

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 of Lent ✠

(Laetare Sunday)

March 19, 2023

LAETARE SUNDAY: Laetare means "Rejoice" in Latin, and the Introit (entrance antiphon) begins "Laetare, Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem"). The passage from Isaiah continues, "rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow." Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. Purple vestments are exchanged for rose ones. Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed on the altar.

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST: Do you desire a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit and a vital rediscovery of the Sacraments in your life? Do you long for a personal relationship with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek a greater outpouring of God's healing and love? Do you yearn for a greater openness to prayer and Scripture? The Spirit of the Living God Prayer Group invites you to a "Life in the Spirit" Seminar. St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall, Barry's Bay. Seven Thursdays, April 13 - May 25, 7 - 8:15 pm. "With all my heart I hope that Renewal in the Spirit may be a true "gymnasium" in the church for prayer, asceticism, virtue and holiness." (St John Paul II) Contact: Pierre Paul or Judy 613-602-6580

Fourth Week of Lent

March 20 – 25

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
+ Elizabeth “Betty” Shalla *by Dennis Herron*
Intentions of Jean Sayyea *by Family*

Friday 9:00 a.m. (*Beginning with the Stations of the Cross*)
+ Clemence & Joan Prince
by Glenn Prince & Alicia Coulas

+ Fifth Sunday of Lent +

March 26, 2023

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Beatrice, Joseph & Mildred Brotton *by Family*

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

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

March 25

Susan Coulas

Neil O'Reilly

Tony Burant

Barry Dombroskie

March 26

Emilie Pigeon

Terry Recoskie

John Jeffrey

Jason Dombroskie

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday - The Annunciation of the Lord

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- for parishioners who are sick; and for those who have died, especially: *Veronica Murack; Julia Coghlan; Joseph Samuel Troesch*, father of Judy Filion; *Marie Riley and Mary Patricia McConville*.

CELEBRATION OF THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION: by Bishop Desrochers will take place at St. Lawrence O'Toole on Sunday, April 30, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Candidates are required to research and speak to Fr. Burchat about the saint whose name they will be using answering this question: *How did the Holy Spirit inspire this person to proclaim and live the Gospel in the church and the world?*

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE: sets before us the story of the man born blind, to whom Jesus gives sight. The lengthy account opens with a blind man who begins to see, and it closes—and this is curious—with the alleged seers who remain blind in soul. The miracle is narrated by John in just two verses, because the Evangelist does not want to draw attention to the miracle itself, but rather to what follows, to the discussions it arouses, also to the gossip. So many times, a good work, a work of charity arouses gossip and discussion, because there are some who do not want to see the truth.

While the blind man gradually draws near to the light, the doctors of the law on the contrary sink deeper and deeper into their inner blindness. Locked in their presumption, they believe that they already have the light, therefore, they do not open themselves to the truth of Jesus. They do everything to deny the evidence.

The blind man's journey on the contrary is a journey in stages that begins with the knowledge of Jesus' name. Once he has been banished from the temple, expelled from society, Jesus finds him again and "opens his eyes" for the second time, by revealing his own identity to him: "I am the Messiah," he tells him. At this point the man who had been blind exclaims: "Lord, I believe!" (v. 38), and he prostrates himself before Jesus. This is a passage of the Gospel that makes evident the drama of the inner blindness of so many people, also our own for sometimes we have moments of inner blindness.

Our lives are sometimes similar to that of the blind man who opened himself to the light, who opened himself to God, who opened himself to his grace. Sometimes unfortunately they are similar to that of the doctors of the law: from the height of our pride, we judge others, and even the Lord! Today, we are invited to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives, to eliminate unchristian behaviors; we are all Christians but we all, everyone sometimes has unchristian behaviors, behaviors that are sins. We must repent of this, eliminate these behaviors in order to journey well along the way of holiness, which has its origin in baptism. We, too, have been "enlightened" by Christ in baptism, so that, as St Paul reminds us, we may act as "children of light" (Eph 5:8), with humility, patience, and mercy. These doctors of the law had neither humility, nor patience, nor mercy!

I suggest that today, when you return home, you take the Gospel of John and read this passage from Chapter nine. It will do you good, because you will thus see this road from blindness to light and the other evil road that leads to deeper blindness. Let us ask ourselves about the state of our own heart? Do I have an open heart or a closed heart? It is opened or closed to God? Open or closed to my neighbour? We are always closed to some degree which comes from original sin, from mistakes, from errors. We need not be afraid! Let us open ourselves to the light of the Lord, he awaits us always in order to enable us to see better, to give us more light, to forgive us. Let us not forget this! Let us entrust this Lenten journey to the Virgin Mary, so that we too, like the blind man who was healed, by the grace of Christ may "come to the light," go forward towards the light and be reborn to new life.

Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; March 30, 2014

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS: Total: \$2,701.15; (Envelopes: \$1,899.00; E-Transfers: \$340.00; Loose: \$222.15; Visitors: \$145.00; Easter Flowers: \$95.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./117; 10:30 a.m./123]
Correction: March 5th bulletin Offering: Total \$3,081 not \$5,081(Envelopes \$2,139 not \$4,139)

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS: for the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones can be made with the envelopes provided at the entrance of the church. The Masses of Easter will be offered for your intentions. Donations must be submitted by Friday, March 31st, in order to have loved ones listed in the Easter bulletin memorial page.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION: by Bishop Desrochers will take place at St. Lawrence O'Toole on Sunday, April 30, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Before all weekday and weekend Masses. With visiting priest-confessors on:

Sunday, March 26; 1:00 – 2:00 pm. at St. Lawrence O'Toole (*& First Confessions*)

Sunday, April 2; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM:

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs

Good Friday: 12:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs

3:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole

Easter Vigil: 8:30 p.m. at St. Hedwig's *All parishioners and pastor are invited.*

Easter Sunday: 9:00 a.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs

10:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole

10:30 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD PRAYER GROUP: 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

LENTEN RETREAT: with Emeritus Archbishop Terrence Prendergast SJ on Saturday, April 1, at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall, 331 Plaunt Street South, Renfrew, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with registration at 9:30 a.m. Mass at 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$15.00 per person (lunch and refreshments provided). This retreat is open to all the faithful. The theme of the retreat is "The Eucharist". Sponsored by the Diocesan of Faith Formation and Leadership Development & to register or for more information, please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at (613) 732-7933 ext. 206 or dcadriendchaput@pembrokediocese.com. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 30, 2023.