

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: 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:

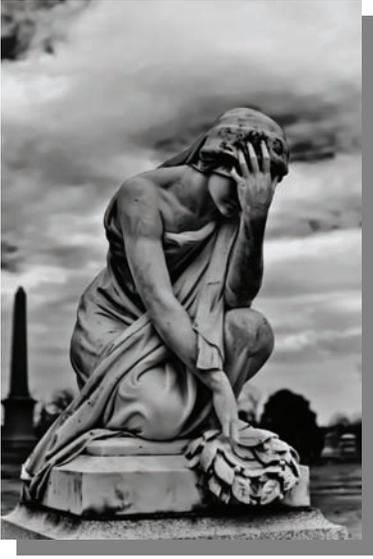
All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.

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.

Coping with Grief *(by Father Charles)*



A few weeks ago in my homily I spoke about the great difficulties in life many people bear in the face of human attempts, even if well intentioned, to explain them away. I received some good feedback from a few people on how this resonated with their own experiences from losing a baby to coping with a seriously sick child to the end of a relationship. Of course the “Why?” of every situation comes to our minds and the human response is to at best try to make some sense of it

which often is followed by further attempts to explain it away. “It’s fate”, “it’s God’s will”, “it was meant to be” are just some of the many ways we try to explain the unexplainable about why something has happened or is happening to another. This is a most fruitless endeavor and if it doesn’t leave one more confused sometimes it even makes things worse. For example, if a couple lose a child their sorrow, grief and heartbreak is tremendous. As their pastor, family member or friend we may want to lessen their anguish often through the use of words meant to help. Yet if we try to gloss over what has happened with hope for the future it may be as if we are ripping them away from the very place they need to be in the moment – dealing and grieving over the loss and the pain. Grief, if deferred or delayed will remain for us to be dealt with. It is a God-given, human reaction to what has taken place.

Anyone who has lost even a dog knows what it’s like to feel the loss of that beloved animal. Sometimes while the loss is fresh to us others might want to bring us some hope by telling us “Well, you can get another one.” This attempt suggests that we just have to ‘replace’ the one we have lost and grieve over with another. It is changing the subject rather than helping the one who grieves. What we feel and how much we feel it is unique to each person and situation

Yet there is such a thing, I believe, as hopeless grief. This is the grief that stands at the edge of a grave and says to itself, “It’s all over. There is nothing else. I will never be happy again without this person.” Unfortunately, I have witnessed this kind of grief far too many times in my 23+ years of priesthood in people who should have the faith but don’t. It turns a hope-filled funeral into an empty, mournful ritual of saying goodbye.

The words of the Gospels and all of Sacred Scripture meet head-on the human hopelessness of death when we hear time after time the greatest hope fulfilled. “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen!” “I am the resurrection and the life!” The dream, the hope, the reality of living forever is fulfilled in none other than the One who is life itself – Jesus Christ – which utterly changes everything.

And so, somewhere between explaining everything away based on things we don’t know at all and the belief in nothingness forever is the truth that Jesus has brought the human vision of living forever to fruition in His own Death and

Resurrection, giving us a hope that you can depend on, live for, strive after and one day see fulfilled after a life of living relationship with Him in the here and now.

And even often poetry can delude us with words that sound nice but really say strange and erroneous things about death and eternal life. Again, often well intentioned I’m sure, many of these poems reduce the person who lived and has died to nothing but a memory. For example, this oft used verse by Mary Elizabeth Frye:

*“Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamonds glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.....”*

What this poem suggests to me is that we are but a memory in the minds of those who survive us after we have died. The dead are alive to us only in our minds and our remembrance of them but not alive in the true and fullest sense of the word. To say that we haven’t died is to ignore the fact that we have, with all the grief and sadness felt by those left behind. Part of our Creed professed each Sunday is the straight forward, admitted fact that Jesus died. He didn’t fall asleep or enter a comatose state but physically as a result of his wounds, torture, beatings and fatigued exhaustion succumbed to the human abuse heaped upon Him. And because His closest friends and even His torturers witnessed this first hand they went away sad or unbelieving or both. Even though He had told His friends that He would rise again they scarcely remembered it, so filled with grief and hopelessness they were. No, those who lived for and believed in Christ are not just dead and remembered any more than Christ is in the minds of unbelievers. They will live and be alive forever with Christ Jesus, the Lord.

Many grief counsellors would recommend that when we don’t know what to say to a grieving person sometimes the best thing to do is nothing more than to hold their hand and be present to them which is to accompany them albeit in silence as they emotionally react to what is. Being present is like saying, “I am here with you and for you. You are not alone in your sadness and pain.” To speak of the one who has died is also important. To re-member a person is to rejoin them to our lives and not refer to them as somehow distant.

