



# 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 (Summer Schedule)

Monday, Saturday & Sunday: closed

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00 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, February 14th

4:30 p.m. + Edward Fox

### Sunday, February 15th

9:00 a.m. + Kenise Kilbride

11:00 a.m. + Irene Copiozo

### Tuesday, February 17th

8:30 a.m. +Innocenzo & + Vincenzina

Mammone & + Attilio &

+ Maria Tuzi

### Wednesday, February 18th

7:00 p.m. + Jenes Aljaz

### Thursday, February 19th

8.30 a.m. + Marie & Frank O'Donnell

### Friday, February 20th

8.30 a.m. Pro Populo

### Saturday, February 21st

4:30 p.m. + Margaret Bunker

+ Giovanni Lazaro

### Sunday, February 22nd

9:00 a.m. + Maria Mastropietro

11:00 a.m. + Kenise Kilbride

**Pray for our deceased parishioners:**

**For: Sanctuary Light - Maria Mastropietro**

**For: Vigil Light for Mary. Veronica Tuzi**

**For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**For a visit by the parish priest.**

**Make your request at the office**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026**

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday, 12:00 noon & 7:00pm.

**Frank Cardinal Leo Thanks You**  
**for Participating in the 2025**  
**ShareLife Parish Campaign**

It is available at  
[sharelife.org/thank-you](http://sharelife.org/thank-you).

**2025 Tax Receipts**

The Archdiocese requires parish tax receipts to be processed by February 11, 2026. Receipts will be distributed by mail shortly thereafter.

**2026 Offertory Envelopes**

Reminder to kindly pickup your 2026 Offertory Envelopes that are on a table in the vestibule. Envelope Boxes will be removed from the vestibule at the end of the month.

**Community Board & Posts:**

We are introducing a new bulletin board primarily to serve as a centralized, visual display for sharing information, announcements, schedules, and notices within our parish boundaries. It can include services, jobs, rentals, or sales.

**Employment Opportunities**

Looking for work, please check the board next to the Welcome Centre for Job Postings.

**How to Lent**

Prepare for Lent with our four-part video series called *How to Lent*. This series explores the scriptural origins of Lent and its desert imagery. It explains the pillars of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. It challenges you to think beyond your usual Lenten sacrifices to something that will genuinely help you grow in your faith. Position your heart to hear God's voice and make the most of this Lenten season.

[Visit Formed.Org](http://VisitFormed.Org)

**OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

Come & See – Discernment Weekend Retreat – February 27 – March 1, 2026, at St. Augustine's Seminary

Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director The Office of Vocations will be hosting a Come & See Weekend Discernment Retreat for men 18 years and older, at St.

Augustine's Seminary on Friday, February 27 (6:30 p.m.) until Sunday, March 1 (2 p.m.). This

Retreat offers a way for men to discern a possible call to priesthood at our seminary.

Registration must be done online at [www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee)

For more information, please email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)

**LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY**  
**NO GREATER LOVE**

Lift Jesus Higher Rally registration is now OPEN!

For more than thirty years, the Lift Jesus Higher Rally has brought together Catholics of all ages from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond for a day of fellowship, inspiration, and drawing closer to the Lord. We often hear from attendees that the rally is the highlight of their year! The 2026 rally will be held Saturday, March 14, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. A youth rally will be held at the same time in the John Basset Theatre.

<https://ljhr.ca/>

**Sunday's Gospel Reflection**  
**Matthew 5:17-37**

*Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place." Matthew 5:17-18*

For many, the Old Testament can be confusing, filled with laws, rituals, and prophecies that seem difficult to connect with the New Testament. Yet, Jesus' words remind us that the Old Testament is not merely a relic of the past but an essential part of God's divine plan. Furthermore, every law, prophecy, and detail, down to "the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter," finds its deepest meaning and completion in Christ.

In a simplified way, the "Law and the Prophets" in the Old Testament can be summarized as moral laws, ceremonial laws, and prophetic teaching. The moral laws reflect God's eternal truths of right and wrong, the ceremonial laws govern Israel's worship and rituals, and the prophetic teaching calls the people to repentance, pointing to the coming Messiah. Together, these form the foundation of the Old Covenant, which is fulfilled in Christ, Who established the New and Eternal Covenant. Additionally, the Psalms and Wisdom literature enrich the Law and the Prophets, offering inspired prayers, meditations on God's faithfulness, and practical guidance for virtuous living.

