

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.*

✠ **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord** ✠

April 2, 2023

From the high of hosanna acclamation (gospel at the procession with palms) to the low of betrayal, denial, and fleeing in face of danger, these two gospels on this Sunday capture the Life and death rhythm of the Paschal Mystery, a mystery that can give a new and divine meaning to the joy and suffering of our own lives. We are able to embrace this mystery because the grace of Our Lord Jesus who was unshaken in his fidelity to his saving mission.

Few of us are faced with a choice of persecution and death in acclaiming Jesus as “the Son of God.” No less demanding, however, is the daily choice to live the Gospel’s requirement that we die to ourselves for the sake of others. This is how we confess Jesus is the Son of God. This is how, rather than denial and fleeing Jesus’ Presence, we come to stand at the Cross with Christ. This is how we come to new Life.

Like the disciples, we also know who Jesus is. Every Sunday we make our profession of faith: “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God”. Today we are invited to reflect on our own knowledge of who Jesus is and how well we confess to knowing him in our daily living. We must embrace the death of daily self-giving if we, too, are to pass through death to new Life. Relying on the grace of Christ, we will remain unshaken in our commitment to him.

+ Holy Week +

April 3 - 5

Monday 9:00 a.m. + Leonard Stoppa *by Bruce & Karen Sullivan*
Tuesday 10:30 a.m. *CHRISM MASS @ St. Columbkille Cathedral/Pembroke*
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. + David Joseph Afelskie *by Jerry & Diane Green*

+++ THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM +++

April 6 - 9

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs (*silent adoration until 10:00 p.m.*)
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

Liturgical Appointments

April 7 **Readings** *Emilie Pigeon Joanne Olsen Martin Yakabuski*
Offertory *Bruce Sullivan Eddie Etmanskie*
April 9 **Readings** *Beverley Glofcheskie*
Communion *Ursula Jeffrey*
Offertory *Eddie Etmanskie Bruce Sullivan*

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: *Fr. Roch Gagnon, Veronica Murack; Julia Coghlan; and Joseph Samuel Troesch, father of Judy Filion.*

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?*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: With visiting priest-confessors on:
TODAY, Sunday, April 2; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs
Sunday, April 2; 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary's in Wilno
Monday, April 3; from 5:30 p.m. at St. Hedwig's

GOOD FRIDAY: is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. The Church continues her fast on Holy Saturday [until sundown] in preparation for the Great Solemnity of Our Lord's Resurrection.

EASTER VIGIL: This year, parishioners of both St. Lawrence O'Toole and Holy Canadian Martyrs have been invited to participate in the Vigil Mass which will begin at 8:30 p.m. at St. Hedwig's. Fr. John Burchat will be concelebrating and preaching. This Mass does satisfy your obligation for Easter Sunday.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: is April 16. The Novena begins on Good Friday.

THE CROSS: was meant to terrify people. If you ran afoul of the Roman state, they would fix you to this terrible instrument of torture, allow you to hang there until you died, and then leave your body for the beasts of the field. It was meant to be agonizingly painful, humiliating, and dehumanizing. The cross came to symbolize all of the dark power that the world could muster: violence, oppression, injustice, and indifference to suffering. It was, in a word, state-sponsored terrorism and it was the key to the power of Rome. So terrible was the cross that people in polite society wouldn't speak of it. For the first nine centuries of the Church's life, Jesus' cross wouldn't be depicted.

It is so important theologically to note that Jesus allows all of this to wash over him. He submits to the totality of it, accepting as Paul says, "even death, death on a cross." The world had thrown its worst at Jesus, spending itself on him, but he, through the power of the Holy Spirit, was more powerful. And this is why they proclaimed him as King and Lord and Messiah.

In an absolutely delicious bit of irony, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, places over the cross, the declaration, in the three major languages of the time, that Jesus is the King, effectively de-throning Caesar and becoming, despite himself, the first great evangelist.

And so we today hold up the cross of Jesus Christ, which was meant to affirm the powers of the world, the powers of sin and death, as a challenge to those powers. It's our declaration that death and violence do not have the last word. Jesus does. In the cross we see that Jesus Christ is the victorious Lord." ~ *Bishop Robert Barron*

OFFICE HOURS: The parish office will be closed Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS: Total: \$2,736.25; (Envelopes: \$2,061.00; E-Transfers: \$55.00; Loose: \$153.25; Visitors: \$85.00; Building Fund: \$10.00; Easter Flowers: \$372.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./123; 10:30 a.m./99]

2023 DIOCESAN LENTEN MISSIONARY AND DEVELOPEMENT COLLECTION: This collection is taken up on Good Friday. Lent is a time of sacrificial almsgiving. This is more than simply writing a cheque or philanthropy. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is 'giving to God'. It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving — not just giving something, but giving up something, giving till it hurts. In a sense, almsgiving is better than fasting because it involves both prayer and fasting.

MASS OF CHRISM: Will be celebrated this week at St. Columbkille Cathedral on Tuesday, April 4, at 10:30 a.m. Reception following Mass at Cathedral Hall. Everyone welcome!

At this Mass, the Bishop concelebrates with his Presbyterium and manifests our communion in the Priesthood of Christ. The priests of the diocese publicly renew their commitment to the priestly service of Our Lord's Church. During this same Mass, the anointing oils used for the Sacraments of the Church are also blessed. Specifically, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens (Baptism) are blessed by the Bishop, and the Sacred Chrism (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders) is consecrated by the Bishop with the Presbyterate.

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD PRAYER GROUP: will not be meeting this week.

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

PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK: Almighty Father, who sent your only Son to live and die as one like us, save me. Show me how I can love you more deeply. Send your Holy Spirit to help me bring glory to your holy name by walking in the way of the Cross with Jesus your Son. Give me grace and mercy as I try and fail, guidance when I'm not sure which way to go, and wisdom to trust you in all things. Lord Jesus, may I seek you evermore as I walk with you through this Holy Week and beyond. Amen.