

ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

19450 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0
Est. 1934



Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*For emergencies during the week also call
Holy Canadian Martyrs at 613-756-3606
during Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday,
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

✠ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

January 29, 2023

ST. JOSEPH HOUSE is celebrating 60 years of serving the people of the Valley. Bishop Guy Desroschers is coming Sunday, Feb. 12 for a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish. On Feb. 14, the anniversary of the first Mass said in their chapel, there will be an Open House and the second-hand shops will be open, both from 2-4 p.m. You are most welcome to attend. God willing there will be another celebration in the summer.

CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY: There is a great commentary on **The Gospel of Matthew** by Edward Sri and Curtis Mitch is available. It is available by calling the parish office and signing up to have a copy ordered for you. It is about \$25. Why not plan a personal study of this gospel as we read from it throughout this year?

WINTER FLU SEASON & PROTOCOL: Please, if you have any flu-like symptoms you and your family should remain at home. Those who wish to receive the Host on the tongue are asked to come forward towards the end of the procession for Holy Communion. *(I have had Covid for the past week and so exercising an abundance of caution, I will only return to celebrating Mass publicly when major symptoms have substantially subsided. I already have enough chicken soup, thank you! ~ Fr. John)*

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

January 30 – February 4

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. +Sylvio Jean *by Lorraine Finn*
Friday 9:00 a.m. +Phelanda Hall *by Family*

+ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

February 5, 2023

Saturday 4:00 p.m. +Clarence Prince *by Dorothy Prince*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	February 4	February 5
Readings	<i>Jane Beahen</i>	<i>Emilie Pigeon</i>
Communion	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i> <i>Tony Burant</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i> <i>Eddie Etmanskie</i>

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - Ferial – ordinary weekday
Tuesday - St. John Bosco, priest
Wednesday - Ferial – ordinary weekday
Thursday - The Presentation of the Lord
Friday - St. Blaise, bishop, martyr and St. Ansgar, bishop
Saturday - Our Lady’s Saturday

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

-Christians persecuted throughout the world, for all victims and refugees of civil war.
-that the peoples, legislators, and healthcare practitioners of our country would choose life and not death regarding euthanasia, assisted suicide and abortion.
- for parishioners who are sick; and for those who have died, especially: *Judy Shires, Rose (Blank) Coulas, and Bronis “Ronnie” Shalla.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in sacristy.
Weekdays – before weekday Masses in sacristy or by appointment during office hours.

ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, the Gospel presents the first great discourse that the Lord addresses to the people on the gentle hills encircling the Sea of Galilee. “Seeing the crowds,” St Matthew writes, “he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them” (Mt 5:1-2).

Jesus, the new Moses, “takes his seat on the cathedra of the mountain” (*Jesus of Nazareth*, Doubleday, New York 2007, p. 65) and proclaims “blessed” the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, those who hunger for righteousness, the pure in heart, the persecuted (*see* Mt 5:3-10). It is not a new ideology, but a teaching that comes from on high and touches the human condition, the condition that the Lord, in becoming flesh, wished to assume in order to save it.

Therefore “the Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the entire world, the entire present and future, and yet it demands *discipleship* and can be understood and lived out only by following Jesus and accompanying him on his journey” (*Jesus of Nazareth*, p. 69).

The Beatitudes are a new programme of life, to free oneself from the false values of the world and to open oneself to the true goods, present and future. Indeed, when God comforts, he satisfies the hunger for righteousness, he wipes away the tears of those who mourn, which means that, as well as compensating each one in a practical way, he opens the Kingdom of Heaven. “The Beatitudes are the transposition of the Cross and Resurrection into discipleship” (*ibid.*, p. 74). They mirror the life of the Son of God who let himself even be persecuted and despised until he was condemned to death so that salvation might be given to men and women.

An ancient hermit says: “The Beatitudes are gifts of God and we must say a great ‘thank you’ to him for them and for the rewards that derive from them, namely the Kingdom of God in the century to come and consolation here; the fullness of every good and mercy on God’s part ... once we have become images of Christ on earth” (Peter of Damascus, *In Filocalia*, Vol. 3, Turin 1985, p. 79).

The Gospel of the Beatitudes is commented on with the actual history of the Church, the history of Christian holiness, because, as St Paul writes, “God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are” (1 Cor 1:27-28).

For this reason the Church has no fear of poverty, contempt or persecution in a society which is often attracted by material well-being and worldly power. St Augustine reminds us that “it serves nothing to suffer these evils, but rather to bear them in the Name of Jesus, not only with a serene soul but also with joy” (*see De sermone Domini in monte*, i, 5,13: ccl 35, 13). Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the Virgin Mary, the Blessed par excellence, asking her for the strength to seek the Lord (*see* Zeph 2:3) and to follow him always, with joy, on the path of the Beatitudes. ~ *Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; January 30, 2011*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS: Total: \$3,761.00; (Envelopes: \$2,158.00; E-Transfers: \$90.00; Loose: \$62.00; Visitors: \$245.00; Initial Offering: \$15.00; Fuel: \$1,171.00; New Year's: \$20.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./105; 10:30 a.m./83]

Thank you for your faith-filled generosity which enables us to maintain what previous generations of Catholics built as a place for gathering as the Body of Christ, formation in Christian faith and celebrating the Sacraments of the Church.

USHERS: Will again be taking up the collection at the offertory.

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Can be picked up at the Office.

NORTHERN ONTARIO CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – Level up! Find Your Purpose: in North Bay, Ontario, Feb. 25 This event is for ages 13-19 and includes a day full of prayer, music, workshops, games, Catholic vendors and motivational talks from **Keynote Speaker, Ken Yasinski**. Ken Yasinski has been speaking full time for 20 years within the Catholic Church. He is the founder of Face-to-Face Ministries, a Lighthouse Catholic Media Speaker, author, and songwriter. This event is being hosted by the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall from 10 a.m to 8 p.m. Registration information can be found at www.holynamestalphonus.com/levelup. Young people from all over Northern Ontario and beyond are welcome to attend this Conference. The **Diocese of Pembroke, Family Life and Youth Ministry Office**, is organizing transportation to attend this 1-day conference. The **cost is \$30.00 per participant (includes transportation, lunch and dinner)**. Deadline is Friday Feb. 17th. Contact Yvette for more information or to receive a registration form. (613) 585-6301 or yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT: March 24 to 26, 2023 at the Graphite Bible Camp in Maynooth. Fr. Zachary Romanowsky and Cheryl Ann Smith from Madonna House will be leading the retreat. The cost is \$175.00. For more information contact us at womensretreatcombermere@gmail.com or call/text Caitlin 613-316-0992 or Kristan 613-585-0579

OUR LADY SEAT OF WISDOM COLLEGE: presents a live theatre production of "Candida", a comedy by George Bernard Shaw. Showtimes: Friday, February 10, 7 pm. Saturday, February 11, 7 pm. Sunday (matinee), February 12, 1 pm. at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406, 250 John St, Barry's Bay. Tickets at the door: Adult: \$20, Students/Seniors: \$12 (cash, cheque, e-transfer only), Advance: \$15.35 (adult) / \$11.70 (student); e-transfer-only; Children under 6: Free, Family rate: \$50