



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: office@stleothegreat.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 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Friday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass)

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 4:30 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 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 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.

MARGARET & DEMENTIA

As most parishioners know, my 87-year-old mother, Margaret, has been suffering with Dementia these past twenty years or more. While some have fittingly called this dread disease of the mind and memory, *The Long Goodbye*, I haven't really been living with the sense that I have been



saying goodbye to her at all, save now when her body seems to be shutting down and her responsiveness is waning. There definitely has been a slow but constant deterioration not only of her mind capacity but a slow crippling of her body to the point where now she can't move her legs in bed or wheelchair and can only, but so little, move her head slightly or her hand

slowly to touch her chin. In the last ten years my mother has been living in a nursing home, though the transition to institutional life isn't really home.

When all else is stripped away, home should be your family, your children, those closest to you who know you as spouse, parent, grandparent and friend. Yet all too often those who are consigned to nursing home care to wait out their days to the end of them, are largely and so sadly not accompanied on this journey by those who should be closest to them. Many, in this case, victims, of nursing home care are closest to those who are close to them around the clock; the PSW's and nurses who treat the individual but don't and can't offer them that care that should come from their family. This, in my opinion, is abandonment by families.

The staff in the nursing home my mother lives in attend to her every day needs with such love, dedication and genuine care. For them it is their vocation and the exercising of the gifts of compassion they have been blessed with. And God bless them for it.

My mother's difficult journey from first diagnosis to the present has been a challenge for her. The first ten years after my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, (which was later changed to a form of Dementia due to her longevity), were spent at our family home in Whitby. It was a challenging learning curve for my father in that it demanded extraordinary patience in dealing with my mother's confusion, fear and frustration along with her repeated questions about the same thing. Dementia, in its earlier stages, can manifest itself to the individual who suffers from it, as an every-two-minutes default delete button within their minds. They ask a question of another and then a few moments later will ask it again. This can be a source of great anxiety to the caregiver who themselves become frustrated in having to constantly answer the same questions over and over again. This is why it is so important and necessary that caregivers themselves experience relief and

a break from the demands put on them of caring for someone who needs increasingly constant care. I was fortunate and blessed as a priest to be able to offer my father some respite from care of my mother, having her come and stay with me for a week or two every once in a while when I was pastor of St. John Vianney in Barrie. The staff and parishioners were very supportive of me as I cared for my mother and would offer to take her to Mass or arrange for a gathering of some of the women who had come to know my mother at one of their homes for lunch and tea and social time. My mother loved it and them. Even with Dementia, my mother didn't lose her wonderful sense of humour. At one such luncheon with the ladies, the host of the lunch, who was well known for her denial of her real age, shared a story about her being born during the war. My mother chimed in with, "Which one, Elsie? The First or the Second?" Everyone roared with laughter.

Over time and with the physical weakening of my father, my dad realized that he could no longer care for my mother by himself. While day-care options were helpful they weren't enough to relieve him from the 24/7 care of my mother that was definitely taking its toll on his own health and well-being. My mother needed nursing home care.

From my perspective, her first nursing home consignment was not a good one, to put it mildly, offering poor facilities and general neglect, and she endured a full year there before we were able to get her into Fairview Lodge in Whitby. Over time her walking abilities lessened and she used a wheelchair, eventually rendering her unable to walk at all. In earlier years her musical memory had been phenomenal and we would sit for an hour or so and sing songs for which I needed a book but she remembered by heart. This, too, changed over time and my mother spoke less and less. I hadn't heard my mother say my name for over a year, until one day about six months ago; she spoke it ever so quietly. Now, while some days she will try to speak, her words are unintelligible, but it doesn't matter. They are words of address to one she knows and knows her and, here, there are no replacements for time spent holding her hand and talking to her, praying with her, or even sometimes singing to her some of her favourite songs and hymns.

About five weeks ago when I went to visit in the evening, the pill-nurse stopped me in the hall and asked me whether I had received a call from the nursing home. I hadn't. She told me that my mother hadn't eaten all day, was running a fever and was developing a rattle in her throat, a familiar sign to anyone who has watched a loved one in the early stages of dying. Ever since, my mother has developed pneumonia and requires a family member to feed her as it takes sometimes an hour or two to do this as my mother eats slowly and to prevent her from choking. The staff, with so many others to feed all at once, doesn't have time to feed her as the demand on them is great and even the pill nurses and the RN are often enlisted to help feed the residents. One of my brothers and I have taken on the lion's share of this blessed task of going each day to feed her, often being told when we arrive at dinner time that my mother hasn't eaten at all that day. So far, we have been able to apply time and care to feed her all her dinner, dessert and one or

