



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 21st

4:30 p.m. + Margaret Bunker

+ Giovanni Lazaro

Sunday, February 22nd

9:00 am + Maria Mastropietro

11:00 a.m. + Kenise Kilbride

Tuesday, February 24th

8:30 a.m. + Attilio Tuzi

Wednesday, February 25th

7:00 p.m. + Kenise Kilbride

+ Mathilda Costa &

+ Erika Welsch

Thursday, February 26th

8.30 a.m. + Innocenzo & + Vincenzina Mammone &

+ Attilio & + Maria Tuzi

Friday, February 27th

8.30 a.m. + John Michael White

+ Erlinda Ocambo

Saturday, February 28th

4:30 p.m. + Vincent Murphy

Sunday, March 1st

9:00 am Father Tarras

11:00 a.m. + Christopher Bonysenko

Pray for our deceased parishioners:

For: Sanctuary Light - Maria Mastropietro

For: Vigil Light for Mary.

For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.

For a visit by the parish priest.

Make your request at the office

2nd Collection
Feb 28 & March 1, 2026
Building and Maintenance
Fund

Garage Door

A fully insulated overhead garage door with a lock has replaced the old swing doors at a cost of \$5,062.40.

Installation of this new door was completed on Friday, February 13, 2026.

Lenten Poverty Soup & Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent, join us in the hall from 5:00pm to 6:45pm for soup, bread and water. Following the soup meal is Stations of the Cross in church at 7:00pm.

2025 Tax Receipts

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

What is Ash Wednesday to Catholics

Ash Wednesday initiates a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charity), imitating Jesus's 40 days of fasting in the desert. Attending mass or a service to receive ashes is a deeply ingrained tradition. The act of wearing ashes publicly is intended to signify your Catholic faith and an inner conversion of hearts. In Lent: Two full meals per day. This can be divided for 40 days for those who are able.

parish connections

Gospel Breakdown
(Matthew 4:1-11)

The Context: Following his baptism, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted.

Temptation 1: Physical Desire (Stones to Bread): Satan targets Jesus's hunger after 40 days, urging him to use his divine power for personal gain rather than trusting God for sustenance.

Temptation 2: Presumption (Jump from the Temple): Satan quotes Scripture, urging Jesus to force God's hand and prove his divinity through a spectacular, self-serving stunt.

Temptation 3: Power and Idolatry (Kingdoms of the World): Satan offers quick, ultimate power in exchange for worship, bypassing the suffering of the cross.

The Victory: Jesus responds with, "It is written," using the Word of God to counter deception.

Reflection and Application

The Purpose of Temptation:

Like Israel in the wilderness, Jesus is tested to validate his identity as the Son of God, but he remains faithful where they failed. It shows that even faithful, Spirit-led individuals face trials, which can be used to deepen reliance on God.

Using Scripture as a Weapon:

Jesus does not debate; he quotes God's Word. This emphasizes that knowing and applying Scripture is the primary defense against temptation.

Doubt and Identity:

Satan often sows doubt by saying, "If you are the Son of God". This mirrors how modern temptations often target our sense of worth and identity in Christ.

The "Easy Path" vs. God's Path:

The temptations suggest shortcuts to greatness—power without service, provision without faith, and popularity without obedience. Jesus reminds us that our true "hunger"

should be for God, not worldly satisfaction.

Strength in Weakness:

Angels minister to Jesus after the struggle, showing that after testing, God provides comfort.

Matthew 4:1-11 encourages believers to stand firm in their faith, recognizing that true power comes from serving God alone and trusting His plan, even in the "wilderness" of life.

St. Peter Damian
(c. 1007–1072)

An Italian Benedictine monk, cardinal, and Doctor of the Church who played a pivotal role in 11th-century Church reform.

As a leader in the Gregorian Reform movement, he fought vigorously against simony and clerical immorality, including writing the *Book of Gomorrah* to denounce clerical vices.

