

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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 31, 2023

St. Thomas Aquinas once said: “one difference between Christ and other men is this: they do not choose to be born, but He, the Lord and Maker of history, chose his time, his birthplace, and his mother.” He chose to be born so that he could tell those who could not make the same choice, that life is indeed a great gift, one that we should cherish and enjoy. He came voluntarily into the world to tell us to rejoice that we were born, and to provide the light we need so that we can value our life and share it with others. He chose to be born so that we could choose to be reborn. His physical birth was for our spiritual rebirth. Yes, we are often tempted to see more obstacles than opportunities in life. At such times, we need a light that helps us to see that our life is truly a great gift. Christmas is that light. And that light never ceases to shine. [D. DeMarco]

Christ is born for us!
O Come, let us worship Him!

Second Week of Christmastime

January 1 – 6

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Theresa Yantha by *Carmel Rumleskie*

+ The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord +

January 7, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Clarence Prince by *Dorothy Prince*
+ Bert & Veronica Kelly by *Kelly Family*

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

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| Liturgical Appointments | January 6 | January 7 |
| Readings | <i>Jane Beahen</i> | <i>Joanne Olsen</i> |
| Communion | <i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i> | <i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i> |
| Offertory | <i>Bruce Sullivan</i> <i>Barry Dombroskie</i> | <i>John Jeffrey</i> <i>Jason Dombroskie</i> |

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Gerard O'Malley; Marg Abbott; Anna Neimun.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Michael Sauro; Wendy Jessup.*
- 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 - The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- Tuesday - St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors
- Wednesday - The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Thursday - Ferial, Christmastime
- Friday - Ferial, Christmastime
- Saturday - {*Epiphany*}

THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' HIDDEN LIFE [CCC 531-534]: During the greater part of his life Jesus shared the condition of the vast majority of human beings: a daily life spent without evident greatness, a life of manual labour. His religious life was that of a Jew obedient to the law of God, a life in the community. From this whole period, it is revealed to us that Jesus was "obedient" to his parents and that he "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man." Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfils the fourth commandment perfectly and was the temporal image of his filial obedience to his Father in heaven. The everyday obedience of Jesus to Joseph and Mary both announced and anticipated the obedience of Holy Thursday: "Not my will. . ." The obedience of Christ in the daily routine of his hidden life was already inaugurating his work of restoring what the disobedience of Adam had destroyed.

The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life: "*The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus - the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us. . . A lesson on family life. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character... A lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the "Carpenter's Son", in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work. . . To conclude, I want to greet all the workers of the world, holding up to them their great pattern their brother who is God.*" [Paul VI, 1964] The finding of Jesus in the temple is the only event that breaks the silence of the Gospels about the hidden years of Jesus. Here Jesus lets us catch a glimpse of the mystery of his total consecration to a mission that flows from his divine sonship: "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's work?" Mary and Joseph did not understand these words, but they accepted them in faith. Mary "kept all these things in her heart" during the years Jesus remained hidden in the silence of an ordinary life.

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: In her varied roles, Mary plays a part in God's self-disclosure. Mary is joyful, sorrowful, glorious, and luminous. She is mystic and martyr; she is a virgin and mother. She is the handmaid of the Lord and the Queen of Heaven. Mary is *Theotokos*, the "God bearer." She kneels at the crib, stands at the cross, and sits with the assembly praying for the Spirit.

When the appointed time comes, Mary gives birth to God's Son. His cradle is a manger, a feeding trough to nourish many by the good news he will announce. Simple shepherds come to hear the one who announces salvation. They are astonished by what they see, and they proclaim the glad tidings to all who will listen.

On the eighth day, the first day of a new creation, Mary's son receives a name, Yeshua, Jesus, "one who saves us from our sins." Mary will teach him to say, "Abba!" As God's sons and daughters, adopted children of God, co-heirs with Jesus, we too cry out, "Abba! Father!"

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$7,934.50; (Envelopes: \$1,952.00; E-Transfers: \$860.00; Loose: \$658.50; Visitors: \$409.00; Memorial Fund: \$50.00; Building Fund: \$70.00; Christmas Offering: \$3,935.00 [People at Mass: Sat. Dec 23@4:00 p.m./121; Sun. Dec 24@4:00 p.m./245; Mon. Dec 25@10:30 a.m./72]

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: If you have not picked up your new box of envelopes, please do so as soon as possible and if you send in e-transfers we need you to pick up your box of envelopes so that you have a number to correspond with your name. Please write your full address on the first few envelopes of the year so that tax receipts are mailed to the proper address. If your name is missing, please contact the office by phone or email.

A CHRISTMASTIDE THANK YOU: to the many people who contributed to the beauty and dignity of the Eucharistic Liturgy and the liturgical environment: to those who donated offerings to beautify the church; to those who donated time and energy, and helped lead us in our Christmas liturgies: musicians, leaders of song, readers, servers, money counters, decorators and to anyone else who gave leadership or worked "behind the scenes" at the different Masses over Christmastime.

I received numerous comments about the intensity of the cycle of Masses for Christmas this year. This would not have been possible for accomplish without the wonderful support and assistance of staff and volunteers we have in our parishes! ~ *Fr. John*

A PERSONAL THANK YOU: to everyone for their welcome, prayers and support during this past year, and for the generous gifts to me personally this Christmas. May the Lord in His goodness bless you with peace and joy throughout this new year! ~ *Fr. John*

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Returns Thursday, January 4, 2024, at St. Lawrence's; 7:00 p.m. For more info contact Greg or Mary 613-756-6643.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: The Sunday readings in 2024 focus on The Gospel of Mark. As such, we are reading Mary Healy's Catholic Commentary called The Gospel of Mark. We pay close attention to Old Testament references and the Catechism for Church teaching as we move through the book. The next session will run January 30 - March 26, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Hall. Everyone is welcome. Please contact John Morris, 613 729 6647, johnlorrainemorris@gmail.com for information.