

# *St. Leo The Great*

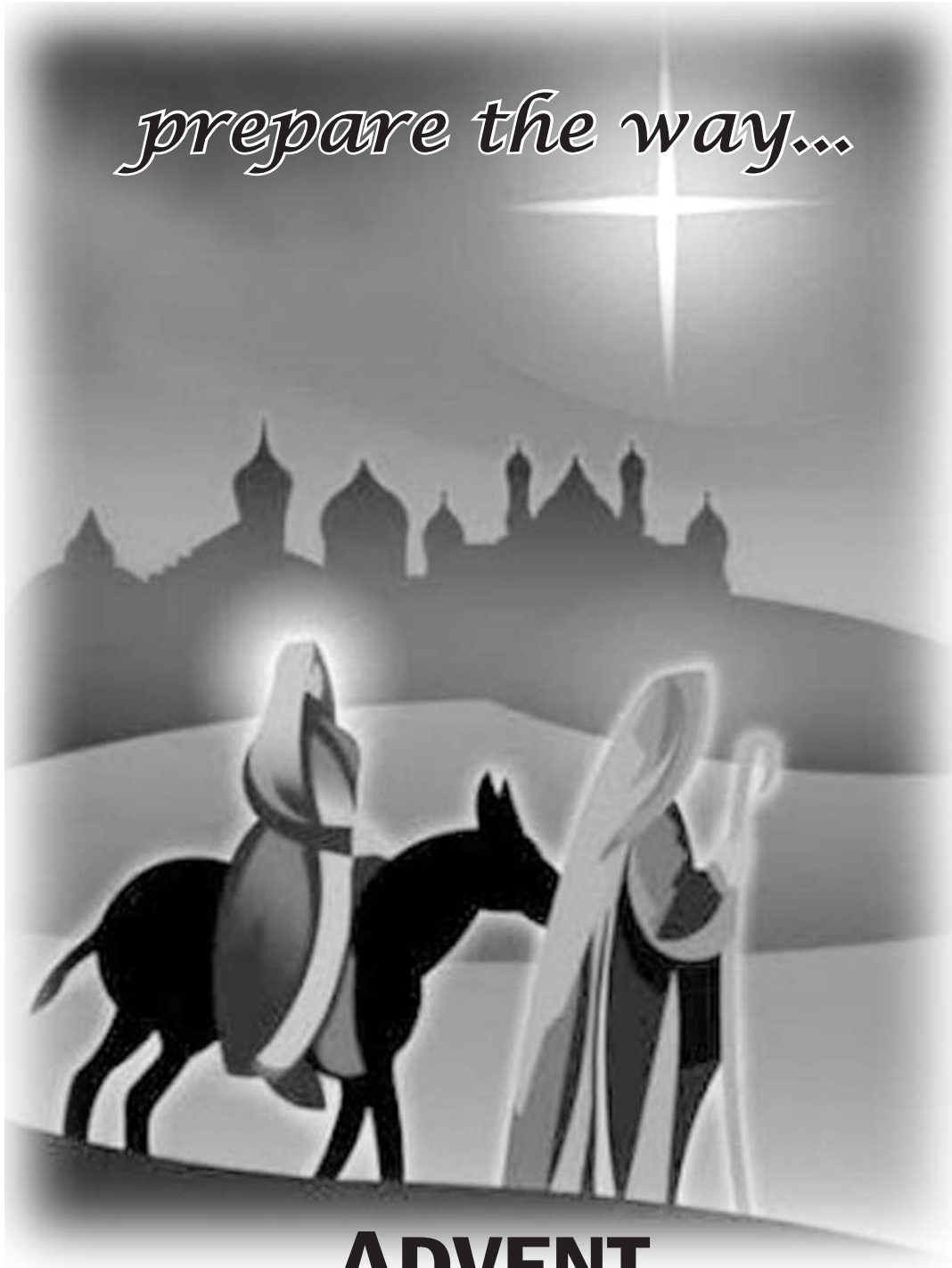
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2 905.655.3286  
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Pastor: Father Mounir El- Rassi

Parish Secretary: Sandy Yatabe 905-655-3286 ext. 1

*prepare the way...*



**ADVENT**

  
**MASS INTENTIONS**  
OF THE WEEK

**Saturday, December 21st**

4:30 p.m. Pro Populo

**Sunday, December 22nd, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. † Kenneth & † Glenn Closs

11:00 a.m. † Lorenzo & † Antoinetta Volpe

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

4:30 p.m. Pro Populo

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Vazquez

† Francisco Vazquez

† Guadalupe Galvez

11:00 a.m. Pro Populo

**Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

No Mass

**Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. † Innocenzo & † Vinezina Mammone

† Maria & † Attilio Tuzi

† Thomas Passafuime

**Saturday, December 28th**

4:30 p.m. Pro Populo

**Sunday, December 29th**

9:00 a.m. † Stefan Hibowicki

11:00 a.m. † Antonio & † Nicolina Cavallari

**For: Sanctuary Light Request.**

**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

**Link to our archdiocesan church second website:**

<https://stleothegreatbr.archtoronto.org>

**On this week @ St. Leo's Bulletin**

- Christmas Mass Schedule
- Donation envelopes
- Faith Formation
- Knights of Columbus Outreach
- CWL Christmas Raffle
- Ministry Appreciation Dinner - Dec 28
- Catering
- Advent Reflection
- Christmas Day - A time for Hope
- Invitation from Archbishop Leo

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Tuesday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve, Nativity of the Lord mass at 4:30pm & 8pm

Wednesday, Dec 25 – Christmas Day, mass at 9am & 11am

Thursday, Dec 26 – no mass

Friday, Dec 27 - mass at 8:30

**Donation Envelopes**

2025 envelope boxes are available at the back of the church, to your right. Ask for help if needed.

