



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

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.

PONDERING GOD'S WORD

At the Masses last Sunday I mentioned at the beginning of my homily that I will try preaching from the pulpit instead of from the center of the sanctuary with the wireless microphone to see if that makes hearing by the parishioners easier. The jury is already in on the issue as so many parishioners told me after Mass that they could hear every word. I guess I'll just have to get used to the pulpit which is, I admit, where I should be in the first place – that's what pulpits are for.

Last weekend's First Reading and Gospel challenges Christians to be people who both say they will do the will of God and then actually do it – it requires both. I spoke about the prophet Ezekiel's rather straight forward, blunt talk on behalf of the Lord which stated,

"When the righteous person turns away from their righteousness and commits iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

Again, when the wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is lawful and right, they shall save their life."

(Ez.18:26-27)

Upon further reflection from actually preaching I am always mindful that there is so much more to be unpacked from the scriptures than the things one could say about them in a single homily. One of the beautiful treasures of God's word is that it continually speaks to us and contains so much more than a single thought or teaching for our lives because it is a living word. It is rich, multi-faceted, deep and abundant in truth and meaning. The readings from last Sunday – the 26th Sunday of Year A – are a perfect example of the 'more' of sacred scripture.

The Ezekiel reading sets the *tone* for Jesus' words to the Pharisees and elders of the people as a direct challenge to how they saw themselves. If prostitutes and despised tax collectors might enter the kingdom of God ahead of these religious representatives of Israel, Jesus is clearly referring to them as the second brother in the Gospel who said he would go into the vineyard and work for his father, but didn't go. Plainly Jesus is accusing *them* of saying but not doing. However, it is important to note that Jesus, while he is turning the tables on the Pharisees, is not saying that prostitutes and tax collectors will be saved to spite the religious leaders, rather only those unrighteous 'sinners' who repent and come to a conversion of heart will have saved their lives. It is flatly wrong to assume that Jesus was saying sinners who remain sinners all their life until death, unrepentant, will enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is a most important point, I think. Why? Because in a politically correct world we make every attempt to import that same brand of correctness to the Gospel of Jesus. This presents Jesus as a silly sort of god who just can't help himself but to forgive everybody, whether they come to Him or not in repentance. As Ezekiel says in verse 28, *"because that person considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they have committed"* they were forgiven and their eternal lives saved. In the Church we know this as conversion; changing from

one kind of being and life to another in opposition to the first. Jesus died so that this conversion might be possible. He didn't die just so everyone, no matter how they lived their lives on earth, would automatically enter heaven upon death, otherwise, why be good, why be moral, why care for anyone else outside of myself? Repentance is necessary.

Earlier on in the 3rd chapter of Ezekiel, (v.20) the prophet addressed the same exhortation to those who were shepherds (priests) of the people:

"It may be that a righteous man turns away and does wrong, and I let that be the cause of his downfall; he will die because you have not warned him. He will die for his sin; the righteous deeds he has done will not be taken into account, and I will hold you answerable for his death. But if you have warned the righteous man not to sin and he has not sinned, then he will have saved his life because he has been warned, and you will have saved yourself."

The 'priest' in all of us who are baptized in Christ calls us to do the same in the lives of those we love. The particular ministry of ordained priesthood of which I am a recipient through God's calling compels me to do the same but to a whole congregation and all people living within the boundaries of this parish, Catholic or otherwise. As a priest I hear all the time the lament of parents and siblings whose children or family members no longer practice the faith. They don't go to church, may or may not have had their children baptized and are raising their children to do the same. The prophet Ezekiel reminds us that we have an obligation to speak to them, to pray for them, to ask God's grace to work in them toward conversion. Yet if we mind our own business and say nothing, the prophet says we are held responsible because we didn't tell them. And why didn't we tell them? Perhaps because we were afraid of what they might say or think about us or that they might distance themselves from us or avoid us. We are worried about ourselves and not them.

I am reminded of the brilliant words found on a Catholic blog many months ago as someone came to my defense against the article written about me in the Toronto Star. The article concerned the Examination of Conscience that I had sent through our elementary schools to parents inviting them back to the practice of faith, entering through the door of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In defending me as 'doing my job', one commentator so aptly wrote:

"The call of the conscience is very unpleasant indeed, but then again, so is the strident noise of the fire alarm, and we don't normally complain about it when it saves our lives. So do we really value our spiritual lives the same way?"

Isn't that the point? Do we value our spiritual lives and those of the people we love enough to try to bring them back to Christ? Or are we more concerned about any chance of offending them? Much food for thought as we listen to the prophets who pointed to Jesus – the One we must listen to and imitate.