Key Aspects of His Life and Legacy:

Reformer & Scholar: Originally a professor, he embraced a strict life of penance and prayer as a monk, later becoming abbot of Fonte Avellana and founding several hermitages.

Cardinal-Bishop: Pope Stephen IX pressured him to become the Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia in 1057, serving as a diplomat and advisor to several popes.

Key Contributions: He was instrumental in cleaning up church corruption, promoting clerical celibacy, and reforming the process of papal elections to remove secular influence.

Writings: Known for his passionate, blunt writing style, he authored letters, sermons, and treatises. In 1828, he was declared a Doctor of the Church.

Death & Feast Day: He died in 1072 and is remembered on **February 21.**

His work is considered crucial to restoring the moral integrity of the

Church during a period of high corruption.

St. Polycarp (c. 69–155 AD)

A 2nd-century Bishop of Smyrna, a revered Apostolic Father, and a disciple of St. John the Apostle.

Known for his staunch defense of orthodox Christianity against heresies like Marcionism, he was martyred by burning and stabbing at age 86, with his death recorded in the earliest known account of a Christian martyr.

Key Facts and Life:

Background: Born around 69 AD, Polycarp was a key link to the Apostles, having been taught by 1st-century disciples.

Role: As Bishop of Smyrna, he was a respected leader in Asia Minor, maintaining unity and upholding orthodox faith.

Key Relationships: He was a close associate of St. Ignatius of Antioch, who wrote to him before his own martyrdom. He also mentored St. Irenaeus of Lyons.

Trip to Rome: Polycarp visited Rome to discuss the timing of Easter with Pope Anicetus, highlighting the early Church's efforts to maintain unity despite differing traditions.

Martyrdom: During a festival in Smyrna, he was arrested and brought before the Roman proconsul. Refusing to curse Christ or swear by Caesar, he famously declared he had served Christ for 86 years.

The Miracle: According to the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*, the flames failed to consume him, prompting an executioner to stab him. His death is celebrated for its courage and faithfulness.

He is recognized as a saint in the Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, and Anglican traditions, with a feast day on February 23.

Meditation of the day

Battling to the End

It is said there that after Our Lord had overcome his enemy and rejected his temptations, angels came and brought him heavenly food (Mt 4:11). What joy to find oneself with the Savior at this delicious feast! My dear friends, we shall never be capable of keeping company with him in his consolations, nor be invited to his heavenly banquet, if we are not sharers of his labors and sufferings. He fasted forty days, but the angels brought him something to eat only at the end of that time.

These forty days...symbolize the life of the Christian, of each one of us. Let us then desire these consolations only at the end of our lives, and let us busy ourselves in steadfast resistance to the frontal attacks of our enemies. For whether we desire it or not we shall be tempted.

If we do not struggle, we shall not be victorious, nor shall we merit the crown of immortal glory which God has prepared for those of us who are victorious and triumphant. Let us fear neither the temptation nor the tempter, for if we make use of the shield of faith and the armor of truth, they will have no power whatsoever over us.... And let us not entertain the vain hope of being or wishing to be saints in three months!

Let us also shun both spiritual avarice and [prideful] ambition, which occasion so much disorder in our hearts and so greatly impede our perfection. The noonday devil will be powerless in causing us to fail in our firm and steadfast resolution to serve God generously and as perfectly as possible in this life, so that after this life we shall go to enjoy him forever.

Saint Francis de Sales († 1622) was a great figure of the 17th-century rebirth of Catholic mystical life. / From *The Sermons of St. Francis de Sales for Lent*, Vol. III, Father Lewis S. Fiorelli, o.s.f.s., ed., Nuns of the Visitation, tr. © 1987 by the

Visitation Monastery of Frederick, TAN Books, Charlotte, NC (www.tanbooks.com).

My victorious Lord, You faced satan with courage, the once-beautiful angel who fell from grace through pride and envy. Now he seeks to destroy those whom You love. Give me Your strength and courage this Lent as I confront my own temptations, so that united with You, I may share in Your victory. Jesus, I trust in You.





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