

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: Maureen Holly 905-655-3286 x 101



On Thanksgiving,
Give thanks to the Lord
for His many Blessings

GOD BLESS YOU, MAUREEN!

After serving our parish as parish secretary these past five years, Maureen Holly has decided to resign her position here. As our parishioners know, Maureen had back surgery at the beginning of June and was off on sick-leave to recuperate with October as her intended return date. Maureen has expressed to me that it is with a heavy heart she leaves her position here as she has come to know so many parishioners and has been met with great friendship here, particularly recently in all those who have been wishing her well and praying for her before and post-surgery.

Over the years many people both inside and outside of our parish have held an appreciation for Maureen's friendly, caring voice on the phone or in the office. She was truly an extension of the welcome Christ gives to all in need, whether they simply came to get a Mass Card, had come to an appointment to arrange a funeral after the death of a loved one or were seeking out information. Maureen, on several occasions, attended to a grieving soul who had walked into the office by dropping what she was doing and going to them offering a hug and a consoling word. In a job where there is never enough time to get everything done, she would make time.

A parish secretary's role is far more than clerical organization and bookkeeping. There are a thousand interruptions to daily tasks and several hats are worn from the coordination of ministries and groups to serving as a counsellor for the down trodden and sorrowful whose life path has suddenly intersected the parish office door. The secretary is the face of the parish for they are the first voice and first face that is often seen as the stranger approaches "the parish". Maureen has faithfully served as a gentle, joy-filled and faithful ambassador for Christ, the Catholic Church and St. Leo the Great Parish and her presence and gifts will be greatly missed as they are greatly remembered. As pastor, who has known Maureen for some seventeen years now, I will miss her friendship and every-day presence in our work space we call the parish office.

On behalf of the parish I have extended an invitation to Maureen to allow the parish of St. Leo the Great an opportunity to say goodbye to her at an after-Mass social but Maureen has declined the offer, perhaps desirous of a quieter leaving which I know has come with a heavy heart in arriving at the decision to do so now in her life.

All of us extend our gratitude to her for the work she has done, our recognition of who she has been among us and our prayers as she continues her journey in this ever-changing but wonderful life. Thank you and God love you, Maureen!

"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."

(1 Thess. 55:23)

FIRST COMMUNION 2016-2017 PARENT MEETINGS & REGISTRATION

Parents of children in Grade 2 (7 years old) who wish for their child to prepare for and celebrate *First Holy Communion* at St. Leo the Great Parish are asked to choose to attend one of the two offered Information Meetings. (It is not necessary to bring the children to the meeting.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 7:00 PM.

or

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 12:30 PM.

(following the Sunday 11 am. Mass)

Parents are asked to go to our parish website — stleothegreat.ca to find information about the preparation process, the dates for First Reconciliation and First Communions, etc. Parents are reminded to bring with them:

- a copy of their child's RC Baptism Certificate,
- the downloaded and completed Registration Form,
- a \$50. as a donation to the parish to assist in covering costs.

We look forward to celebrating with you and your child Christ's gift of His Body and Blood.

A NEW PARISH SECRETARY

As our beloved Maureen Holly leaves us, I welcome our new parish secretary, **Magda Nowak**, who has begun to serve in this position. Magda, along with her husband Andrzej and their three children, Matthew, Jacob and Helena, have been long-time parishioners of St. Leo the Great. Matthew and Jacob are altar servers and Magda has served the parish as coordinator of this ministry. She so ably and tirelessly served as secretary to our parish's Family of Faith campaign and has coordinated the annual Totus Tuus summer camp over the past two years. In the past she has proved invaluable in our request for her I.T. help with our parish computer systems. Magda brings with her a plethora of experience with her background as a project Manager for Hewlett Packard having worked for HP for 19 years. I know our parishioners will welcome Magda to the parish office in her new role as she utilizes her gifts and talents with us. Welcome Magda!

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The parish will now have new office hours which will both serve the needs of our parishioners while allowing for the many daily office tasks to be efficiently administered. In order to better accomplish this dual role the new office hours will be:

MONDAY TO THURSDAY

9 am. to 3 pm.

with the office closed for one hour from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. for lunch each day.

