

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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www.stleothegreat.ca • e-mail: st.leos@bellnet.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 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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Have you ever wondered why we say or sing *'Holy, Holy, Holy'* repeating the same word three times? In Jesus' time to repeat something twice could show affection or underline the directness of his words, as in the case of Jesus being in Martha and Mary's house and His address to Martha concerning her worrying and fussing over little things – "Martha, Martha,...". Jesus shows intimacy with Martha in repeating her name. When God called Abraham he called his name twice in order to get his absolute attention to the importance of His call and we hear this is Jesus' words from heaven when He called out to St. Paul in the midst of his conversion; "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Likewise, Moses is called out by name by God, "Moses, Moses When God calls you should listen. In Jewish liturgy when something is important it is repeated twice.

When, however, something is repeated three times then it is an extraordinary thing.

The word 'holy' means 'set apart' or 'total otherness'. As Bishop Robert Barron often says, "God is not just another thing in the room. He is totally and absolutely other." The fact that God is God and we are not God is an understatement while it shows us that God, in being totally other to us is in no way and by no means anything like us – He is God. He is the highest, the Creator and Maker of all and there is nothing above Him or besides Him, thus the First Commandment, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt. You shall have no other gods before me." (Deut. 5:6-7)

We get an early glimpse of the greatness of God in the words of the Prophet Isaiah when he describes the angels each having six wings proclaiming the praise and glory of God in His presence:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."**

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. (Isaiah 6:1-4)

The length of a king's train on his robe was an indication of his greatness and here Isaiah describes the train of God as *filling the temple*. And the great attribute of God is proclaimed not just once, not even twice, but three times – "Holy, Holy, Holy!" Isaiah puts great stress on the holiness of God. This is significant for all time but particularly in our own time when God is often seen or referred to as just another thing or being, perhaps in heaven or above us. Even the word 'God' is so grossly and indiscriminately misused and abused today, usually following the words "Oh my...". It is a gross using of the name of God in vain because we are not calling on God nor speaking about Him. It is an abuse of a treasured and great privilege given us by Jesus Himself when He told us that we could call on God as "Our Father". But God is totally and absolutely other, set apart and wholly and entirely different

from us. We may think we can drag God down from on high to hear us as we make our demands but it is a grave, serious matter to approach God as one might call their dog, demanding that He come. In fact, Isaiah's description of the angels have "three pairs of wings (six wings in total) covering their eyes and feet and flying with the third pair says so much about the holiness of God. Why cover their eyes and feet? Because God is so holy that even the angels could not look upon Him and their feet had to be covered because wherever God is, the ground upon which one stood was therefore holy, so their feet must be covered as well. The priest covers himself up with vestments worn while saying Mass because he is taking the place of Christ at the Last Supper but also because as a human being he is not acting simply in a human way with his name, age and status. He is acting as a priest of Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Revelation, John speaks of the vision he sees of the angels surrounding God and who never stop praising God by proclaiming 'Holy'.

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

**"Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come."** (Rev. 4:8)

The word 'holy' in our time has suffered greatly in its misuse and has been demeaned to an extreme degree to the point where we're not even aware of what we are saying any longer. The word 'holy' is used as an adjective which precedes almost any word you can imagine to place in front of it.

BLAME IT ON BATMAN

Perhaps we can blame it on Batman, or more specifically, his sidekick Robin. When I was a child the sitcom Batman was a big hit on television. To watch it now would be laughable if not totally unbelievable and quirky with its bad drama and silly dialogue and Robin's wild and wide us of placing the word 'holy' in front of so many nouns. In fact, I did a bit of research on this only to discover that Wikipedia lists a total of 365 times when Robin used the word 'holy' as an exclamation from Robin to Batman, usually followed by "What are we going to do now?" From 'Holy agility to Holy Zorro', Robin got us in the habit of using the word in any and every application possible. Of course today it is almost any choice word that follows the word used thrice in the scriptures to proclaim the due greatness, the sacredness and the praise of God.

God, however, does not leave the attribute of holiness solely to himself. In 1 Peter 1:15-16 we hear of God's call for us to follow in His way of holiness.

