

# ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

19450 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0

*Est. 1934*



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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday & Wednesday - Friday 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Rev. Patrick M. Dobec, P.P.

**PASTOR**

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Appointments only

In the Sacristy

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

3 January 2021

Let us pray . . .

Pope's Prayer Intention: Human fraternity – May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

For those who have died and left this transitory life . . . especially the repose souls of Theresa Rose Marsey staff worker of Madonna House and all the Pandemic Victims.                      Requiescant in Pace!

Life is filled with all kinds of "epiphanies" of finding God in our own Bethlehems and Jerusalems. The understanding and support of family and friends, the wisdom and insight of the prophets of justice and peace in our lives, the forgiveness and mercy we enable and accept are all "stars" God illuminates in our skies to discover his loving presence in our lives. The star of Epiphany challenges us to see our own lives in the "extraordinary" light of God. In the new year before us, may our hearts and spirits behold the "star" that leads us to the Epiphany of "Emmanuel" – God in our midst.

# CELEBRATION OF MASS

All public Masses Cancelled at this Time

## Christmas Season Reflection:

We are celebrating New Years at a bad time, although it is not the worst of times. We have no world war raging, we have steady supplies of necessities, there are encouraging signs that effective vaccines will become available; but we face the reality of uncertainty, of vulnerability, and of fear of what may yet unfold.

On Christmas Day, 1939, King George VI had just ascended the throne after the abdication of his older brother. The world was just at the beginning of a long and horrible war that would cost the lives of millions and wreak untold hardship on the lives of countless others. Every town and village, it seemed, was called upon to send its youth to the front lines: many would not return while others returned forever scarred by their experience of war.

On Christmas Day, eighty-one years ago, King George's voice was heard on the radio and he quoted the introduction to a poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins:

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God; that shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth and, finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east."

Two years later, Pope Pius XII addressed a world where there was great uncertainty about the outcome of the war, there were often food shortages, and very little hope. The death toll was staggering, the atrocities beginning to be known. The Pope said: "The Heavenly Father continues and will continue to guide our childlike steps with firmness and tenderness, only if we allow ourselves to be led by Him and trust in the power and wisdom of His love for us." Christmas is THE message of hope even in the darkest of times: "The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light" as we read in Scared Scripture.

My New Year's wish is that each of us may look for a spark of light, a glimmer of hope in our own entourage (even if it is a small bubble) and if, by some blindness on our part, we don't see such a spark, such a glimmer, even if we seem to have lost our own way, then LET US BE THAT LIGHT for those around us.

This Christmas Season may not be like others we have known, but it is still the birthday of the Christ child: He is our ultimate hope, our light of the world, our Prince of Peace.

The Following Mass Intentions are being celebrated in the church:

Intentions for Melissa Dombroskie

Joseph Walsh by Helen & Terry Recoskie

Gordon Pratt by Friends

Edmund Kubesheskie (Months Mind) by John & Ursula Jeffrey

Clarence Prince by Dorothy Prince and Family

Donald A. Etmanskie by Theresa Bossaer

Deceased members of the Burnside & Kiley Families by Doreen Margaret Burnside

Lawrence Sullivan by Bruce & Karen Sullivan

Al Smaglinski by Maxine Smaglinski

Matthew Biskup by Ernie & Bernadette Dudack

Scott Jeffrey by Sally Kuiack

Jacqueline Luckasavitch by Simone Brotton

Stanley Zilney by Kenneth & Phyllis Hudder

Bill Green by Brian & Donna Luckovitch

Madawaska Valley Food Bank – “Our Parish Christmas Food Bank Drive was a great success. Thank you to all. The clients and volunteers of the Madawaska Valley Food Bank would like to thank St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish for our recent food drive. Your generosity at this time of year is very much appreciated. Paul Thompson”  
Also, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation. We are delighted to know that you support our work. It is because of people like you that we are able to feed the needy in our area. Thank you again for your generosity. G. Parcher, Treasurer.

MARIANHILL LOTTERY 2021 supports the “Building Care” Redevelopment Project: Marianhill 2021 Lottery tickets are now available through to January 31, 2021. Lottery funds go towards the purchase of furniture and equipment for the new building. Each \$25 ticket provides you with 69 chances to win. Early Bird draw December 16, 2020. Call Marianhill to order 613-795-6838 ext: 4306 or download ticket order form at <https://marinahill.ca/news/>. Tickets will be mailed via Canada Post. Thank you for supporting the Marianhill Foundation.

- The Holy Father bestowed upon the Church a great gift when he announced the beginning a Year of St. Joseph continuing through until December 8, 2021 on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. In the Apostolic Letter Patris Corde (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. Writing this letter in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Holy Father wishes to connect the hidden obedience of St. Joseph with the many ordinary and courageous people who exercise patience and quiet fidelity each day. As patron saint of Canada, we shall endeavour to keep this Year of St. Joseph in a very special way.
- The example of St. Joseph is found in the quiet ways in which people seek to assist those in need. This particular time of the year deserves our charity and sacrifice. Locally, the tireless works of Food Banks are an extraordinary ways that our generosity may practically assist our neighbours in need.

**Registered Households 178**  
**Last Sunday’s Offering \$9623.00**

**33 Household Envelopes: \$4664.00**  
**Christmas Offering to date: \$6679.00**

**Building Fund: \$20.00**  
**Christmas Flowers to date: \$1016.00**

May God Bless You and Your Loved Ones for Your Great Generosity

Pembroke Sisters of Saint Joseph

Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,

“Year of St. Joseph”



It was at LePuy, France, on October 1650 six aspirants of the religious life formed the nucleus of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

At the request of Bishop Patrick T. Ryan, the Sisters of St. Joseph were formed in Pembroke on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1921. Prior to 1921 the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough were serving the Diocese of Pembroke in Douglas, Killaloe, and Mount St. Patrick.

On August, 20, 1921 twenty-seven brave and adventurous Sisters were sent from the security of Peterborough to establish the Pembroke Diocesan Congregation.

The Sisters of St. Joseph have made major contributions to education and health care at all levels in our community.

A convent was made ready for the Sisters in 1928, then a new eight-room St. Joseph's School was in readiness the next year (Sisters Beatrice, Ursula, Agnes and Cecilia, the pioneers). This building was blessed and dedicated May 21, 1930. It was well equipped for primary education and paved the way of secondary education under the direction of the Sisters.

St. Joseph's School celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1979. The outstanding contribution through their sacrifices and devotion was acknowledged.

In 1982 the school was closed and pupils transferred to St. John Bosco School.

On December 1, 1960, St. Francis Memorial Hospital was officially opened and the Administration of the hospital was designated to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke. Sr. Mary Emma Varney was named administrator and with six other sisters was placed in complete charge of the Administration and Nursing and technical operations of the new hospital.

Valley Manor, a charitable, not-for-profit home (90 bed long term care facility) opened in May of 1978 with Sr. Rosenda Brady as Administrator.

Sr. Rosenda Brady, Sr. Theresa Lepack (Sr. St. Pius) and other sisters were also in our parish ministry in various roles, adult education programs, children sacramental preparation, music, liturgy, sacristans to name just a few.

Three teachers and two nurses were missioned to Peru in 1969 and the parishes supported this missionary experience of the universal church.

In 1984, five co-members were received in Barry's Bay, seven in Peru. These associates share in the charism of the ministry of the Congregation and their numbers continued to grow to this day.

Barry's Bay and the surrounding area have been enriched by the Sisters' ministry, prayerful presence and leadership in so many ways for a century.

May God continue to bless these extraordinary women of faith.

Deo Gratias.