



# 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, January 17th

4:30 p.m. + William Daly

### Sunday, January 18th

9:00 a.m. + Susan & + Alex Quinn

11:00 a.m. + Francesco Caruso

### Tuesday, January 20th

8:30 a.m. Living intentions for Veronica & Christopher Duarte

### Wednesday, January 21st

7:00 p.m. + John Wayne McBride

### Thursday, January 22nd

9:00 a.m. Living intentions of Carmen McInerney

### Friday, January 23rd

9:00 a.m. Matthew

### Saturday, January 24th

4:30 p.m. + Maria Mastropietro

### Sunday, January 25th

9:00 a.m. + Thomas Power

11:00 a.m. + Kenise Kilbride

**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*

**Lunch Social – January 25, 2026**

Join us for our upcoming lunch social (soup & sandwich) on Sunday after the 11am.Mass. This gathering is more than just an afternoon of fellowship—it's a vital expression of our life as the family of God in the parish, where we build communion, share faith, and practice Christian charity.

**Children's Liturgy**

All children ages 4 and older are welcome to join us on Sundays at 11 o'clock Mass, for liturgy, in the meeting room. Children under the age of 4 may attend with an older sibling, or, be accompanied by one adult. (No strollers, please.) Children attending liturgy must be able to sit and listen to the Gospel and reflection. If you feel your child is unable to do so, please consider having them remain with you during the Mass or in the Cry Room.

We look forward to continuing to grow closer to Jesus, and Our Blessed Mother, with all our friends.

**Knights of Columbus Annual Valentines Dance**

Date: Feb 21, 2026 @ 6:45 in the Church Hall  
Refreshments @ 7:00 PM, Dinner @ 7:30 PM  
Apps/Dinner(Greek Tycoon)/DJ Dance/Tea-Coffee/Dessert  
Spot Prizes & 50/50 Draw  
Price \$40/person  
Tickets available before / after mass  
We hope to see you there at this popular event.

**2026 Offertory Envelopes**

Reminder to kindly pickup your 2026 Offertory Envelopes that are on a table in the vestibule. If you need any help finding your box of envelopes, please ask an Usher. For PAG Parishioners requiring special envelopes, please put your name down on the sheet.

**Employment Opportunities**

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

**Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2026**

You are invited to join us at an Ecumenical Worship Service during the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church (214 Simcoe St N, Oshawa) on **January 22, 2026, at 7 pm.** Following the service, light refreshments will be served in the hall (190 Simcoe St N). For the service, we recommend a 'choir dress' according to your ecclesial tradition. Sunday best is always appropriate.

**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/>

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience - March 7-8, 2026**

**Fall in Love Again!**

Are you ready for more growth and happiness in your marriage or priesthood?

Join us on March 7-8 at Queen of Apostles for a weekend that could change your life.

Discover the Secrets to a Lasting, Supportive, and Transformational Marriage!

This weekend is for couples, whether you are newlyweds or have been married for decades.

It's also perfect for priests looking to deepen their relationship with their community.

Contact us NOW: Christian & Elizabeth Arroba, 416-554-4439 or 416-554-7062

[christian.elizabeth.arroba@wwm.e.org](mailto:christian.elizabeth.arroba@wwm.e.org)

**Gospel for Sunday**

**January 18, 2026**

**John 1:29-34**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’

I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel.”

John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him.

I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

**The New Paschal Lamb**

**Reflection on the Gospel**

*John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’” John 1:29–30*

Central to the Jewish faith was the Feast of Passover, the commemoration of God’s deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). In Jesus’ time, Passover was one of three major annual feasts during which the Jews made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. Additionally, the Feast of Weeks celebrated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the first fruits of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-22), and the Feast of Tabernacles

recalled the Israelites’ wandering in the desert and celebrated God’s providence (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Recall the first Passover meal. Moses instructed the people to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, mark the doorposts of their homes with its blood, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs in haste, ready to depart. This act of faith and obedience protected them from the angel of death who passed over the marked houses, sparing the firstborn of Israel, while striking down the firstborn of Egypt. The Passover thus became a perpetual memorial of God’s saving power and His covenantal faithfulness to His people.

Because of the Passover, the idea of a sacrificial lamb was intimately familiar to the Jewish people. The Jews were also familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah 53—often referred to as the Suffering Servant—in which the servant of the Lord is described as “a lamb led to the slaughter,” who bears the sins of many (Isaiah 53:7, 10–12). Additionally, each morning and evening, a lamb was sacrificed in the temple as a continual offering for sin (Exodus 29:38–42).

As Jesus began His public ministry, the first thing said of Him came from John the Baptist: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” His words would have resonated within the minds and hearts of John’s disciples. His disciples believed that John was a great prophet and the forerunner of the Messiah, sent to prepare the way for the Lord. They saw him as a holy man who called for repentance and renewal, and some even wondered if he himself might be the Christ, though John consistently denied this.

Because John’s ministry was one of preparation for the Messiah, his disciples would have anticipated

the Messiah’s imminent arrival. Imagine the excitement, surprise, questions, uncertainty, and hope that would have filled their minds and hearts as they listened to John’s prophecy about Jesus. John continued, “He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’”

Though John’s proclamation about Jesus took on a powerful significance for his disciples that first moment that he revealed Jesus as the Lamb of God, John’s words must resonate within each of us today. Now that the Christmas Season is complete and we enter into Ordinary Time, we are invited to embrace Jesus’ public ministry, with all His teachings and Paschal Sacrifice, as something extraordinary in our lives. We must approach His ministry with the same hope, enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation that John’s disciples experienced.

Reflect today on the moment when John the Baptist’s disciples heard him proclaim, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” Like them, strive to see Jesus with new eyes and hopeful anticipation as we begin Ordinary Time. This liturgical season marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, and it must also be a renewed beginning of His works in your life. Follow Him without reserve, allowing Him to take away your sins and share in His life and love.

**<https://mycatholic.life/>**

*Most holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, I choose to follow You, for You are the Messiah, the Son of God.*



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