

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: 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:

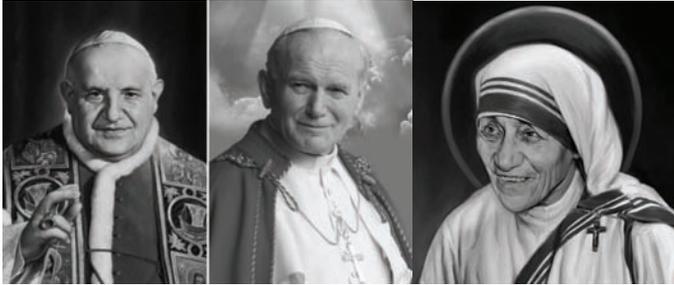
All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.

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.

MIRACLES IN OUR TIME



On a recent visit to St. Bridget school here in Brooklin I went about from scheduled class to class speaking to the students about any topic they had chosen or, if open to any subject, would address them on the idea of miracles. I have approached the subject of miracles before with children and if I ask them whether they believe the miracles of Jesus from the Gospels were real or not, they always answer in the affirmative, which is heartening to hear as it shows faith in the things Jesus did and what he said as God in the flesh. However, if I ask the children, and I did ask the first class at the school, whether they think miracles still happen today these two thousand years after Jesus walked here during his earthly life, there are mixed opinions and I don't doubt that the same might be said of adults if they were asked the same question.

Generally, I believe, Catholics who would state their unbelief in modern miracles due to their simply having not heard of any in their experience. Yet there are many books which speak about people in the Church of the last one hundred years, some canonized Saints of the Church and others in the making, through whom God has performed extraordinary manifestations of healing and power.

First of all, it is important to look at why Jesus performed what we would call miracles. The miracles worked by the Lord which are manifest in the Gospels were not merely wonders to make the people say "Wow!" Rather they fulfilled two distinct purposes: as announcements and as invitations.

MIRACLES AS ANNOUNCEMENTS

When Jesus worked any of his many miracles the first thing heard on the lips of his disciples and the crowds at large was, "Who is he that he can make the deaf hear? Who is he that he can walk on water? Who is he that he can cure the deaf, make the lame walk, raise the dead back to life?" Yes, indeed, who is he? The questions from witnessing the miracles of Our Blessed Lord were announcements to the people of who Jesus is. The demons, whenever in the presence of Jesus, would manifest themselves and attempt to address Jesus publicly saying, "We know who you are, the Messiah, the Son of God!" And Jesus would silence them. It would not be demons who would profess the identity of the Lord Jesus but rather people, sinners, who had come to believe.

However, the question of Jesus' identity would ultimately lead to a belief that he is in fact the long-awaited Messiah. And if they had come to this conclusion, the second purpose of the miracle would become clear.

MIRACLES AS INVITATIONS

With the realization of the truth that Jesus was the Son of God would come the question in their minds of, "if this be the Son of God, the Messiah, what must I do?", which is the invitation that the revelation of Jesus always demands of us: will we follow

him, will we give our lives to him, will he be the center of our living?" So the miracles of Jesus beg we ask the questions of who he is and what must we do in light of this truth.

Let me just say here plainly that miracles do happen today it's just that they don't make it into the newspapers or in the media much as the media, which is largely and generally secular, doesn't quite know what to do with the miraculous because they are linked to faith which is linked to religion.

Just as an example there is the story from 1987 of a woman in Ireland, a Mrs. Wilkinson, who had a baby that was not expected to live as the child was born with only one heart ventricle and a grossly enlarged liver. The doctors offered no hope but for the parents to take the baby home at some point for the inevitable. For many months and years the baby seemed to survive as all the while she prayed to the Blessed Mother to heal her daughter, Kelly, while her own mother kept telling her to pray to Padre Pio. She felt that since Padre Pio was able during his life to read the minds and hearts of people he would read her heart and see how unworthy she was to even ask for a miracle. So, she says, she stuck with the Blessed Mother and ignored the idea of praying for the intercession of Padre Pio. Now, Padre Pio had the gift of the stigmata on his hands – the wounds of Christ would appear on them during his celebration of the Mass as a priest – and so as he was embarrassed by these marks in that they drew the attention of others, he hid them from the public with mitts he would wear, though the wounds would be visible during Mass. It turns out that a woman happened to have one of Padre Pio's mitts and so the mother took her daughter Kelly to the woman's house and they blessed the child simply making the sign of the Cross on her with the mitt of the Saint. Later that night she put her little daughter, Kelly, to bed as she had fallen asleep in the car on the way back home. But her daughter came to her mother's room in the night and said, "Mommy, there's an old man in my room." She tried to convince her daughter that there was no one in her room but she insisted her mother come to her room and see for herself and, of course, when she got to Kelly's room she saw no one, even though Kelly kept pointing at a corner and saying, "Look mommy, there he is!" She put her daughter back to bed and told her that she had to stop this silliness because she needed her sleep since they were going away the following day to have tests done in the hospital in Belfast. The mother returned to her room and her bed only to drift off as she heard her little girl giggling and laughing in her room.

