

# 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.*

## ✠ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

~ Sunday of the Word of God ~

*January 21, 2024*

**ABOUT TODAY:** The Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. This annual celebration was announced by Pope Francis in a Motu Proprio entitled *Aperuit illis*, published on September 30, 2019, the Feast of St Jerome. The Word of God Sunday, Pope Francis wrote in that Motu Proprio, “is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God”. Pope Francis desires that “the Church experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasure of his word and enable us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.”

*The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body. ~Vatican II, Dei Verbum 21*

*I interpret as I should, following the command of Christ: Search the Scriptures, and Seek and you shall find. As St. Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. ~ St. Jerome*

## Third Week of Ordinary Time

January 22 – 27

**Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. + Lawrence Sullivan *by Estate*  
**Friday** 9:00 a.m. + Evelyn Cybulski *by Richard & Suzanne Luckasavitch*

## + Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

January 28, 2024

**Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Frances Cybulski *by Gary Proulx*  
**Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

<b>Liturgical Appointments</b>	<b>January 27</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<b>Readings</b>	<i>Sean Conway</i>	<i>John Morris</i>
<b>Communion</b>	<i>Neil O'Reilly</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</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: *Gerard O'Malley; Marg Abbott; Anna Neimun.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Joseph Herbert Kuehl; 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 - St. Vincent, deacon, martyr  
Tuesday - Ferial, ordinary weekday  
Wednesday - St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor  
Thursday - The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle  
Friday - St. Timothy and St. Titus, bishops  
Saturday - St. Angela Merici, virgin

## FOLLOW ME

Our Lord's call of his first disciples seems remarkably cavalier and brief. To some extent, it reflects the way the eye-witness accounts of what Jesus said and did were handed down in convenient units, the better to remember and relate them. The memorizing of pithy texts, the handing on of short stories, this is how the transmission of historical knowledge often worked in a society where oral, word-of-mouth, culture was as important as literary culture where things are written down.

That does not, though, solve the problem of today's Gospel altogether. While the abruptness of this story, the call of the first disciples, may be no different in kind from much of the rest of the Gospels, it is certainly different in degree. There are plenty of whole dialogues in the Gospels, and plenty, too, of rounded stories with details attached. So why has the call of the disciples been reproduced in this sawn-off way? Is the evangelist trying to communicate a facet of the original events, if not consciously then by writing better than he knew, under the impact of the Holy Spirit who inspires all Scripture?

I think the evangelist may well be trying perhaps not fully consciously to do just that. I would begin an explanation from the following observation. The New Testament claims that what makes us the unique persons we are meant to be (our true but new 'name' the Apocalypse will call it) is not accessible except in the new life that is salvation. The Fathers of the Church will go on to say that by our creation we were made in the image of God, but the image that we are does not at present reflect its Archetype. For God is an overflowing fullness of personal relationship, the Holy Trinity, whereas we are only distorted likenesses, given to individualism (which is a counterfeit of the distinctiveness of personhood) or its mirror-opposite, collectivism (which is a counterfeit of the communion of persons). In the Incarnation, the Trinity is at work to take up our fallen humanity by a free gift of its own loving-kindness into its own truly personal-inter-personal-life.

The call of Christ to discipleship is ultimately a call to divinization, to participation not in God's substance but in his inter-personal existence. The goal of salvation is that the supremely personal life which is realized in God should also be realized in human beings as well. So, the call of Christ, you see, is a call to that for which we were made. It arouses a homing instinct in us, a desire for our true home where we shall be what we were always meant to be, and as we were always meant to be.

To the clear-sighted, the words, 'Follow me', spoken in such a context, are quite enough. ~ *by Fr. Aidan Nichols, OP.*

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

Total: \$2,117.85; (Envelopes: \$1,593.00; E-Transfers: \$200.00; Loose: \$84.85; Visitors: \$45.00; Initial Offering: \$40.00; Fuel: \$110.00; New Years Day Offering: \$45.00 [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./90; 10:30 a.m./66]

**READERS:** We are looking for more Readers for Sunday morning masses at 10:30 a.m. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 613-756-2037

**EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER** – Open to all – Join with the Spirit of the Living God Prayer Group on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. For 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 10:00 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.

**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.

**RECOLLECTION FOR WOMEN:** Recollections are like mini retreats that help you take a break from your busy schedule to think and pray about your life, your relationship with God and gain a fresh outlook. Join us at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Pembroke on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, guided prayer, examination of conscience, confession, benediction and a talk. Bring your lunch and stay to socialize afterward. Josemaria Escrivaivity, inspired by the writings of St. Josemaria Escriva, is entrusted to Opus Dei, a personal Prelature of the Roman Catholic Church. For more information, please contact nadia.bagshaw@sympatico.ca or 613-584-9388.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT AT GRAPHITE BIBLE CAMP** – April 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to receive registration details, please email womensretreatcombermere@gmail.com.