

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

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.

ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH
AND OUR FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Giving is Worship
GIVING TO THE ONE WHO FIRST GAVE

Dear parishioners,
over the past months of late spring and summer our parish's offertory collections have plummeted to the lowest numbers I have witnessed in the past eight years. Besides the contributions of those parishioners who give to the parish through *Pre-Authorized Giving*, we saw weekly collections dip between the \$2-3,000. range for three weeks in a row in August when our parish needs a regular weekly income of \$8,000. just to pay our bills. Repeatedly over the summer the collections have dipped extremely low which means that on a monthly basis when we should be seeing collection numbers totaling \$32,000. or more we saw \$25,000. in July and just over \$20,000 in August. This amounts to a most serious deficit each month and even when parishioners are back from periods of weekends away the parish can never recoup that loss.

What our parish needs is a regular weekly income to, as I say, pay the bills and this can only be achieved I'm convinced by parishioners pledging to commit to giving through Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). While we were originally planning to put a push on PAG in November when most parishioners are back from weekends at trailers, cottages or weekends away, we can't afford to wait.

Our parish is comprised of people who go away weekends from May until October and others who go away for several winter months (the snowbirds). Realistically and quite frankly, parishioners contributing to the offertory only when they are here greatly diminishes our income and the result is the low collections we are seeing.

JULY

July 2 – 3,089.00
July 9 – 3,547.75
July 16 – 3,025.00
July 23 – 3,170.00
July 30 – 3,250.00
PAG (total for month of July) \$8,659.00

AUGUST

August 6 – 3,752.10
August 13 – 2,523.00
August 20 – 2,465.25
August 27 – 2,580.00
PAG (total for month of August) \$9,076.00

Right now the average amount of \$2,075. is given each week through PAG, though the contributions are made by parishioners through their bank accounts on a monthly basis. This is the source of our parish's regular, dependable and consistent income to meet our parish financial commitments and it is money we can count on to receive each and every month whether those parishioners are here at Mass or away for weeks or even months.

PERSONAL TESTAMONY As a priest I live on a fixed income, pay for my own vehicle, insurance, maintenance,

fuel, etc. and pay for my own clothes, personal effects, dog food, etc. My gross annual salary is below \$40,000. and while I contribute to Sick Kids hospital and other charities as well as the parish collection (\$150. per month through PAG), the Family of Faith campaign (\$100. per month, 1,200. annually for 5 years) it starts to add up, not to mention any other special collections and charities that I might contribute to. However, I am only one person who contributes among many people and while perhaps some parishioners have simply not given much thought to increasing their weekly offertory donation this is the area where our change of attitude toward parish giving needs to matter. Considering how and how much each of us is giving is the starting point and giving serious thought to what we are able to contribute on a weekly or monthly basis that is sacrificial, in that we are taking money from some other area of our life where we deem it less important and giving that to God through the Church. Yet the greatest change is in parishioners making the switch from cash and offertory envelope contributions to every-Sunday contributions through Pre-Authorized Giving.

GOOD MATH, BAD STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is the word used to describe the biblical reality that the world has been put into our hands and as people of faith we have a responsibility to contribute to the needs of the Church, principally and primarily in our own parishes. I've often heard people say when the topic of giving comes up that if x amount of parishioners just gave x amount of dollars each week to the collection we'd have no shortfall in our parish collections, however, this may be good math and calculation but it's not stewardship because x amount of people will not contribute that amount resulting in a shortfall the likes of which we have been experiencing.

I know too well that most often in the Catholic Church we only talk about stewardship when we're trying to raise awareness and money. We haul out and cite the many examples from God himself in the scriptures when he instructs us to give 1/10th of our earnings to him each week, but few of us Catholics do. In fact, statistics show that a good number of Catholics in any parish give more money in tips in a week than they give to their parish. People may spend far more money on coffee in a week than they would be prepared to give to the Church. One of the problems is, of course, being a 20-century old Church. People figure that the Church was here last week and it will still be here next week, so why should I give?

MUCH COMPETITION

Another challenge presents itself to us at St. Leo the Great parish when we see just how many special collections there are throughout the year including the annual Missionary appeals, the disaster relief collections which arise out of real and urgent needs and the many other archdiocesan collections throughout the year, including the several month long ShareLife collections. All of these special collections outside of our parish's weekly offertory are important and worthy of our support but they must follow after our parish's own financial burdens to be met. As the old saying which rings true still says, "Charity begins at home". Many of our parishioners no doubt are suffering from donor fatigue from

the many worthy causes vying for our charitable contributions.

