-age students who will engage our youth with a week-long program focusing on the Catholic faith. The week is packed with skits, songs, Daily Mass and inspiring teaching.

NOTE: If you will be away the weekend of May 14/15 leaving you unable to register, please go to our parish website (*see front of bulletin*) and download the online registration form. Fill it out and drop it off at the parish office with your registration fee, or if the office is closed, leave it in the outside office mailbox.

GIVING A DOG IN NEED A HOME



Dogs have long been heralded as “Man’s best friend”, and anyone who has had a dog as a pet would know this to be true. Every year tens of thousands of people in North America buy dogs from breeders and pay big bucks for the right to do so, often at prices well over a thousand dollars for a pup. Some people who sell dogs do so in order to make profits, basically raising pups to sell for cash. When pups are bought it means that the buyer will still have to pay for spaying or neutering their pet on top of the high price they already paid for the animal.

What is often not known is that there are hundreds of dogs in local shelters in need of a home, and in most cases the

adoption fee is just a few hundred dollars which also includes the cost of spaying or neutering. Usually the dogs from a shelter who were either found as strays or were abandoned, spend time in a foster home so that their behavior and temperament may be observed in order to establish for potential adopters what the dog is really like, whether it is house trained, afraid of other dogs, or how it acts around children and people in general.

Dogs, like people are products of their environment and many dogs who have been neglected or abused rightly have fear. The shelters and adoption agencies determine whether a dog is suitable for adopting and if so, how they will behave in a new home environment.

While many people will speak about having a dog as a nuisance or of the cost or the time they demand, which is all to be seriously considered, a good dog will give to its owner or family far more than you could ever possibly give to that dog. That’s why they’re god spelled backwards. ☺

I’m writing this article about adopting a rescue dog because many people who give thought to buying a dog may not consider adopting one who desperately needs a home, care and attention. A “rescue dog” is not, as is often first thought, a dog who rescues people but rather a dog that has been rescued from abandonment or neglect or was just lost.

Over the years I’ve been a priest I have had five dogs. My very first dog, Buddy, was a Shepherd/Lab cross who had been abandoned in the country near Wyevalle, Ontario. A farmer took him in but didn’t really want him. When I say, “took him in”, I mean, the farmer tied him to a chain near the barn beside an old dog house. For a year, that loving, gentle and smart dog was confined to a walking space of about 40 feet. He was well fed but lonely and sad, I think.

And then I heard about him through the SPCA and went to take a look at him with my mother who was visiting me for a couple of weeks when I was stationed at Sacred Heart Parish in Port McNicoll. When we arrived at the farm, I could see the dog house and a chain leading into it. I called for the dog, being cautious of how he might react to the approach of a stranger. But out he came, cowering to my presence but wagging his tail and then being submissive and laying down on the snow covered ground for me to rub his tummy. Well, that was it. Right there and then I decided he was the dog for me, and I took him home. For almost twelve years that dog was my buddy, waiting for me to come home, joyously greeting me when I walked in the door, accompanying me on holidays at cottages and to visits to my parents’ home each week on my day off. He was smart, loyal, playful and a best friend until the day he suddenly died – the same day actor Heath Ledger died – January 22nd, 2008.

Only one of the five dogs I’ve had wasn’t a rescue dog – Bear. I got Bear from a farm near Barrie in 2005. He was the last male pup of a litter of six and was a mix of Wolfhound and Shepherd. Little did I know that he would grow to nearly 150 lbs! He was such a gentle dog and though he was big he won people over immediately with his gentle, friendly way. Sadly, Bear died in September of 2014 of Lymphoma and there isn’t a single day that goes by without my thinking of him. The loss of a dog is the loss of a presence, and he was a big presence in my life.

One of my dogs is Jigs, who was rescued from a Richmond Hill puppy mill. His brother was adopted out but he wasn't. He is a quiet and loyal dog and a good protector. Red was rescued from Ohio, USA, after he was found abandoned in a shopping mall parking lot. He was a stray for a while, bit by other dogs and so afraid until he was picked up by animal control, destined to be euthanized. Red was rescued by an Ontario dog-rescue unit which brings many abandoned dogs from Ohio to Ontario that would otherwise be put down. Red was so afraid when I first saw him, visibly shaking and nervous. Yet, once I spoke to him he came right to me and looked at me as if to be asking me to pick him up and take him home. He was with many other dogs who seemed happy-go-lucky, but he was so scared. I adopted Red the following day and that was five years ago. He is such a sweetie who won't take his eyes off of you, in fact, he'll look right into your eyes when you talk to him. He is also very cuddly and if you'll let him, will jump right into your lap and let you hold him like a baby, falling asleep in your arms.

