

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.*

✠ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

February 12, 2023

60 DAYS UNTIL EASTER! Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22 with Mass and the imposition of Ashes at 6:30 p.m., and then Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The weekday homilies during Lent will focus on themes of the Mystery of our Redemption by Christ. *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?* Let us begin to reflect on the words of Pope Francis, who reminds us that, "Christians are asked to return to God 'with all their hearts' (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord." Do you use the Lenten season yield yourself in being closer to Jesus? The season of Lent is an urgent call to conversion. A book of **Reflections for Lent and Easter** is available from the parish office for \$10. Supplies are limited.

ALTAR SERVERS: This ministry is being restored at our Masses. Youth (boys and girls; grade 5 and up) who with the consent and presence of their parents before/after Mass in the sacristy, can be servers. Please speak to Fr. John after any Mass.

Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

February 13 – 18

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. +Beverly Brotton *by Family*
Friday 9:00 a.m. +Katie (Serran) Gould *by Viola Cybulski*

+ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time +

February 19, 2023

Saturday 4:00 p.m. +Danny & Gloria Parks *by Georgina, Pat, Jean & Irene*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	February 18	February 19
Readings	<i>Lorraine Flynn</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Communion	<i>Leona Chapeskie</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>Jamie Prince</i>
	<i>Tony Burant</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - Ferial – ordinary weekday
Tuesday - St. Cyril, monk and St. Methodius, bishop
Wednesday - Ferial – ordinary weekday
Thursday - Ferial – ordinary weekday
Friday - The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
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: *Mary Patricia McConville, David "Rocky" Coulas, Cory Plebon, Judy Shires, and Rose (Blank) Coulas.*

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.

IN THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL, we continue to read Jesus' so-called "Sermon on the Mount". It is contained in chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Matthew's Gospel. After the Beatitudes, which are the programme of his life, Jesus proclaims the new Law, his Torah, as our Jewish brothers and sisters call it. In fact, on his coming, the Messiah was also to bring the definitive revelation of the Law, and this is precisely what Jesus declares: "Think not that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them".

And addressing his disciples, he adds: "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt 5:17, 20). But what do this "fullness" of Christ's Law and this "superior" justice that he demands consist in? Jesus explains it with a series of antitheses between the old commandments and his new way of propounding them. And he does this six times. This manner of speaking made a great impression on the people, who were shocked, because those words: "I say to you" were equivalent to claiming the actual authority of God, the source of the Law. The newness of Jesus consists essentially in the fact that he himself "fulfils" the commandments with the love of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within him. And we, through faith in Christ, can open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit who makes us capable of living divine love.

So it is that every precept becomes true as a requirement of love, and all join in a single commandment: love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself. "Love is the fulfilling of the Law", St Paul writes (Rom 13:10).'

With regard to this requirement, for example, the pitiful case of the four children, who died last week when their shack caught fire on the outskirts of this city, forces us to ask ourselves whether a more supportive and fraternal society, more consistent in love, in other words more Christian, might not have been able to prevent this tragic event. And this question applies in the case of so many other grievous events, more or less known, which occur daily in our cities and our towns.

Dear friends, perhaps it is not by chance that Jesus' first great preaching is called the "Sermon on the Mount"! Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Law of God and bring it to the Chosen People. Jesus is the Son of God himself who came down from Heaven to lead us to Heaven, to God's height, on the way of love. Indeed, he himself is this way; all we have to do in order to put into practice God's will and to enter his Kingdom, eternal life, is to follow him.

Only one creature has already scaled the mountain peak: the Virgin Mary. Through her union with Jesus, her righteousness was perfect: for this reason, we invoke her as Mirror of Justice. Let us entrust ourselves to her so that she may guide our steps in fidelity to Christ's Law. ~ *Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; February 13, 2011*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS: Total: \$2,060.00; (Envelopes: \$1,663.00; E-Transfers: \$160.00; Loose: \$77.00; Visitors: \$100.00; Initial Offering: \$20.00; Fuel: \$35.00; New Year's: \$5.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./90; 10:30 a.m./73]

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.

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE: The members of the committee met recently and reviewed the revenues and expenditures for the past fiscal year 2022 and approved a financial report for parishioners which you will receive along with a pastoral letter and charitable donation receipts in February. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity and your financial commitment to St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER on February 21st at St Lawrence O'Toole Hall. Served at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. Entrance by free will offering, in support of the charitable work of the Knights of Columbus.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care: we are offering a Grief Group for anyone who has experienced the death of a special person. Weekly group begins Wednesday, March 1st, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (6 sessions) and to register or for more information call us at 613-756-3045 ext. 350. The group will take place in Barry's Bay, specific location will be given to registered participants only.

CWL NEWS: Pot O' Gold tickets can be returned to the church. Do Not put in the collection. Thank You to all for your support of our fundraiser. Check the bulletin Board to join the CWL Diocesan Retreat with Fr. Michael Coyne DSA by Zoom on Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. Plan now to attend the Sunday Social on March 12th after 10:30 a.m. Mass.

NEW! THEOLOGY ON TAP – BARRY'S BAY - Friday, February 24 – 7:30 p.m. at the Balmoral Hotel. Guest Speaker: Fr. Scott Murray. Topic: "The Plagues on Egypt: Let my son go that he may serve me".

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD PRAYER GROUP: "Rejoice always, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes 5:16-18) One way to "give thanks in all circumstances" is to join others for an evening of praise, prayerful listening, and intercession. 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. 2nd and 4th 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.