



# St. Leo The Great

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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**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.

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 download the Baptism Information Kit and Registration Form from the parish website, [www.stleothegreat.ca](http://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 (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.

## YOUTH MASS: Help Wanted

Our first Mass with the newly formed Youth Band/Choir took place last Saturday afternoon at the 5 pm. Mass. While we will continue to work out the kinks in the volume levels and balances between voice and instruments in a church with loads of echo, little by little we will get there. All in all the music was well done and several young people inquired about the possibility of joining the choir with their voices.

We are in need of a Bass guitar player which will give lots of foundational musical support to the band. If you have questions, suggestions or would like to get involved at the Youth Mass as a singer, instrumentalist or a Lector.

## SMALL CARPET SAMPLES NEEDED

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word (CL) which is held each Sunday at the 9 am. Mass for children in JK, SK, Gr. 1 & 2 is in need of those *small carpet samples* that carpet stores have which can be used for the children to sit on while they attend the Children's Liturgy. Lately our attendance at the CL has reached as high as 60 children which has made it necessary for them to move from Board Room 1 to the parish hall.

## THE PRAYER

A few years ago I was invited to give a day of retreat for women of the parish as a preparation for the season of Advent. Among the many stories I shared with them that day, I read a verse that is called 'The Prayer' and thought it might be good to share again here in the bulletin as well. (As the author is unknown I can't give credit where credit is due.) The truth that this verse conveys is that there is a big difference for what we ask for and what God desires to give us. While prayer should never be viewed as our shopping list to God, God, who is always aware of our needs knows what is best for us. Following the path of wisdom, God will show us through consistent prayer in our daily lives what we should ask for. One of the aspects of prayer is that whether we seek it or not, whether we desire it or not, whether we know it or not - prayer and praying changes us!

As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King this weekend - the end of the Church year - and prepare to begin once again on our Advent journey, awaiting the coming of the Messiah as did the people two millennia ago, a good habit would be to renew our sense and form the new habit of 'talking to God' and allowing God to talk to us. It demands time, silence and waiting - and that's what Advent is all about anyway. *(Fr. Charles)*

**I asked God to take away my pride. And God said no.**

**He said it was not for him to take away**

**But for me to give up.**

**I asked God to make my handicapped child whole**

**And God said no.**

**He said her spirit is whole. Her body is only temporary.**

**I asked God to grant me patience. And God said no.**

**He said that patience is a by-product of tribulation.**

**It isn't granted. It's earned.**

**I asked God to give me happiness. And God said no.**

**He said he gives blessings. Happiness is up to me.**

**I asked God to spare me pain. And God said no.**

**He said suffering draws you apart from worldly care**

**And brings you closer to him.**

**I asked God to make my spirit grow.**

**And he said no. He said I must grow on my own.**

**But I will be in heaven someday because I believe.**

**I asked God to help me love others as much as he loves me.**

**God said, "Ah, at last. You finally have the idea."**

## "HOLIDAY TREE?"

I heard a story on the news eight years ago that kind of peaked my interest because it was over a name change - the changing of a 'Christmas tree' to a 'holiday tree'.

You see, on December 6, 1917 there was the famous tragedy known as the "Halifax Harbour Explosion" when a Belgian relief vessel and a French munitions carrier collided in Halifax Harbour during World War I. Halifax Harbour was the main base for the new Canadian Navy and was the location of the most important army garrison in Canada at the time. As the port was the hub of wartime activity the harbour was crowded with warships, troops and troop ships as well as many supply ships.

The Halifax harbour explosion was the largest man-made explosion the world had ever known before Hiroshima. The explosion was said to have been heard as far away as Prince Edward Island. Following the explosion and the cost to human life and the devastation to the port as well as Dartmouth, it was tallied that more than 1900 people were killed, 9,000 injured, 1600 buildings were destroyed, 12,000 houses damaged and 6,000 people were left homeless.

Every year since that horrific day in 1917 the province of Nova Scotia has sent a Christmas Tree to Boston in thanks to the New England city for the help they gave in the aftermath of the explosion and the terrible loss of human life.

Apparently, officials with Boston's Parks Department decided it would be "less offensive to some people and generally more inclusive if the word 'Christmas' was dropped when they referred to the tree" and they decided that calling it a "holiday tree" instead was the answer.

The man who sent his 16-metre Christmas Tree to Massachusetts that year, a Mr. Donnie Hatt of Beech Hill, said that "Ever since I was born, a tree was put up for Christmas, not for holidays, because if you're gonna do that you might as well put up a tree for Easter."

I hear you Donnie, loud and clear, and couldn't agree with you more. In our contemporary attempts to be "politically correct" and "inclusive", we don't realize that we are at the very same time being "exclusive", excluding all those who know why it is called a Christmas Tree, a tree put up by Christians to mark the birth of the Messiah. The tree at Christmas, while it stands as an ever-present reminder of our Christmas' past, our childhood, with wrapped presents 'neath its' boughs, it also stands as the symbol and reminder of the Cross of Christ. While its' history has been one that is sketchy at best having all sorts of meanings and derivations, the fact that more recent centuries have found us erecting the trees in our homes and churches at Christmas time - the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Messiah, - and until recently, erected them at civic centers, places of commerce and practically everywhere you could imagine, is proof that our Christian influence on our culture is waning. Neglecting to serve or even recognize the interest and beliefs of some by changing one of their symbols to a generic meaning, (the Christmas tree to the holiday tree), waters down any meaning the tree might have for those who have held it as one of their symbols.

