

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

905.655.3286

www.stleothegreat.ca e-mail: officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com

Pastor: Father Mounir El- Rassi

Parish Secretary: Sandy Yatabe 905-655-3286 ext. 1

Office Hours

Monday, Saturday & Sunday: closed

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:30 am

Wednesday: 7:00 pm

First Saturday: 8:30 am

Benediction and Adoration

Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am - with Children's Liturgy

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday: 9:15 am - 9:45 am

Saturday: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Ave Rosarium Cenacle Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Contact: francavascol@gmail.com

Sacrament of Baptism

Go to our website Forms

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact your parish priest at least one year in advance. 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.

Altar Servers' Ministry

Altar Servers / children serve the mass they attend. Arrive 15 minutes before your mass if possible, Please register children for this ministry at the Welcome Centre.

Knights of Columbus

Peter Darcy Grand Knight Contact: stleokoc@gmail.com

Saint Vincent de Paul

President: Maureen Kerr maureen.kerr100@gmail.com

905-655-3286 ext 3

Catholic Women's League (CWL)

President: Shannon Rogers smarogers@gmail.com

Catering Services

Franca Vasco 905-621-9658

Federation of North American Explorers (FNE)

Founder: Paul Ritchi Paul.ritchi@gmail.com 416-435-6593

To become a Catholic Please contact the parish office

Local Hospitals & Emergency Pastoral Visits

There is a full-time Catholic priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week: Oshawa, Whitby and Port Perry. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether Hospital Chaplain is present in the Hospital or when he will be. If there is an emergency, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286, ext 8

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Saturday, April 11th

4:30pm + Marya, Joze Ralik
Rose, Aldo Cesnik

Sunday, April 12th

9:00am + Joe Hocevar
11:00am + Vincent Murphy

Tuesday, April 14th

8:30am + John McBride

Wednesday, April 15th

7:00pm Pro Populo

Thursday, April 16th

8:30am + Innocenzo & + Vincenzina Mammone,
+ Attilio & + Maria Tuzi

Friday, April 17th

8:30am + Maria Masteopietro
+ Gloria Lena

Saturday, April 18th

4:30pm + Ed Fox

Sunday, April 19th

9:00am + Joe Hocevar
11:00am + Henryk Olejniczak

Sanctuary Light - Kenise Kilbride

Vigil Light - Marjorie Asselin

To reserve the Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary & to schedule a visit with the Parish Priest, please contact the office.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

New Office Hours:

Tuesdays - Fridays 8am - 4:30pm
(Lunch 12:00 - 12:30)

Mass Intentions:

If you would like to offer a Mass Intention for a special occasion, birthday, anniversary, or for the soul of a departed loved one, please contact the office by phone or email. The suggested offering is \$20 per Mass and prayer cards are available too!

Community Board:

At the back of the church, you will find a new Community Board where we can post professional services to support one another, subject to the Pastor's approval. Please submit your requests to the office so we can help promote your business.

*****A Very Special Thank You*****

The Parish came together in presenting a successful Easter Vigil Reception following a beautiful Mass and entrance to the Church of 11 people - 6 baptized and 5 received. We truly celebrated The Risen Christ. Fr Mounir was everywhere working from very early morning to late at night. Tom, John and Sidney (Knights) organized seating and served the beverages. Minerva, Joan, and Silvia looked after decorating, serving and clearing away. Shannon (CWL) arranged the gifts for the newly received Catholics. Louise, Donna, Margaret, Michelle and Jeanne (CWL) organized the reception. This was a perfect example of Parish unity! Everyone enjoyed the evening celebrating our Risen Christ. Thank you to The Knights of Columbus, The Events Committee and The CWL for all their work in providing a happy, celebratory event. We all thank Fr. Mounir for bringing us to the Eucharistic Table of love and unity. God is smiling upon St Leo Parish.

Newly Baptized Children

Fr. Mounir also baptized 6 children prior to the Easter Vigil. Thank you to the parents for raising your family in the Catholic faith, the best gift for life.

Easter Vigil Celebrations Baptize 2,000 Catholics

After months of preparation and prayer through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program, a total of 2,050 catechumens were baptized at Easter Vigil celebrations across the Archdiocese of Toronto on Holy Saturday. This compares to 1,823 catechumens who were baptized at the Easter Vigil in 2025. The number of those already baptized who were received into full communion this Easter was 1,620 compared with 1,280 in 2025.

At St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo presided at the Easter Vigil at 9 p.m., celebrating the sacraments with the newly initiated from the cathedral community.

