



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 28th

4:30 p.m. + Vincent Murphy

Sunday, March 1st

9:00 a.m. Father Torras

11:00 a.m. + Christopher Bonysenko

Tuesday, March 3rd

8:30 a.m. + James Reid

+ Christina Reid

Wednesday, March 4th

7:00 p.m. + Leo and Gisele Gamache

Thanksgiving for the Matthew Family

Thursday, March 5th

8:30 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

Friday, March 6th

8:30 a.m. + Rebecca Jara

+Father Mihelck

Saturday, March 7th

8:30 a.m. + Bob Nelitz

4:30 p.m. + Antonio Tamburro

Sunday, March 8th

9:00 a.m. + Tomasina & Francesco Parente

11:00 a.m. + Living Intentions of Carmen McInerney

Pray for our deceased parishioners:

For: Sanctuary Light - Kenise Kilbride

For: Vigil Light for Marjorie Asselin

For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.

For a visit by the parish priest.

Make your request at the office

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

2nd Collection

Feb 28 & March 1, 2026

Building and Maintenance
Fund

2025 Tax Receipts

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

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.

Breakfast in the Church Hall

MARCH 8th

9:00 am and 11:00 am

offered by:

The Knights of Columbus

Sunday, April 26th at 11:00am

His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo will be celebrating Mass at

Holy Redeemer Parish /Pickering

60th Anniversary

RSVP before March 15th to

holyredeemerPI@archtoronto.org

A Day with Mary

Advanced Announcement

May 30th, 2026

11:00am – 4pm

Villanova College

King City, Ontario

Additional details to follow

Annual Financial Report for 2025:

Available at the Welcome Centre for your convenience.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Day of Reconciliation – Saturday, March 28th, from 9:00am – 11:00am

We are hiring!

Secretary Position at our office – St. Leo the Great Parish

if you are looking for full time (Tuesday – Friday) and long term position with our parish.

Book Keeper position –

Must be familiar with finances and reports (preferably church) such as monthly consolidation, payroll, tax reports, mid year and end of year reports. Also, taxation filing and HST rebates, etc.

Send your resume to the main office of St. Leo the Great Parish
ATTENTION: Fr. EL-Rassi



GOSPEL - **Matthew 17:1-9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Purim (falling on March 2–3, 2026) is a joyous Jewish festival

commemorating the salvation of the Jewish people from a genocide plot in ancient Persia, as told in the Book of Esther (Megillah). It celebrates triumph over evil, divine providence, and Jewish unity through festive meals, giving gifts of food and charity, wearing costumes, and reading the Megillah. Britannica +2

Key Meaning and Significance

"Lots" (Purim): The name refers to the "lots" (pur) cast by the villain Haman to determine the date for destroying the Jews, turning a day of doom into a day of celebration.

Divine Providence: The Book of Esther never explicitly mentions God, highlighting that God acts behind the scenes of history—even when hidden—to protect the Jewish people.

Survival and Reversal: The story symbolizes that in every generation, threats arise, but the Jewish people will survive. It celebrates a reversal of fortune (venahafoch hu), where the intended victims become victorious.

Courage and Action: The story emphasizes taking action, as Queen Esther risked her life to intercede with King Ahasuerus on behalf of her people. Chabad.org +6

How Purim is Celebrated

Megillah Reading: Listening to the Book of Esther in the synagogue, often drowning out Haman's name with noise-makers (groggers).

Mishloach Manot (Sending Portions): Giving gifts of food and drink to friends and family to foster community.

Matanot La'evyonim (Gifts to the Poor): Donating charity to ensure everyone can celebrate.

Purim Seudah (Festive Meal): A celebratory ... feast held on Purim afternoon.

Costumes and Masks: Dressing up to commemorate how Esther hid her identity and how God's hand was hidden in the story.

Hamantaschen: Eating triangular, filled pastries said to represent Haman's hat or ears. Teen Vogue +4

Purim is observed on the 14th of Adar, with a "Shushan Purim" celebration on the 15th in Jerusalem and other ancient walled cities.

Saint Casimir (1458–1484) was a Polish prince and Grand Duke of Lithuania, renowned for his intense piety, chastity, and charity toward the poor. As the second son of King Casimir IV, he refused to marry and rejected royal luxury for a life of asceticism. He is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania, and youth, with a feast day on March 4. Franciscan Media

Key Details About Saint Casimir:

Life and Character: Born on October 3, 1458, in Kraków, Casimir was known for his dedication to God, wearing simple clothing, and practicing severe self-discipline. He was a "conscientious objector" who refused to engage in unjust wars, even refusing to lead a campaign against Hungary.

Death and Canonization: Casimir died of lung disease (likely tuberculosis) at age 25 in Grodno (modern-day Belarus) and is buried in Vilnius Cathedral. He was canonized around 1521.

Legacy: He is considered a protector of the poor and a model of purity, often depicted in art with three hands (symbolizing a miracle attributed to him).

Patronage: He is the patron saint of Lithuania, Poland, and youth.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity (d. c. 203) were North African Christian martyrs executed in Carthage under Emperor Septimius Severus. Perpetua, a noblewoman and new mother, and Felicity, her slave, were imprisoned for their faith. Their story is famous for being documented in *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*, an early firsthand account. Key details about Sts. Perpetua and Felicity:

Background: Perpetua was a well-educated 22-year-old nursing mother; Felicity was a slave who was pregnant at the time of their arrest.

Martyrdom: They were baptized in prison and refused to renounce their faith. They were killed by being tossed by a wild cow and then beheaded in the arena on March 7, 203.

The Diary: Perpetua recorded her experiences in prison, describing her visions and her father's pleas, making this one of the oldest surviving Christian documents written by a woman.

Patronage: They are patrons of mothers, expectant mothers, ranchers, and butchers, with a feast day celebrated on March 7.

Legacy: Known for their unwavering faith, they are among the most revered martyrs in the early Church, having met their death with courage and, according to the account, a sense of "joy and calm".

Perpetua's account describes the prison as becoming a "palace" for her, and she notably guided the hand of the inexperienced gladiator to her own throat to complete her martyrdom.

Follow the Conference of the Canadian Catholic Bishops this Lent: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/>

Do you want to fast this Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words
- and say kind words
- Fast from sadness
- and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger
- and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism
- and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries
- and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints
- and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressure
- and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness
- and fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness
- and be compassionate
- Fast from grudges
- and be reconciled
- Fast from words
- and be silent so you can listen

**St. Ephrem the Syrian (4th Century)
Classic Lenten Prayer**

*O Lord and Master of my life,
Take from me the spirit of sloth,
despair, lust of power, and idle talk.*

*Give rather the spirit of chastity,
humility, patience, and love to Your
servant.*

*Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to
see my own sins and not to judge my
brother, for You are blessed unto
ages and ages. Amen*





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