

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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✠ Fourth Sunday of Lent ✠

Laetare Sunday

March 10, 2024

TODAY: The fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, so called from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem". Purple vestments are exchanged for rose ones. Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed at the altar. During the sixteenth century, there was a custom of people returning to their mother church, the main church or cathedral of the area, for a service to be held on Laetare Sunday. This was either the church where you were baptised, or the local parish church, or more often the nearest cathedral.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: *With visiting priest-confessors on*

Sunday, March 17; 1:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs

Sunday, March 24; 1:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole

Sunday, March 24; 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, Wilno

Monday, March 25; 5:30 p.m. at St. Hedwig's

*Lord Jesus, may shame never make me forget your mercy,
and may pride never prevent me from asking for mercy.*

THE EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: In the Catholic Church, penitents who preparing for Confession are encouraged to examine their conscience. This examination is a general review of one's actions from a moral point of view, reflecting upon one's responsibility and looking at one's sins and weaknesses in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This week's bulletin has one as an insert.

Fourth Week of Lent

March 11 – 16

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (with *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
+ Susan Shirley Coulas by *Catholic Women's League*

[Wednesday @ Holy Canadian Martyrs – 7p.m. Mass beginning with the Stations of the Cross]

Friday 9:00 a.m. (Beginning with the Stations of the Cross)
+ Susan Serran by *Larry & Cathy Serran*

+ Fifth Sunday of Lent +

March 17, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Stanley Pecoskie by *Richard & Suzanne Luckasavitch*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

March 16

Sean Conway

Leona Chapeskie

Bruce Sullivan

Richard Luckasavitch

March 17

Joanne Olsen

Terry Recoskie

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.

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

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*.
- for those who have died, especially: *Michael Sullivan; Rita Gauthier-Gutoskie; Gerard O'Malley, Glenn Prince, Martha Prince*.

**We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,
because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.**

(Saint Francis of Assisi)

ON OUR WAY TOWARDS EASTER we have reached the Fourth Sunday of Lent. It is a journey with Jesus through the “wilderness”, that is, a time in which to listen more attentively to God’s voice and also to unmask the temptations that speak within us. The Cross is silhouetted against the horizon of this wilderness. Jesus knows that it is the culmination of his mission: in fact, the Cross of Christ is the apex of love which gives us salvation. Christ himself says so in today’s Gospel: just “as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (Jn 3:14-15).

The reference is to the episode in which, during the Exodus from Egypt, the Jews were attacked by poisonous serpents and many of them died. God then commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent and to set it on a pole; anyone bitten by serpents was cured by looking at the bronze serpent (see Num 21:4-9). Jesus was to be raised likewise on the Cross, so that anyone in danger of death because of sin, may be saved by turning with faith to him who died for our sake: “for God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him” (Jn 3:17).

St Augustine comments: “So far, then, as it lies with the physician, he has come to heal the sick. He that will not observe the orders of the physician destroys himself. He has come a Saviour to the world... You will not be saved by him; you shall be judged of yourself”. (On the Gospel of John 12, 12: PL 35, 1190). Therefore, if the merciful love of God — who went so far as to give his only Son to redeem our life — is infinite, we have a great responsibility: each one of us, in fact, must recognize that he is sick in order to be healed. Each one must confess his sin so that God’s forgiveness, already granted on the Cross, may have an effect in his heart and in his life.

St Augustine writes further: “God accuses your sins: and if you also accuse them, you are united to God... When your own deeds will begin to displease you, from that time your good works begin, as you find fault with your evil works. The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works” (ibid., 13: PL 35, 1191). Sometimes men and women prefer the darkness to the light because they are attached to their sins. Nevertheless, it is only by opening oneself to the light and only by sincerely confessing one’s sins to God that one finds true peace and true joy. It is therefore important to receive the Sacrament of Penance regularly, especially during Lent, in order to receive the Lord’s forgiveness and to intensify our process of conversion. ~ *Pope Benedict, 18 March 2012*

COMMEMORATION OF THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM: March 28-31

Holy Thursday:	7:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O’Toole
Good Friday:	12:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O’Toole
	3:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs
Easter Vigil:	8:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs
Easter Sunday:	8:30 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales
	10:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence O’Toole

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$3,186.00; (Envelopes: \$2,758.00; Loose: \$98.00; Visitors: \$60.00; Easter Flowers: \$140.00; Share Lent: \$70.00; Easter Offering: \$40.00; Building Fund: \$20.00) [People at Mass:4:00 p.m./102; 10:30 a.m./69]

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 26 in order to have loved ones listed in the Easter bulletin memorial page.

SCRIPTURE STUDY: on The Gospel of Mark is held on Tuesday mornings after mass January 30 - March 26, from 9:50 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. in St. Lawrence Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome through Lent. Consider it an alm to our Lord. Please bring your Holy Bible.

POT O'GOLD TICKETS – CWL will be doing their Pot O' Gold ticket draw on Sunday, March 17 after the 10:30 a.m. mass and invite you to a social in the parish hall where the draw will take place. Come join us for some music, refreshments and the draw.

LENTEN MISSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COLLECTION: is taken up on Good Friday. There is a special envelope in your church envelopes box for this purpose. Lent is a time of sacrificial almsgiving. This is more than simply writing a cheque or philanthropy. Almsgiving is an act of love that incorporates both prayer and fasting and manifests itself by caring for our neighbor in need. Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, we give to the poor with sacrifice, not just from our surplus.

CHRISM MASS: All are invited to participate in the celebration of the Chrism Mass at St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 26, at 10:30 a.m. The Most Reverend Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston will be the principal celebrant and will lead the priests in their annual renewal of priestly promises. He will also bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and he will consecrate the Holy Chrism. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Hall.

**Today Lord, I choose life,
I choose your love and the challenge to live it and share it,
I choose hope, even in moments of darkness,
I choose faith, accepting you as Lord and God,
I choose to let go of some part of my burdens,
day by day handing them over to you,
I choose to take hold of your strength and power ever more deeply in my life.
May this truly be for me a time of new life, of change, challenge and growth.
May I come to Easter with a heart open to dying with you
and rising to your new life, day by day. Amen.**

(Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference)