

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.*

✠ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

January 28, 2024

70 DAYS UNTIL EASTER – LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 14: How shall we make the coming journey of 40 days this year, so that in our joyful returning to God in Christ Jesus we can truly say, “I love Lent!”

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 10:00 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.

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. For more information contact Greg or Mary 613-756-6643

Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

January 28 – February 3

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
+ Michael & Patricia Kulas by *Karen Yakabuski*
Intentions of France Arsenault by *Monique Perry*

First Friday 9:00 a.m. **FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**
+ Anthony Brotton & Anna Mary Burke
by Alphonse Brotton
Intentions of the Starflowers Prayer Initiative

+ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

February 4, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Barb Goulet by *Glenn Prince & Alicia Coulas*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	February 3	February 4
Readings	<i>Karen Yakabuski</i>	<i>Joanne Olsen</i>
Communion	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>	<i>Terry Recoskie</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i> <i>Barry Dombroskie</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i> <i>Jason Dombroskie</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: *Gerard O'Malley; Marg Abbott; Anna Neimun.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Joseph Herbert Kuehl; Susan Serran; Michael Sauro.*
- 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 - Ferial, ordinary weekday
Tuesday - Ferial, ordinary weekday
Wednesday - St. John Bosco, priest
Thursday - Ferial, ordinary weekday
Friday - The Presentation of the Lord
Saturday - St. Blaise, bishop, martyr & St. Ansgar, bishop

JESUS: THE WORD OF GOD

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 1:21-28) presents Jesus who, with his small community of disciples, enters Capernaum straight to the Synagogue and began to teach. This reminds us of the primacy of the Word of God, the Word to be listened to, the Word to be received, the Word to be proclaimed. His primary concern is to communicate the Word of God with the power of the Holy Spirit. And the people in the Synagogue were astonished, because Jesus "taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes."

What does "with authority" mean? It means that in the human words of Jesus, the power of the Word of God could be felt, the authority of God, who is the inspiration of the Sacred Scriptures. And one of the characteristics of the Word of God is that He does what He says. For the Word of God corresponds to his will. We, on the other hand, often speak empty, shallow words, or superfluous words, words that do not coincide with the truth. Instead, the Word of God corresponds to the truth, it is united to his will and fulfills what He says. Indeed, Jesus, after preaching, immediately demonstrates his authority by freeing a man, in the Synagogue, who was possessed by a demon. The very divine authority of Christ provoked the reaction of Satan, hidden in that man; Jesus, in his turn, immediately recognized the voice of the evil one and "rebuked him:.... 'Be silent and come out of him'" With the power of his word alone, Jesus frees the person from the evil one. And once again those present were amazed: "He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him". The Word of God arouses amazement in us. It has the power to astonish us.

The Gospel is the word of life: it does not oppress people, on the contrary, it frees those who are slaves to the many evil spirits of this world: the spirit of vanity, attachment to money, pride, sensuality.... The Gospel changes the heart, changes life, transforms evil inclinations into good intentions. The Gospel is capable of changing people! Therefore, it is the task of Christians to spread the redeeming power throughout the world, becoming missionaries and heralds of the Word of God. This is also suggested by today's passage which closes with a missionary perspective, saying: "his fame" — the fame of Jesus — "spread everywhere, throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee" (v. 28). The new doctrine, taught by Jesus with authority, is what the Church takes to the world, along with the effective signs of His presence: the authoritative teaching and the liberating action of the Son of God become words of salvation and gestures expressing the love of the missionary Church. Always remember that the Gospel has the power to change lives! Do not forget this. It is the Good News, which transforms us only when we allow ourselves to be transformed by it. That is why I always ask you to have daily contact with the Gospel, to read it every day: a verse, a passage, to meditate on it and even to take it with you everywhere: in your pocket, in your bag.... In other words, to nourish yourself every day with this inexhaustible source of salvation. Do not forget! Read a passage of the Gospel every day. It is the power that changes us, that transforms us: it changes life, it changes the heart. ~ *Angelus Address by Pope Francis; February 1, 2015*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$3,096.00; (Envelopes: \$2,020.00; E-Transfers: \$200.00; Loose: \$134.00; Visitors: \$120.00; Initial Offering: \$15.00; Fuel: \$607.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./126; 10:30 a.m./78])

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS: will be sent out the week of February 14th along with a Parish Financial Report.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – January 22nd to February 9th. Register now at www.RCCDSB.ca and call your designated school to finalize registration.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT GRAPHITE BIBLE CAMP – April 5th – 7th, 2024

Madonna House members Fr. Kieran Kilcommons, Victoria Fausto & Mary McGoff will be leading the retreat. Please note registration for this retreat will be open, first to women from the Pembroke Diocese, on January 26th. If you would like to receive registration details, please email womensretreatcombermere@gmail.com.

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION – Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College's Don Bosco Drama Club presents live theatre with *Taming of the Shrew*, Shakespeare's boisterous comedy on marriage. **Showtimes: Friday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 10th, 7:00 p.m., Sunday (matinee), February 11, 1:00 p.m.** at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 406, 250 John St., Barry's Bay. Tickets at the door: Adults: \$25, Students: \$15 (cash, cheque only). Advance tickets: \$26.94 (adult) / \$15.94 (student) by e-transfer-only – e-mail drama@seatofwisdom.ca. Children under 6: Free – Family rate: \$55. Cash/cheque at the door.

DIOCESAN YOUTH NIGHT, NEW! The Diocese of Pembroke of Family Life and Youth Ministry is starting a new event for youth in **grade 7 to 12** at **St. James the Less Parish, Eganville**. The upcoming dates are **Fridays February 9th, April 12th, and June 7th** from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The events will offer fun games (outdoor whenever possible), social time to build friendships, Eucharistic adoration, music, confession, & talks from a team of clergy & others to encourage spiritual growth & personal reflection. The waiver form & information can be found on the front page of the diocesan website, www.pembrokedioocese.com. Any questions? Contact Yvette Bourque at yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com. All are invited and welcome!

RESPECT FOR LIFE WEEKLY HOUR OF PRAYER: for the sanctity of life, marriage & family on Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. here at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church.