What Jesus did to Lazarus, Jairus’ daughter and the Widow of Nain’s son He will do for us who believe – raise us to life again.
(Fr. Charles)

Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love.

And it would be wrong to try to find a substitute.

We must simply hold out and see it through.

That sounds very hard at first

but at the same time

it is a great consolation.

For the gap, as long as it remains unfilled,

preserves the bond between us.

It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap.

God does not fill it

but on the contrary keeps it empty

and so helps us to keep alive our former communion

with each other even at the cost of pain.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FULTON SHEEN ONCE SAID...

Mass is to us the crowning act of Christian worship. A pulpit in which the words of Our Lord are repeated does not unite us to Him; a choir in which sweet sentiments are sung brings us no closer to His Cross than to His garments. A temple without an altar of sacrifice is non-existent among primitive peoples, and is meaningless among Christians. And so in the Catholic Church the altar, and not the pulpit or the choir or the organ, is the center of worship, for there is re-enacted the memorial of His Passion. Its value does not depend on him who says it, or on him who hears it; it depends on Him who is the One High Priest and Victim, Jesus Christ Our Lord. With Him we are united, in spite of our nothingness; in a certain sense, we lose our individuality for the time being; we unite our intellect and our will, our heart and our soul, our body and our blood, so intimately with Christ, that the Heavenly Father sees not so much *us* with our imperfection, but rather sees us *in Him*, the Beloved Son in whom He is well pleased."

More Thoughts on the U.S. Election

It's not that I intended to write repeated in the bulletin about the U.S. Presidential election – this now the third time – but there are just so many strange things that have happened and are taking place that it should make one scratch their head and wonder just what is really going on no matter which candidate you prefer. Now I know that those who were bound and bent to vote for either Mr. Trump or Mrs. Clinton from the start are likely to only see those things about their chosen candidate that puts them in a good light especially when compared to their opponent. Yet in the fullness of time, when all is said and done and one of the two are chosen as Commander and Chief, the truth will eventually come out about them and the human and sometimes dirty machinations that put them in the White House as history has so often showed us before.

One of the puzzling things to me has been the poll results throughout this particular campaign. At times Hillary was in the lead, then she and Donald were neck and neck, and some even said Donald was leading while other big media sources held the contrary was true. There have been suggestions that the polls themselves have been rigged in that more Democrats would be polled on purpose over Republicans, skewing the numbers in favour of Hillary. Now whether or not this is true, one of the factors that would seem to prove this is the rally crowds of Mr. Trump verses those of Mrs. Clinton. The pictures and video don't lie. Trumps crowds are massive, jam-packed and loud with excitement while Mrs. Clinton's look like a sad birthday party no one showed up for. Virtually everywhere Mr. Trump goes the crowds are enormous while Hillary's look like cricket conventions. How is this possible and yet the polls continue to show that Mrs. Clinton is already the clear winner?

As well, some of the non-mainstream media types, like those conservative leaning types who post themselves on social media literally get millions of followers, likes, views while the Hollywood movie stars who come out so vocally against Mr. Trump get abysmal numbers in comparison? This is an election like no other I have seen before and it would perhaps remain as one big joke between these two persons were it not so darned important, not just for Americans themselves but indeed for most if not all the people on earth. God help us all.

(Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS – NOV 1 - 6, 2016

Tue, Nov 1	7:00 p.m.	All Saints
Wed, Nov 2	7:00 p.m.	All Souls
Thur, Nov 3	8:30 a.m.	Paul & Flora Sim+
Fri, Nov 4	8:30 a.m.	Jennifer Samways+
Sat, Nov 5	5:00 p.m.	Deceased members of Tuzi Family
Sun, Nov 6	9:00 a.m.	Minda Figuracion+
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased members of Sullivan Family

ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS

Mass will be celebrated on **November 1 at 7:00 p.m.** for All Saints' Day.

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.

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

November 6 – Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES OF DURHAM

CFSD is dedicated to strengthening the emotional and social well-being of individuals and families, regardless of beliefs, through counselling, prevention and education. We are currently seeking dedicated people to serve as a member of our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of up to 15 individuals from the community and meets once a month. For more information about CFSD services, please visit our website www.cfsdurham.com. To learn about joining our Board of Directors, please email board of directors@cfsdurham.com or contact Tania at 905 725 3513 ext.121

OFFICE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 3 as our secretary will be attending Parish Administration Workshop.

COME AND SEE WEEKEND

Friday, Nov. 4 to Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016 at St. Augustine's Seminary_ Inviting single Catholic men 18 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to a better discernment of God's call for their lives. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. Please contact (the Parish Priest) or the Office of Vocations at: 416 968 0997; email: vocations@archtoronto.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS #5 IN THE PARISH HALL ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – 7 PM TO 8:30 PM



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