THIS MIGHT SURPRISE YOU, BUT....

I am about to share something with you that you may not be aware of...

that the Archdiocese recommends to all parishioners in every parish to make sure they are taking care of the needs of their local parish first, and all other donations to worthwhile charities, collections and causes coming afterward.

Just as families will make sure they are paying their own bills, putting food on the table and clothes on their backs before they will give to charities we, as members of the family of St. Leo the Great need to ensure that our parish is able to meet our financial commitments.

THE BENEFIT AND SIMPLICITY OF PAG

Pre-Authorized Giving is the best solution to our parish's financial situation as it provides your parish with a regular, dependable income – it's money we can count on. It is controlled by the giver and maintained by the parish and Archdiocese in that parishioners may increase or decrease their amount of giving when and as they wish and they may cancel at anytime. It eliminates the need for writing cheques, having cash on hand or the need for envelopes. If parishioners would like to give their offertory through PAG but feel awkward not putting something in the basket when the collection takes place, they are free to still take a box of envelopes and each week simply write PAG on the empty envelope and place it in the collection basket as it comes around.

As pastor, I am seriously yet humbly asking all of our parishioners to consider your blessings – all of which come from God as do mine – and in prayer give thought to sacrificial giving to the parish and to switching from cash and envelopes to Pre-Authorized Giving. Remember also that no other special collection is more important than our own for our very existence is dependent totally upon weekly parishioner contributions.

We cannot outdo the Lord in generosity... but at least we should try.

PAG forms are available at the Welcome Centre counter in the vestibule of the church.

May God richly bless you and our parish!

In Christ, *Fr. Charles*, Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue, Sept 26	8:30 a.m.	St. Leo School Mass
Wed, Sept 27	7:00 p.m.	Tony Vandervoort +
Thur, Sept 28	8:30 a.m.	
Fri, Sept 29	8:30 a.m.	
Sat, Sept 30	5:00 p.m.	Vincenzina Mammone & Attilio & Maria Tuzi +
Sun, Oct 1	9:00 a.m.	Paula O'Donnell +
	11:00 a.m.	Oliveen Trainor+

YOUTH MINISTRY

Teens! Don't miss the opening nights of our exciting 2017 Lifeteen and Edge fall semesters that will be starting up this week and next.

Edge Nights

- each Thursday evening for grades 6, 7 & 8
- begins Thursday September 28th, 6:30 - 7:45pm.

Lifeteen Nights

- each Saturday evening for students grade 9 - 12
- begins Saturday September 23rd, 6:15 - 7:30pm

You can now go to our website stleothegreat.ca to download and print the registration form. You can find it under the Youth Ministry tab on the home page. Registration forms are also available in the vestibule or can be picked up at the office during business hours. The nominal annual registration fee for both programs is \$40 per youth. You can drop off the registration form with the fee at the parish office. If the office is closed, simply leave it in the outside office mailbox. In the coming weeks we should have our ministry social media up and running. This will be a great resource not only for our teens but for the parents of teens enrolled in Edge and Lifeteen. We'll be posting schedules, events, pictures and much more. Once it's ready I'll provide further information on how to gain access to the various private media platforms we'll be using. Last weekend I attended a Youth Ministry training conference in Mississauga put on by the Office of Catholic Youth. The event featured quest speakers and a chance to learn from subject matter experts who spoke on many of the issues affecting today's teenagers. Fellowship, prayer time and music were interwoven into the busy schedule making for a very informative and uplifting day. On Wednesday of this past week I had the pleasure of visiting Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School in Whitby to talk with them about our Youth Ministry. I was given the opportunity to present to students in class and in the cafeteria during lunch. Personal thanks to Robert LeBlanc from our parish for arranging this visit to his school. For all Youth ministry inquiries please contact me, Dennis Wardle, personally at the church by calling (905) 655-3286 ext. 103 or email me at youth@stleothegreat.ca. Thank you everyone for your continued prayers and incredible support, God Bless (*Dennis Wardle, Youth Director*)

KofC news

St. Leo Knights of Columbus **Breakfast** following the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses on **October 1**. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a full breakfast of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juice in the Church hall. Adults - \$5.00, Children ages 4-12 - \$3.00 and Children under 4 - free.


Spaghetti Dinner – October 21 at 6 p.m.




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