<https://mycatholic.life/>

**Holy Face of Jesus**

**Feast Day, February 17, 2026**

**"Of you my heart has said, 'Seek his face!' Your face, Yahweh, I seek" (Ps 27, 8)**

Man has always searched to contemplate the face of God. Jesus told us that "to see Him is to see the Father" (Jn 14:9) and so, the contemplation of Christ's face is the very contemplation of God. To see the Lord's face is to somehow have an encounter or to get to know the Person of Christ. Therefore, it is not surprising that the likeness of Christ's face has inspired Christians to greater knowledge and love of the Lord since the early centuries.

Images like *the Veronica*, the cloth that bears the imprint of Our Lord's

face during His Passion, is just one example of the so called “*acheròpita*” or image not made by human hands, that have been venerated through the centuries. Perhaps the most famous is the *Shroud of Turin*, which is the Lord’s burial cloth, that bears the imprint not only of His face, but His whole body and shows the wounds of His Passion. In fact, this image of Christ only became so vividly visible when photographed for the first time in the late 19th century. It is perhaps even more fitting for our age that is so influenced by images, that Christ left a sign of His presence almost 2000 years ago that could only be fully discovered with the use of the technology of our time.

During the last 200 years, Christ Himself has called for devotion to His Holy Face to repair for the many blasphemies and offences against Him in our times. These devotions have been communicated through two Sisters, Sr Marie de Saint Pierre (1816-1848) and Blessed Maria Pierina de Micheli (1890-1945), who have each indicated separate devotions to Our Lord’s Holy Face. In 1958, Pope Pius XII declared the feast of the Holy Face of Jesus to be the day before Ash Wednesday (Shrove Tuesday) so that this devotion could be practiced in the Church.

#### **A fitting Lenten Practice.**

As part of the preparations for Lent, it is appropriate to celebrate the feast of the Holy Face by spending some time before the Blessed Sacrament and reciting the prayers of reparation. In addition, the repetition of this devotion each Tuesday in Lent may be a means of drawing closer to Our Lord during this time of more intense prayer and conversion.

<https://www.mdrevelation.org/>

### **The Biblical and Historical Roots of Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026**

The use of ashes as a sign of repentance and humility reaches deep into the Old Testament. Job

“repented in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6), and the people of Nineveh wore sackcloth and ashes when they turned from sin (Jonah 3:6). Early Christians adopted the same visible sign to express sorrow for sin and the desire for renewal.

The modern observance of **Ash Wednesday** developed in the early centuries of the Church. By the 8th century, ashes were blessed and distributed at the start of Lent. The Church continues this ancient sign not as an empty ritual but as a public declaration of interior conversion.

#### **What the Ashes Mean**

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from the blessed palms of the previous year’s Palm Sunday. Burned and mixed with holy water or oil, they remind us of two key truths: **Mortality:** “You are dust” recalls the creation of man (Genesis 3:19) and our inevitable return to God.

**Repentance:** The sign of the cross marks the believer as one who acknowledges sin and seeks God’s mercy through Christ.

In a culture that prizes self-esteem and success, the ashes whisper a countercultural truth: humility is the path to holiness. The gesture invites self-examination—not shame, but honesty before God.

#### **Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving: The Three Pillars of Lent**

Ash Wednesday is also a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Adults between 18 and 59 are asked to eat only one full meal and two smaller meals (without meat) that do not equal a full meal combined. This discipline reminds us that conversion involves both soul and body.

Fasting opens space for prayer, and prayer deepens love for others—leading naturally to almsgiving. These three pillars form the heart of the **Lenten journey** toward renewal.

#### **The Theology of Dust and Hope**

Though the ashes remind us of death, they are not symbols of despair. They form the sign of the cross, the mark of salvation. Every Ash Wednesday,

Catholics begin again, trusting that even our dust can be redeemed. The ashes say, “Yes, you are mortal—but you belong to the immortal Christ.”

The Lenten path that begins in ashes ends in the **empty tomb of Easter**—a journey from sorrow to joy, from repentance to resurrection.

#### **Conclusion: A Season to Return to God**

Ash Wednesday isn’t just a ritual or tradition—it’s a reminder of where we came from and where we’re going. It invites Americans, regardless of pace or profession, to stop and consider what truly endures. The ashes fade within hours, but the grace they signify endures all Lent long: the grace to repent, believe the Gospel, and rediscover the mercy of God who calls us home.

<https://catholicmenofamerica.com/>

#### **Note from Sandy Yatabe**

I have accepted a position with my former company and will resign as Secretary at St. Leo’s, effective February 20th, 2026. Thank you, Father Mounir, and everyone for your support and prayers during my time here. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers; I will do the same.

#### **Valentine’s Day Wishes**

In the spirit of the holy martyr, St. Valentine who chose love over fear, may our friendship deepen in Christ, fostering joy and support in daily life.





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