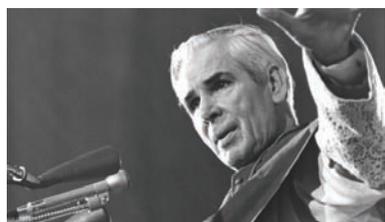
**"Instead, as he who called you is holy, be
holy yourselves in all your conduct;
for it is written,**

"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Just as when Jesus called us to strive toward attaining perfection as His Father is perfect, so God calls His followers to follow in holiness, with its same meaning in God as it is to be for us – to be set apart. Frankly, it's quite easy to be set apart in our culture. All you need do is take God's stance on almost anything in the life you live, the words you say, the positions you hold or in what you do – and you have effectively set

yourself up to be set apart. You will even be laughed at for this stance if people aren't outright hostile and angry with you. I remember hearing comments about my mother when I was growing up how a few people referred to her as "church lady", which, incidentally, was before the character featured on Saturday Night Live. Sometimes, to stand for what is right, good, moral, wholesome and holy is viewed as laughable and worthy of gossip and scorn. But Jesus did say we would know persecution because of our allegiance to Him. If we stand today for what He stood for and stands for still we are set up for insult and ridicule, but perhaps even quiet admiration and inspiration to those who might scoff at us with the crowd. That's the Christian witness we are to give simply by the way we genuinely and quietly live our lives. Could anything greater be said of a person than that he or she was or is holy? (*Fr.C.*)

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen said....



"The world has heard every argument for faith in Christ and is ready to dismiss them all, save one: holiness. The holy priest, the holy Sister, the holy lay man or woman."

"Driven and sustained by his daily holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen lived an intense life of holiness, zeal to save souls and Christian love that helped make him the most influential Catholic in 20th-century America, biographer Thomas C. Reeves says.

Reeves has released a previously unpublished conclusion to his 2002 Sheen biography, *America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen* (Encounter Books). The concluding chapter, titled "Living Intensely," covers Venerable Sheen's spirituality, his inspiration and how others viewed his life.

"To an extraordinary degree, his mind was on God," Reeves wrote of Sheen (1895-1979), the prolific author and Catholic evangelist best remembered for his 1950s television series, "Life is Worth Living." "This supernatural approach to life activated and sustained his enormous energy. He said late in life, 'the secret of my power is that I have never in fifty-five years missed spending an hour in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. That's where the power comes from. That's where sermons are born. That's where every good thought is conceived.'"

Sheen's commitment to keeping a holy hour began on the day of his ordination on September 20, 1919 and lasted until the day of his death on December 9, 1979. He was clearly devoted to the practice, but he viewed it not as a devotion but "a sharing in the work of redemption." For many decades, he urged brother priests, religious and all the faithful to make a daily holy hour.

"We become like that which we gaze upon. Looking into a sunset, the face takes on a golden glow," Sheen wrote in his autobiography, *Treasure in Clay*. "Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms the heart in a mysterious way, as the face of Moses was transformed after his companionship with God on the mountain." The holy hour was also a source for intellectual ideas and preaching. "Theological insights," Sheen once said, "are gained not only from the two covers of a treatise, but from two knees on a prie-dieu before a tabernacle." (*from the online Catholic World Report, March, 2015*)

MASS INTENTIONS – NOV 22 - 27, 2016

Tue, Nov 22	8:30 a.m.	Charma Figuracion+
Wed, Nov 23	7:00 p.m.	Int of David Myung & Family
Thur, Nov 24	8:30 a.m.	Int of Mary Paschal Dimitroff
Fri, Nov 25	8:30 a.m.	Lydia Rezynek+
Sat, Nov 26	5:00 p.m.	Rosalia Reyes+
Sun, Nov 27	9:00 a.m.	Int of Michael Balenzano
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased Members of Mammone Family

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Come for an evening of fun & family on Saturday, November 26 at 6:30 in the parish hall. Tickets are only \$5.00 per family.

COFFEE SUNDAY

Next Sunday after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses

LEO'S LUNCH

Monday, November 28 at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets are available after Masses in the vestibule.

CHILDREN'S FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 29 at 7 p.m. in the church with several priests assisting.

SUNDAY MISSALS

The new **Sunday Missals** which will begin use on the first Sunday of Advent are available at the Welcome Centre for \$5.00 each. Please have exact change ready if possible.

VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Office of Vocations invites single Catholic men, 17 years and older to attend a Vocations Discernment Retreat from Dec 9 to 11, 2016 at Manresa Spiritual Renewal Centre, Pickering. (Starts on Friday at 7 pm). This is a good retreat for men who are at crossroads in discerning God's desired Vocation for them. The retreat offers Guided reflections, Holy Mass, Adoration, confession and the assistance of a vocations team. Suggested donation of \$150 to help cover costs. For more information, please contact (the parish priest) or call 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org.

ROSARY APOSTOLATE

The Rosary Apostolate in the Schools is seeking volunteers (male or female) who have devotion to the Mother of God and who are willing to visit our elementary schools to pray the Rosary with the children once a month. Training will be provided. If you are interested please contact Judy at 905 655 0227.



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