

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

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Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
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✠ **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** ✠

September 22, 2024

IMAGES OF HEAVEN ~ REQUIESCAT IN PACE: “Rest in Peace” and “Eternal Rest” are probably the most widely used inscriptions on graves and memorial cards. This image of resting in peace has been invoked traditionally in Catholic funeral rites. **Heaven is at once the most intense kind activity and the highest form of rest.**

First of all, heavenly rest corresponds and to the human experience of restlessness, incompleteness anxiety and flux. In eternal rest there is no longer toil or difficulty; all is accomplished/fulfilled in joy and peace.

It is not a cessation of activity or a state of boredom. It is an ongoing active fulfillment of all human work and creativity. It is a kind of “standing still” with the absence of past or future because of intense enjoyment and total involvement. It is an “eternal now” where the mystery of the past and the mystery of the future are united in the mystery of the present in which the Paschal Mystery has redeemed all loss because of sin.

Secondly, it is a kind of ongoing experience of leisure with receptivity, contemplation and festivity. It is a rest that includes an ongoing knowing and loving of God, and of all people and things in God who is all in all. It is an Eternal Sunday which is both the first day of creation and the “eighth” day, the Day of the New Creation. Family get-togethers and reunions, anniversaries, and recreations of various kinds (including vacations, artistic activities, reading, sports, music, time spent with friends) point to, and anticipate this Day, and the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven into the present.

In heaven, we will experience the ultimate glory of resting, not in isolation, but in the embrace of the Holy Trinity, the saints, and glorified humanity. It is such rest that we properly have in mind when we pray for “eternal rest” and invoke the words “rest in peace” as we commend our deceased brothers and sisters to the Lord.

PARISH EMAL LIST: We wish to have a list of parishioner emails so that occasional information items can be sent out from Fr. Burchat. Please email the parish office so that we can both populate and update our email address book. Thank you!

Twenty-Fifth Week of Ordinary Time

September 23 – 28

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
+ Ruth Cowan *by Terri MacLeod*

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Clemence & Joan Prince
by +Glenn Prince & Alicia Coulas

+ Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

September 29, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Margaret & Elmer Dombroskie *by Family*

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

Liturgical Appointments	September 28	September 29
Readings	<i>Sean Conway</i>	<i>Joanne Olsen</i>
Communion	<i>Leona Chapeskie</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Barry Dombroskie</i>	<i>Jamie Prince</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</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:

- for the fruitfulness of the Healing Mass at Holy Canadian Martyrs as we seek God's healing power.
- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Ken Hudder; Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Sr. Marjorie Fitzpatrick, Fr. Norbert Cybulski, Fr. Joseph Hattie, O.M.I.; Marie Patenaude; Garry Pecarski; Debbie Yantha.*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

- Monday** - St. Pius of Pietrelcina, priest
- Tuesday** - Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin, religious
- Wednesday** - St. Cosmas & St. Damian, martyrs
- Thursday** - St. John de Brebeuf & St. Isaac Jogues, priests, & Companions, martyrs
- Friday** - St. Vincent de Paul, priest
- Saturday** - St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, martyrs & St. Wenceslaus, martyr

IN THIS SUNDAY’S GOSPEL for the second time Jesus proclaims his passion, death and Resurrection to the disciples (see Mk 9: 30-31). The Evangelist Mark highlights the strong contrast between his mindset and that of the Twelve Apostles, who not only do not understand the Teacher’s words and clearly reject the idea that he is doomed to encounter death (see Mk 8: 32), but also discuss which of them is to be considered “the greatest” (Mk 9: 34).

Jesus patiently explains his logic to them, the logic of love that makes itself service to the point of the gift of self: “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” (Mk 9: 35).

This is the logic of Christianity, which responds to the truth about man created in the image of God, but at the same time contrasts with human selfishness, a consequence of original sin. Every human person is attracted by love - which ultimately is God himself - but often errs in the concrete ways of loving; thus, an originally positive tendency but one polluted by sin can give rise to evil intentions and actions.

In today’s Liturgy, this is also recalled in the Letter of St James: “Wherever jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity”. And the Apostle concludes: “The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (Jas 3: 16-18).

These words call to mind the witness of so many Christians who humbly and silently spend their lives serving others for the sake of the Lord Jesus, behaving in practice as servants of love, and hence, “artisans” of peace.

Sometimes, certain people are asked for the supreme testimony of blood, which also happened a few days ago to the Italian Religious, Sr. Leonella Sgorbati*, who died a victim of violence. This Sister, who served the poor and the lowly in Somalia for many years, died with the words “I forgive, I forgive, I forgive” on her lips: this is the most genuine Christian witness, a peaceful sign of contradiction that demonstrates the victory of love over hatred and evil.

There is no doubt that following Christ is difficult, but, as he says, only those who lose their life for his sake and the Gospel’s will save it (see Mk 8: 35), giving full meaning to their existence. There is no other way of being his disciples, there is no other way of witnessing to his love and striving for Gospel perfection. May Mary, whom we call upon today as Our Lady of Mercy, open our hearts ever wider to the love of God, a mystery of joy and holiness. ~ Pope Benedict, September 24, 2006

* Sr. Leonella was a Consolata Missionary and known for her compassionate service, establishing nursing schools and providing healthcare in challenging environments. Despite the risks, she continued her mission in Somalia, where she was tragically murdered on September 17, 2006. She was beatified on May 26, 2018, and is remembered for her unwavering dedication and love for the people she served.

PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED the week of September 30 – October 4. You can still leave a phone or email message, and we will get back to you if it is an emergency.

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,894.00 (Envelopes: \$2,412.00; Loose: \$152.00; Visitors: \$200.00; E-transfers: \$80.00; Christmas: \$50.00) [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./85; 10:30 a.m./76; *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.

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 7:45 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.

PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR: date changed to Fridays at 9:45a.m. - following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish as we continue to pray together for the sanctity of life, marriage and family.

PARISH SUPPERS:

Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath Community Centre; Saturday, Sept 28; 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Parish, Mount St. Patrick; Sunday, September 29; 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus, Upper Pontiac Complex, Chapeau; September 29; 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

PEMBROKE DIOCESAN CWL ANNUAL DAY OF REFLECTION will be held on Saturday, September 28 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in LaPasse. For further information please contact Margaret at 613-432-6276 or maloneym@bell.net.

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.