

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 103

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.

**ATTENTION! NEW MASS TIME
FOR SATURDAY 5:00 PM. MASS:
BEGINNING NEXT SATURDAY NOV. 11
MASS WILL BEGIN AT 4:30 PM.
AND EVERY SATURDAY**

HOLY HOUR RESTORED TO A NEW TIME

**FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 7:30 – 8:30 AM.
FOLLOWED BY 8:30 AM. MASS**

FEAST OF ST. LEO THE GREAT

**Wednesday November 8 - Mass at 7:00 pm.
followed by a Reception**

Our parish's Feast Day of St. Leo the Great will be marked with Mass celebrated at 7:00 pm. with a reception to follow. Celebrating our parish's namesake we ask his prayers and intercession upon all our families, members, ministries and life, entering into Word and Sacrament, the highest form of prayer in the Church, to give thanks to the Lord for St. Leo's tremendous witness to us who are under his spiritual patronage – and what a great saint he is!

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Mass and reception following.

November: Month of All Souls Praying For the Dead



The month of November has traditionally been a month dedicated to the living's remembrance of all those souls who have died in a spirit of trusting prayer to our Lord Jesus that they might be granted to see and live in heaven forever. In this context, what is heaven? Being with Jesus.

It should be clear from the outset that while this time of year reflects an increasing darkness with shorter days and longer periods of night and the horizon seems bleak with the bare trees, increasing cold and the coming of winter, the praying we are commended to do for the souls of those who have died is not in anyway communication *with* those souls but prayer on those souls' behalf that they might soon see God.

Some erroneously believe that "when you're dead, you're dead" and there's no chance of changing who and what a person was in this life. This stance in and of itself would be our

judgment on that soul – a perilous and unloving mindset indeed – and displays not only a gross lack of charity for the soul of another who lived, breathed and walked this earth as we do now, but also reflects a lack of trust in what God can do.

I think of the story told by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen of a woman who came to him and told him that her brother had died and that she was sure he was going to go to hell because he had done much to corrupt the minds of youth and at the end of his life had taken his life by jumping from a bridge and drowning in the water beneath. Sheen's response was, "Madam, it is the distance between the bridge and the water which makes you unable to judge."

We don't know what God knows. We don't know what God sees. Yet as humans, sometimes, we project onto God what is in our minds and hearts. There is the beautiful truth of the words from the Book of Samuel *1 Sam. 16:7*:

“...for the Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.”

While many Christians don't share with us Catholics a belief in purgatory, there are many examples of it in the scriptures. To believe that God's own blessing, merciful and forgiving hands are bound by our greatly limited understanding of God is to believe that somehow we know instead of God knows. It's important to remember the differences in heaven, purgatory and hell.

WHAT IS HELL? Souls in hell will never see God because that in fact is what hell is – the absence of God forever by our own choosing in this life. In hell, it is said, the doors are locked from the inside for the soul that rejected God has himself turned the key. God has not sent a soul to eternal damnation but rather it has been chosen in an absolute refusal to accept God and God's love. The *YouCat* 161 and 162 says:

“Someone who consciously and with full consent dies in serious sin, without repenting, and refuses God's merciful, forgiving love forever, excludes himself from communion with God and the saints. We do not know whether anyone at the moment of death can look absolute Love in the face and still say No. But our freedom makes that decision possible. Jesus warns us again and again not to separate ourselves definitively from him by shutting our hearts against the need of his brothers and sisters: ‘Depart from me, you cursed ... As you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’

But if God is love, how can there be a hell?

God does not damn men. Man himself is the one who refuses God's merciful love and voluntarily deprives himself of (eternal) life by excluding himself from communion with God. God yearns for communion even with the worst sinner; he wants everyone to convert and be saved. Yet God created man to be free and respects his decisions. Even God cannot compel love. As a lover he is ‘powerless’ when someone chooses hell instead of heaven.”

WHAT IS PURGATORY?

Again, the *Youcat* (154) is most helpful with this question:

“Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. Someone who dies in God's grace (and therefore at peace with God and men) but who still needs purification before he can see God face to face is in purgatory.

When Peter had betrayed Jesus, the Lord turned around and looked at Peter: ‘And Peter went out and wept bitterly’- a feeling like being in purgatory. **Just such a purgatory probably awaits most of us at the moment of death: the Lord looks at us full of love – and we experience burning**

shame and painful remorse over our wicked or merely unloving behavior. Only after this purifying pain will we be capable of meeting his loving gaze in untroubled heavenly joy."