**Faith Formation: Discernment of Spirits**

Starts November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am in the Hall.

Discernment is the understanding to distinguish which thoughts and voices are from God and will lead to good and which are not. We will be following Fr.

Timothy Gallagher's presentations on Formed of the 14 rules that St. Ignatius of Loyola has written down and Fr. Timothy will be explaining them in detail.

There will be 8 sessions of podcasts of around 1 hour followed by discussions. The overview of all the lessons with a short description of each lesson are available on the Church's website under

[stleothegreat.ca/wordpress/Faith-formation/Discernment](http://stleothegreat.ca/wordpress/Faith-formation/Discernment) or simply [www.stleothegreat.ca/wordpress/Dis](http://www.stleothegreat.ca/wordpress/Dis).

Join in and learn.

**Knights of Columbus Outreach**

Sunday Dec 22nd is the last day to drop off items for the Cornerstone Men's Hostel in the marked bins located in the vestibule of the church. Thank you for your continued support.

**CWL Christmas Raffle**

Sunday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last day to buy tickets in the foyer for the Christmas baskets after all the masses. Draw to take place after the 11:00 mass Dec. 22nd.

**Ministry Appreciation Dinner – Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**

Please sign the volunteer sheets in the vestibule if you are able to attend. Ask an usher for help.

**CATERING**

Franca Vasco, parishioner & great cook would love to use her talents of cooking and baking to do fundraising

for our parish. For details and more information, please call Franca 905-621-9658.

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent – Dec 22, 2024**

“Mary arose and went in haste!”

Today, in the Gospel reading we are told that Mary went “in haste” to the hill country of Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth. We also know that Mary going in haste was informed by the news she heard from the angel Gabriel about the state of her cousin Elizabeth—that she was pregnant at an advanced age. There is something to be learned about the action of Mary as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

The essence of Christmas is to be there for one another, offering a helping hand and giving and receiving love irrespective of our difficulties and vulnerabilities. Mary had heard a “devastating news” of her own, she was to bear a son. But she never allowed her own difficult life to stop her from reaching out to her cousin Elizabeth. She stands up in confidence and goes to see her. We are told of what happened in the encounter and the blessings both women received at the sight of each other.

In the Direction Statement of the Twenty-seventh General Chapter, we are invited to walk with and in the midst of those suffering in our own time and place. We are also called to live together the call to intercultural, international and intergenerational community. In both calls, Mary can be a model to us, that amidst our own personal challenges we could rise in haste and respond to the call to be compassionate and loving.

Edited from <https://www.cscsisters.org/2024-advent-reflections>

### **Christmas Day – December 25, 2024**

#### **Christmas: A time for Hope**

Christmas, as a season of hope, is about trusting in Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us, and His presence in our lives, even in pain or darkness. This hope is a relationship with God, offering comfort and assurance that God is with us now and will remain with us. On the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, we reflect on the miracle of Christmas and what it means for us.

Christmas is more than a celebration; it is a time to embrace the love of God shown through Jesus.

Christmas celebrates the amazing story of God becoming man. We often wonder why an all-powerful God would choose to live among us and share our experiences. This shows how much God loves us. In

Jesus, God became one of us. This act shows we are not just creations but dearly loved children of God. The birth of Jesus is not just a story from the past. It is something we live every day. Jesus’ coming shows we are never alone. God is always with us. This should fill us with hope. In tough times, remember that God is with us. Jesus is a light that guides us through darkness. Knowing we are loved by God should give us strength. This Christmas, let’s remember the miracle of Jesus’ birth. Let’s embrace this love and share it with others. Christmas is a time to feel God’s closeness and to be thankful for His love. Christmas calls us to be like Jesus. Be His hands and feet on earth. Spread His message of hope and love in all parts of our lives. Christmas is more than a holiday; it is a call to live in God’s love.

Edited from <https://young-catholics.com>

### **Invitation from Archbishop Leo to Celebrate the Ordinary year of Jubilee – Dec 29, 2024**

You may be aware that the Catholic Church worldwide will be celebrating a special Jubilee Year in 2025. This has been a tradition dating back to the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII announced the first Jubilee, which is also referred to as a “Holy Year”. The frequency has changed over time, with a Jubilee year originally celebrated every 100 years, later every 50 years and, more recently, every 25 years or at the request of the Holy Father.

The Jubilee Year includes many celebrations within the city of Rome and also local initiatives in dioceses around the world. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee will be “Pilgrims of Hope”. In the words of Pope Francis: *“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”*

Resources for personal, family or parish use, along with helpful links and other information related to the Jubilee Year can be found by visiting: [www.archtoronto.org/jubilee](http://www.archtoronto.org/jubilee)

Rejoice in the Lord’s love this Christmas and Always – Fr. Mounir El Rassi.




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