

# St. Leo The Great

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

www.stleothegreat.ca

e-mail: officestleothegreat@gmail.com

**Pastor:** Father Mounir El- Rassi

**Parish Secretary:** 905-655-3286 ext. 1

### Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### Church Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm, Sunday - opens 8:00 am

### 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

### 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 25th

4:30pm +Louisa D'Souza

### Sunday, April 26th

9:00am +Helen & + Walter Bogus  
& John & Christine Tomcic

11:00am Pro Populo

### Tuesday, April 28th

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

### Wednesday, April 29th

7:00pm +Robert Heaney

### Thursday, April 30th

8:30am +Vincenzina Mammone

### Friday, May 1st

8:30am Pro Populo

### Saturday, May 2nd

8:30am Pro Populo

4:30pm +Herbert D'Souza

### Sunday, May 3rd

9:00am Arsenio Sarmiento

11:00am +Christopher Borysenko

### Sanctuary Light -

### Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil Light -

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### CHURCH HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8am - 4:30pm  
Wednesday, 8am - 7:30pm  
Saturday, 9am - 5:30pm & Sunday, opens @ 8am

### 2ND COLLECTION

Please note there will be a 2nd Collection for the Building Maintenance Fund next weekend - May 2nd & 3rd. Thank you for your generosity!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EVENTS

May 3rd after the 9am and 11am Mass: Breakfast in the Church Hall.

### IN NEED OF PRAYER?

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, \$10 for Unannounced Mass (not printed, not announced).

### BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS?

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.

### PREFER EMAIL UPDATES?

Would you like to receive weekly parish updates directly to your inbox? Please send an email to [officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com](mailto:officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com) and we will provide weekly updates every Thursday.

### FIRST COMMUNION DATES

We are now accepting registrations for a second group of First Communion Sessions taking place on May 30 & June 6 from 9am - 12pm. The celebrations will take place during both Mass times on June 7th.

### SPRING TRIP: FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

\*Join us for a delightful day of faith, friendship, and fun in downtown Toronto! Expect walking unless you will be using Uber.

#### Meeting Time & Place:

8:45 AM, Whitby GO Station  
1350 Brock Street South  
Green entrance doors before ticketing

#### Travel Schedule:

Depart Whitby GO Station: 9:15 AM  
Arrive at Union Station: 10:15 AM

#### Breakfast:

We'll begin the day by picking up breakfast at Danish Pastry House and enjoying it together at Berczy Park.

#### Mass:

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica  
12:10 PM – 1:10 PM  
(We will either walk from Union Station or take the subway together.)

#### Lunch:

Lunch at the Eaton Centre, followed by stops at several iconic Toronto landmarks, including St. Lawrence Market, Gooderham (Flatiron) Building, and Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

#### Cost:

Pay-as-you-go - each participant covers their own transportation and meals.

**If you're interested in joining us, please email [officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com](mailto:officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com) and someone will reach out with further details. RSVP by April 28.**

**We look forward to sharing this wonderful day together! Thank you Zarina for planning!!!**

### HIGH TEA SOCIAL

The CWL members will be selling tickets for the High Tea Social after all Masses for the next 4 weekends.



### **CHRISTIANS ARE THE MOST PERSECUTED RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!!!**

Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the UN in Geneva, highlights the persecution that Christians face across the world and emphasizes that nations must ensure religious freedom.

**By Isabella H. de Carvalho:**

Nations bear the responsibility to protect, respect, and guarantee freedom of religion, said Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, at the event "Standing with Persecuted Christians: Defending the Faith and Christian Values" on March 3.

"Almost 400 million Christians worldwide face persecution or violence, making them the most persecuted religious community in the world. This means that one in seven Christians is affected," Archbishop Balestrero said.

"Even worse, almost 5,000 Christians were killed for their faith in 2025, which equates to an average of 13 per day," he said. The Archbishop explained that for Christians, those who are killed for their faith are "martyrs," so "witnesses" to their creed who embody values that challenge the logic of power," while from the perspective of international law, "they are victims of outrageous human rights violations."

Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right "It is the State's duty to protect freedom of religion or belief, which includes preventing third parties from violating this right," he insisted. "This protection has to safeguard believers who are targeted, before, during, and after an attack. However, impunity remains one of the most serious issues in the global landscape of religious persecution."

Archbishop Balestrero also noted that nations themselves must "respect freedom of religion or belief and refrain from interfering with an individual's or group's ability to profess their faith privately or publicly through worship, practice, and teaching."

**Subtle and silent forms of persecution**

Archbishop Balestrero then highlighted that it is "deeply unjust and profoundly concerning" that almost 400 million Christians around the world "are subjected to physical violence, subjugation, false detention, the expropriation of their property, enslavement, forced exile, and even murder because of their religious beliefs."

He noted that this issue affects countries across the world, including in Europe, where over 760 anti-Christian hate crimes were recorded in 2024 alone, such as arson attacks on churches, physical assaults, or vandalism.

Lastly, Archbishop Balestrero emphasized that "attacks on Christians are attacks on the Cross itself," as he said that the cross is formed by a vertical line that "represents human openness to transcendence" and a horizontal one that symbolizes "the human bond with others."

He explained that attacks on the "vertical dimension seek to sever the relationship between conscience and God," by confining faith to silence, as they attempt to "close the space in which the human spirit transcends itself."

Attacks on the horizontal dimension, concluded the Archbishop, deprive "the human person of their innate capacity to respond freely to the call of truth," and ultimately can lead to the disintegration of relationships within communities.

**SAINT MARK FEAST DAY: APRIL 25**

c. 12–c. 68

Patron Saint of attorneys, captives, shoemakers, lions, notaries, glass workers, Egypt, and Venice.

**Quote:** *"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; He will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" ~ Mark 1:1–4*

**Reflection:** As a child, Saint Mark could never have imagined what would become of his life. Not only did he come to know the Messiah as a youth, he later became a bishop and the first to bring the Gospel to the continent of Africa. Most importantly, he became one of God's most powerful evangelists by faithfully writing down the life of Christ for others to read. Since that time, countless people have read his words, meditated on their meaning, been converted in the depths of their hearts, and given their lives over to Christ.

**Prayer:** *Saint Mark, I thank you for your "Yes" to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Thank you for your ministry and especially for your Gospel account. Please pray for me, that I may never tire of turning back to the mission that God has entrusted to me. May I imitate your fidelity and hard work for Christ, going so far as to lay my life down for others. Saint Mark, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen. (Credit: www.mycatholic.life/saints)*



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