When the tests at the hospital had been taken, the cardiologist called the mother in to speak with her. Expecting the worst, she sat down to hear the doctor say to her,

"Mrs. Wilkinson, I don't know how I'm going to explain this to you, but I'll try. For the past almost four years you have been coming here religiously with your daughter, and we haven't been able to give you and consolation or hope. And for that I'm very sorry. But I have in front of me Kelly's catheterization done at birth, and it clearly shows she has a single ventricle, a congenital heart defect, and a grossly enlarged liver. And then I have here the catheterization done today. It shows absolutely no congenital heart defect. Kelly's heart today is perfectly normal. The piece that wasn't there is now there. And the liver has reduced in size.... my diagnosis today is Kelly is a perfectly normal, healthy child. I can't explain it." And so Kelly was healed through an old man who had appeared in her room. Miracles today DO HAPPEN! More to come. (Fr. C.)

Christmas Eve Family Mass Children's Choir and Pageant



This year St. Leo the Great church will be organizing a children's choir and a pageant for the Family mass on Christmas Eve. The choir will lead a carol

sing before Mass as well as leading the congregation during the Mass itself. Students from grades 2-12 are invited and encouraged to sing in the Children's choir. No previous experience is necessary to join and it is lots of fun. Additionally, students from grade 1-8 are invited to play a part in the pageant. The pageant will take place during the Gospel. All abilities are most welcome. Students can join either the choir, the pageant or both. Both are very special contributions to the Mass that enable the children to help us all celebrate the joy found in this holy season.

Practice times for the 2 groups run simultaneously. They will be held from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Sundays Nov. 26th, December 3rd, 10th and 17th. A final dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December the 23rd from 9:00 until noon. If you or your child is interested, please mark your calendar and try to attend all of the practices. Parents are welcome to drop their children off at the start of practice and then pick them up when practice is finished. Please meet in the parish lounge. For more information, please contact Ted Schuck at (647) 302-6996, at tedschuck@rogers.com, see him after the 11:00 mass or just show up for the first rehearsal on Nov 26th. Thank you!

NEW BEGINNINGS

Are YOU or anyone else you care about enduring a separation or divorce? Perhaps a family member, a friend or even a colleague is hurting. New Beginnings offers assistance to those who are grieving this loss. At present, New Beginnings is looking for volunteers for co-facilitation at St Leo the Great . No experience is required as full training will be provided. If you are passionate about helping people and/or have personal experience with separation/divorce, then please reach out! For more information please call, Alex Lopechuk at 416 921 1163 x 2230 or email alopechuk@cfstoronto.com

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us on **Sunday, Dec. 10th at 2:30 p.m.** in preparing for Christmas by recalling the prophecies of salvation in nine biblical readings, carols, and anthems. The Immaculate Conception Sparrows Youth Choir will lead us in song. The service will end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tue, Nov 21	8:30 a.m.	Felix Manapul +
Wed, Nov 22	7:00 p.m.	Maria & Manuel Camara + Maria Cruz +
Thur, Nov 23	8:30 a.m.	Intentions of Madelaine Vonk
Fri, Nov 24	8:30 a.m.	Intentions of Father Charles
Sat, Nov 25	4:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Smyth +
Sun, Nov 26	9:00 a.m.	Armenio, Everisto & Deolinda Medeiros +
	11:00 a.m.	Fr. Bill Addley S.J. +

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

HOLY LAND WOOD ART

The main income for the Christian community of Bethlehem-The Birth Place of Jesus-is selling their hand crafted olive wood religious items to the pilgrims who visit the area.

The past few years have been extremely hard for the community as a result of declining tourism. Some Christians responded by fleeing the Holy Land ,and the absence of a living Christian community is very dangerous for the Holy Sites such as the Church of The Nativity.

On **November, 25th & 26th**, we will be having some of their beautiful art held for sale in an effort to strengthen the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Advent Parish Mission at St. John the Evengelst Parish

St. John the Evangelist Parish Whitby, invites you to come on out for an Advent Parish Mission led by Fr. Ben St. Croix, CC. The theme for our mission will be "Waiting in Hope". During three evening sessions together, Fr. Ben will speak on various topics that include knowing the love of God, surrender and knowing His will in our lives, the gift of faith, the importance of community, what is the new evangelization and how you are called to be part of it. Come and discover, or rediscover, the love God has for you personally and the beautiful plan He has for your life as we prepare this Advent season for his visitation! Please bring a friend! We look forward to seeing you there!

December 4, 5, 6, 2017 - 7pm to 9pm

Wednesday evening will begin with a mass at 7:00 PM and will be followed by a social after the talk. For more information call (905) 668-3676.



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