PRAYING FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Again, some would argue that when you're dead, you're dead and, therefore, no prayers made to God is going to change whatever they had coming to them. This is partially true in that the deceased person of and by themselves can do nothing to change whatever state they put themselves in. When we pray for the souls who have died we are not praying for the souls in hell because they are beyond our help. However, we must remember that no one knows who is in hell, only God, and we cannot even attempt to presume to know what God knows. We also cannot with certainty state that someone is in heaven because only God knows the person at his or her heart level. When we pray for the souls in purgatory we are praying for those nameless many who in some way need our prayerful, loving prayers on their behalf that they may one day see heaven for purgatory is not eternal but is a temporary condition of the soul that awaits heaven and seeing God fully.

The Youcat states this of purgatory (160):

Can we help the departed who are in the condition of purgatory?

Yes, since all those who are baptized into Christ form one communion and are united with one another, the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory.

When a man is dead, he can do nothing more for himself. The time of active probation is past. But we can do something for the faithful departed in purgatory. Our love extends into the afterlife. Through our fasting, prayers, and good works, but especially through the celebration of Holy Eucharist (the Mass), we can obtain grace for the departed."

The word itself, purgatory, does not appear in the bible, nor does it have to. The condition of purgatory existed as evidenced in sacred scripture before we put a name to it. The word itself means "a cleansing place" where souls with what we could call small sins are 'purged' before they can go into the joy of heaven. Purgatory is a state of "not yet" in relationship with the fullness of God. Therefore, if it is clear to us that purgatory exists and that most souls who lived for God go there, and those souls can do nothing on their own to gain the fullness of heaven, why wouldn't we pray for the souls in purgatory?

And that is what this month of November as the month of praying for the souls in purgatory – all souls – offers us the reminder to do: to pray with great love for the dead and out of our great love for God intercede on their behalf.

PRAYER FOR ALL SOULS

(from the Mass of All The Faithful Departed)

**Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord,
and, as our faith in your Son,
raised from the dead, is deepened,
so may our hope of resurrection
for your departed servants
also find new strength.**

**Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that your departed servants,
for whom we have celebrated this paschal
Sacrament, may pass over to a dwelling place of
light and peace.**

Mass Intentions for the Week



Tue, Nov 7	8:30 a.m.	Danuta Krol
Wed, Nov 8	7:00 p.m.	Ints of the Frank Family
Thur, Nov 9	8:30 a.m.	Stefan Sabala +
Fri, Nov 10	8:30 a.m.	St. Leo the Great Parishioners
Sat, Nov 11	5:00 p.m.	Ints of Catholic Mothers Group
Sun, Nov 12	9:00 a.m.	John & Maria Teresa Jeronimo +
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased members of the Tuzi Family

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Book of Remembrance is on the lectern in front of the statue of Mary for the month of November. Parishioners may write the names of their deceased relatives & friends in the book

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Ever wonder what St. Vincent de Paul is all about? The St. Leo the Great Conference of St. Vincent de Paul has been working to help the needy for many years. They are a group of volunteers who gather each month to pray, plan their charity work for the upcoming month and to report on the previous month's activities. From the generous donations they receive, they are able to assist numerous families year around. If you would like to get involved please call Peggy Primeau 905-655-9692.

CATHOLIC MOMS GROUP

Come join us for some faith and friendship! St. Leo the Great's Catholic Moms Group is meeting *every second Thursday* of each month at 8 pm in Boardroom 1. **Next meeting on Nov 9.** All those called to Mothering are Welcome! To be added to our email list contact: annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com Check out: www.catholicmomsgroup.com

SPANISH MASS at ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST

St. John the Evangelist, 903 Giffard Street Whitby
CHRIST IS WAITING FOR YOU! Come and be a part of the Spanish Community. Mass every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. beginning November 5, 2017. Celebrant: Fr. Francisco Fernandez Siles

Senior Men's High School Retreat

The Office of Vocations is hosting a day retreat at Our Lady of the Airways Parish, Mississauga, on Saturday, November 25 from 8:30 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). For more information please call the Office of Vocations at: 416-968-0997 or email: vocations@archtoronto.org

Knights of Columbus


The Knights General meeting is on Tuesday Nov.7, 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in church hall.




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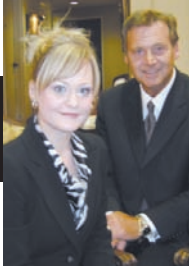
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