

1st Sunday of Advent

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:

My dear parishioners, our parish is in a dire and serious financial situation which can only be remedied by your weekly parish offertory commitments. The following information will be posted in the bulletin each week until such time as we begin to meet our weekly financial commitments to keep everyone apprised of our overall financial situation. *Thank you. Fr. Charles*

■ WEEKLY COST OF RUNNING OUR PARISH - \$6,243.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

- Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$3,258.25
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1,517.00 (November)

➔ TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: **\$4,775.25**

Deficit in last week's collection: \$1,467.75

OUR NEW HYMNAL: GATHER 3

On this First Sunday in Advent, we introduce our new parish hymnal, Gather 3rd Edition. It replaces Gather Comprehensive, published in 1994 and Catholic Book of Worship II, 1980. The quantity of each of these books was very limited and even with sharing, many parishioners had no access to a hymnal. To help us achieve robust congregational singing, we have 275 copies of the new Gather 3 available in the pews, so assuming two people to a book that will allow 550 people to join in the singing.

Gather 3 contains many of the hymns that we have come to know and to love as well as some that are new and that we can look at over the coming years. Most importantly, it contains the new revised Mass texts which also are being introduced this week-end. Take a look at #166 - 187.

Over the next few weeks, we will explore different sections of this new resource. In the meantime, please take care of the hymnals and ensure that they remain in the pews!

(Bill Targett)

2 Good Videos to Check Out:

1 for Adults & 1 for Youth

Go to YouTube and in the 'search' area type: [New Roman Missal for Parents and Adults](#) (Word for Word by Life Teen) or [New Roman Missal for Middle School Youth](#) (Word for Word by Life Teen)

A NEW PARISH SECRETARY

In the spring of this year our parish secretary, Pat Busby, mentioned to me in passing that she would like to slow down and think about retiring from her secretarial position here at St. Leo in the coming year. (Inwardly I winced because I knew one day this news would be coming.) Pat had retired from her job with Shell and decided she would help out at the parish by taking on the role of Parish Secretary to assist Fr. Phil Jones who had just been assigned to St. Leo Parish to build the new church. At that time she thought she would help Father out for about a year until he got some regular help..... that was 14 years ago! Since that time Pat has truly been at the very center of parish life here with a ferocious dedication to everyone and everything concerning St. Leo Parish. She is the voice and smile that meets every visitor to the parish office. She is the kind, ever-patient person who answers the many, many phone calls that come to

the parish office every day. She has outlasted 3 pastors of the parish as well.

The role of a parish secretary is far more than a general secretarial job because it places the secretary into the midst of peoples' lives with their faith, joys, sorrows and grief, their misunderstandings and their desire to share a bit of their own story. All this while answering phones, working on computers, giving out Mass cards, baby-sitting kids of parishioners as they fill out parish forms, coordinating with countless ministry and service group members and tracking down the pastor and keeping his priestly life on track. In the endless role of multi-tasking that parish office life demands, Pat has proven to be most remarkable and gifted. Where would this parish be today without her abiding presence and living Catholic witness these past 14 years?

Pat will not be fully retiring at this point as she wishes to stay on for a year and work a day or two per week in the office with the new secretary. So, this is not good-bye to Pat in any way, shape or form. She will still be here for a year to lessen our shock of seeing her leave all together; a kind of slow withdrawal from parish office work.

Our new parish secretary is **Maureen Holly**. Maureen has known secretarial work in both the civil sector as well as in parish offices. She served as secretary to two Lieutenant Governors of Ontario; Pauline Mills McGibbon and John Black Aird. She served as parish secretary for a number of years at St. John Vianney parish in Barrie and went on to work with Hospice. She brings with her years of experience, especially parish office secretarial experience.

As the former pastor of St. John Vianney, I can recall more than once when Maureen came to the rescue of parishioners in medical distress. Once, during the Ash Wednesday Mass, a man went into cardiac arrest and Maureen and another parishioner provided CPR until the EMS arrived. They were later awarded for their efforts which saved the man's life. Another time was at a funeral she was attending in the parish. She had moved away from Barrie a few years before but was one day attending a funeral at SJV when an altar server passed out and landed on the hard, marble floor during the Eucharistic Prayer. The server felt faint and came to land just beside my right foot as I was celebrating Mass. Maureen came forward and attended to the passed-out server providing first-aid until an ambulance came.

Maureen will begin her new, full-time position as our parish secretary this Monday November 28, 2011 and I am sure all of our parishioners will make her feel most welcome as she learns the 'lay of the land' at St. Leo with Pat looking over her shoulder for the next year.

I couldn't speak of Pat Busby without mention of her husband, Ron, who has so generously and meticulously managed the bookkeeping of our finances for many years now. Ron, like Pat, retired several years ago but has offered his services to the parish at no charge, keeping us on track, providing us with budgets to better pay the bills, etc., and provided us with sound bookkeeping service and guidance to our Parish Finance Council.

