

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 Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024



Today, the Magi find in the manger the one they have followed as he shone in the sky.

Today, the Magi see clearly the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars.

Today, the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

~ *St. Peter Chrysologus, the early fifth century bishop of Ravenna, Italy, and Doctor of the Church*

First Week of Ordinary Time

January 8 – 13

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Dowdall Murray by *Karen Yakabuski*

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Sylvester Prince by *Viola Cybulski*

+ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time +

January 14, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Alphonse & Rose Coulas by *Family*

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

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

January 6

Susan Coulas

Maxine Smaglinski

Bruce Sullivan

Richard Luckasavitch

January 7

Ursula Jeffrey

Terry Recoskie

John Jeffrey

Jamie Prince

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: *Susan Serran; 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 Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday - Ferial, ordinary weekday

Wednesday - Ferial, ordinary weekday

Thursday - Ferial, ordinary weekday

Friday - St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, virgin

Saturday - St. Hilary, bishop, doctor

TODAY we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the “Manifestation” of the Lord. The Gospel tells how Jesus came into the world with deep humility and hiddenness. St Matthew, however, mentions the episode of the Wise Men who arrive from the East, guided by a star, to worship the newborn King of the Jews. Every time we hear this account, we are struck by the stark contrast between the attitude of the Magi, on the one hand, and that of Herod and the Jews on the other. In fact, the Gospel says that on hearing the words of the Magi “Herod the king... was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him” (Mt 2: 3). There are various ways in which this reaction can be understood: Herod is alarmed because he sees in the one the Magi were seeking a rival to himself and his children. On the other hand, the elders and inhabitants of Jerusalem seem amazed, rather than anything else, as though they had been woken from a certain lethargy and needed to think. Isaiah had, in reality, foretold: “To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is 9: 6).

So why should Jerusalem have been worried? It seems that the Evangelist almost desired to anticipate what was later to be the attitude of the high priests and the Sanhedrin, as well as of the people, toward Jesus during his public life. Certainly, it becomes clear that knowledge of the Scriptures and of the messianic prophecies does not lead everyone to open themselves to him and to his words. It comes to mind that Jesus with his Passion approaching wept over Jerusalem because it had not recognized the time of its visitation (see Lk 19: 44). Here we touch on one of the crucial points of historical theology: the drama of the faithful love of God in the person of Jesus, who “came to his own, yet his own did not accept him” (Jn 1: 11). In the light of the whole Bible this attitude of hostility, or ambiguity, or superficiality represents that of every person and of the “world” in the spiritual sense when closed to the mystery of the true God, who comes to meet us in the disarming docility of love. Jesus, the “King of the Jews” (see Jn 18: 37), is the God of mercy and fidelity. He desires to reign in love and in truth and asks us to convert, to abandon wicked deeds and to set out with determination on the path of good.

Hence in this sense “Jerusalem” is all of us! May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed Jesus with faith, help us not to close our hearts to his Gospel of salvation. Rather, let us allow ourselves to be conquered and transformed by him, the “Emmanuel”, God who came to dwell among us to offer us the gift of his peace and his love. ~ *Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; January 6, 2009*

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*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$5,199.00; (Envelopes: \$1,982.00; E-Transfers: \$610.00; Loose: \$295.00; Visitors: \$235.00; Initial Offering: \$407.00; Building Fund: \$95.00; Fuel: \$35.00; up to date Christmas Offering: \$4,640.00; New Years Day Offering: \$1,405.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./147; Sun. Dec 31@10:30 a.m./61; Sun. Dec 31 @4:00 p.m./90; Mon. Jan 1@10:30 a.m./59]

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please pick up your new box of envelopes, even if you send an e-transfers. We need you to have an envelope 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.

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*

POT O' GOLD TICKETS: Tickets can be returned, and more tickets can be picked up at the Parish Office or from Beth Hildebrandt at 613-756-0912 or from Terri MacLeod at 613-756-2590. Thank you to all who are helping us to have a successful fundraiser to help us carry on our support to the parish and the community.

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.

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.