St. Luke ends his Gospel with Jesus' last words before ascending into heaven: **"And that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations..."** (Fr. Charles)

OCTOBER 5, 2014

First Reconciliation/Communion Parent Information Mtg.

There will be two Parent Information Meetings for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation/First Communion for all parents of children ages 7 (or in Grade 2). Parents are asked to choose one of the two offered meetings: Either **Thursday October 16 at 7:00 pm.** OR **Sunday October 19 at 12:30 pm.**

Parents are kindly asked not to bring their children. Please bring a photocopy of the original baptismal certificate for your child, and a \$50 Registration Fee. You may choose one out of 9 available Sunday Masses in the Easter Season 2015: The 3 weekend Masses are April 11/12, April 18/19 or April 25/26. Go to our website for full information and forms.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues., Oct. 7 – 8:30 am - John Forget+ Req. by Mary Mahoney
Wed., Oct. 8 – 7:00 pm – John Forget+ Req. by Rolly & Emy Dacpano
Thurs. Oct. 9 – 8:30 am – Josephine Mitchell+
Fri., Oct. 10 – 8:30 am – Sheila Dougherty+ req. Maureen Holly
Sat., Oct. 11 – 5:00 pm – John & Jesse Bayer+ Req. by The Bayer Family
Sun., Oct. 12 – 9:00 am – Arthur Chai+ Req. by Jack & Jeananne Ralph
Sun., Oct. 12 – 11:00 am – Annette Ameloot+ Req. by Margaret McIntyre

The Rosary Apostolate in the Schools

Through the Rosary Apostolate, children are experiencing the power of the Rosary! Dedicate your time to praying the Rosary with children once a month in our Catholic Elementary schools. The Rosary Apostolate is welcoming new members. Please call Judy Delaney at (905) 655-0227.

NEED MORE CHOIR MEMBERS – 11:00 AM MASS

The Choir for the 11 am Mass always welcomes new members and Sept. is a great time to join. We rehearse in the church on Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 8:45 pm and we sing at Sunday Mass each week from Sept. until late May. If you can't read music, we still want you – that's what the rehearsal is for! If you can commit to most Thursdays and Sundays, speak to any of us after Sunday Mass or simply come along on Thursday evening. Men – we really would like to see some of you join us. You "may not get opportunities to do this ever again, so it's about time—it's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There's almost no such thing as ready. There's only now." *(Hugh Laurie, star of "House", in 2012 Time Out interview)

SPAGHETTI DINNER- October 25

The Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner is on **Saturday, Oct. 25th at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.** Tickets are \$15 adults, children 4-12 are \$10 and under 4 are free. The dinner is being catered by Bella Notte Restaurant. Tickets are on sale this weekend.

REMINDER: THIS SUNDAY OCTOBER 5 IS LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY – LOCATION DUNDAS ST E & THICKSON RD FROM 2-3 PM

Please return baby bottles to box in the Quiet Room by Oct. 12. Thank you for helping ROSE OF DURHAM.

Blood Donor Clinic - Monday, Oct. 6 – 4 to 7:30 pm in the parish hall. Enter by Carson Street entrance.

SAVE THE DATE - St Ursula Elementary School is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Saturday, October 18, 2014 with an open house from 1-4 pm at the school, 215 Livingston Road, Scarborough. All former staff and students welcome. Find us on Facebook at St. Ursula 50th Anniversary.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Fr. Keith Wallace, pastor of St. Bernadette, will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – November 16-25, 2014. Cost is \$2595 plus tax. Airfare/4-star hotel/2 meals/admissions/daily mass/coachbus. Call Fr. Keith 905-683-1533.

Celebrate Your Marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Married couples: You deserve a weekend to cherish being together; to rediscover each other and focus on ways to make your relationship even better. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend offers this opportunity. Consider giving each other or another couple that you know the gift of a weekend away from daily pressures; time to be with each other and with God on a Marriage Encounter Weekend. See www.wwme.org.

Upcoming Weekend Date: November 7-9, 2014.

For further info. or registration please contact: Cora & Mike Bryce (905-896-2958) or coramikebryce@sympatico.ca.

Senior Men's High School Retreat

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014 – 9 am to 3 pm. St. Augustine's Seminary, 2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, ON. Deadline for registration is Monday, Oct. 20, 2014. Please submit to vocations@archtoronto.org.

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Call for Candidate Nominations/Self Nominations Election of Parent Members. There are 11 positions available. Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm at St. Bernard Catholic School, Atrium, 1000 Dryden Blvd, Whitby, www.dcpic.ca for Parent Members' link.


Durham Outlook for the Needy - Operating St. Vincent Pallotti's Kitchen. Directors Needed. Please submit a letter and resume to vincents@interlinks.net by October 8, 2014.




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