

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



✠ **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** ✠

September 8, 2024

AT THE HEART OF SEPTEMBER, the Church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, and the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows follows on September 15. The pairing of these celebrations properly guides us in our levels of devotion and love of our Savior and Our Lady. He is our Divine Redeemer, to be worshiped and adored; she is His first disciple and our example.

Like the commemoration of Good Friday during Holy Week, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross reminds us of the wondrous contradiction at the heart of our faith: that we glory in the Cross of Christ and being redeemed by the suffering and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, offered to God the Father, even while it appears to the world as scandal and folly.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that “the Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross, where she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, grieving exceedingly with her only begotten Son, uniting herself with a maternal heart with His sacrifice, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth.” LG 58

**O Cross of Christ, immortal tree, on which our Saviour died,
the world is sheltered by your arms, that bore the Crucified.**

**O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved, while ages run their course,
foundation of the universe, creation's binding force.**

**Give glory to the risen Christ, and to his Cross give praise,
the sign of God's unfathomed love, the hope of all our days.**

~ Stanbrook Benedictines

Twenty-Third Week of Ordinary Time

September 9 – 14

Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	(with <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions</i>) + Caroline Yeretch by <i>Allan & Teresa Rudak</i>
Friday	9:00 a.m.	+ Andrew “Della” Dombroskie by <i>Shirley Dombroskie</i>

+ Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

September 15, 2024

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ Gerard O’Malley by <i>Daniel & Patsy O’Malley</i>
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	September 14	September 15
Readings	<i>Susan Coulas</i>	<i>Lisa Sullivan</i>
Communion	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>	<i>Peirre-Paul Fillion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i> <i>Barry Dombroskie</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i> <i>Jason Dombroskie</i>

GUIDELINES FOR READERS: An updated version is now available for all readers in the sacristy. Please obtain a copy and review it. Our parish is blessed with wonderful readers for this ministry. Anyone who feels called to serve at Mass in this way can speak to Fr. John at any time.

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 the Lord Jesus would guide Bishop Michael Brehl as he begins to shepherd our diocese
- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Carmel Rumleskie*.
- for those who have died, especially: *Marie Patenaude; Garry Pecarski; Debbie Yantha; Mike Fagan; Carl Leddy*.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

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| Monday | - St. Peter Claver, priest |
| Thursday | - The Most Holy Name of Mary |
| Friday | - St. Chrysostom, bishop, doctor |
| Saturday | - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross |

EPHPHATHA – BE OPENED: At the centre of today’s Gospel (Mk 7:31-37), there is a small but very important word. A word that — in its deepest sense — sums up Christ’s whole message and all his work. The Evangelist Mark records this word in the very language of Jesus in which Jesus spoke it so that we may hear it even more vividly. The word is “Ephphatha”, which means “be opened”. Let us look at the context in which it is used. Jesus was crossing the region known as Decapolis, between the coast of Tyre and Sidon and Galilee, hence an area that was not Jewish. They brought him a deaf-mute to be healed — evidently Jesus’ fame had spread that far. Jesus took him aside and touched his ears and his tongue and then, looking up to heaven, said with a deep sigh: “Ephphatha” which means “be opened”. Then the man immediately began to hear and to speak plainly (see Mk 7:35). This, therefore is the historical and literal meaning of this word: thanks to Jesus’ intervention, the deaf-mute “was opened”; previously he had been closed, isolated, it had been very difficult for him to communicate. For him healing meant an “opening” to others and to the world, an opening which, starting with the organs of hearing and speech, involved his whole self and his life: he could at last communicate and thus relate in a new way.

However, we all know that a person’s closure and isolation do not only depend on the sense organs. There is an inner closure that affects the person’s inmost self, which the Bible calls the “heart”. It is this that Jesus came to “open”, to liberate, so as to enable us to live to the full our relationship with God and with others. This is why I said that this small word, “ephphatha — be opened”, sums up in itself Christ’s entire mission. He was made man so that man, rendered inwardly deaf and mute by sin, might be able to hear God’s voice, the voice of Love that speaks to his heart, and thus in his turn learn to speak the language of love, to communicate with God and with others. For this reason the word and the action of the “ephphatha” have been integrated into the Rite of Baptism as one of the signs that explain its meaning: the priest, touching the mouth and ears of the newly baptized person says: “ephphatha”, praying that he or she may soon hear the word of God and profess the faith. Through Baptism, the human person begins, so to speak, to breathe the Holy Spirit whom Jesus invoked from the Father with that deep sigh in order to heal the deaf-mute. ~ *Pope Benedict; 9 September 2012*

HEALING MASS: Followed by General Healing Prayers and Blessings – With Father Albert MacPherson O.S.A., founder of the Augustinian Healing Ministry. At Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish, Combermere on Saturday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m.

In the economy of salvation, the “Holy Spirit gives to some a special charism of healing so as to make manifest the power of the grace of the risen Lord” (CCC, 1509) and to “obtain graces of healing for others. From the apostolic period the charism of healing was exercised by both laity and clergy. At the same time, in her liturgy the Church “has never failed to beg the Lord that the sick person may recover his health if it would be conducive to his salvation” (CCC, 1512).

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$3,795.75 (Envelopes: \$2,797.00; Loose: \$493.75; Visitors: \$95.00; E-transfers: \$345.00; World Mission: \$15.00; Building Fund: \$15.00; Needs of the Canadian Church: \$35.00) [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./110; 10:30 a.m./136; *The numbers that we have recorded for the last 2 years are actual head counts made by assigned counters. These counts were requested by diocesan council of priests.*]

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: Please notify the parish office for a pastoral visit and monthly reception of Holy Communion on or near First Fridays when you are no longer able to attend Sunday Mass.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE DYING: The Church desires that her faithful know spiritual strengthening and healing from sin through the Sacraments when they are dying. Be sure to ask your family to honour your desires when it is time to call a priest in order to prepare for a Christian death.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: This sacrament is normally administered when someone is in danger of death, undergoing a major operation or suffering from any serious illness (i.e., heart conditions, cancer).

CWL GENERAL MEETING AND CLEANUP in the church hall on Tuesday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome.

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

BIBLE STUDY: Gospel readings on Sundays this year are mostly from the Gospel of Mark. St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish is offering a Catholic Bible study on Wednesdays at 7-8:45 p.m., beginning September 18 in the hall. For details contact John Morris, 613-729-6647. If you're reading this, this group is open to you.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN: Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in our parish is in accordance with diocesan policy which encourages a process of individualized family faith formation. Families who wish to have their children begin preparing for these sacraments are invited to speak to Fr. Burchat after Sunday Mass. Parents will also be invited to return to the practice of the faith with regular Mass attendance. The parish provides resources and catechetical assistance.