

# 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.*

## ✠ **The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** ✠

May 21, 2023

**TODAY** we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. The Ascension does not mean Jesus goes "up, up, and away" as if his presence leaves earth, but rather that he assumes the throne of heaven so as to direct matters here on earth. Jesus was the meeting of heaven and earth. His Ascension returned him to God in order to reign as the world's new king, and his orders to the disciples to build his church were to be done with his leadership and assistance. And this is our mission - much like that of the disciples - finding what it is that Christ wants us to do to continue to build his church. ~ *Bishop Robert Barron*

**VICTORIA DAY:** Because of her support for the forming of the Dominion of Canada, the birthday (May 24, 1819; d.1901) of Queen Victoria has been celebrated as a holiday in Canada since 1845. She has been called the "Mother of Confederation." Unofficially, the Victoria Day weekend demarks the beginning of the summer cottage season!

**Eternal God, whose reign extends from sea to sea  
and whose care endures throughout the ages,  
hear our prayers for our country: grant wisdom to those who govern it  
and respect for human life and dignity to every citizen,  
so that justice may flourish and all peoples live in unity and in peace.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Seventh Week of Easter

May 22 - 27

- Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)  
+ Ronnie Shalla *by Daniel & Patsy O'Malley*  
~ Intentions of Gerard O'Malley *by Daniel & Patsy O'Malley*
- Friday** 9:00 a.m. + Orville Kulas *by Viola Cybulski*

## + Solemnity of Pentecost +

May 28, 2023

- Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Charlotte Lehovitch *by Andrew & Colleen Dombroskie*  
~ Intentions of Edward Recoskie *by John Recoskie*
- Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

### Liturgical Appointments

#### Readings

#### Communion

#### Offertory

### May 27

*Karen Yakabuski*

*Beverly Glofcheskie*

*Bruce Sullivan*

*Richard Luckasavitch*

### May 28

*Paul Aikenhead*

*Terry Recoskie*

*John Jeffrey*

*Jamie Prince*

### IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Fr Mervin Coulas who is celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to Holy Orders (May 25, 1963), that God may grant him many years!
- for parishioners who are sick; and for those who have died, especially: *Jean Whitmore*, mother of Lorraine Cherry *and Fr. Terry Conway*.

### ROMAN CALENDAR:

- Monday - St. Rita of Cascia, religious
- Tuesday - World Day of Prayer for the Church in China
- Wednesday - Blessed Louis-Zephirin Moreau, bishop
- Thursday - St. Bede the Venerable, priest, doctor & St. Gregory VII, pope & St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, virgin
- Friday - St. Philip Neri, priest
- Saturday - St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop

## **I Am With You Always**

*From a Homily by Pope Benedict XVI; May 7, 2005*

So what does the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord mean for us? It does not mean that the Lord has departed to some place far from people and from the world. Christ's Ascension is not a journey into space toward the most remote stars; for basically, the planets, like the earth, are also made of physical elements.

Christ's Ascension means that he no longer belongs to the world of corruption and death that conditions our life. It means that he belongs entirely to God. He, the Eternal Son, led our human existence into God's presence, taking with him flesh and blood in a transfigured form.

The human being finds room in God; through Christ, the human being was introduced into the very life of God. And since God embraces and sustains the entire cosmos, the Ascension of the Lord means that Christ has not departed from us, but that he is now, thanks to his being with the Father, close to each one of us for ever. Each one of us can be on intimate terms with him; each can call upon him. The Lord is always within hearing. We can inwardly draw away from him. We can live turning our backs on him. But he always waits for us and is always close to us.

From the readings of today's liturgy, we also learn something more about the concrete way the Lord makes himself close to us. The Lord promises the disciples his Holy Spirit. The first reading that we heard tells us that the Holy Spirit will give "power" to the disciples; the Gospel adds that he will guide them to the whole truth. As the living Word of God, Jesus told his disciples everything, and God can give no more than himself. In Jesus, God gave us his whole self, that is, he gave us everything. As well as or together with this, there can be no other revelation which can communicate more or in some way complete the Revelation of Christ. In him, in the Son, all has been said to us, all has been given.

But our understanding is limited: thus, the Spirit's mission is to introduce the Church, in an ever new way from generation to generation, into the greatness of Christ's mystery. The Spirit places nothing different or new beside Christ; no pneumatic revelation comes with the revelation of Christ - as some say -, no second level of Revelation.

No: "He will have received from me...", Christ says in the Gospel (Jn 16: 14). And as Christ says only what he hears and receives from the Father, thus the Holy Spirit is the interpreter of Christ. "He will have received from me". He does not lead us to other places, far from Christ, but takes us further and further into Christ's light. Consequently, Christian Revelation is both ever old and new. Thus, all things are and always have been given to us. At the same time, every generation, in the inexhaustible encounter with the Lord - an encounter mediated by the Holy Spirit - always learns something new. The Holy Spirit, therefore, is the power through which Christ causes us to experience his closeness.

**LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:** Total: \$2,102.00; (Envelopes: \$1,822.00; E-transfers: \$40.00; Loose: \$170.00; Visitors: \$55.00; Pope's Pastoral Works: \$5.00; Building Fund: \$10 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./99; 10:30 a.m./90]

**HEALING SERVICE WITH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** At St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Barry's Bay, on Tuesday, June 13 from 7-8:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

**NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST:** St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall, Barry's Bay. Seven Thursdays, April 13 - May 25, 7 - 8:15 pm. Contact: Pierre Paul or Judy 613-602-6580

**OUR CEMETERIES:** We remind you that our cemetery by-laws indicate that all flowers, ornaments, candles, etc. must be affixed to a monument. If they are not, they may be removed and discarded by the cemetery caretaker to enable proper grass cutting.

**ROCKATHON:** St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation will be hosting on Friday, June 16, 2023. Proceeds will go toward local healthcare needs, including much needed equipment at the Valley Manor. More information email at [office@sfvhfoundation.com](mailto:office@sfvhfoundation.com).

**THEOLOGY ON TAP – BARRY'S BAY** - Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at 35 Casey Street, Barry's Bay. Guest Speaker: Rev. Pawel Ratajczak. Topic: "The Blessed Virgin Mary: Mother of comfort or Woman of challenge in the Christian Life?". For more information contact Kenton Biffert at [kentonbiffert@gmail.com](mailto:kentonbiffert@gmail.com).

### **PARISH SUPPERS:**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Braeside, May 28; 2-6 p.m.; BBQ chicken.

### **A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS:**

No longer will I call you servants, but friends:

For you know all things that I have done among you.

I will give you pastors according to my own heart.

And they shall feed you with knowledge and doctrine.

Let us pray. Father, for your glory and our salvation,  
you have appointed your Son Jesus Christ eternal High Priest.

Guide those he has chosen to be ministers of Word and Sacrament,  
and help them to be faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. *(from St. Peter's Seminary, London, ON)*