Currently, Pat is the only one of the two of them who has mentioned the word 'retire', so I assume Ron will continue to assist us as he has so dutifully done for so many years now.

Formerly, the parish office was open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of every week because Pat took care of a grandchild on Tuesdays and wasn't able to be here, however, beginning this Monday the new parish office hours will be Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with a one-hour break for lunch when the office will be closed, and reopening at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pat has stated that she doesn't want to hear of any talk about her eventual retirement until she does retire in about a year or so. Until then please consider her here but working less hours than before.
(Fr. Charles)

Maureen Holly, our new parish secretary, is currently looking to purchase or rent an affordable house, basement apartment or rental unit in the Whitby/Brooklin/Oshawa area. If anyone has information about such accommodations, please call her at the parish office at 905-655-3286 ext. 101

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

- This Sunday is Coffee Sunday. Refreshments will be served after the 9 & 11 am Sunday Masses.
- First Reconciliation for St. Leo and St. Bridget Gr. 2 candidates this Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 7 pm.
- Euchre Night on Friday, December 2nd in the Parish Hall, 7 pm Sharp.

ATTENTION BAKERS: This is your time to shine. We need help with our Annual Christmas Cookie Campaign, which starts December 3rd and continues on December 10th and 17th. Cookies should be delivered to the church kitchen on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. For further information call Jeananne at (905) 579-6118.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Nov. 29 – 8:30 a.m. – Mass –
Wed., Nov. 30 – 7 pm – For the intentions of the Cavallari Family
Thursday, Dec. 1 – 8:30 a.m. – Mass
Friday, Dec. 2 – 8:30 a.m. – George Campbell+
Saturday, Dec. 3 – 5:00 p.m. – Baby Brooklynn Addison Rankin+
Sunday, Dec. 4 - 9:00 a.m. –
- 11:00 a.m. – Tony Puccia+

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE WILL BE SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS THIS WEEKEND IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PAMPERED CHEF GIFT BASKET.

St. Leo's CWL - Next meeting will be a potluck lunch meeting on Sunday, December 4th after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All women of the parish are invited. Please call (905) 620-0724 to let us know what you'd like to bring. Donation for the food bank would be appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please pick up an envelope from the rack near the Welcome table.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE SELLING CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES – DECEMBER 3/4, DECEMBER 10/11 AND DECEMBER 17/18, 2011 IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE AFTER ALL THE MASSES.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES AT A COST OF \$5 EACH AT THE WELCOME TABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE.

DID YOU KNOW! Did you know that out of the world's population, 4% die attending movies, 8% die eating in fast food restaurants, 10% die in home accidents, 10% die in lounges and taverns. 13% die in bars, 18% die from smoking, 47% die from accidents, misc., but only 1 out of 75 million people die in choir rehearsal! As you can see, staying out of the choir may be hazardous to your health! Recruiting for a Christmas choir commitment only - about 7 rehearsals.

Sing-cerely, your 11 am Choir!

THERE WILL BE A BLOOD DONOR CLINIC IN ST. LEO'S PARISH HALL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 – 4:30 PM TO 8:00 P.M. PLEASE ENTER HALL BY CARSON ST. ENTRANCE.

Our parish has a trained and dedicated team of Lay Pastoral Visitors (LPV) who visit the sick and homebound of our parish, bringing them Communion each Sunday, if requested. These Lay Pastoral Visitors assist Fr. Charles in bringing Communion to the many who are unable either temporarily or more regularly to attend Sunday Mass. These LPV's go directly from the Sunday Mass to the homes of parishioners with Communion. If you or a family member would like to be visited, please call the parish office at 905-655-3286 ext. 101.

There is a young man in his thirties, looking for a supportive individual, couple or family to share his apartment or their home. He is an outgoing, enjoyable roommate who has a daily routine participating in various activities in the community. Training and remuneration provided. For more information contact Joan at (905) 434-7656 or email jjezegou@sympatico.ca

Knights of Columbus Breakfast - Sunday Dec.11th at 10:00 am and 12:00 Noon. It's more affordable than you think! How is no charge? The next breakfast sponsored by the Knights is a gift to you. We just ask for a small donation to St. Vincent de Paul charity. A full breakfast/brunch of eggs, sausage, pancakes, biscuits, coffee, tea and juices (as much as you would like) to start your day will be provided. Every second month, the Knights of Columbus offer you a chance to enjoy breakfast without the work of cooking at home, or the cost usually associated with taking the family out.

"Fourth Day of Christmas" Dinner

At St. Mary Egypt Refuge

Wednesday, December 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Hospitality Days: December 27-29.

Please see poster on the Church Bulletin Board