two drinks, giving her the basics of life itself – *food and hydration*, which brings me to a point I have written about in previous bulletins, the increasing removal of these on doctor's recommendations when it is deemed that the person is dying and feeding and giving them fluids is only prolonging their 'suffering'. This, in most cases, is tantamount to passive Euthanasia and is morally and ethically wrong according to Catholic teaching. Only when feeding and hydrating a person that would make their situation worse is it permissible to stop these. We are not the final arbiters of life. God is. And we tread on treacherous ground when we cross that line where a human solely decides the end of another person's life. We need to be careful ourselves that we don't defer discernment to 'experts'. The Church is clear that extraordinary efforts to keep someone alive are not necessary but that as long as a person is able to take in nutrition without detriment to their health, these must be sustained. More and more, they are being removed only to speed up the dying process.



Mary Forget. (FrC)

One parishioner remarked to me that "Your mom is on the cross". Indeed she is: the cross Christ shared with her in His call for her to follow Him, and this she has done. I was reminded of this a few weeks ago when I took this picture of my mother's feet. She is indeed on her bed of the cross. I find great hope and joy in what Christ promises after this and forever. Please, in your kindness, say a prayer for Margaret

**Educate, Reflect, Act!
Be An Informed Voter!**

With a federal election scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019, the Archdiocese of Toronto has prepared a series of resources to help us reflect on important issues throughout the campaign. These short video vignettes and one page reflections provide background through a Catholic lens on issues like poverty, religious persecution, life issues, environment, etc. As a charity, the church cannot tell people who to vote for but we do hope that all Catholics will read the party platforms from our faith perspective. To access these resources, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/election — let's learn about the issues as we prepare to cast a ballot on October 21.

**Thursday, October 3, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Federal Election Debate From A Catholic Perspective
New Viewing Locations Announced!**

Thanks to an overwhelming response, in just three days, more than 1,000 free tickets were ordered for the Thursday, October 3, 2019 Federal Election Debate from a Catholic Perspective. While tickets for the John Bassett Theatre are sold out, four archdiocesan parishes (located in Brampton, North York, Barrie and Oshawa) equipped with the appropriate technology are opening their halls for viewing parties to bring interested Catholics together to participate in this important evening. Individuals can also livestream the event from their own home should they wish to do so. To order free tickets for a viewing party near you or to learn more about the livestream, the debate and related resources, please visit www.archtoronto.org/election.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Registration in the Church – Parents only
**Sunday, September 29 at 12:30 p.m. or
Tuesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

Please bring:

- A Registration Form (available on our website)
- A photocopy of your child's Baptism Certificate
- \$50 registration donation

Please note that registration for the sacraments this year will take place on these dates only. Late registration will be deferred to the Fall of 2020. Please make sure these dates are on your calendar.



Evening at the Seminary
Monday, October 7 @ 4:45pm at St. Augustine's Seminary. Inviting men in Grades 12 and older to come and experience seminary life. The evening will include Mass and supper with the seminary community followed by a short talk by Fr. Chris Lemieux. **Please register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca.** For more information, please contact the Office of Vocations at: 416 968 0997; email: vocations@archtoronto.org.

Marriage Preparation Course

St. John the Evangelist
903 Giffard Street, Whitby
Marriage Preparation Course, Fee \$150 per couple
Six Tuesday Evenings October 15, 22,29, November 5,12,19
7pm to 9pm
Register at the parish office (905) 668-3676

Celebrate Your Marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Celebrate your love and take a fresh look at your marriage! Spend a very special weekend together. A Weekend of discovery...a lifetime of love! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend getaway that helps married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The Weekend format helps couples communicate openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling.

Upcoming Weekend: October 25-27, 2019 - Four Points Sheraton (Argentia Road), Mississauga, ON

For more information and application, please go to www.wmwe.org or contact:

Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or (905) 792-1925.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

- Tuesday, September 24th**
8:30 a.m. Intentions of Margaret Forget
- Wednesday, September 25th**
7:00 p.m. Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group
- Thursday, September 26th**
8:30 a.m. † Armenio Medeiros & all the souls in Purgatory
- Friday, September 27th**
8:30 a.m. Intentions of Fr. Chris Rupert
- Saturday, September 28th**
4:30 p.m. Intentions of Juanita Simmons
- Sunday, September 29th**
9:00 a.m. † Michael McGriskin
11:00 a.m. † Vincenzina Mamone & Attilio & Maria Tuzi



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