

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



✠ The Presentation of the Lord ✠

CANDLEMAS

February 2, 2025

The liturgical commemoration of the Presentation of the Lord points us toward the Easter Vigil, when the Church asks us to renew the promises that we made at the time of our baptismal consecration. Recall that during both liturgical celebrations, the Church puts candles in our hands in order to remind us that we are committed to follow Christ, who is the true light of the world. Both celebrations, then, center on the consecrated character of the Christian life. Christian life finds its full meaning only with-in a context of a priestly consecration, one that enables the baptized believer to participate in the specific vocation of Christ himself.

When Saint Benedict asked his followers to commit themselves to a permanent reformation of life - *conversio morum*, he invited them to embrace the mystery of the presentation, to undergo a continuous purification in their lives. The monk or nun therefore accepts the rhythm of monastic life and the sometimes monotonous sacrifices that it imposes as a concrete sharing in the self-offering of Christ himself. By the witness of their consecrated lives, they remind us of the seriousness of the Christian vocation. Baptismal consecration means that we hold back nothing from the Lord, everything belongs to him. Saint Therese used to say, "Jesus desires that everything belong to him, so when I feel that I have nothing to offer, I offer him this very nothingness." Notice too that the Gospel specifies that the parents of Jesus brought the offering prescribed for the poor, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Lk 2: 24) The mystery of the presentation prefigures the total consecration that baptism imposes on the Christian. - *Fr. Romanus Cessario OP*

O Come, let us adore the Lord in His Holy Temple.

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

February 3 – February 8

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Margaret Dombroskie *by Family*

Friday 10:30 a.m. *Funeral Mass:* + Richard Joseph Dombroskie

+ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

February 9, 2025

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Mary & Howard Fox *by Georgina, Patricia, Irene & Jean*
Special Intentions *by Glenn D.*

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

Liturgical Appointments February 8

Readings Sean Conway

Communion Neil O'Reilly

Offertory Bruce Sullivan

Richard Luckasavitch

February 9

Judy Fillion

Pierre-Paul Fillion

John Jeffrey

Paul Rivette-Carnac

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: *Ray Vananburg,*
Carmel Rumleskie.

- for those who have died, especially: *Jamie Madigan, Richard Joseph Dombroskie,*
Brad Parisien.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Blaise, bishop, martyr & St. Ansgar, bishop

Wednesday - St. Agatha, virgin, martyr

Thursday - St. Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs

Saturday - St. Jerome Emiliani, priest & St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin

PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR: Fridays at 9:45 a.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.

2024 CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS: will be issued next month with which you will also receive a Financial Report. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity and financial commitment to the parish.

The Presentation of the Lord

by Scott Hahn

Today's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

However, the Gospel story nowhere mentions Jesus' "redemption," but seems to describe instead a religious consecration—such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is "presented" in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice (see Romans 12:1). Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel (1 Sam 1:24-27) to the Temple as a priest.

The drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple—when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple.

All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi who called the priests to return to faithful service—and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood.

Likewise, the Psalm announces to Jerusalem that Jerusalem is about to receive a great visitor. The Psalmist identifies him as "The Lord of hosts . . . the king of glory."

Christ now arrives as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. Indeed, as his life will show, He is the Temple itself (see John 2:19-21).

WHAT IS "STARFLOWERS"? "Starflowers" is a prayer initiative that began 3 years ago and has over 300 participants throughout the diocese. Participants receive a medal of Blessed Catherine of St Augustine (co-founder of the Catholic Church in Canada) and a Starflowers booklet which they use to offer prayers for the success of evangelization efforts throughout the diocese. If you'd like to join in this intercessory form of prayer or just learn more about it, please contact Mary at 613-756-6643.

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER: You are invited every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall. There are always a good number in attendance from this area of the diocese. For information, call 613-756-6643

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.

“The Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament introduces a splendid symbol, the anchor of hope (6:19), which has always been the Christian symbol of hope, a fine symbol of firmness and reliability. It has been a sign of Christianity from the very earliest times, even scratched on the walls of the Roman catacombs. Christian hope is not some timid wishful thinking. It is a firm, unshakeable conviction that God is in control of the situation and that his protection is such that nothing can really go wrong.” ~ Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,172.70 (Envelopes: \$2,132.00; Loose: \$60.70; Visitors: \$55.00; E-transfers: \$40.00; Building Fund: \$50.00; Fuel: \$165.00)

POT OF GOLD TICKETS: The CWL thank you for your support!

BIBLE STUDY: The Gospel of John (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture by Fr. Francis Martin) on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Hall. This is a prayerful study 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

ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE MONTHLY FAMILY POTLUCK AND ROSARY:

Join us as we gather as families for a potluck and to pray the rosary monthly. Open to all young families. We meet monthly on the 4th Saturday in the parish hall at 5:15-7:00 pm. Please be in touch with Caitlin Rivett-Carnac, if you are interested and to be placed on the email list. Email: caitlinrivettcarnac@gmail.com

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL: Every second Sunday of the month, (except through the summer) we hope to provide a coffee social in the church hall after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. In order to facilitate this service of hospitality to new and old parishioners, two teams of volunteers will need to be formed. We hope to be able to have the first coffee social February 9th, depending on the response for volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Judy Filion at 613-602-6580.