A man in Nova Scotia sends a gift of a Christmas Tree to another country of the world as a continuance of a long-held tradition only to find that the recipients of the gift no longer want to call the gift what it is but want to give it a new name. He sent a Christmas Tree and a Holiday Tree arrived. Could this be the miracle of Christmas? Not likely. Our Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League and so many others work hard to convey the message that Christmas without Christ is nothing. So should we. *(Fr. Charles)*

**MASS INTENTIONS- Week of Nov. 25-30**

Tues. Nov. 25 – 8:30 am – Intentions of Linda & Tim Hutton  
Wed. Nov. 26 -7:00 pm – Carmen+ Req. Gladys Ponce de Leon  
Thurs. Nov.27 – 8:30 am – Intentions of John McCormick  
Req. Lisa McCormick  
Fri. Nov. 28 – 8:30 am – Intentions of Kiera Gayowsky & Family  
Sat. Nov. 29 - 5:00pm – Rosalia Reyes+ Req. Reyes Family  
Sun. Nov. 30- 9:00 am – Maria Teresa Geronimo+  
Req. Johnson Family  
Sun. Nov.30-11:00 am–Brigitte Pegutter+ Req. Wassell Family

**CWL NEWS**

**Home-made Pies in time for the Holidays!!**

The CWL ladies would like to remind you to pick up your Pie & Soup orders after all the masses this weekend in the parish hall.

**Ladies of the Parish** – The St. Leo the Great CWL would like to invite you to attend our **meeting and Potluck** on Sunday November 30 after the 11:00 am mass in the parish hall.

**Christmas Cookies** will be available to purchase after all the masses on December 13/14 in the vestibule of the church.

**BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER** – We wish to take you all on behalf of the Rose of Durham. We collected \$1,698.51 to-date. Please return any remaining baby bottles to the box in the Quiet Room. Thank you.

**Christmas 2014 – 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 items which are so necessary to the men who live on the street which include: new-only socks, underwear, toothbrushes and deodorant, shaving cream, foot powder, lip balm, and Kleenex tissues. We will not be taking any used clothing this season. You are asked to drop off these items in the church vestibule at the Welcome Table.

**Knights of Columbus News**

St. Leo the Great Knights of Columbus will be selling **Campaign Life Christmas Cards and Christmas Cakes** starting next weekend, **November 29 & 30**. Cakes - \$15.00 small & \$25.00 large. Cards - \$8 box.

Also, available to purchase are **“Keeping Christ in Christmas” Lawn Signs** \$15.00 and **Car Magnets** \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for 2.

**Breakfast:** On December 7 following the 9 and 11:00 am masses in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy a **free full breakfast** of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice. **A free will offering to the St. Vincent de Paul would be very much appreciated.**

**CHILDREN’S FIRST RECONCILIATION will be on TUESDAY DECEMBER 2 AT 7:00 PM**  
**PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION will be on TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 AT 7:00 PM**

**BLOOD DONOR CLINIC WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY DECEMBER 1 FROM 4:00 - 7:30 PM. IN THE PARISH HALL.**

**IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE**

**The Book of Remembrance**, in which parishioners can record the names of their deceased family members during the month of November is located in front of the statue of Mary. All these Holy Souls will be remembered at all the masses.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2015**

The 2015 Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup from the tables in the vestibule. The envelopes are arranged in numerical order. If you wish to keep your same envelope number for 2015, please take your box this weekend. You must print your full name and address on the front of each envelope for the month of January. This allows us to enter the correct information in the parish database. Failure to do this, will result in you not receiving a tax receipt for donation made in 2015.

If this year you used an envelope in the 500 series, please note that you have been allotted a new number.

If you cannot remember your envelope box number an alphabetical listing has been provided which will also reference your envelope box number.

If you are not currently using Offertory Envelopes and wish to do so for 2015, please complete a parish Registration Form at the Welcome Table. On receipt of this Registration Form, the office will assign envelopes to you and you will be phoned for pickup.

**PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING 2015**

Parishioners currently on the Pre-Authorized Giving, please pick up your envelopes from **the Table Marked PAG Only**.

**Christmas Joy – St. John the Evangelist Church, Whitby**

St. John the Evangelist Church in Whitby is featuring the Junior Choir of St. Michael’s Choir School and St. John the Evangelist Church Choir in concert to support their renovation fund. Please contact 905-668-3676 for tickets.

**BEL CANTO CHOIR CONCERT – Holy Family Parish, Whitby**

Holy Family Refugee Committee Christmas Concert on Sunday Nov. 30 at 7:00 pm in support of the Refugee Sponsorship Fund with the Bel Canto Choir from Scarborough. Christmas spiritual and season themed songs. Tickets after all weekend masses in November or office 905-665-6470 - \$20 pp, children free.




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