

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

stlawrenceotoole@hotmail.com

Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest

19450 Opeongo Line, P.O. Box 118

Barry's Bay, Ontario K0J 1B0

Fr.JohnN.Burchat@gmail.com

Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

613-756-2037



✠ First Sunday of Lent ✠

February 18, 2024

THE LENTEN JOURNEY: Lent is a time of paring down — a time spent in the desert, if you will — as exemplified by Jesus' 40 days of fasting in these arid, barren lands. He was tempted three times by Satan, and rejected each attempt, giving glory to God at every turn. This is the lesson for us, that we make God the center of our lives and not test him. We are here to do his will, which is clarified through our own Lenten sacrifices. So let us turn around and run towards our Heavenly Father, rather than away from him.

OBLIGATORY FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: The Catholic Church prescribes fasting (only one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not greater than the full meal) and abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fast; those 14 and up to abstinence. Those who are ill are not obliged. Anyone above the age of 59 may continue to fast as an act of devotion. Parents are reminded of their duty to introduce children to the understanding and practice of penance. Adult example will be the greatest influence. All Fridays during the year remain obligatory days of abstinence from meat.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING: Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, we give sacrificially to the poor and not just from our surplus. We can simplify our lifestyle, reduce our consumerism, and give that discretionary income to those in need. Almsgiving can be combined with fasting, giving to the poor the money saved by eating, drinking, or buying less as we rely more upon God's abundant grace. May the experience of physical hunger also remind us of our deep need and desire for Christ the Bread of Life. The Lenten Mission & Development collection taken up on Good Friday is the fruit of our sacrificial giving.

EASTER FLOWERS: for the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones or specific intentions can be made with the envelopes provided at the entrance of the church. The Masses of Easter will be offered for your intentions. Donations must be submitted by Tuesday, March 26th in order to have loved ones listed in the Easter bulletin memorial page.

First Week of Lent

February 19 – 24

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (with *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
+ Caroline Yeretch by Al & Teresa Rudak

Friday 9:00 a.m. (*Beginning with the Stations of the Cross*)
+ Orville Kulas by Angela Lorbetski

+ Second Sunday of Lent +

February 25, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Gerard Burchat by Eric & Susan Coulas

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

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

February 24

Jane Beahen

Neil O'Reilly

Bruce Sullivan

Richard Luckasavitch

February 25

Beverly Glofcheskie

Ursula Jeffrey

John Jeffrey

Jamie Prince

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:

- that these 40 days of spiritual renewal may help us turn away from sin, be faithful to the Gospel, and receive new life in Christ Jesus.
- 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.
- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Carmel Rumleskie; Nathaniel Burchat; Gerard O'Malley; Marg Abbott; Anna Nieman.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Martha Prince, Joseph Herbert Kuehl.*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

- Monday - Ferial, ordinary weekday
- Tuesday - Ferial, ordinary weekday
- Wednesday - St. Peter Damian, bishop, doctor
- Thursday - Chair of St. Peter, apostle
- Friday - St. Polycarp, bishop, martyr
- Saturday - Ferial, ordinary weekday

THE MYSTERY OF THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST: Although it is clear that the Temptation of Christ is an event in the history of salvation we can still look for the spiritual meaning of the temptation of Christ for each one of us personally. It seems to me that we can discover four reasons for which Christ was willing to submit to the temptation.

Firstly, to come to our aid in our own challenges. He lived our temptations through his own. Even in this situation, Jesus does not stop being the savior. He doesn't wait for his death on the Cross to come to our aid: our redemption is already being worked out in everything he does and in every one of his actions.

Secondly, Christ was willing to be tempted in order to invite us to be vigilant. He showed us that anyone not even the most saintly is sheltered from temptation. And if Jesus was tempted right after his Baptism, it was the way to underline the type of challenge that can happen in the most unexpected way, when we are not vigilant. So let us be vigilant and pray!

Thirdly, Jesus wanted to give us the example. By showing us how we could conquer the devil and temptation by going to the Word of God. In fact, Christ wins over the false reasonings of his adversary by a more profound understanding of the Holy Scriptures. It is an invitation to us to have a more attentive hearing of his message.

Finally, the temptation of Jesus is done to inspire our confidence in his mercy. It is the lesson of the reading to the Hebrews: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."
by Fr. Jean-Pierre Torrell OP

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: on The Gospel of Mark. January 30 - March 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in St. Lawrence Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to begin.

PARISH CUSTODIAN JOB ADVERTISEMENT: We are currently recruiting for a Custodian to oversee and maintain St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, parish hall & two cemeteries. 25 hours per week - \$19.00 per hour. Additional hours during winter months for snow removal and so living close by is necessary. Please provide your resume by mail to: St. Lawrence O'Toole, 19450 Opeongo Line, Box 118, Barry's Bay, ON, K0J 1B0
Resume must include: details of past employment; names and contact information for three references; photocopy of front and back of your current driver's license

**Job Description is available upon request.

NOTE Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$4,549.00; (Envelopes: \$3,818.00; Loose: \$124.00; Visitors: \$40.00; Fuel: \$20.00; Building Fund: \$547.00) [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./136; 10:30 a.m./78] (Total E-Transfers will now be posted at the end of each month.)

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS: will be handed out after Mass this weekend. Your sealed envelope will also contain a Parish Financial Report.

POT O'GOLD TICKETS – CWL Members will be handing out Pot O'Gold tickets after each Mass this weekend. Kindly help the CWL with their fundraiser. Proceeds help them to carry out their works of charity in our parish, community and beyond. Thank you for your support.

I LOVE LENT 2024: Lent is also about what can I add to my spiritual practices and not just about giving up things. Consider some of the following:

- * Prayer: add an extra block of time in your day for prayer. 15 minutes is good, longer if you can.
- * Add in extra spiritual reading. Take some extra time for Lenten prayer as a family.
- * Add in a daily Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Jesus Prayer.
- * Replace one snack with a prayer instead.
- * Read the passion narratives in the Gospels.
- * Memorize a verse of Sacred Scripture each week.
- * Go to weekday Mass.
- * Go to the Stations of the Cross.
- * Read the daily Mass readings.
- * Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation after making a good examination of conscience.
- * Do a random act of kindness every day.
- * Keep a Lenten prayer journal.
- * Get daily email reflections at:

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever>

<https://www.mydailyvisitor.com/lent/>

<https://www.wordonfire.org/reflections/lent/>

VOCATIONS – 1st Thursday Holy Hours to Pray for Vocations: March 7th at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Hedwig Parish, Barry's Bay. The Holy Hour will consist of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Music, a reflection by Fr. Murray, a Rosary for vocations, and time for silent prayer. These Holy Hours are open to everyone, not just those considering a priestly vocation. For more information and details please visit www.pembrokevocations.ca