

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

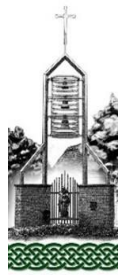
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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
613-756-2037



✠ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ✠

December 29, 2024



2025 ANNO DOMINI (in the year of the Lord) - A JUBILEE YEAR: Pope Francis has designated the 2025 ordinary jubilee year with the title **PILGRIMS OF HOPE**. It is 2025 years since the Incarnation and 1700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. It's a period of spiritual renewal, forgiveness and celebration that lasts from Christmas Eve 2024 until Epiphany in January 2026. The Church — the Body of Christ and People of God — does not give in to despair but truly continues to trust in God and all of his many promises of mercy, love and salvation.

KOLEĐY CONCERT: The Wilno Heritage Society Community Choir Presents *Koledy*, a collection of traditional Polish Christmas Carols at St. Mary's Church, Wilno on Friday, December 27th at 7:00 p.m. Accompanist: Joseph Platt; Director: Peter Glofcheskie; in collaboration with the Polish Heritage Institute Kaszuby.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Tuesday - St. Sylvester I, pope
Wednesday - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Thursday - St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen
Friday - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

+ The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God +

Tuesday, December 31 4:00 p.m. For Our Faithful Departed and Intentions
Wednesday, January 1 10:30 a.m. For Our Faithful Departed and Intentions

Liturgical Appointments	December 31	January 1
Readings	<i>Karen Yakabuski</i>	<i>Tom Ryan</i>
Communion	<i>Maxine Smaglinski</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</i>	<i>Maureen Kiedroski</i>

A CHRISTMASTIDE THANK YOU: to the many people who contributed to the beauty and dignity of the Eucharistic Liturgy and the liturgical environment: to those who donated offerings to beautify the church; to those who donated time and energy, and helped lead us in our Christmas liturgies: musicians, leaders of song, readers, servers, money counters, decorators and to anyone else who gave leadership or worked "behind the scenes" at the different Masses over Christmastime. This would not have been possible for accomplish without the wonderful support and assistance of staff and volunteers we have in our parishes! ~ *Fr. John*

+ The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord +

January 5, 2025

Saturday 4:00 p.m. For Our Faithful Departed and Intentions
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	January 4	January 5
Readings	<i>Martin Yakabuski</i>	<i>Joanne Olsen</i>
Communion	<i>Leona Chapeskie</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>Jamie Prince</i>
	<i>Barry Dombroskie</i>	<i>Jason Dombroskie</i>

MOTHER OF GOD – MORE SPACIOUS THAN THE COSMOS: The Blessed Virgin Mary has been called *Platytera tou kosmou*, the Woman Wider than the Universe. Mary was Great with Child; her Child was Almighty God. She contained the One whom the heaven of heavens is too narrow to hold. Can a foot be larger than the boot or an oyster greater than the shell? For Christians, apparently, Very Often. Mary's slender womb enthroned within it the Maker of the Universe, the God who is greater than all the galaxies that stream across the firmament. The tummy of a Girl was wider than creation.

Then on the crisp night air came the squeal of the newly born baby. It came from the cave that was both a stable and a birth-place. That stable in Bethlehem, as C S Lewis memorably explains in *The Last Battle*, “*had something in it that was bigger than our entire world*”. The stable, like Mary, was great with child; very great, for that Child is God. And what is true of the womb of the Mother of God, and what is true of that stable at Bethlehem, is also the great truth of the Sacrament of the Altar. Bread becomes God Almighty; little round disks of unleavened bread are recreated by the Maker of the World to be Himself. As Mary's Baby was bigger than all creation, than all the stars and clouds and mass of it, so the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar is bigger than the *Kosmos*.

As you made your Christmass communion, glorious and loving Infinity came to make His dwelling in your poor body; so that, as you walked or drove home for the rest of Christmass, you were *platyteroi tou Kosmou*: broader than the Universe. ~ *Fr John Hunwicke*

He was created of a mother whom he created.

He was carried by hands that he formed.

He cried in the manger in wordless infancy.

He is the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute. ~ *St. Augustine*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$4,714.00 (Envelopes: \$2,197.00; Loose: \$187.00; Visitors: \$100.00; E-transfers: \$615.00; Christmas Flowers: \$20.00; Christmas: \$195.00; Donation: \$1,400.00)

BIBLE STUDY: We will begin a study of **The Gospel of John (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture by Fr. Francis Martin)** on Wednesdays, starting January 22nd from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Hall. A typical evening begins with opening prayer, a hymn, and a conversation about the current chapter we're reading with regular attention to the Old Testament and Catechism. We close each week with intercessory prayer. These evenings are led by John Morris. Books for this study have been ordered and are \$30 each. Please contact the office to reserve yours, 613-756-2037. ~ *Fr. John*

CHRIST IS BORN FOR US! O COME, LET US WORSHIP HIM!

The liturgical season of Christmas constitutes our ongoing festive celebration of the first coming of Christ, who is the Light of the world. He is the Sun of Righteousness whose birth brings the healing love of God to a people living in the darkness of sin and death. He is the Star of the East that manifests the light of wisdom which overcomes ignorance and fear.

Today, more than ever, we know about darkness and a world which has grown tired, and almost cold, to the Coming of Christ. Humanity believes it no longer needs a Savior. Pope John Paul II said that the Church is facing a kind of *meta-temptation*, one she had never faced before. This new temptation is a radical one, totally beyond any other type of temptation: *man, having reached the age of adulthood believes that he no longer needs a Savior*. Man wants to save himself by himself. Our culture believes there is no longer any room for Jesus *as Savior*.

Jesus came to earth in the womb of a virgin named Mary. Mary received him with love and carried him with love. Yet when he was to be born, and thereby take his place among us, he was told that there was no longer any room for him in Bethlehem. On Calvary he was told that there was no longer any room for him in our world. But rejoice! Through the Cross of his Son, the Father has bestowed mercy upon our rebellion, and he has sealed this Gift with further promise in the glorious light of the Resurrection. Pope Benedict XVI has reassured us that even during this time of *spiritual desertification*, the Triune God of Love will never cease to pursue us with his compassion and mercy!

Today, we must fulfill our apostolic mission to bring the light of Christ to the world, one person, one heart at a time. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we must carry on this “new evangelization” with great love and creativity. It is my desire that as a parish community and members of the Body of Christ, we be instruments of the light of Christ in this present darkness when we seem to be experiencing a *spiritual tsunami* of unbelief that leaves a landscape where a deep sadness prevails over joy and anxiety stifles hope. May we all desire to be beacons of divine illumination to those around us sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. This has been the mission for all Christians since the beginning. The Lord Jesus has entrusted this mission to us with the same humility and poverty revealed in the Incarnation. Today, as your parish priest, I thank you for your faithfulness and cooperation in this mission which is ours as a parish community.

Mary, the Mother of our Lord, who carried the Hope of the world in her womb, still walks ahead of us as a sign of hope and example of Christian discipleship. She is the Woman in whom the humanly impossible has been made possible through God’s saving mercy. We, too, *only* have to say, in complete humility, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; my soul rejoices in God my Savior”. *Joy is the heart of the Gospel of Christmas*. We are to be witnesses to this joy that comes only from a personal meeting of Jesus the Savior and receiving him in our hearts. Today, may Christ be born in our hearts and bring us to the joy of a new rebirth in the Holy Spirit. ~ Fr. John