

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.
613-756-2037



✠ Third Sunday of Advent ✠

Gaudete Sunday

December 15, 2024

REJOICE – THE LORD IS NEAR: Anyone can be happy, given the right set of circumstances; only the believer can rejoice. To rejoice is to have a joy that the world cannot take away. Sorrow cannot erode it; and time cannot carry it away. It is the joy of eternal life. While we may find ways to preserve some of the simple and respectable joys of life, true eternal joy outshines them all. For it is only in the humble birth of the Son of God that passing joys have some hope of not disappearing like shadows. Rejoice because the passing joys of human life do not have to disappear forever. This Child will show us how to see them all in the mystery of endless day. Most precious of all joys are those that come from love. More than all else we do not want to be separated forever from those we love. He came that we may be forever with Him – and with them. Rejoice! - *Fr. Benedict Groeschel CFR*

ADVENT CONFESSIONS: with visiting priest-confessors.

Holy Canadian Martyrs – Wednesday, December 18; 9:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.

St. Lawrence O'Toole – Sunday, December 22; 1:00 p.m.

An Examination of Conscience to help in preparation is available on the entrance tables.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS: for the Glory of God and in Memory of Loved Ones must be submitted by Monday, December 16 to have Loved Ones listed in the Christmas bulletin memorial page.

THANK YOU: A heartfelt thanks to all who came to our annual dinner, both CWL members and families from our parish. Advent Vespers was prayerful, the food was delicious and the hall was full of laughter and good cheer. Thanks to those who organized, decorated and the many tasks that made it a delightful event. ~ *Lorraine Flynn, CWL Madame President*

Third Week of Advent

December 16 – 21

Tuesday NO MASS

Thursday 1:45 p.m. Mass & Anointing of the Sick at the Valley Manor (residents only)

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Deceased Family & Friends ~ *David & Carmel Rumleskie*
Intentions of Loraine & + Carl Leddy by *Robert & Monica Radey*

+ Fourth Sunday of Advent +

December 22, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + *Cathy Serran by Bob & Margaret Serran*
Intentions of Brad Parisien by *Eddie & Diane Etmanskie*

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People
1:00 p.m. *Advent Confessions*

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

December 21

Susan Coulas

Leona Chapeskie

Bruce Sullivan

Richard Luckasavitch

December 22

Judy Filion

Pierre Paul Filion

John Jeffrey

Paul Carnac-Rivette

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 parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Carmel Rumleskie*.
- for those who have died, especially, *Wendy Kieran, Leonard Hudder, Fr. Ken O'Brien, Ronald Murack*.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Saturday - St. Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

REJOICE FOR THE LORD IS IN YOUR MIDST: On this Third Sunday of Advent, known as “Gaudete,” Sunday, the Liturgy invites us to rejoice. Advent is a season of commitment and conversion in preparation for the Lord’s coming, but today the Church gives us a foretaste of the joy of Christmas that is now at hand.

The First Reading we have heard is an insistent invitation to rejoice. The passage begins with the words “Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion”. The prophet wishes to tell us that there is no longer any reason for distrust, discouragement, sorrow, whatever the situation that must be faced, because we are certain of the Lord’s presence which alone suffices to calm and cheer hearts. The Prophet Zephaniah, in addition, lets us know that this joy is reciprocal: we are invited to rejoice, but the Lord also rejoices in his relationship with us; indeed, the prophet writes: “he will exult over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing” (v. 17). The joy that is promised in this prophetic text, will find its fulfilment in Jesus, who is in the womb of Mary, the “Daughter of Zion”, and in this way dwelt among us (cf Jn 1: 14). Indeed, in coming into the world he gives us his joy, just as he himself confides to his disciples: “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (Jn 15:11). Jesus brings people salvation, a new relationship with God that overcomes evil and death and brings true joy in this presence of the Lord who comes to lighten our paths that are all too often engulfed in shadows and in selfishness.

We can reflect on whether we are really aware of this fact that the Lord is present among us, that he is not a distant God but a God-with-us, a God in our midst who is with us here, who is in the Blessed Eucharist, he is with us in the living Church, and we must be heralds of this presence of God. Thus, God rejoices in us and we can attain joy: God exists, God is good and God is close.

In the Second Reading we have heard, St Paul invites the Christians of Philippi to rejoice in the Lord. Can we rejoice? And why should we rejoice? St Paul answers: because “the Lord is at hand” (Phil 4:5). In a few days we shall be celebrating Christmas, the Feast of the coming of God who made himself a child and our brother so as to be with us and to share in our human condition. We must rejoice in his closeness, in his presence, and must seek ever better to understand that he really is close, and thus be penetrated by the reality of God’s goodness, joy at Christ being with us. *From a Homily by Pope Benedict XVI; December 16, 2012*

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

December 24	4:00 p.m. St. Lawrence O’Toole, Barry’s Bay 6:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales, Latchford Bridge
December 25	9:00 a.m. Holy Canadian Martyrs 10:30 a.m. St. Lawrence O’Toole, Barry’s Bay

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$4,063.00 (Envelopes: \$2,447.00; Loose: \$114.00; Visitors: \$160.00; E-transfers: \$630.00; Christmas Flowers: \$125.00; Christmas Offering: \$20.00; Building Renewal: \$567.00)

I would like to thank everyone who has helped count Mass attendance numbers over the past 2 years. This count was requested by the Council of Priests of the Diocese of Pembroke to assist in future pastoral planning. ~ Fr. John

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.

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

2025 ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT: "Eyes on the Lord" (Graphite Bible Camp, north of Bancroft) will be held from January 10th to January 12th, 2025. Cost: \$175. Includes Talks, Fellowship, Mass, adoration, confession and meals. Registration deadline: December 20th. To register or for more information contact Pierre-Paul Filion at 613 602-6580 or pppilion@yahoo.ca.

INTROIT (Entrance Antiphon) FOR THIS SUNDAY: Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men: for the Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous: but in every prayer let your petitions be made known to God. * O Lord thou hast blessed thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.