



St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Director of Catechetics: Patrick Sullivan • Parish Secretary: Maureen Holly
905-655-3286 x 103 905-655-3286 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.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 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 pick up a baptism package from Fr. Charles after mass.

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 (Welcome Cards) 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 Manuel Duterte* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If Father Manuel 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.

WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DIE FOR?

There is a great richness and a variety of themes and topics and issues which Sacred Scripture deals with beyond what we hear each Sunday in the three-year cycle of readings. In fact, there are two weekday volumes of readings from the Bible that are heard in Masses celebrated in most parishes from Monday to Saturday and most of these text never are heard on a Sunday which means that if our only sense of Scripture is what we hear on Sunday there is much we have not heard.

Just this past week we have been hearing weekday readings from the 2 books of the Bible not contained in Protestant Bibles, First and Second Maccabees. Never heard of it? Well, let's do a quick review.

SCRIPTURE 101

There are 73 books in the Catholic collection of books we call The Bible. In Protestant Bibles there are only 66 books. The 66 approved books are contained in what is called the Canon of Sacred Scripture comprising of the Old and New Testaments. The 7 additional Old Testament books are known as *Deutrocanonical*, ('deutro' meaning 'second canon'). The 7 additional books of Sacred Scripture approved by the Church are: Tobit, Judith, the Book of Wisdom, Sirach (aka Ecclesiasticus), Baruch, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, and also 7 chapters from the Book of Esther and 2 chapters and a prayer in the Book of Daniel. If you didn't know this, don't worry, most people have never heard of it either. We have to remember that the Church gave the Bible to the world and not somehow the other way around. In her early days she approved of which books were inspired and those that were of a more human invention. For example, the Church did not approve the Gospel of Thomas and others as these were seen as attempts to "fill in the blanks" on the unknown parts of Jesus' life according to the four Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And that's why to this day you won't find a Bible with the Gospel of Thomas contained within it, though it does exist as a separate and interesting piece of literature. Luther himself dismissed these 7 books approved by the Catholic Church as they stood in opposition to his own teachings on justification by faith alone and rejected the idea of purgatory and other theological truths which are clearly found in the Book of Maccabees and within these 7 additional books.

So just this past week, beginning on Monday we heard readings at the weekday Masses from 1 and 2 Maccabees. Pope Francis himself preached about the reading from 1 Maccabees and called the first chapter of the First Book of Maccabees "*one of the saddest pages in the Bible*" because "*a great part of the people of God withdraw from the Lord in favor of worldly proposals.*"

I myself preached this past Tuesday, both in the parish and at a Mass held at Leo J. Austin Catholic High School, about the First Reading of Tuesday Nov. 19 taken from 2 Maccabees (6:18-31) which speaks of the high-ranking and elderly scribe Eleazar who was being forced to publicly eat swine's flesh in order that he might defile himself and break the law as a Jew which forbids the eating of pork. Eleazar spit the meat out and walked to the instrument of torture himself, preferring to die than break his covenant with God. People who had known Eleazar for a long

time secretly took him aside and tried to convince him that he could bring meat of his own choosing (that was not swine flesh) and 'appear' to eat it with everyone thinking it was pork. Eleazar refused citing two principle reasons: he would not break the Jewish law which stood as a testimony to his 'Jewishness' and symbolized his loyalty before God and he did not want to give scandal to the young Jews who were still in their formative years. If they would see in Eleazar a sense of compromise in his loyalty before God, then they could presume that their own loyalty and fidelity before God could also be compromised. Eleazar would have none of it, even though he knew that to take this stance would cost him his life, "*and so he declared that above all he would be loyal to the holy laws given by God.*"

His dying words would be a teaching in truth to all those who would witness his martyrdom: (v 24-28)

"He told them to send him at once to the abode of the dead, explaining: "At our age it would be unbecoming to make such a pretense; many young people would think the ninety-year-old Eleazar had gone over to an alien religion.

Should I thus pretend for the sake of a brief moment of life, they would be led astray by me, while I would bring shame and dishonor on my old age. Even if, for the time being, I avoid the punishment of men, I shall never, whether alive or dead, escape the hands of the Almighty. Therefore, by manfully giving up my life now, I will prove myself worthy of my old age, and I will leave to the young a noble example of how to die willingly and generously for the revered and holy laws."

Verse 30 contains the last and important things he would say just before his death on the rack:

When he was about to die under the blows, he groaned and said: "The Lord in his holy knowledge knows full well that, although I could have escaped death, I am not only enduring terrible pain in my body from this scourging, but also suffering it with joy in my soul because of my devotion to him."

When I spoke to both the parishioners and the students at the high school I asked, "What would you die for?" It's a good question for all of us. Of course parents would die for their children and married couples would die for each other, but what else would we be willing to lay down our life for? St. Margaret of Clitherow, at the time of the Reformation in England when Catholicism was disbanded, Mass was forbidden and priests were murdered, was a pregnant Catholic woman who was publicly being forced to renounce her faith in the Eucharist as the True Body and Blood of Jesus. Margaret could have thought within herself that since she was being forced, God would know her heart and understand her circumstance, and she could denounce her belief in the Eucharist and live. I think we would all consider such things in order to save our lives. But Margaret refused, instead proclaiming her faith in Jesus truly present in the Eucharist. As a result of her proclamation she was dragged out into the street, laid on her back with an old wood door placed upon her, and horses were forced to trample over the door crushing her to death. She is remembered today for her witness.

