

# ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

19450 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0

Est. 1934



www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

**Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest**  
**Fr. JohnNBurchat@gmail.com**  
Maureen Kiedroski, *Office Administrator*  
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**OFFICE/RECTORY:** 613-756-2037  
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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.*

## ✠ **Second Sunday of Advent** ✠

December 10, 2023

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS:** Here are just some good websites that provide free materials:

<https://dynamiccatholic.com> <http://www.ewtn.com>

<http://www.catholicmom.com>

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

[https://www.youtube.com/CCCB\\_CECC](https://www.youtube.com/CCCB_CECC)

**WILNO COMMUNITY CHOIR** will be presenting KOLEDY, a collection of traditional Christmas Carols, on December 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., in St. Mary's Church Wilno. Anyone who would just like to listen is welcome. For further information please see the parish bulletin board.

**CHRISTMAS 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 or in your Offering box. The Masses of Christmas will be offered for your intentions. Donations must be submitted by Monday, December 18th in order to have loved ones listed in the Christmas bulletin memorial page.

## Come, Lord Jesus and do not delay!

## Second Week of Advent

December 11 – 16

- Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)  
+ Dowdall Murray by *Danny & Karen Shalla*
- Friday** 9:00 a.m. + Stephen Anthony Peplinski by *Kiedroski Family*  
Living Family Members of *Eddie & Diane Etmanskie*

### + **Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday** +

December 17, 2023

- Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Gerard Burchat by *Diane, Maureen & Louis*
- Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	December 16	December 17
Readings	<i>Sean Conway</i>	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>
Communion	<i>Maxine Smaglinski</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>Eddie Etmanskie</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</i>	<i>Jamie Prince</i>

**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: *Eleanor Ryan; Elaine Potvin; Carmel Rumleskie; Gerard O'Malley; Shaun O'Malley; Jacob Westen; Donna Helferty; Michael Sauro.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Barbara Lenius; Ambrose Stanley Luckovitch; Wendy Jessup; Bernard Prince; Joan Marie Potvin; Gary Helferty.*
- that the Lord Jesus would anoint with the gift of the Holy Spirit the process of calling forth a new bishop to shepherd our diocese.

### **ROMAN CALENDAR:**

- Monday - St. Damasus I, pope
- Tuesday - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Wednesday - St. Lucy, virgin, martyr
- Thursday - St. John of the Cross, priest, doctor
- Friday - Ferial – ordinary weekday
- Saturday - Ferial – ordinary weekday

**THIS SUNDAY** marks the second stage of the Season of Advent, a marvelous time which reawakens in us the expectation of Christ's return and the memory of his historical coming. Today's Liturgy presents us with a message full of hope. It is the Lord's express invitation from the lips of the Isaiah: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (40:1). Isaiah addresses people who have passed through a dark period of exile, who have been subjected to a very difficult trial; but now the time of comfort has come. Sorrow and fear can be replaced with joy, for the Lord himself will guide his people on the way to liberation and salvation. How will He do all this? With the solicitude and tenderness of a shepherd who takes care of his flock. He will in fact provide unity and security and feed his flock, gather the lost sheep into his sure fold, reserve special attention to the most fragile and weak (v. 11). This is God's attitude toward us, his creatures.

We cannot be messengers of God's comfort if we do not first feel the joy of being comforted and loved by Him. This happens especially when we hear his Word, the Gospel, which we should carry in our pocket: do not forget this! The Gospel in your pocket or purse, to read regularly. And this gives us comfort: when we abide in silent prayer in his presence, when we encounter Him in the Eucharist or in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All this comforts us. Let us therefore allow Isaiah's call — "Comfort, comfort my people" — resound in our heart in this Season of Advent.

Today there is need for people to be witnesses to the mercy and tenderness of God, who spurs the resigned, enlivens the disheartened, ignites the fire of hope. He ignites the fire of hope! We don't. So many situations require our comforting witness. To be joyful, comforting people. I am thinking of those who are burdened by suffering, injustice and tyranny; of those who are slaves to money, to power, to success, to worldliness. Poor dears! They have fabricated consolation, not the true comfort of the Lord! We are all called to comfort our brothers and sisters, to testify that God alone can eliminate the causes of existential and spiritual tragedies. He can do it! He is powerful!

Isaiah's message, which resounds in this second Sunday of Advent, is a salve on our wounds and an impetus to prepare with commitment the way of the Lord. Indeed, today the Prophet speaks to our heart to tell us that God forgets our sins and comforts us. If we entrust ourselves to Him with a humble and penitent heart, He will tear down the walls of evil, He will fill in the holes of our omissions, He will smooth over the bumps of arrogance and vanity, and will open the way of encounter with Him. It is curious, but many times we are afraid of consolation, of being comforted. Or rather, we feel more secure in sorrow and desolation. Do you know why? Because in sorrow we feel almost as protagonists. However, in consolation the Holy Spirit is the protagonist! It is He who consoles us, it is He who gives us the courage to go out of ourselves. It is He who opens the door to the source of every true comfort, that is, the Father. And this is conversion. Please, let yourselves be comforted by the Lord! Let yourselves be comforted by the Lord!

*From an Angelus Address by Pope Francis on December 7, 2014*

## **LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:**

Total: \$3,812.30; (Envelopes: \$2,938.30; E-Transfers: \$270.00; Loose: \$104.00; Visitors: \$65.00; Christmas Flowers: \$150.00; Building Fund: \$265.00; Christmas: \$20.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./70; 10:30 a.m./99])

**2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Please pick up your new box at the church entrance which are displayed in alphabetical order. If I have missed anyone, please contact the office.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY:** Get ready for the 2023-24 lectionary! We're learning The Gospel of Mark (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture by Mary Healy) on Tuesdays until December 19th, 7-8:45 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Hall. Please bring a Bible. For information call John Morris, 613 729 6647.

**EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER** – Open to all – Join with the Spirit of the Living God Prayer Group on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. For info contact Greg or Mary 613-756-6643

**RESPECT FOR LIFE WEEKLY HOUR OF PRAYER:** for the sanctity of life, marriage and family on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. here at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church.

**WORD AMONG US for 2024:** These are available at the back of the church on a first come basis but if you wish to reserve a copy, please contact Maxine Smaglinski at 756 - 0194. Annual cost is \$25.00 for CWL members or \$30.00 for non-members.

## **4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

### **December 23**

4:00 p.m. St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay  
6:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales, Latchford Bridge  
7:00 p.m. Holy Canadian Martyrs, Combermere

### **December 24/25**

4:00 p.m. St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay  
6:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales, Latchford Bridge  
8:00 p.m. Holy Canadian Martyrs, Combermere  
10:30 a.m. St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay

### **Confessions: with visiting priest-confessors**

Holy Canadian Martyrs – **Wednesday, December 13;**

**@10:00 a.m.; @2:00 p.m.; 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

St. Lawrence O'Toole – **Sunday, December 17; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**