

# 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:**

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.*

## ✠ **First Sunday of Lent** ✠

*February 26, 2023*

**1st THURSDAY HOLY HOURS TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** **THIS** Thursday, March 2nd, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at **St. Francis de Sales Mission, Latchford Bridge** – “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Mt. 9:37-38). The Holy Hour will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Music, a reflection by Fr. Scott Murray, a Rosary for vocations, and time for silent prayer. March’s Holy Hour will be at St. Francis de Sales in Latchford Bridge. These Holy Hours are open to everyone, not just those considering a priestly vocation. The topic of the reflection this month will be “Poustinia – Entering the Lenten Desert.”

**PRIEST PROJECTION FOR THE DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE:** in 10 years (2023) there will be about 7 incardinated diocesan priests serving in the 5 deaneries of our Diocese. While we are grateful for the number international religious priests who help us, we will not be able to maintain the existing parish/pastoral configuration for much longer. Discussions regarding this future were already taking place in all parishes in 2005 and some of the reconfigurations/closures have already take place.

## First Sunday of Lent

February 27 – March 4

**Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. Intentions of Robert Zilney *by Monique Perry*

**Thursday** 6:30-7:30 p.m. *Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations*  
@ SFDS

**First Friday** 9:00 a.m. (*Beginning with the Stations of the Cross*)  
+Phelanda Hall *by Family*  
Intentions of the Starflowers Prayer Initiative

## + Second Sunday of Lent +

March 5, 2023

**Saturday** 4:00 p.m. +Josephine, Kevin, & Wilfred Cowan  
*by Thelma & Robert Cowan-Williams*

**Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

**Liturgical Appointments**  
**Readings**  
**Communion**  
**Offertory**

### March 4

*Karen Yakabuski*  
*Beverly Glofcheskie*  
*Bruce Sullivan*  
*Richard Luckasavitch*

### March 5

*Judy Filion*  
*Terry Recoskie*  
*Eddie Etmanskie*  
*Andrew Dombroskie*

### 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: *Joseph Samuel Troesch*, father of *Judy Filion*; *Marie Riley*; *Eva Kulas*; *Mary Patricia McConville*; *David "Rocky" Coulas*; *Cory Plebon* and *Judy Shires*.

**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.

**THE PASCHAL MYSTERY: REFLECTIONS FOR LENT AND EASTER:** A book from Word on Fire Ministries (Bishop Baron) is available from the parish office for \$10. Supplies are limited.

**THIS IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**, the liturgical Season of 40 days which constitutes a spiritual journey in the Church of preparation for Easter. Essentially it is a matter of following Jesus who is walking with determination towards the Cross, the culmination of his mission of salvation. If we ask ourselves: “Why Lent? Why the Cross?”, the answer in radical terms is this: because evil exists, indeed sin, which according to the Scriptures is the profound cause of all evil. However, this affirmation is far from being taken for granted and the very word “sin” is not accepted by many because it implies a religious vision of the world and of the human being.

In fact, it is true: if God is eliminated from the world’s horizon, one cannot speak of sin. As when the sun is hidden, shadows disappear. Shadows only appear if the sun is out; hence the eclipse of God necessarily entails the eclipse of sin. Therefore, the sense of sin — which is something different from the “sense of guilt” as psychology understands it — is acquired by rediscovering the sense of God. This is expressed by the Miserere Psalm, attributed to King David on the occasion of his double sin of adultery and homicide: “Against you”, David says, addressing God, “against you only have I sinned” (Ps 51(50):6).

In the face of moral evil God’s attitude is to oppose sin and to save the sinner. God does not tolerate evil because he is Love, Justice and Fidelity; and for this very reason he does not desire the death of the sinner but wants the sinner to convert and to live. To save humanity God intervenes: we see him throughout the history of the Jewish people, beginning with the liberation from Egypt. God is determined to deliver his children from slavery in order to lead them to freedom. And the most serious and profound slavery is precisely that of sin.

For this reason, God sent his Son into the world: to set men and women free from the domination of Satan, “the origin and cause of every sin”. God sent him in our mortal flesh so that he might become a victim of expiation, dying for us on the Cross. The Devil opposed this definitive and universal plan of salvation with all his might, as is shown in particular in the Gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness which is proclaimed every year on the First Sunday of Lent. In fact, entering this liturgical season means continuously taking Christ’s side against sin, facing — both as individuals and as Church — the spiritual fight against the spirit of evil each time (Ash Wednesday, Opening Prayer).

Let us therefore invoke the maternal help of Mary Most Holy for the Lenten journey that has just begun, so that it may be rich in fruits of conversion. ~ *Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; March 13, 2011*

**THE MYSTERY OF REDEMPTION:** The weekday homilies during Lent will focus on themes of the Mystery of our Redemption by Christ. *Why did Jesus die for my sins? How could the death of Jesus be the cause of our redemption? Was the Cross necessary? How does Jesus meet the demands of justice through his passion and death?*

**LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:** Total: \$4,023.25.00; (Envelopes: \$1,649.00; E-Transfers: \$100.00; Loose: \$59.25; Visitors: \$2,110.00; Initial Offering: \$10.00; Building Fund: \$85.00; Fuel: \$10.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./117; 10:30 a.m./95]

**MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DESROCHERS:** On the Occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Pembroke. Copies are available at the entrance. "With joy, 2023 marks the momentous occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Pembroke. This milestone provides an opportunity to give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit and for us to recognize God's grace continually at work in the life of our diocese."

**SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD PRAYER GROUP:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs in the sacristy. Questions? Call Greg or Mary 613-756-6643 or Pierre-Paul or Judy 613-602-6508

**CWL NEWS:** Pot O' Gold tickets can be returned to the church. Do Not put in the collection, please give them to Viola Cybulski on Saturday night or Carmel Rumleskie on Sunday morning. Thank You to all for your support of our fundraiser. Plan now to attend the Sunday Social on March 12<sup>th</sup> after 10:30 a.m. Mass.

**LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION:** (*From the Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

**Blocking Our Way (2846-2847):** Sins come from consenting to temptation. We ask God not to lead us into temptation, meaning "do not allow us to enter" or "do not let us yield to" temptation. God cannot be tempted, and he tempts no one. This petition asks him to block our way into temptation and to give us the Spirit of discernment. The Spirit helps us to know the difference between trials (needed for our spiritual growth) and temptations (which lead to death). We also discern between "being tempted" and "consenting to temptation" realizing that some things seem desirable, but their fruit is death. "There is a certain usefulness to temptation. We discover our evil inclinations" (Origen).

**Serving Which Master? (2848):** "Lead us not into temptation" demands a "decision of the heart." "No one can serve two masters" (Mt 6:24). "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit (Gal 5:25). When we are tempted, God will "provide the way of escape, so you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor 10:13).

**Victory by Prayer (2849):** Jesus overcame his temptations by prayer and our victory is also won by prayer. In this petition, Christ unites us to his battle, urges us to vigilance, and prays to the Father, "Keep them in your name" (Jn 17:11). This petition dramatically asks for final perseverance, "So, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is he who is awake" (Rev 16:15).