

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.*

✠ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

August 20, 2023

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES: Christians have said for centuries that everything is a grace, a gift from God, that no one deserves anything, and therefore we should never complain about inequities. How can this be fair that some people are clearly chosen by God while others are not? Well, with this dilemma in mind, let's look at our first reading and our Gospel for today. These passages reveal that Israel is named a chosen people not for their own sake but for the sake of the whole world. The key to understanding grace is that it is given to be given away. ~ *Bishop Robert Barron*

Our entire task in this life consists in yielding to the healing of the Lord, so that the eyes of the heart may be able to see His presence and action in all things, and that the healing of the eyes of the heart would enable us to see the essential, the reason, and the goal of the world and our lives: God, the living God. ~ *Pope Benedict XVI*

It is not a sign of weakness to recognize one's need for help and to ask for it, but a sign of strength and humility. ~ *Cardinal Thomas Collins*

☀ **Welcome to all our summer visitors !** ☀

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

August 21 – 26

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Adeline Norlock by *Dennis Herron*

Friday 11:00 a.m. + Funeral Mass: *Constance Chippure*

+ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time +

August 27, 2023

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Clarence, Michael & Brian Prince by *Jackie Prince*

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

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

August 26

Martin Yakabuski

Maxine Smaglinski

Bruce Sullivan

Barry Dombroskie

August 27

Emilie Pigeon

Pierre-Paul Fillion

John Jeffrey

Jason Dombroskie

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 YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Diane Green; Michael Sauro; Carmel Rumleskie; Gerard O'Malley; Fr. Ken O'Brien; John Lynch*

- for those who have died, especially: *Ann Troesch; Constance "Stanny" Chippure; Fr. Grant Neville; Joseph & Lorraine Luckasavitch; Julia (Murach) Lorbetskie; Bob Maika; Jimmy Sullivan.*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Pius X, pope

Tuesday - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday - St. Rose of Lima, virgin

Thursday - St. Bartholomew, apostle

Friday - St. Joseph Calasanz, priest & St. Louis

Saturday - Our Lady's Saturday

LORD, HELP ME! This Sunday's Gospel passage begins by indicating the district to which Jesus was going: Tyre and Sidon, to the north-west of Galilee, a pagan land. And it was here that he met a Canaanite woman who spoke to him, asking him to heal her daughter who was possessed by a demon (see Mt 15:22). In her supplication we can already discern the beginning of a journey of faith, which in her conversation with the divine Teacher grows and becomes stronger. The woman was not afraid to cry to Jesus "Have mercy on me", an expression that recurs in the Psalms (see 50:1), she calls him "Lord" and "Son of David" (see Mt 15:22), thus showing a firm hope of being heard. What was the Lord's attitude to this cry of anguish from a pagan woman?

Jesus' silence may seem disconcerting, to the point that it prompted the disciples to intervene, but it was not a question of insensitivity to this woman's sorrow. St Augustine rightly commented: "Christ showed himself indifferent to her, not in order to refuse her his mercy but rather to inflame her desire for it" (Sermo 77, 1: PL 38, 483).

The apparent aloofness of Jesus who said: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24), did not discourage the Canaanite woman who persisted: "Lord, help me" (v. 25). And she did not even desist when she received an answer that would seem to have extinguished any hope: "it is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs" (v. 26). She had no wish to take anything from anyone; in her simplicity and humility a little was enough for her, crumbs sufficed, no more than a look, a kind word from the Son of God. And Jesus was struck with admiration for an answer of such great faith and said to her: "Be it done for you as you desire" (v. 28).

Dear friends, we too are called to grow in faith, to open ourselves in order to welcome God's gift freely, to have trust and also to cry to Jesus "give us faith, help us to find the way!". This is the way that Jesus made his disciples take, as well as the Canaanite woman, and men and women of every epoch and nation, and each one of us.

Faith opens us to knowing and welcoming the real identity of Jesus, his newness and oneness, his word, as a source of life, in order to live a personal relationship with him. Knowledge of the faith grows, it grows with the desire to find the way and in the end, it is a gift of God who does not reveal himself to us as an abstract thing without a face or a name, because faith responds to a Person who wants to enter into a relationship of deep love with us and to involve our whole life.

For this reason, our heart must undergo the experience of conversion every day, every day it must see us changing from people withdrawn into themselves to people who are open to God's action, spiritual people (see 1 Cor 2:13-14), who let themselves be called into question by the Lord's word and open their life to his Love.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us therefore nourish our faith every day with deep attention to the word of God, with the celebration of the Sacraments, with personal prayer as a "cry" to him, and with charity to our neighbour. *Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; August 14, 2011*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,151.00; (Envelopes: \$1,464.00; E-Transfers: \$160.00; Loose: \$226.00; Visitors: \$55.00; Northern Missions: \$10.00; Building Fund: \$236.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./118; 10:30 a.m./93])

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN: Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation of our parish is in accordance with diocesan policy and a process of individualized family faith formation. Families who wish to have their children prepare for these sacraments are invited to return to the practice of the faith with regular Sunday Mass attendance. The parish provides resources and catechetical assistance.

REQUESTS FOR PASTORAL PERMISSIONS OR PASTORAL REFERENCES: require that you are known by the pastor of the parish in whose territory you reside and practice your faith with regular Mass attendance. An informal introduction of yourself to your parish priest after a Sunday Mass is a good place to start the process!

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD PRAYER GROUP: Evenings of Praise, Worship, Sharing and Intercession - Open to all - Thursdays at 7 p.m. - St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. For information: Mary or Greg at 756-6643 or Pierre-Paul or Judy at 613-602-6580.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: Starting Wednesday, September 13th from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. 7-week seminar at St. Casimir's Church in the meeting room, Round Lake Centre, sponsored by the St. Casimir's Peace Prayer Group. Further information contact Diane Yantha at 613-757-1429 or Doren Rankin at 613-757-2792

PARISH SUPPERS:

St. Hedwig Parish Picnic Fundraiser, August 20th, 12 to 4 p.m. BBQ, takeout, activities.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Bancroft, September 10th; 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

St. Patrick, Mt. St. Patrick, September 24th, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the DACA Center.

FOOD BANK SUMMER FUNDRAISER – SPAGETTI DINNER: On Saturday, August 26th at the Royal Canadian Legion, Barry's Bay starting at 5:00 p.m.

**May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more.
And nothing but happiness come through your door.**

Traditional Irish Toast