God made all creatures, but none quite like the dog. They are a great presence in one's life, particularly for older couples and those who live alone, but for families as well. In reality they adopt you and your life as they conform to your lifestyle, your going and coming and your behaviour. They ask for so little save food, shelter, a walk and your kind affection, but they'll give you so much more in return.

If you or someone you know ever considers getting a dog, remember the orphaned dog, the dog who needs a home and not just a place to stay. Think about doing something great in a poor dog's life who is waiting day by day in a local shelter, Humane Society, SPCA, etc. Check out Petfinder.com and browse through the hundreds of dogs to be found there, many in close proximity to your home. There are many breeds and sizes to choose from and in most cases a good write-up on what has been observed about the dog. If you find a dog that interests you, you can easily arrange to go and see it or sometimes they will even bring the dog to you to check out your home. A fenced in backyard is necessary for the security and safety of the dog and will be a place they can get some exercise besides the daily walks you will give (which are also very beneficial to the owner). Get a dog who with his or her very life will say to you every day, "thank you".

(Fr. Charles)

**Now I arrived at your place.
Everything is strange and I do not feel good.
Do not be impatient if I don't sleep in my new basket,
yesterday I slept in the dirt.
Don't be terrified if I gobble up my food,
yesterday I had to do it to survive.
Do not be angry if I pee in the house,
yesterday it didn't matter.
Do not be sad if I am afraid of your loving hand,
yesterday it was a rarity that someone caressed me.
Have patience with me. It's your world but no yet mine.
If I trust you, I'll give you the greatest gift I can give:
my heart.
Never forget, I was a stray dog.**

MASS INTENTIONS – May 3 – May 8, 2016

Tues., May 3 – 8:30 am – Int. of Leonard Luc Req. M. St. Denis
Wed., May 4 – 7:00 pm – Valerie Hotner+ Req. V. & B. Davis
Thurs., May 5 – 8:30 am – Deceased Members of Felix Family+
Req. Madge St. Denis
Fri., May 6 – 8:30 am – Int. of Jerome Felix Req. Madge St. Denis
Sat. May 7 – 5:00 pm – Gino, Albino & Claudia Cirignano+
Req. The Tamburro Family
Sun. May 8 – 9:00 am – David Greey+ Req. Joan & Tom Barker
11:00 am – Marie Serrao+ Req. The DeCaspro Family

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 1, 2016

Working wonders for the elderly...

Elva is a client in her late 70's who spent her life overcoming the challenges of Spine Bifida. Despite her physical disabilities, Elva travelled the world as a music teacher and pianist for the National Ballet in Canada. Wheelchair-bound for the last 25 years, Elva gradually found herself less able to continue playing the piano and doing the things she enjoyed. Last year, the Society of Sharing matched Elva with a friendly visitor, Adam a young university student, with whom she can converse with as though there were no age difference. Adam is seen as an encouraging and familiar friend and someone to share ideas with as well as assist her with her cell phone, computer and printer. With his help, Elva is able to go to out to the movies or see local sights. Because of Adam, Elva's world has opened up and she is now reconnected to her community and able to share her incredible gifts of wit, intelligence, and positive attitude, giving her a renewed sense of meaning and purpose. This year, our support for ShareLife will help to expand this volunteer model into the Peel Region to assist seniors in this area. Last year Share-Life supported agencies provided outreach programs that met the needs of over 2,200 seniors. This year, with your support, we can do more to help the elderly within our archdiocese. Next ShareLife Sunday is May 29, 2016.

CWL Upcoming Events: Please mark these dates.

Mother's Day Basket Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3/\$5. The Draw will be on May 8. Tickets can be purchased after all the masses.

All parishioners are invited to watch the **presentation in the hall "Mother Theresa, the Legacy"** (Salt and Light Productions) on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm. Presented by St. Leo's CWL.

Bundle Weekend Donations – Thank you to all parishioners who donated items for bundle weekend. It was a great success. Full truck once again.

March for Life – Ottawa Thursday, May 12

Please consider being a voice for life by attending The National March for Life in Ottawa on May 12. The National March for Life is a peaceful gathering of people of all ages from all walks of life, various faith groups, spiritual leaders and politicians. Thousands of youth will also be in attendance. Their energy is a witness to the value that youth place on all human life. Join this witness to life. Some bus seating is still available. Please contact Iris @ 905-668-3218 or Bridget @ 905-666-0259 to reserve a seat.




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