The office will continue to be closed on Friday's.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S DEBATE

I've never really been very interested in politics though I clearly have my own worldview on the issues of importance that effect and interest us all. In particular, I've never really paid too much attention to American political races, that is, until the current U.S. Presidential race. The battle for the White House is between a man and a woman, between a non-politician and a long-time politician. Both have their own experiences they draw from as they put themselves on the ballot that will see only one of them elected as President of the United States of America. The race is historic in that Hillary Clinton's dream is to be the first woman president in U.S. history and Donald Trump would be the first non-politician elected to the country's highest office. This election has been messy frankly because both of these candidates have messy, imperfect pasts and lives. In the 30+ years Mrs. Clinton has served in politics she has only gained fame from her bungles and very rare achievements. It is a provable fact that she has lied continuously throughout her career to the present substantiated in well documented facts, so many of them caught on video if people would only look. Mr. Trump is a multi-millionaire businessman who has a checkered past in the relationships he has had with women, the things he has said publicly and the way he handles himself still in front of a microphone. So many Americans don't seem to like either choice much and if it came down to a popularity contest it seems many would be resigned to hold their noses and choose one of the two either because they are partisan to the Democrats or the Republicans or because one is less harmful in their estimation over the other choice.

And the race to the White House has been anything but fair. Frankly, I'm flat out disgusted with the mainstream media both in the U.S. and here in Canada on their treatment of the two candidates. Admittedly, Donald Trump can hardly open his mouth for putting his foot in it, yet much of what he says, though simplistic and unpolished, makes some degree of sense. Of course, many people would never know this because they're too busy listening to the one-sided media which unashamedly endorses Hillary at every turn, totally overlooking her lies, scandals and debacles that have even cost American lives. To me, and this is purely my opinion, Mrs. Clinton epitomizes the old question, "How can you tell a politician is lying? Their lips are moving." With the media on her side, though secretly I think they can hardly stand her and her rallies are so poorly attended, there is little scrutiny placed on her while Mr. Trumps' every word is scrutinized and made a headline. Ultimately, our American cousins will get the politician they elect and deserve. Since this is not Canadian politics I will say that I would honestly be concerned about a Trump presidency but outright scared with not one but two Clintons in the White House and its negative impact on America and the rest of the world itself.

Last Tuesday evening I listened to the Vice-Presidents' debate between Democrat Tim Kaine and Republican Mike Pence. Both men were asked about the role of their faith and how it has challenged their political lives. Kaine, a Catholic, greatly disturbed me with his stance on women's choice in regard to

abortion all the while forgetting the child, as pro-choicers always do, while Christian Mike Pence spoke profoundly about the dignity and sanctity of each and every human life, even quoting St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta on adoption over abortion. And while Mrs. Clinton may be in my estimation of things a dangerous president because of her past and her present views, words and track record she will mean unspeakable death for countless more millions of human lives in the womb. And here I sit, a Catholic priest favouring and applauding a Bible Christian over a Catholic man whose wishy-washy public statements about human life give the Jesuit education he so highly praised on national television, a tarnished name. The words of W.B. Yeats which come to mind:

*"The best lack all conviction,
while the worst are full of passionate intensity."*

Senator Pence tried to give a quote from Mother Teresa on the topic of respect for life, though the ever-interrupting Kaine wouldn't let him finish. I know what he was trying to say. It was when Mother Teresa spoke at a National Prayer Breakfast many years ago and sat beside First Lady, Hillary Clinton. Clinton asked Mother Teresa, "Why do you think we haven't had a woman as president yet?", to which Mother Teresa simply replied with the *willing the one thing* that makes humans saints, "Because she probably has been aborted." (Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS – OCT. 11 - OCT. 16, 2016

Tues., Oct. 11 – 8:30 am – Lenore (Lang) McCauley+

Req. by the Perry Family

Wed., Oct. 12 – 7:00 pm – Tony Vonk+ Req. by Madelaine Vonk

Thurs., Oct. 13 – 8:30 am – Olga Young+ Req. by Maria Aloise

Fri., Oct. 14 – 8:30 am – Olga Young+ Req. by Maria Aloise

Sat. Oct. 15 – 5:00 pm – For the intentions of Matthew Soares

Req. by the LeBlanc Family

Sun. Oct. 16 - 9:00 am – Violet Blight+ Req. by the Blight Family

11:00 am – Dennis Chappell+ Req. by Maria Aloise

CONFIRMATION CLASS #2 IN THE PARISH HALL ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 – 7 PM TO 8:30 PM.

PARISH FALL BAZAAR - Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 9 am to 3 pm. Items may be dropped off at the parish hall from 10 am to noon, or 1 pm to 3 pm or 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday, October 10 to Thursday, October 13. No drop offs on Friday, October 14. We need the help of all of us to ensure a successful event. Your help will be needed to make donations to the tables, to work the tables and, of course, we all shop at the Bazaar. All proceeds going to the support of the temporal needs of the Parish.


St. Leo's Knights of Columbus Annual Spaghetti Dinner – Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016 in the parish hall after the 5 pm Mass. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youths 4-12 and children under 4 are free. Please enter parish hall from Carson Street.




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