NOVEMBER 24, 2013

So the question remains before us who live in these strange, morally turbulent times when more and more the world around us embraces the secular – What would you die for? Eleazar, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Margaret and countless other martyrs for God answered that question and left us a great model and witness with their very lives. (*Fr. Charles*)

CHILDREN'S FIRST RECONCILIATION – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd AT 7:00 P.M.

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th AT 7:00 P.M.

ST. LEO'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE SELLING THE FOLLOWING IN THE VESTIBULE AFTER ALL THE MASSES: CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR \$10/BOX OF 15 CARDS & CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES STARTING NOV. 30/DEC. 1 – 1.5 LB. CAKE \$15; 2 LB. CAKE W/TIN \$25 AND "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" LAWN SIGNS FOR \$15.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:

- WEEKLY COST OF RUNNING OUR PARISH - \$7768
- **LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION**
 - Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$4467
 - Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1929 (October)
 - ➔ **TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: \$6396**
 - ➔ **Deficit in last week's collection: \$1372**

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues., Nov. 26 – 8:30 am – No Intention
Wed., Nov. 27 – 7:00 pm – Theresa Dohey+ Req. by the Mott Family
Thurs., Nov. 28 – 8:30 am – No Intention
Fri., Nov. 29 – 8:30 am – No Intention
Sat., Nov. 30 – 5:00 pm – For the intentions of Erminn Figuracion
Req. by the Figuracion Family
Sun., Dec. 1 – 9:00 am – No Intention
Sun., Dec. 1 – 11:00 am – Stella Krawczyk+ Req. by Joe Tomsic & Family

St. Michael's Choir School Christmas Concert to be held in our parish on: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th AT 7:00 P.M. Tickets available after all weekend masses. Adults - \$25 and children (Gr. 2 to Gr. 8) \$5.00.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSALS ARE ON SALE THIS WEEKEND AT A COST OF \$5.00 EACH AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME TABLE.

Christmas 2013 – Cornerstone Men's Hostel – Once again this Advent Season, St. Leo the Great Parish will be collecting items for the Cornerstone Men's Hostel in Oshawa. Cornerstone has asked us to restrict our donated items to those things that are extremely scarce but so necessary to the men who live on the street which include: **new-only** socks, underwear, toothbrushes and toothpaste, disposable razors, combs/brushes, hand soap, deodorant, shaving cream, foot powder, lip balm, and Kleenex

tissues. **We will not be taking a collection of used clothing this season.** You are asked to drop off these items in the church vestibule at the Welcome Table. Thank you to all our parishioners who think of others at this time when we are all called by the gospel to attend to the needs of others as our own preparation for the coming of the Lord! Please contact Larry Hallihan (905) 620-0351 for additional information.

CATECHIST CORNER

Does the Church still teach indulgences?

Answer: Yes.

In the past there have been problems with how indulgences were taught and distributed, but the problem was never the indulgence itself. Indulgences play a very important role in assisting us as we "work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). In fact, the more you learn about them, I am sure that you too will agree they are a great gift for and from the Church of Christ.

EDGE: We Need Your Help

The EDGE Youth Program has, with the help of our parish, been a great success. But we now have a new challenge, and that is the size of our group. As the number of EDGers continue to grow our dedicated but small team recognizes its own limitations. We are looking for older teenagers, young adults, and seasoned adults who can commit their Tuesday evenings to the youth of our parish. We will continue making EDGE available - IT IS HERE TO STAY – but if we want more of our kids falling in love with the Lord then we need YOU to get involved. Interested? Call Patrick at 905-655-3286 ext. 103. Patrick, EDGE Core Team

Knights of Columbus Free Breakfast - You eat so they can eat – Dec. 8th following 9 am and 11 am Sunday masses. Everyone is invited to enjoy another full breakfast hosted by St. Leo Knights of Columbus: eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, coffee and juice in the parish hall. There is no charge for this breakfast, however, your generous donations to support St. Vincent de Paul are appreciated.

2013 Venite Adoremus (Bach and Rutter's Magnificats) – Tuesday, Dec. 3rd at Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory of Music, 273 Bloor St. W. Toronto. Please see poster on the parish bulletin for detailed information.

St. Vincent Palliotti's Kitchen (commonly known as "The Kitchen") is in serious need of volunteers. Each shift is approx. 4 hours in length and consists of food preparation, serving duties or clean-up for those in need in our community. We are hosting a Volunteer Information Session at St. Gregory's Hall (Simcoe & Adelaide) on Sunday, Nov. 24th at 2 pm to learn how you can help or you can volunteer directly by calling Valerie at 905-434-7543.

MASS TO CONCLUDE THE YEAR OF FAITH - Sunday, Nov. 24 at 3 pm beginning with Praise and Worship 2:45 to 3 pm at St. Bernadette Church, 21 Bayly St. E., Ajax, Feast of Christ the King. Praise Him through the Eucharist for the gift and fruits of the Year of Faith.



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