The Vigil unfolds in four distinct parts, each filled with significance: The Service of Light includes the lighting of the Paschal Candle – representing Christ— followed by the Liturgy of the Word, which journeys through salvation history. The Baptismal Liturgy is next, which is the moment of initiation into the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the high point of the Vigil – uniting the congregation with Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. This is the Easter sacrament in its fullest sense, commemorating the sacrifice of the Cross and celebrating the presence of the risen Christ.

A larger celebration, the Neophyte Mass, bringing together all those who have entered full communion with the Catholic community this year from across the archdiocese, will take place at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2 p.m.

We pray for all those who have journeyed through the RCIA program and those who have helped prepare them for this joyful milestone. May these newest members of our faith community be sealed with the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast - April 12:

Please join us for another delicious breakfast prepared by our Knights of Columbus after both 9am & 11am Masses.

Confirmation: April 10 (5:30pm - 7:00pm)

Registration Information Session

*Forms for registration are found on our website, print, fill and attend the registration and info session.

First Class: Saturday, April 11th from 9:30am - 11:30am

Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 19-25

THANK YOU! Thank you for your invaluable contributions and the profound impact you've made. We are deeply grateful for your 'Yes' to serve our parish community with a ready heart and willing spirit!

"Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 12



Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, was established following the visions of St. Faustina Kowalska and formally recognized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Origins and Visions of St. Faustina:

Divine Mercy Sunday originates from the private revelations received by St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, in the 1930s. In her diary, she recorded numerous visions of Jesus, who expressed His desire for a feast dedicated to His mercy to be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Jesus promised that those who approach the sacrament of confession and receive Holy Communion on this day would obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment, a grace likened to that received at baptism and greater than a plenary indulgence (Diary 699).

Development of the Devotion:

The first Divine Mercy image was painted in 1934 under Faustina's direction, depicting Jesus with rays of red and white light emanating from His heart, symbolizing blood and water poured out for humanity's salvation. Faustina's diary, begun in 1934, documented her spiritual experiences and the messages of mercy she received until her death in 1938. Despite initial resistance, including a Vatican notification in 1959 banning the devotion, the message of Divine Mercy gradually spread, particularly in Poland, and gained recognition after the ban was lifted in 1978.

Formal Recognition by the Church:

The devotion received official Church recognition through the efforts of **Cardinal Karol Wojtyla**, later **Pope John Paul II**, who beatified Faustina in 1993 and canonized her on April 30, 2000. On the same day, he proclaimed the **Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday**, integrating it into the Roman Rite calendar and emphasizing its spiritual significance as a day of mercy and grace for all souls, especially sinners.

Spiritual Significance:

Divine Mercy Sunday highlights the merciful love of God revealed in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. It concludes the Octave of Easter, symbolizing thanksgiving for the resurrection and the outpouring of divine mercy.

The feast encourages the faithful to trust in God's mercy, seek reconciliation through confession, and venerate the Divine Mercy image with the prayer, "**Jesus, I trust in You**".

Credit: friendsofthedivinemercyfoundation.org

Cardinal Leo Writes to Canadian Senators:

Bill C-9 Religious Freedom

On March 25, 2026, Bill C-9 – The Combatting Hate Act, passed third reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 188 to 144. The legislation has now been sent to the Senate for final review and consideration.

Numerous aspects of the legislation present serious concerns for faith communities. In December 2025, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and His Eminence expressed these sentiments through public communication and correspondence to elected Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister. The December 2025 statements from the CCCB and Cardinal Leo can be found [here](#).

On March 27, 2026, Cardinal Frank Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto, wrote to all Canadian Senators, asking them to review and amend the legislation, addressing serious concerns identified by faith leaders, civil liberties experts and countless others. The letter from Cardinal Leo can be found below or by [clicking here](#).

We are grateful to the many parishioners and clergy who personally sent letters, called or met with their Members of Parliament regarding the issue. We pray that the Senate will recommend amendments to the Bill and return the legislation to the House of Commons for further review.

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre:

April 24 @ 6:30 PM - April 26 @ 1:30 PM

Men & Women Ignatian Retreat: "A Jesuit Guide to the Stars" explores the deep connection between Ignatian spirituality and the cosmos. Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, Vatican astronomer and storyteller of the heavens, will lead a journey through the night sky and a contemplation of scientific truth in the service of faith.

This SILENT retreat begins on Friday evening and runs to Sunday with lunch. The suggested offering is \$290 per person which includes two night's accommodation, meals, spiritual direction and retreat program. Facilitated by: Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ

REGISTER: Via email at manresaregistration@outlook.com, online at <http://manresa-canada.ca> or call 905-839-2864.




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