

ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

19450 Opeongo Line, Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0

Est. 1934



Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest
Fr. JohnN.Burchat@gmail.com
Maureen Kiedroski, *Office Administrator*
Louis A. Dombroskie, *Custodian*

OFFICE/RECTORY: 613-756-2037
stlawrenceotoole@hotmail.com
www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

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.*

✠ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

February 11, 2024

WHEN ASH WEDNESDAY COINCIDES WITH ST. VALENTINE'S DAY: we are reminded that as we enter this time of Lenten renewal in preparation for the Paschal Triduum (Easter), we do so because the Father has first loved us and wants us to fall again in love with Jesus his Son.

For those who hear the call to move forward and away from sin, Lent begins in ashes. Baptismal renewal in our journey of faith begins with the truth of our defeat and desolation. There is no other position from which we can hope to rise.

What kind of effort will you make during Lent? What will I give up? Can I attend daily Mass? Can I read a Gospel or book of devotions? Can I make some goal for almsgiving or good works? What about getting off your screens and actually talking to one another! Lent is about actually making some effort, doing some penance, making some sacrifice.

However, the end result must always be gratitude that the gift of Christ's redeeming love was never conditioned by my efforts, or their failure or success. In that moment of humility is the seed of new life, the resurrection. Have a Great Lent!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

Sixth Week of Ordinary Time

February 12 – 17

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| Tuesday | 9:00 a.m. | (with <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions</i>) +Geraldine Prince by <i>Elizabeth Fritz</i> |
| Ash Wednesday | | + Beginning of the Season of Lent + |
| | 9:00 a.m. | + Susan Serran by <i>Viola Cybulski</i> + Gerard Burchat by <i>Leonard & Marcella Buch</i> |
| | 1:15 p.m. | Liturgy of the Word & Imposition of Ashes with St. John Bosco School |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. | (<i>Beginning with the Stations of the Cross</i>) + Al Smaglinski by + <i>Evelyn Cybulski</i> |

+ First Sunday of Lent +

February 18, 2024

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|-----------------|------------|---|
| Saturday | 4:00 p.m. | + Margaret Mary Peplinski by <i>Catholic Women's League</i> |
| Sunday | 10:30 a.m. | Mass for the People |

| Liturgical Appointments | February 17 | February 18 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Readings | <i>John Morris</i> | <i>Ursula Jeffrey</i> |
| Communion | <i>Leona Chapeskie</i> | <i>Terry Recoskie</i> |
| Offertory | <i>Bruce Sullivan</i> | <i>John Jeffrey</i> |
| | <i>Barry Dombroskie</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:

- 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; Susan Serran.*

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.

JESUS THE DIVINE COMPASSION: In today's Gospel (cf. Mk 1:40-45) Jesus confronts an emblematic case of human suffering because the sick man is a leper. Leprosy is a contagious and pitiless disease, which disfigures the person, and it was a symbol of impurity: a leper had to stay outside of inhabited centres and make his presence known to passersby. He was marginalized by the civil and religious community. He was like a deadman walking.

The episode of the healing of the leper takes place in three brief phases: the sick man's supplication, Jesus' response, the result of the miraculous healing. The leper beseeches Jesus, "kneeling", and says to Him: "If you will, you can make me clean" (v. 40). Jesus responds to this humble and trusting prayer because his soul is moved to deep pity: compassion. "Compassion" is a most profound word: compassion means "to suffer-with-another". Jesus' heart manifests God's paternal compassion for that man, moving close to him and touching him. And this detail is very important. Jesus "stretched out his hand and touched him.... And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean" (vv. 41-42). God's mercy overcomes every barrier and Jesus' hand touches the leper. He does not stand at a safe distance and does not act by delegating, but places Himself in direct contact with our contagion and in precisely this way our ills become the motive for contact: He, Jesus, takes from us our diseased humanity and we take from Him his sound and healing humanity. This happens each time we receive a Sacrament with faith: the Lord Jesus "touches" us and grants us his grace. In this case we think especially of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which heals us from the leprosy of sin. Once again, the Gospel shows us what God does in the face of our ills: God does not come to "give a lesson" on pain; neither does He come to eliminate suffering and death from the world; but rather, He comes to take upon Himself the burden of our human condition and carries it to the end, to free us in a radical and definitive way. This is how Christ fights the world's maladies and suffering: by taking them upon Himself and conquering them with the power of God's mercy.

The Gospel of the healing of the leper tells us today that, if we want to be true disciples of Jesus, we are called to become, united to Him, instruments of his merciful love, overcoming every kind of marginalization. In order to be "imitators of Christ" (cf. 1 Cor 11:1) in the face of a poor or sick person, we must not be afraid to look him in the eye and to draw near with tenderness and compassion, and to touch him and embrace him. I have often asked this of people who help others, to do so looking them in the eye, not to be afraid to touch them; that this gesture of help may also be a gesture of communication: we too need to be welcomed by them. A gesture of tenderness, a gesture of compassion.... Let us ask you: when you help others, do you look them in the eye? Do you embrace them without being afraid to touch them? Do you embrace them with tenderness? Think about this: how do you help? From a distance or with tenderness, with closeness? If evil is contagious, so is goodness. Therefore, there needs to be ever more abundant goodness in us. Let us be infected by goodness and let us spread goodness!

OBLIGATORY FASTING AND ABSTAINENCE: 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 14-59 to abstinence. Those who are ill are not obliged; anyone above the age of 59 may continue to fast and abstain 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 and this spiritual discipline ought to be more stringently observed during Lent.

LOCAL MASSES WITH THE BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

Ash Wednesday

8:00 a.m./12:00 p.m./6:00 p.m. St. Hedwig

9:00 a.m. St. Lawrence O'Toole

7:00 p.m. Holy Canadian Martyrs

Saturday

6:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales

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

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS: E-Transfers will be posted monthly.

Total: \$3,213.50; (Envelopes: \$2,958.50; Loose: \$65.00; Visitors: \$50.00; Fuel: \$60.00; Initial: \$20.00; Building Fund: \$60.00) [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./105; 10:30 a.m./82]

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS: will be handed out after Mass this weekend and next. 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 and February 17/18 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.

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